

APPENDIX V6.

60-DAY FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE RESPONSES TO COMMENTS FOGEL



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

May 22, 2018

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
110 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 209
Washington, DC 20002-5622

Dear Mr. Fogel and Mr. King,

Thank you for your thoughtful response to and support for the Federal Register Notice for the Farm to School Census and Comprehensive Review. The USDA Food and Nutrition Service is committed to collecting and using timely, useful data on farm to school efforts at school food authorities (SFAs) across the country and across various Child Nutrition programs.

As you indicate, the Census allows FNS to collect valuable data. While the 2019 Census questionnaire includes many of the same questions as in 2015, we are streamlining the instrument to provide a more straightforward experience for the respondent, but also one that provides more comprehensive data. We also intend to engage the States and SFAs early in the process to allow them to prepare Census responses ahead of time. The respondents are the SFA Child Nutrition Directors, as the Census data are collected at the SFA-level. The final report will comprehensively examine farm to school and its progress since the passage of the 2010 Child Nutrition Reauthorization, which will allow FNS to better describe the impact and benefits of farm to school activities administered by grantees, schools, School Food Authorities (SFAs), and other stakeholders.

In addition to our colleagues throughout USDA, this study is also guided by an advisory panel of farm to school non-profit and academic stakeholders. Additionally, FNS is also conducting a study that addresses procurement specifically, including but not limited to geographic preference.

FNS appreciates your comments and interest in its programs and research. Thank you very much for commenting.

Very best,

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