

Join Taste Washington Day on Oct. 7 and celebrate “What’s in the Bag or Box from Washington?”

[Sign up online today](#)

What is Taste Washington Day?

Taste Washington Day is going to look a bit different this year! But it will still be a great day to serve and highlighting tasty, locally grown foods in your school meals, and promote your meal program to the community. In 2020, the event will also be exciting way to celebrate the frontline, heroic work of school nutrition staff and Washington farmers, and how farm to school and school meals are part of the solution for feeding students and families during the coronavirus pandemic.

For [Taste Washington Day on October 7](#), schools will celebrate farm to school and agriculture by distributing school meals with local ingredients and help students learn about growing food and farming. The event theme this year is “**What’s in the Bag or Box from Washington?**” So feature that one Washington grown vegetable, fruit, milk, dairy, grain, protein or other ingredient going into your bagged and boxed meals! The event also kicks off National Farm to School Month in October.



Coupeville School District Washington grown beef sauce with pasta during spring 2020 COVID-19 school closures

How can your school district participate this year?

1. [Sign up your district](#) online
2. **Buy and highlight at least one Washington grown food in the bagged or boxed meals students are picking up on October 7** (or another day during October Farm to School Month). Find Washington farmers using the Taste Washington Day farmer list that will highlight “sack lunch ready” products, farmers you already work with, school gardeners, distributors or other suppliers for ingredients.

More ways to do Taste Washington Day this year include:

- Do a virtual "[Washington Apple Crunch](#)" with teachers at noon
 - Partner with a local organization to provide an extra box of locally grown foods in addition to school meals
 - Send home a "Taste Washington Day" [recipe](#), activity, handout or other resource about food or agriculture
 - Distribute produce from a school garden, or Harvest of the Month item
3. **Promote your Taste Washington Day meal to students, parents, and the community.** It’s a great opportunity to broadly promote your school meal program to families, and encourage their participation that day and throughout this school year. Highlight your locally grown meal on a menu, social media, or other communication about your sack lunches or multi-day meal boxes distributed on or around Oct. 7.
 4. Share your promotion, food items, meals, and distribution using the **#TasteWADay** and **#Wafarmtoschool** hashtags to connect with the celebration statewide.



Mead School District handing out asparagus for Harvest of the Month in May 2020 (prior to state mask mandate)

Whatever you are planning for Taste Washington Day this year, [sign up online](#)

Make sure you are on list of participating schools!

WSDA can help you find local ingredients, materials to pack into sack lunches, or local partners to support your event and meal program. Contact Chris Iberle at ciberle@agr.wa.gov or call (206) 714-2757.

What items could I feature from Washington in my bagged or boxed meals?

It's up to you! Highlight or source Washington grown foods you may already be serving, or buy a new item from a local farm. A few ideas for items that work well for sack lunches and multi-day grocery boxes include whole fruit or vegetables, whole apples for the Washington Apple Crunch, milk from Washington dairy producers, include a take-home entree bread made with Washington wheat, or individually wrapped cheese or eggs.

See more ideas for [Washington grown products to feature here!](#) The Taste Washington Day Farmer List we send out in mid-September will also highlight farms' products that are "sack lunch ready".

Resources

There are great resources to help you tell students and families about your food and farmers, promotional materials, educational activities and more:

- [WSDA Taste Washington Day resources](#), including "Taste WA Day @ Home" recipe cards, farmer and food item flyers, posters, and more
- [Washington Grown Food & Recipe Kit](#) with handouts, flyers, and other resources for 40+ ingredients
- WSDA Farm to School is available to help. Please contact Chris Iberle at ciberle@agr.wa.gov, or call (206) 714-2757

To learn which vegetables, fruits and herbs are available from local farms in any month of the year, visit these links:

- [Washington Seasonality Chart: Vegetables & Legumes](#)
- [Washington State Seasonality Chart: Fruit & Herbs](#)

Who organizes it?

[Taste Washington Day](#) is organized by **Washington School Nutrition Association (WSNA)** and the **Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)**, with support from **Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Child Nutrition (OSPI)**. Together with schools and local farmers, we celebrate Washington agriculture and promote good nutrition in our schools. Lots of local non-profits, parents, volunteers, and community partners (and of course, Washington farmers!) also work to support Taste Washington Day. We rely on each and every one of you!

We hope you will join us in celebrating the tastes of Washington on the 7th of October! [Sign up online today.](#)

Taste Washington Day is brought to you by:

