



# Summer Meals Newsletter

JULY 2016 • SPONSORS

SUMMER IS FINALLY HERE...  
LET'S MAKE HUNGER DISAPPEAR!

## What's New?

**Farm to Summer Kick-off:** As we all know, farm to summer doesn't take a vacation! SFSP sponsors are gearing up to provide healthy meals and learning opportunities to keep kids active, nourished, and engaged while school is out. Watch the below video for some best practices on how to extend farm to school best practices in the summer months! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9ousEWZujl>

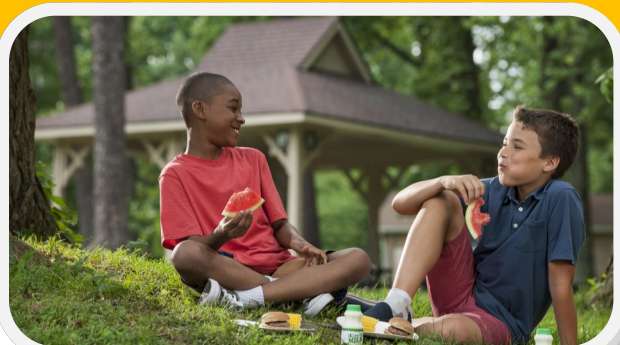
**Spotlight on Summer:** Does your program have creative ways of incorporating local foods and farm-based fun in your summer program? Send us a photo or two and a description of your program to [danielle.fleury@fns.usda.gov](mailto:danielle.fleury@fns.usda.gov), and Farm to School will feature the most creative practices in their E-letter, *The Dirt*, or on their blog to shine a national spotlight on your programming!

## Upcoming USDA and Partner Events

**July 7th, 1pm EST**

*Food Research & Action Center: Mind the Gap—Cities Operating and Supporting the Summer Nutrition Programs*

[http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event\\_KEY=81838](http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=81838)



## Engage Kids and Teens with Fun Activities



An effective strategy to attract kids to your summer site, and keep them returning, is to include site activities. Fun activities help engage young minds and bodies and boost participation. Activities can be easy and inexpensive, such as an arts and crafts class, reading program, or a game of baseball. You can even partner with local sports teams or local businesses to engage in additional activities. Keep activities and events going all summer long to keep kids coming back!

## Spread the word using social media!

Social media makes it easy to reach out to parents, tap into community volunteerism, and promote Summer Meal sites and events. Try sending out posts on Twitter (“tweets”) and Facebook, like these:

**Sample Tweet:** “The @USDA Summer Food Service Program provides meals to children when school is out! <http://low.ly/sQ4qT> #SummerFoodRocks”

**Sample Facebook post:** “USDA relies on local schools and organizations to sponsor Summer Meal Programs and operate sites. Individuals, schools and community organizations can help connect eligible kids to Summer Meals. Sites are located in many communities across the country. To find a site near you, call 1-866-348-6479 (English) or 1-877-842-6273 (Spanish).”

See more sample posts and other ideas for marketing through traditional and social media at the Summer Meals Toolkit:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-meals-toolkit>



## What to do with leftover meals or food items?

Sponsors should plan, prepare, and order meals with the goal of serving one meal per child at each meal service, but sometimes, meals or food items are left over. Here are some ideas for what your organization can do with leftover meals or food items to reduce waste—and hunger. See the Sponsor’s Guide for more information and details: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/handbooks>

**Offer second helpings:** A limited number of second meals served can be claimed for reimbursement, as long as the number of second meals does not exceed 2 percent of first meals served by the sponsor, for all sites, during that claiming period.

**Use “Share tables”:** Designate a table or station where children may return whole food items they chose not to eat, and other children can pick them up. Be sure to follow State and local health and safety codes, and work with your State agency.

**Transfer meals to busier sites:** If State and local health and safety codes allow, extra meals can be transferred from a site with too many meals to a site with a shortage.

**Donate meals to charity:** When it’s not possible to reuse or store leftover food, FNS encourages sponsors to consider donating to non-profit organizations working to address hunger in the community.