



# Summer Meals Newsletter

JULY 2016 • STATE AGENCIES

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=r9ousEWZujI>

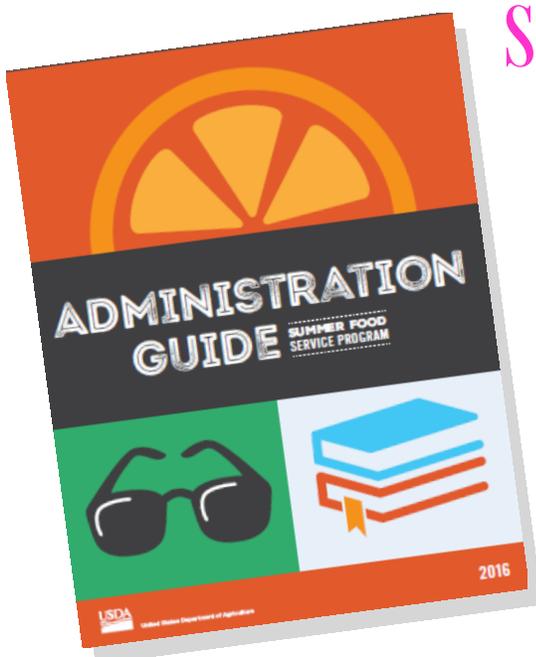
**Spotlight on Summer:** Does your program have creative ways of incorporating local foods and farm-based fun in your summer program? Send us a photo or two and a description of your program to [danielle.fleury@fns.usda.gov](mailto:danielle.fleury@fns.usda.gov), and Farm to School will feature the most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



## Summer Meals Guides Mailbox

FNS updates the Summer Meals Program guides every year. In order to keep the guides relevant, we greatly depend on your feedback – so we've created a new mailbox to collect your suggestions:

[SummerMealsGuides@fns.usda.gov](mailto:SummerMealsGuides@fns.usda.gov)

Please send us your comments, edits, suggested revisions, and best practices. Note that this mailbox is for providing suggestions to all of the Summer Meals guides so please make sure to specify which guide you are commenting on as well as the page number and section. Don't forget to include your Regional office contact on your email.

# 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 Tweets:

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

“Individuals, schools & communities can help connect eligible children to summer meals  
<http://ow.ly/sQ4qT> #SummerFoodRocks “

**Make every word count!** Use shortened URLs, symbols, and abbreviations to stay under the 140 character limit for tweets.



## 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).”

**Make your post stand out!** Include a picture with your post to grab the attention of parents and kids. Include links to your State agency’s website and provide contact information.

Find 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>. Work with partners and local organizations to help families find sites and keep summer rocking.



## Tips for Food Safety

Make sure sponsors and sites are well informed and up-to-date on State and local health and safety standards.

Visit the USDA’s Food Safety Resources page for general food safety information:  
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/food-safety/food-safety-resources>