



Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320
Braddock
Place
Alexandria,
VA
22314

January 5, 2022

Arlene Enderton
Nashua, IA 50658

Re: Response to FR Docket ID FNS-2021-0044

Dear Arlene Enderton,

Thank you for your response to the Federal Register Notice requesting comments on the proposed information collection for the 2023 Farm to School Census, published December 2, 2021. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is committed to generating national and state-level data reflecting the scope and details of U.S. school food authority participation in farm to school activities, and we appreciate your comments.

We will evaluate all comments as required by 5 CFR 1320, Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public. Comments germane to the information collection will be addressed in the Information Collection Request submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Submission of the Information Collection Request to OMB will be announced via the Federal Register.

Your comment requests that the Census collect information related to the amount of spending on local foods by each school district. Past iterations of the Farm to School Census have collected this information; in 2019, school food authorities provided estimates of their spending on all foods, local foods, and local fluid milk (not including entitlement spending). They also provided estimates of their spending on all foods and all local foods through USDA Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh program. (Please see <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/> for the findings of the 2019 Farm to School Census.) We will continue to collect this data in the 2023 Farm to School Census.

Thank you again for your comments and your support of USDA school meals programs.

Sincerely,

Amy Rosenthal, PhD
Social Science Research Analyst
Special Nutrition Evaluation Branch | Office of Policy Support
703-305-2245 | amy.rosenthal@usda.gov