



Washington State Department of Agriculture

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Taste Washington Day is coming – Farmers needed

OLYMPIA – Taste Washington Day is coming, when the menu in school cafeterias across the state will feature locally grown goods as a way of celebrating our state’s agriculture and promoting healthy eating habits.

But for this day of agriculture awareness to take place, farmers are needed.

The [Washington State Department of Agriculture](#) (WSDA) and the [Washington School Nutrition Association](#) (WSNA) are looking for farms interested in selling to their local schools.

Since 2010, at least 60 school districts and 50 farms have responded to WSDA calls to participate in Taste Washington Day. Among the school districts to have participated is the Riverview School District in east King County, which has celebrated the event since 2010.

“We purchase the freshest produce from local farms in the Snoqualmie Valley,” Supervisor of Food Services Kaye Wetli said. “Our Future Farmers of America students help the Food Services Department staff prepare the vegetables and serve them in the cafeterias. It is a worthwhile effort because it teaches our children about the food grown in our community, gets them excited to taste new vegetables, and introduces them to farming as a potential profession.”

For farmers new to the event, WSDA is able to help match farms with schools in their area and even assist in setting up sales. The event not only promotes agriculture, but can provide new markets for farmers, expose students to new foods, or simply make them more aware of what they eat.

Some schools even have the farmer selling the goods visit with students in the cafeteria and talk about the produce in their meals.

To participate, farmers should contact WSDA’s Farm to School program Taste Washington Day coordinator Acacia Larson at al Larson@agr.wa.gov or 206-256-6150 by Sept. 1.

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