

NSLP - October 2017



National Farm to School Month

According to www.farmtoschool.org National Farm to School Month was designated by Congress in 2010 to demonstrate the growing importance of farm to school programs as a means to improve child nutrition, support local economies, and educate children about the origins of food. By purchasing locally grown foods you help maintain farmland and green and/or open space in your community, local foods have a shorter time between harvest and the table, which preserves the nutrient value. Gardening also helps people receive hands-on experiential learning.

ARDHS- National School Lunch Program is happy to highlight one of our programs that has adopted this philosophy. The Division of Youth Services (DYS) location in Mansfield, AR has a working garden. The staff and clients at this facility grow a variety of fruits and vegetables that are incorporated into their menus. On October 19, 2017 the NSLP team will be traveling to Mansfield, AR to plant seeds alongside the staff and residents of this facility. Emily English & Jenna Rhodes from Arkansas Farm to School, Mark Speight from USDA, and additional staff from DHS and the Health & Nutrition Unit will also be joining us to celebrate this event.

ARDHS- NSLP is a proud supporter of Farm to School. Whether it is buying fresh from a local farmer, shopping at the local farmer's market, or growing your own produce. You can support the cause. We would love to see how your organization takes part in this event. Please share the ways you support Farm to School. We would love to see your participation, and give your facility recognition.

