

ALABAMA FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM



THE LOCAL LUNCHBOX

An Alabama Farm to School Quarterly Newsletter



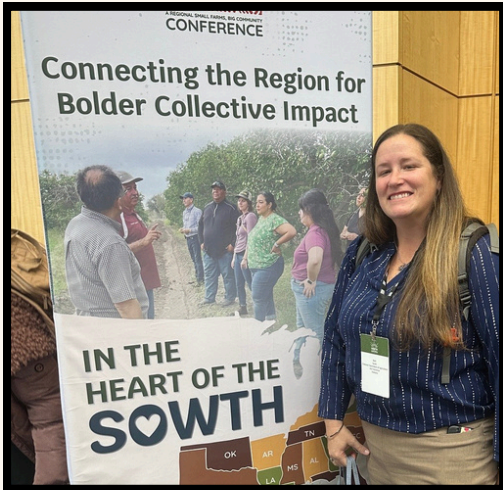
Welcome back! We want to clear up any confusion regarding the Local Food for Schools and Child Care Cooperative Agreement Program (LFSCC) and the future of the Alabama Farm to School Program. Funding for the new LFSCC Program was terminated, contracts were never finalized, and the funds were never distributed to ADAI. However, the Farm to School Incentive Program is still very much in place, and we're excited to see it thrive. We continue to advocate for more funds each year and are committed to supporting local agriculture and bringing fresh, nutritious food to our students lunch plates!

Nothing has changed with Farm to School! Keep up the great work!



Recent Events

SOWTH: A Regional Small Farms, Big Community Conference



Alabama Farm to School Specialist Beth Spratt attended the SOWTH: A Regional Small Farms, Big Community Conference in Atlanta, GA. There were over 1,500 attendees supporting local agriculture and the importance of our farming communities!



Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference

Alabama Farm to School Director Don Wambles attended the Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference in Gulf Shores, AL. It was an exciting week filled with opportunities to reconnect with familiar faces and build new relationships!



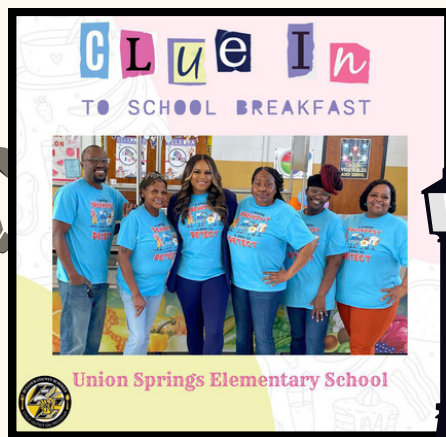
Legislative Action Conference

Several of our Alabama school nutrition directors represented our state in Washington D.C. for the Legislative Action Conference. To learn more about what went on, check with ASNA for updates.



A Look into the Lunch Room

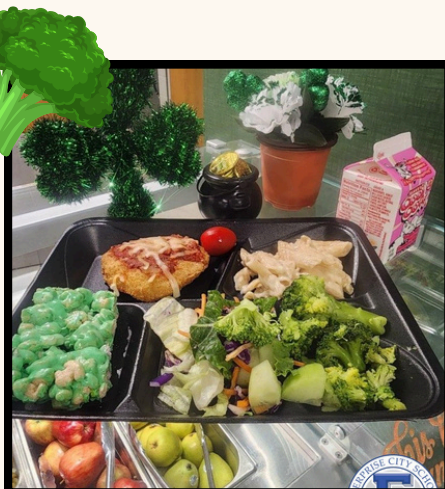
All schools celebrated National School Breakfast Week March 3rd-7th! We would like to highlight Bullock County Schools for their fun-filled week with a themed breakfast served everyday! A few of our favorites were the “Sherlock Swirls” cinnamon rolls and the “Who-dun-it donuts”. Great job!!



Elmore County Schools let the good times roll with a low country boil for Mardi Gras on March 4th! Their lunch featured fresh Alabama grown shrimp and a special treat of king cake!



Enterprise City Schools celebrated St. Patrick's Day on March 17th! Their lucky students were served all things green for lunch!



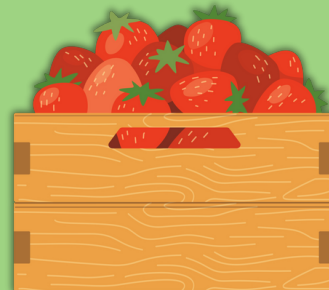


Spotlight on Agriculture: Alabama's Farm to School Program

The Farm to School program encourages schools in Alabama to buy food from local farmers.

Click here to watch APTV's Spotlight on Agriculture featuring Alabama Farm to School!

Strawberry season will be here before you know it! Be sure to get your orders placed with your local farmer. If you're not working with a strawberry farmers, contact our office, and we will connect you with one. They go "berry" fast!



Is your school participating in the **Summer Feeding Program?** Contact us and we can help connect you to your local farmers so you can include Alabama grown products in your summer meals!



Upcoming Events

DEADLINE TODAY!

Don't forget! The spring farm tour is April 30th, and the last day to sign up is today, **April 1st**! We can't wait to see everyone there!



Spring Conference!

The ASNA Spring Conference is going to be out of this world! May 1-3, 2025 in Huntsville, AL.



Save the Date!

Apple Crunch Day is October 14, 2025! Go ahead and mark your calendars!





Check out our new food safety flyers – they are full of helpful tips when storing, preparing and serving fresh produce in your cafeterias!

Also, don't forget to visit our website for updated free resources!



Be sure to check out our Facebook page for updates around the state!

If you know of any events coming up that you would like us to share, please email Paxton at:
paxton.westbrook@agi.alabama.gov