

THE FFVP THYMES

MARCH

A monthly resource to support and inspire your
USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program!

GRANT OPPORTUNITY for NH SAUs and RAs!

Do you know a school interested in starting or expanding a school garden? The Office of Nutrition Programs and Services released a [Request for Applications](#) on March 8, 2024, for SY 24-25. Help us spread the word and share with your network! Applications are due by May 3, 2024.



School Gardens and FFVP

Schools can purchase fresh fruit and vegetables from their own school gardens using FFVP funds! Schools can also purchase from gardens located at other schools or other districts. However, FFVP funds cannot be used to purchase any material for school gardens.

See [SP 32-2009, School Garden Questions and Answers](#) for information on school gardens and the FFVP.

Learn more about NH school gardens by tuning into the following learning opportunities from the NH Farm to School Network:

- Funding School Gardens - 2023 Webinar Series. Listen to the recording [here](#).
- Cross Curricular Education: Listen to the recording [here](#).
- School Garden Seasonality. Recording coming soon [here](#).
- 3/19/24: 3:00 - 4:00pm - Square Foot Gardening with Kids. Register [here](#).

FFVP Training Topic:

Nutrition Education During National Nutrition Month!

March is National Nutrition Month! This is a great incentive to promote nutrition education in your FFVP. Consider including nutrition education through:

- Encouraging teachers to adapt existing lesson plans to include nutrition education.
- Having students create fruit and vegetable posters to decorate classroom and serving areas, if allowed.
- If you procure local fruits and vegetables for the program, ask a local farmer if they are willing to visit your school. Students love learning where their foods come from - a visit from a farmer will not only educate students but will also increase interest in FFVP.
- Utilizing school gardens as a learning opportunity. Involving students in the harvesting and growing process is a great educational opportunity!

Remember that in the FFVP, nutrition education must be offered on days when a cooked fresh vegetable is offered.



NH Products for Your FFVP Program This Month



- Apples
- Beet Greens
- Beets
- Onions
- Potato
- Rutabaga
- Salad Greens
- Spinach
- Swiss Chard
- Turnips
- Winter Squash

****Reminder: If your SAU has a January FFVP claim, it must be submitted by April 1, 2024.**