# SNP Memo #2023-2024-06


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: July 20, 2023

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

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

## SUBJECT: 2023 Virginia Farm to School Video Release

The 2023 Virginia Farm to School videos are now available on the Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SNP), [Farm to School webpage](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/programs-services/school-operations-support-services/school-nutrition/programs-promotions-and-initiatives/virginia-farm-to-school).

Funded through a USDA Patrick Leahy Farm to School grant, the VDOE-SNP developed three short videos to highlight the wide range of farm to school programs across the Commonwealth and demonstrate best practices. The videos showcase the following farm to school initiatives:

* [Purchasing Local Food From Producers:](https://youtu.be/Hlsj3kJ0O0Q) Page County Department of Nutritional Services utilizes a variety of procurement methods to source local food. Their Fresh Produce Request for Proposals (RFP) includes geographic preference and allows for multiple awards, enabling the department to contract with multiple local producers. This video highlights the relationship between the nutrition department and a Page County-based producer, who provides year-round fresh greens for student meals.
* [Connecting Farms to Schools Through Food Hubs:](https://youtu.be/folH_VsRiuQ) Prince Edward County Office of Food Service was introduced to 4P Foods through the VDOE-SNP’s Centralized Local Procurement Pilot Program (CLPPP). From there, the nutrition department developed a strong relationship with the food hub and has continued to purchase local food beyond the CLPPP. This video provides insight into how school food authorities (SFAs) can work with a food hub, and how farm to school purchases can positively impact Virginia farms.
* [Building Farm to School Programs Through Partnerships:](https://youtu.be/EgnXcysv17w) Fauquier County School Nutrition Department’s robust farm to school initiative is the result of strong partnerships. This video showcases a Harvest of the Month taste test event, and the important work that occurs behind the scenes with partners to implement the program.

The VDOE-SNP is proud to highlight divisions that are leading farm to school efforts in Virginia. These programs are among countless others that are connecting Virginia students with nutritious food grown close to home, while also supporting Virginia farms and rural economies. The VDOE-SNP hopes these videos will further inspire school nutrition professionals and farm to school stakeholders. Please share them with your networks.

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

SCC/BHT/cc