

FARM TO SUMMER BEST PRACTICE AWARD

The **Farm to Summer Best Practice Award** will be presented to a SFSP or SSO sponsor who implemented Farm to Summer initiatives in their programs. Your nomination should detail all Farm to Summer related activities and demonstrate how Farm to Summer positively affected your program. This award is open to all eligible sponsors. You can apply for this award if you operated either a CONGREGATE or NON-CONGREGATE meal site.

To apply for this award, please submit:

- **A slide presentation**, 3-5 slides, no more than 40 words per slide plus notes as needed. **These slides are your application!** Make sure you address all of the criteria from the rubric in your slides. The presentation should give an overview of your Farm to Summer initiatives, including use of local foods and how they were procured, nutrition and agricultural education activities and events, and Farm to Summer resources utilized.
- A calendar documenting **Farm to Summer activities** in your program including days local foods were served (in menu or in activities), agricultural education activities, special events, and outreach through social media or resources sent home with participants. The rubric on the next page details the calendar evaluation criteria.
- **Bonus: Supporting Documentation** relevant to your Farm to Summer programming. Supporting documentation could include but is not limited to news clips about the program, social media posts, photos, testimonials and feedback from youth, outreach and promotion materials, community statements, State Agency feedback, special events, activities at meal sites, etc.

See the rubric on the next page for the distribution of points and additional guidance in preparing your materials for submission.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Please send the presentation and all attachments in ONE email to carolinahungerinitiative@unc.edu with the title “**2025 Summer Nutrition Champion Awards – Your Sponsor/Stakeholder Name**” in the subject line of the email. Label the documents and/or attachments with the title of the award you are entering and your sponsor/stakeholder title, Ex. “**Farm to Summer Award – Apple County Schools**”. See the awards overview page for additional info.

All nominations should be submitted no later than Tuesday, October 21 by 5 PM.

Awardees will be recognized at the November 2025 SummerPalooza! planning summits, and may be asked to make a short presentation at a SummerPalooza! Summit. Further information regarding the presentation content will be provided to awardees. The Summer Nutrition Champion nominees will be evaluated by an independent party outside of the NCDPI School Nutrition Staff. For questions, please email carolinahungerinitiative@unc.edu.

Thank you and good luck!



Farm to Summer Best Practice Rubric

Presentation Components (up to 6 points)	0 points (Sponsor does not describe this topic)	1 point (Sponsor describes one example)	2 points (Sponsor describes two or more examples)	Total Points
Educational enrichment activities centered around local food and agriculture				
Incorporation and procurement of locally grown foods				
Use of Farm to Summer resources				

Farm to Summer Calendar (up to 6 points)	1 point	1 point	1 point	1 point	1 point	1 point	Total Points
Based on schedule of farm to summer related programming:	Served locally grown foods at least twice as part of reimbursable meal	Served locally grown foods as part of a taste test or other agricultural education activity	Toured a virtual or local farm, farmer's market, or garden OR invited a representative from the agricultural community to visit	Hosted special events or activities in conjunction with Farm to Summer Week	Posted at least once on social media promoting Farm to Summer	Sent home Farm to Summer or agricultural/nutritional education related materials at least once	

Bonus: Supporting Documentation	0 points	1 point	2 points
Circle one	Sponsor does not provide any relevant supporting documentation	Sponsor provides one form of relevant supporting document	Sponsor provides two or more forms of relevant supporting documentation

Bonus: Community Partnerships (1 point)	Total points:	
Describe how you partnered with other organizations to expand your reach and impact		out of 15

