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**FARM-TO-SCHOOL**

*Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Programs and New North Florida Cooperative* are working in collaboration to connect schools with local farms in order to promote healthy meals in schools, and provide educational opportunities for school children.

**Farm-to-School** seeks to address two growing state concerns:

- Diet and health of Florida’s children
- Declining number of Florida’s small farmers.

**What is Farm-to-School?**

- Schools can procure and feature farm fresh foods (fruits and vegetables) on their menus.
- Schools can incorporate nutrition-based curriculum and provide students experiential learning opportunities through farm visits, school gardens and fundraising activities.
- Farmers have access to a new market through schools and connect to their community through participation in activities designed to educate kids about local food and agriculture.
- Farm-to-School efforts can allow for healthier food options in school meals.
- Farm-to-School efforts can provide education that connects the food in the cafeteria to farms and health
- Children can better relate to how their food choices affect their own health, their family and the local farm community.