

“You say Tomato, I say Tomahto, You say Potato, I say Potahto” Initiative

It's back to school time and in Iowa that means we are getting ready for our fall harvest. For the Farm to School Program, it usually means we are gearing up for our A is for Apple program. While we want to continue to support our hard-working apple producers, we are going to offer something new this year. While we may be serving up new produce, the concept remains the same.

We all know children learn best when they are engaged. Combining an educational lesson while inviting your students to see, smell, touch and taste fresh produce will be a lesson that will resonate with them for years. At the same time you are teaching your students about making wise and healthy food choices, why not educate them about Iowa's bountiful harvest and the importance of supporting local farmers?

This year's Farm to School fall initiative allows you to take your pick... What will it be? Do you say tomato or potato, or perhaps both? Funds will be available for you to procure locally-grown potatoes and/or tomatoes. In addition to procuring locally grown produce, we will offer you supplies for your classroom. Each option is geared toward a different age group.

Hurry! Sign up for this fall initiative is limited and ends September 29.

Incentives for you: (teachers/students)

- **Pick the package that is age appropriate for your students**
- Provide your students with fresh-picked locally-grown tomatoes or potatoes
- **Encourage healthy eating habits**
- Establish connections with local growers
- **Provide students with fun, interactive games, book or science experiments**

Participation Rules:

Teachers who wish to participate in this initiative **must agree to procure locally-grown tomatoes and/or potatoes from a local grower. \$30 will be awarded to selected recipients. Because class size and prices may vary, if after procuring tomatoes or potatoes, you have funds remaining you may purchase additional tomato/potato based products (such as salsa or tomato juice).** In addition to being part of a delicious and nutritious snack or meal, potatoes/tomatoes can be used in science experiments or even as a tool in an art project. Priority will be given to teachers that utilize the products in conjunction with an educational lesson. An invoice of the purchase will need to be submitted along with a Performance Report (which will be provided under separate cover to the selected schools). Any unused funds will need to be returned to IDALS.

To participate in the “You say Tomato, I say Potato” Initiative, please complete the attached form and return to us as soon as possible. **All participation forms must be completed and submitted by September 29, 2014.** This initiative is open to all grades. Awards will be made to 40 applicants and may be limited to no more than 3 teachers per school. To accommodate the age discrepancies, please select the item that best fits your classroom. There will be a select number of each item; an attempt will be made to accommodate requests and will be based on date received. Award notifications will be made by October 3. Please be aware that the payment must be issued to a school or organization and the W9 form must be completed accordingly. Thank you for your time and your interest in this initiative.

If you have any questions regarding this initiative or the Farm to School Program, contact:

- **Tammy Stotts by phone, 515-281-7657, or email: tammy.stotts@iowaagriculture.gov**



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