

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 14 October 2016

Ellen Murphy Bennett
GA Dept. of Education School Nutrition Program
470-218-0900
ebennett@doe.k12.ga.us

2020 Vision Aims to Bring Local Products into Schools
Farm to School, School Nutrition, Georgia Grown, Dept. of Agriculture

Atlanta, GA: Georgia has a vision for the future of its school nutrition farm to school program that is bringing together farmers across the state with the next generation of consumers with this goal in mind: By the start of the 2020 school year, at least 20% of the required menu components for the student meal will be comprised of Georgia Grown products.

Following a similar trend sweeping across the country, kids are becoming more and more interested in where their food comes from, says Dr. Debra Morris, school nutrition program director for Jackson County Schools. “Our students want to know where their food comes from. They want to understand the process of how it grows and how it arrives on their plates.” Morris says she is excited for the 2020 Vision because it will help students better appreciate their food when they know it comes from local Georgia farmers and the hard work that goes into getting it there.

Nancy Rice, Director of GaDOE School Nutrition states, “We must do everything we can to support our Georgia farmers and to protect our precious farmland. We want our students to know where crops originate—not just from grocery stores. Getting our school nutrition directors and teachers across the state to involve farmers by using and promoting locally grown foods and having farmers visit classrooms, are great ways to reinforce the transfer of learning.”

Long-term goals of this program

1. Provide quality foods that are safe and nutritious to Georgia’s students.
2. Support agriculture by strengthening local markets.
3. Make students aware of the origins of foods they enjoy.
4. Continue with the use of farm to school products.
5. Reduce the carbon footprint of foods utilized.

This project is a cooperation between Georgia’s Department of Agriculture Commissioner, Gary Black and Georgia’s School Superintendent, Richard Woods. Dr. Kathy Peavy, Assistant Director of the School Nutrition Division for the Georgia Department of Education is assisting with the coordination of the project.

###