



June 19, 2020

Dear Friends,

Thank you! Put Local on Your Tray recognizes the immense amount of thought and hard work that has gone into adapting your food service programs to meet the needs of your communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the circumstances, we are reaching out with an update regarding the annual sign up process for Put Local On Your Tray.

For school year 2020-2021, we have decided to automatically extend your current participation in the Tray Program until June 2021. This means there is no need to complete any sign up forms until next spring. In the coming year, we will continue to share resources and support you with learning tools & cool materials as you grow your farm to school efforts.

As the school year comes to an end, we are pleased to share that the 2019-2020 year was our biggest year ever. **You were one of 92 towns and districts that participated in Put Local On Your Tray, representing 585 cafeterias across the state promoting farm to school.** (This is double the number of cafeterias from the year before!).

As always, our goal is to support you with resources, recipes, and seasonal campaigns that help you feature locally grown products in school meals. We will continue to do this over the summer and into the next school year no matter what that looks like. Planning for Farm to School events and campaigns during COVID-19 are happening across the nation and we will share innovative ideas with you.

Finally, please continue to use the resources we have available on our site:

- [The Farm Directory](#): our new and improved map of farms across Connecticut interested in selling to schools and utilize the [Farm to School Marketplace Listserv](#)
- Participate in our seasonal campaigns, including: **The Great Smoothie Slurp Challenge, Dip Into Summer, and the CT Hard Core Apple & Pear Challenge**
- [Recipes by Season](#): a variety of recipes sorted by seasons for products that are easy to find in Connecticut

Our team is here to help you! Please reach out:

- Carli Herz, Program Coordinator, ([charlotte.herz@uconn.edu](mailto:charlotte.herz@uconn.edu)) with any questions about sign-ups, materials, and social media promotion
- Shannon Raider-Ginsburg, Procurement Liaison, ([shannon.raider@uconn.edu](mailto:shannon.raider@uconn.edu)) for questions and comments regarding the Farm Directory, Listserv and finding local farms

Wishing you a delicious summer!

The Tray Team

Jiff Martin, Shannon Raider-Ginsburg, & Carli Herz