

ALABAMA FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM



THE LOCAL LUNCHBOX

An Alabama Farm to School Quarterly Newsletter



Happy New Year!

As we reflect on 2025, we want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who helped make Farm to School such a success this year! From farmers and producers to educators, nutrition staff, partners, and supporters. Your dedication brought fresh, local food into schools and meaningful agricultural experiences to students across our communities. Because of your hard work and collaboration, Farm to School continues to grow, connect, and make lasting impacts on our students. We are truly grateful for all you do and look forward to another great year ahead.



Recent Events

Farm to School Month

Alabama Farm to School proudly celebrated Farm to School Month throughout October!

Schools and farmers from across the state joined in on the fun. From engaging social media campaigns to festive “Dress Like a Farmer days”, the month was filled with a shared celebration of local agriculture across Alabama.



Apple Crunch Day

We had an amazing time celebrating Alabama Farm to School Apple Crunch Day at Scott's Orchard in Hazel Green, AL! Schools, partners and supporters from across the state gathered together, as well as live on Facebook, to crunch into a fresh apple and celebrate the importance of local agriculture and healthy kids. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make this statewide crunch a fun and meaningful celebration of Alabama grown goodness!



Dress Like a Farmer Day

Autauga County Schools also celebrated Farm to School Month with a “Dress Like a Farmer Day”! Students, teachers and staff joined in on the fun to celebrate our hardworking Alabama Farmers!



Elmore County Schools celebrated Farm to School Month with a fun Dress Like a Farmer Day! Students, teachers and staff showed off their best farmer outfits while celebrating local agriculture and the farmers who help feed our communities. Kenny Mehearg from Mehearg Farms and Will Cole from Extreme Green Farms were able to come enjoy the fun as well!



National School Lunch Week

October 13–17 was National School Lunch Week. Schools across Alabama celebrated National School Lunch Week with the theme “Taste the World”! Students had a blast exploring flavors from around the globe while learning about the importance of nutritious school meals. A huge thank you to all the incredible child nutrition teams who make healthy, delicious meals possible every day!



ALSDE Annual Fall Conference

The Alabama State Department of Education hosted its annual conference in Point Clear, AL, November 11–14. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with so many wonderful CNP directors and ALSDE staff from across the state! On the first day, Farm to School, along with The Dairy Alliance, hosted a virtual dairy farm tour that brought agriculture to life for participants. A farmer “meet and greet” took place the next morning, where CNP directors were able to connect with Alabama farmers. Alabama Farm to School’s Paxton Westbrook presented on our incentive program, and attendees were inspired by the powerful keynote from Captain Charlie Plumb.

For more pictures from this year’s conference, [click here!](#)



Crestline Elementary AG Day

Crestline Elementary hosted an Ag Day on November 19th! Alabama Farm to School's Paxton Westbrook led a fun and engaging lesson all about the journey of food from farm to table, and students wrapped up the day by enjoying a game of Harvest of the Month "I Spy"!



Flat Alexander

Have you met Alexander, the Alabama Farm to School mascot?

Just like Flat Stanley, he's ready to travel far and wide to learn more about where our food comes from, meet local farmers and visit your school cafeterias!

Take him on an adventure, snap some photos and tag us to share the journey. Let's see how far Alexander can go!

Click [here](#) to print your own Flat Alexander and let your students color them to get this journey started! The school with the most posts by the end of the year, will win something special!



Upcoming Events

Alabama Junior Chef!

The Alabama Junior Chef Competition will be held January 23rd at Jefferson State Community College Shelby-Hoover Campus!

We can't wait to see what students come up with!



AFVGA Annual Conference!

The Alabama Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association's Annual Conference is February 4th-6th in Gulf Shore, AL! Farmers, don't forget to register!

ASNA Annual Conference!

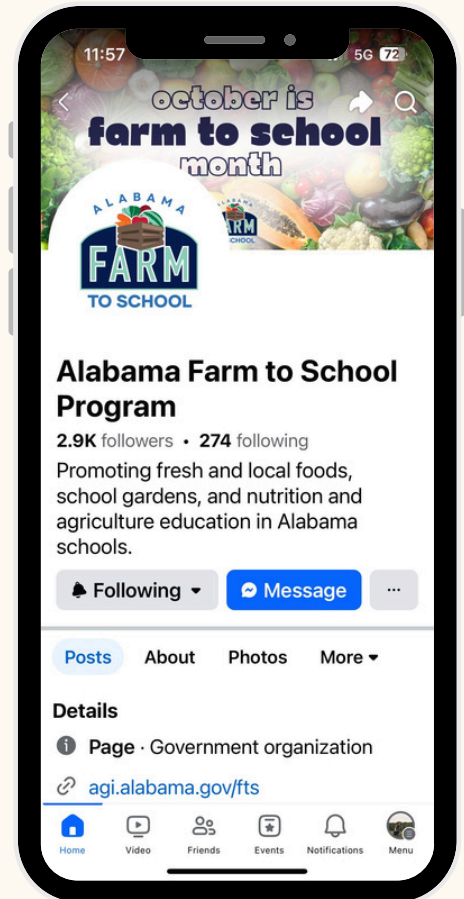
Alabama School Nutrition Association's Annual Conference is coming up on February 20-23, 2026! We can't wait to see everyone in Montgomery!





Start the new year off right with fresh printable signage for your local product purchases!

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