

# FARM TO SUMMER BEST PRACTICE AWARD

**The Farm to Summer Best Practice Award** recognizes SFSP or SSO sponsors that implemented Farm to Summer initiatives and demonstrated their positive impact. Open to all eligible sponsors operating CONGREGATE OR NON-CONGREGATE meal sites.

## 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.** Include relevant materials such as news clips, social media posts, photos, testimonials, outreach materials, community or State Agency feedback, special events, and meal-site activities.

See the next page's rubric for point values and submission guidance.

**SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:** Email your presentation and all attachments in one message to [carolinahungerinitiative@unc.edu](mailto:carolinahungerinitiative@unc.edu). Use the subject line: **"2026 Summer Nutrition Champion Awards – Your Sponsor/Stakeholder Name."** Label each file with the award title and sponsor/stakeholder name (e.g., **"Farm to Summer – Apple County Schools"**). See the awards overview page for details.

**All nominations should be submitted no later than Monday, November 30, 2026 by 5 PM.**

Awardees will be recognized at the January 2027 SummerPalooza training summits and may be invited to give a brief presentation. Presentation details will be provided to awardees. Nominees will be evaluated by the Carolina Hunger Initiative. Questions? Email [carolinahungerinitiative@unc.edu](mailto:carolinahungerinitiative@unc.edu). Good luck!



# Farm to Summer Best Practice Rubric

| <b>Presentation Components</b><br>(up to 6 points)                           | <b>0 points</b><br>(No examples) | <b>1 point</b><br>(One example) | <b>2 points</b><br>(Two or more examples ) | <b>Total Pts</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Educational enrichment activities centered around local food and agriculture |                                  |                                 |                                            |                  |
| Incorporation and procurement of locally grown foods                         |                                  |                                 |                                            |                  |
| Use of Farm to Summer resources                                              |                                  |                                 |                                            |                  |

| <b>Farm to Summer</b><br>(up to 6 pts)                                      | <b>1 point</b>                                                         | <b>1 point</b>                                                                                  | <b>1 point</b>                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 |
| <b>1 point</b>                                                              | <b>1 point</b>                                                         | <b>1 point</b>                                                                                  | <b>Total Pts</b>                                                                                                                |
| 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 |                                                                                                                                 |

| <b>Bonus: Supporting Documentation</b> | <b>0 points</b>                      | <b>1 point</b>                                 | <b>2 points</b>                                        |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Circle one                             | No relevant supporting documentation | Provides one relevant supporting documentation | Provides two or more relevant supporting documentation |

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

