



October 25, 2023

Greetings Nutrition Program Providers,

DECAL's Nutrition Services has partnered with Georgia Organics for this year's October Farm to School & Early Care and Education Month **Pepper Palooza** campaign.

Pepper Palooza is a state-wide campaign to get kids eating, growing, and participating in pepper-themed activities.

As this year's **Pepper Palooza** celebration continues, be sure to click [here](#) to register your early care center, family day care home, and afterschool program to receive access to a free electronic toolkit filled with pepper-themed activities, standards-based lesson plans (for ECE and K-12), fact sheets, recipes, and more!



Make a Rainbow Wrap with CALi and Commissioner Jacobs



The [American Heart Association](#) and [Small Bites Adventure Club](#) are offering free resources for teachers to celebrate October Farm to School Month and make Rainbow Wraps with Peppers.

Join CALi, Commissioner Amy Jacobs, and Nutrition & Physical Activity Supervisor, Diana Myers in making a Rainbow Wrap in this [video](#). Click [here](#) to receive free resources and videos to prepare Rainbow Wraps in your classroom!

Ways to Participate in Farm to School Month

- Review the [Infant & Toddler](#) and [Pre-K](#) lesson plans created for October Farm to School & Early Care and Education Month.
- Check out DECAL's October Farm to School Month [Pinterest](#) page for ideas and activities.
- Share your Pepper Palooza pictures and activities on social media with

#pepperpalooza. Each week during October, anyone who has used this hashtag will be entered to win a prize and at the end of the month there will be a grand prize winner from Georgia Organics.

- DECAL is encouraging ECE providers to share pictures and activities on social media with **#pepperpalooza** and **#GAFarmtoECE**.

Farm to ECE Mini Grantees in Action

In October 2022, the Nutrition Services Division awarded 16 ECE sites each with Farm to ECE Mini Grants to support the planning, developing, and implementing of Farm to ECE programs at CACFP sites in Appling, Chattooga, Clayton, Johnson, and Terrell counties.

Over the past year, the sites have utilized the funds to build new gardens, enhance existing gardens, purchase Farm to ECE books, gardening tools & toys, host taste tests, cooking demonstrations and indoor play activities. **Check out** what all 16 sites have done!

October Farm to School and ECE Month Spotlight

As we continue to celebrate PEPPERS this October Farm to School & Early Care and Education Month, here's how some ECE providers are celebrating and engaging children around the state.

We would like to thank White Oak Learning Academy in Dawsonville (collage pictures) and All Smiles In-Home Childcare in Thomasville for providing pictures to show how the children celebrated Farm to School Month.

Please continue to share your pictures using **#pepperpalooza** and **#GAFarmtoECE**.





Register Now for the 2023 Georgia Farm to School and Early Care & Education Mini Summit



Registration is now **open** to join educators, school nutrition staff, early care providers, and agriculture professionals for the **2023 Georgia Farm to School and Early Care & Education Mini Summit in Savannah, GA, on Friday, November 3.**

Learn and share best practices for encouraging kids, families, and communities to grow, eat, and learn about local food.

Discover how you can help build a just food system through a keynote conversation with USDA Director of Nutrition Security and Health Equity and nationally-recognized childhood obesity expert Dr. Caree Cotwright, PhD, RDN.

This event is hosted by Georgia Organics and the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning and presented by the Georgia Farm to School Alliance and Georgia Farm to Early Care and Education Coalition.

The registration cost is \$50 per person. The Summit is approved for three clock hours for ECE professionals by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. The deadline to register is **Wednesday, November 1.**

Click [here](#) to register.

If you have questions, please contact abbie@georgiaorganics.org.

Regards,

Nutrition Services

Together, we can help feed Georgia's Children & Adults.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Bright from the Start:GA Dept of Early Care & Learning | 2 MLK Jr. Drive, Atlanta, GA 30334

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