

ALABAMA FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM



THE LOCAL LUNCHBOX

An Alabama Farm to School Quarterly Newsletter



Happy Farm to School Month! 🍏

We hope your school year is off to a great start!

As we step into October, we're excited to celebrate Farm to School Month, a time to highlight the powerful connections between schools, local farms and communities.

Farm to School is about more than just food on the plate. It's about providing students with fresh, healthy meals, supporting local farmers, and creating opportunities for kids to learn where their food comes from in the classroom, the cafeteria and beyond.

Whether you're a teacher, food service professional, farmer, parent or community partner, thank you for the role you play! Your efforts help grow healthy students and stronger local food systems.

We look forward to celebrating with you all month long!



Recent Events

ALSDE Farm to School Trainings

The Alabama State Department of Education and the Chef Ann Foundation recently hosted Farm to School Culinary Challenge trainings across the state. CNP directors and their teams received hands-on instruction in scratch cooking with local ingredients, focusing on ways to bring more fresh products into school cafeterias. Participants tested breakfast and lunch recipes featuring Harvest of the Month items, gaining practical skills to support healthier, farm-fresh meals for students.

To see pictures from your school's training, [click here!](#)



Summer Feeding Program



The Summer Feeding Program was a huge success for many schools across Alabama! Students received fresh, local produce in their summer take home meals, which was a win for both Alabama's students and farmers! This effort helped keep students nourished over the summer, while supporting the state's agricultural community.

Back to School

Back to school in Alabama means fresh starts, full backpacks and even better local produce! Marshall County and Albertville City Schools celebrated the back to school season with produce from Alabama farmers.



Don Wambles' Retirement Party

We gathered for “One Last Market Day” to celebrate the retirement of Don Wambles!

Don has been a trailblazer and an invaluable resource for Alabama Farm to School, helping connect farmers, schools and communities in meaningful ways. His dedication and leadership have shaped Farm to School in Alabama and his impact will be felt for years to come.

Surrounded by his family, friends, coworkers and industry partners, we honored not just his career, but the passion, wisdom and kindness he brought to every “market day”. While we’ll miss his guidance and energy, we’re grateful for the legacy he leaves behind. Congratulations, Don, you’ve closed the market on an incredible career!



Mt. Hope School's Agriculture Day



Sixth grade students from across Lawrence County gathered at Mt. Hope School to celebrate the 1st Agriculture Day! Students explored a corn maze, soil tunnel, tractor simulator, cotton picker and more, while getting hands-on with the wonderful world of agriculture.



Farm to School Month Proclamation



Governor Kay Ivey has officially proclaimed October as Farm to School Month in Alabama! This recognition highlights the importance of connecting students with fresh, local food and supporting our Alabama farmers. ADAI was joined by ALSDE for the signing.



Upcoming Events

Farm to School Month!

October is National Farm to School Month! We would love to join you for any plans or events you may have to celebrate! Please let us know what you are planning to be featured on our social media and in our next newsletter!



Save the Date!

Apple Crunch Day is October 14, 2025! Go ahead and mark your calendars! Click the flyer to register!

ASNA Region 3 Meeting!

Farm to School's, Beth Spratt, will be speaking at the ASNA Region 3 Meeting on October 28th about featuring local items in your cafeteria!



Flat Alexander

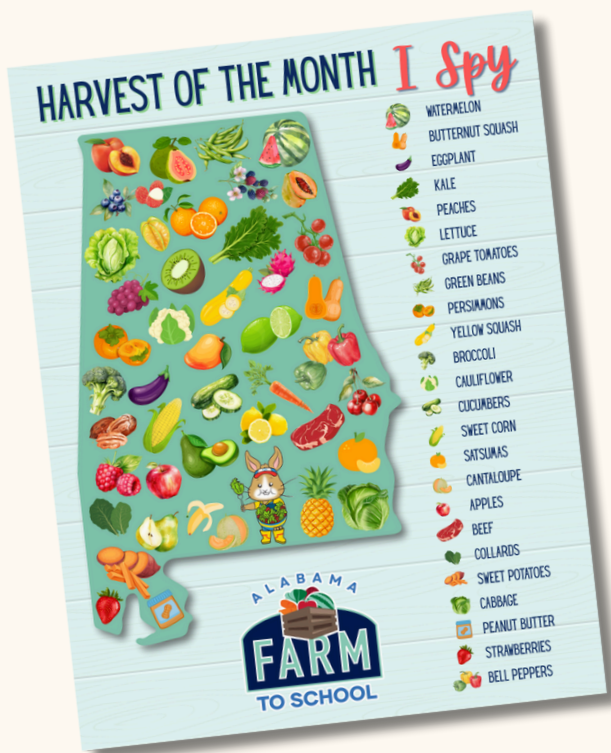
Meet Alexander, the Alabama Farm to School mascot!

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!

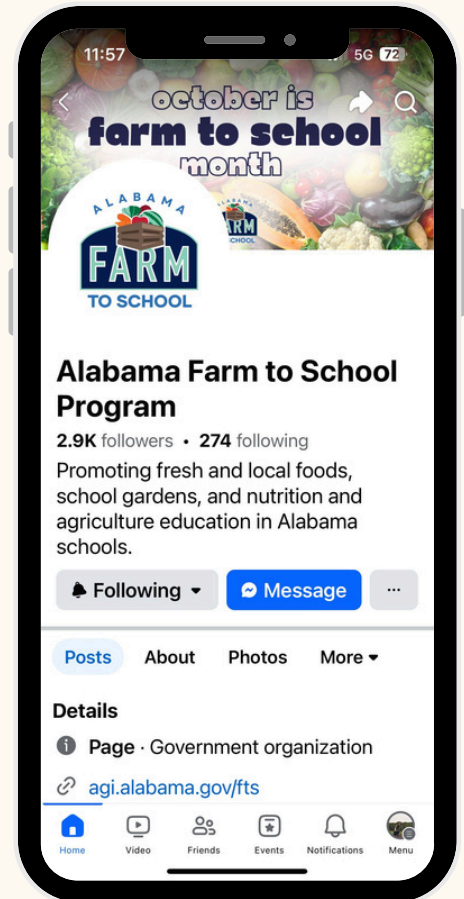
Click [here](#) to print your own Flat Alexander and let your students color them to get this journey started! The school with the most posts by the end of the year, will win something special!





Check out our new Harvest of the Month “I SPY” game! A great way for students to learn all about our Harvest of the Month products!

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