

APPENDIX U5.

60-DAY FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE COMMENTS RECEIVED HELGET



Document Details

Docket ID:	FNS-2018-0006
Docket Title:	Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; by Comment Request Farm to School Census and Com
Document File:	
Docket Phase:	Notice
Phase Sequence:	1
Original Document ID:	FNS-2018-0006-DRAFT-0006
Current Document ID:	FNS-2018-0006-DRAFT-0006
Title:	Comment on FR Doc # 2018-05440
Number of Attachments:	0
Document Type:	PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS *
Document Subtype:	Comment(s)
Comment on Document ID:	FNS-2018-0006-0001
Comment on Document Title:	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Farm to School Census and Comprehensive Review
Status:	Pending_Post
Received Date:	05/16/2018 *
Date Posted:	
Posting Restriction:	No restrictions
Submission Type:	API
Number of Submissions:	1 *

Document Optional Details

Status Set Date:	05/16/2018
Current Assignee:	Chaifetz, Ashley (FNS)
Status Set By:	Public
Post Mark Date:	
Legacy ID:	
Tracking Number:	1k2-936j-khu9

Page Count: 1

**Total Page Count
Including Attachments:** 1

Submitter Info

Comment: My name is Kara Helget and I am from Wisconsin. I rely on the USDA Farm to School Census to help grow farm to school efforts in my community by using it to write grants, develop AmeriCorps Farm to School goals, and to compare the local purchases between school districts in the state and nationally to gain support from the administration. To ensure that the Census remains a relevant and impactful tool, I recommend the following changes or considerations: - Having school districts report on spending from the previous school year may lead to inaccuracies that underestimate local purchasing happening in my community. - I appreciate the opportunity to see which school districts have not completed the Census before it closes. Being able to send reminders to school districts that have yet to respond increases our response rate and better reflects the farm to school efforts occurring in my community. - Please be advised that school food authorities are incredibly busy with commodities purchasing in January and February. Requesting that the Census be completed at this time would decrease our response rate and not accurately reflect the farm to school efforts in my community. - Generally, the length of the survey (22 pages) takes a toll on busy food service directors. Opportunities to celebrate their efforts, like the One in a Melon award, are helpful in communicating the importance of their work. - I would like to be able to provide more information on my farm to school activities. For example, a comment box in what was question 30 in the 2015 Census would allow me to report how many farmers or other stakeholders are engaged in our farm to school efforts. - I would like to be able to report on produce from my school garden entering the school meal program. Thanks for the opportunity to provide some feedback, Kara *🌐

First Name: Kara *🌐

Middle Name:

Last Name: Helget *🌐

Mailing Address:

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**Submitter's
Representative:**

Government Agency Type: 

Government Agency: 

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Cover Page: 