



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

**FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH
October 2020**

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's school nutrition professionals, farmers, producers, and farm workers are recognized as heroes and celebrated for their leadership in ensuring the students of Pennsylvania are fed, even in times of emergency; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's schools significantly impact the nutrition students receive and the development of healthy eating habits; and

WHEREAS, the commonwealth is home to many vibrant, small and mid-sized family farms that supply a variety of fresh foods to local schools and markets; and

WHEREAS, minority populations are the backbone of our food system and ensure that we can eat. There is no food justice without racial justice and my administration is committed to addressing issues of food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, our strength is in the collaboration between state agencies and community partners to achieve common goals and lift up children and families, equity and inclusion, and thriving communities; and

WHEREAS, the PA Preferred program managed by the Department of Agriculture helps consumers identify products grown or made in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Farm to School Network works to make sure school gardens are growing all across the commonwealth and schools are connecting with local farms and making investments in the local food system; and,

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's Farm Bill, the first state-level farm bill in the nation, created the Farm to School Grant Program to ensure that schools and farmers across the commonwealth had the opportunity to create and grow programs, regardless of zip code; and

WHEREAS, Farm to School enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and preschools; and

WHEREAS, Farm to School supports students' access to healthy, local foods and educational opportunities, including school gardens, cooking lessons, and farm field trips.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 2020 as FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH in Pennsylvania. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to support our agriculture community by buying local products and educating the next generation of consumers on the value of fresh food as part of a healthy lifestyle.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the city of Harrisburg, on this twenty-second day of September two thousand twenty, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-fifth.

Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor