



Summer Meals Newsletter

OCTOBER 2016 • SPONSORS

SUMMER 2016 WAS A WIN!
TIME FOR NEXT YEAR'S PLANNING TO BEGIN!

Save the Date!

On October 13th, FNS will be hosting a webinar about SFSP and CACFP data. This webinar will demonstrate the suite of mapping (GIS) tools built for both SFSP and CACFP participants, partners and State agencies. Webinar participants will learn how to access these tools and data, as well as strategies for analyzing these data. This session will include the lessons learned regarding development of the tools as well as time for questions. You can register for the webinar at: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/g54jvflzxa5v&eom>

Upcoming USDA and Partner Events

October 6th, 1:00 PM EST

Food Research & Action Center: Making Breakfast Work in the Summer

http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=82681

October 13th, 2:00 PM EST

USDA FNS: CACFP and SFSP Data

<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/g54jvflzxa5v&eom>

November 3rd, 1:00 PM EST

Food Research & Action Center: Reducing Food Waste and Serving Kid-Friendly Meals

http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=84178

October is National Farm to School Month!

All across the country, sponsors are tapping into the seasonal harvest to serve fresh, local foods in summer meals. October, and National Farm to School Month, is a great time to look back and celebrate your farm to summer work from this previous summer, or plan ahead and incorporate local foods and related activities for summer 2017. Sponsors can join the celebration by:

- Using social media to promote farm to summer activities in your community;
- Coordinating or joining promotional events with your state's [National Farm to School Network partners](#).

Find additional resources on the [National Farm to School Network's website](#). For more information about farm to summer, visit our [farm to summer website](#).



Sponsor Outreach Tips

It's never too early to start thinking about how to publicize your Summer Meal site for 2017! Sponsors can use the following tips to inform families and the community about their site!

Capacity Builder: This is a web-based tool that families can use at home to locate summer meal sites from the previous summer. A user can input their address and pinpoint the sites closest to them. This tool displays the days of operation, the hours of operation, the meals served, and contact information for the site. For more information, please visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/mapping-tools-summer-meal-programs>



Summer Meals Public Service

Announcements (PSA): Sponsors can share USDA's free PSAs with the local radio station. These PSAs are used to recruit families, sites and sponsors. The PSAs can be broadcasted in both English and Spanish. You can find the PSAs at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/raise-awareness>

Partnering with Local Libraries: Since there is a library in almost every community, they are excellent locations for Summer Meal Sites. Libraries can provide a safe venue for children to consume healthy meals and combat potential summer learning loss. Partnering with a local library is a terrific way to foster a relationship between your program and the people it serves. For strategies on how to reach out to your local library, visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/SMT-Libraries.pdf>

Twitter Town Halls: If you have an active Twitter account, try hosting a Twitter Town Hall! Town Halls are events where agencies (or sponsors!) invite the public to ask questions about SFSP or about your specific site. Sponsors can pose questions to the public to encourage a discussion too. Be sure to announce your town hall on your other social media to guarantee the most participation and don't forget come up with a hashtag! More tips on hosting a Twitter Town Hall can be found [here!](#)