# SNP Memo #2022-2023-34


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: November 28, 2022

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

FROM: Sandra C. Curwood, PhD, RDN, ***Sandy***

## SUBJECT: Virginia Farm to School Resource and School Garden Data Collection

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform school food authorities (SFAs) of the process to submit Virginia farm to school resources and school garden data on the FeedVA website and to encourage SFAs to share the information in this memo with school administrators, educators, and farm to school partners.

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SNP) has partnered with The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) and the Virginia Farm to School Leadership Team to compile Virginia farm to school resources and school garden data on the FeedVA website. SFAs are encouraged to submit their Virginia-specific farm to school resources and school garden data by January 31, 2023.

VFHY maintains the FeedVA website, which is a comprehensive site that hosts the largest set of Virginia-specific data, resources, and food access, agriculture, and nutrition related stories. The FeedVA map contains more than 35 data layers that are freely accessible to the public regarding food security and health outcomes, school nutrition and agriculture programs, and resources for children and families. The FeedVA map captures multiple informational layers providing a comprehensive geographic understanding of Virginia food and nutrition insecurity.

### Virginia Farm to School Resource Collection

Virginia farm to school stakeholders are encouraged to submit their Virginia farm to school resources for inclusion in the FeedVA Virginia Farm to School Resource Library by January 31, 2022, by clicking the “Submit your Virginia Farm to School Resource” button. This library will serve as the central clearinghouse of farm to school resources developed by Virginia farm to school stakeholders in areas of local procurement; school gardens, farms, and learning labs; food, nutrition, and agricultural education; and general farm to school resources. Starting February 1, 2023, resource submissions will be reviewed quarterly for inclusion in the library.

### School Garden Data Collection

SFAs, school administrators, educators, and community organizations are encouraged to submit their school garden data on the FeedVA website by clicking the “Put your garden on the map” button. Starting February 1, 2023, VFHY will update the FeedVA map monthly to include new school garden entries. Schools and organizations with multiple garden locations are encouraged to email Bee Thorp, VDOE-SNP Farm to School Specialist, at Brittany.Thorp@doe.virginia.gov for an Excel version of the data collection form.

School garden location data will be listed on the FeedVA map to encourage peer-to-peer networking, learning, and collaboration. This data will also assist the VDOE-SNP and other Virginia farm to school stakeholders with understanding the breadth and reach of school gardens and student farms throughout the Commonwealth.

### For More Information

For more information please contact Bee Thorp, SNP Farm to School Specialist, at Brittany.Thorp@doe.virginia.gov.

SCC/BHT/rd