

APPENDIX V7.

60-DAY FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE RESPONSES TO COMMENTS HARVEY



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

May 22, 2018

School Nutrition Association
120 Waterfront St.
Suite 300
National Harbor, MD 20745

Dear Dr. Harvey and Ms. Montague,

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 specifically chose to wait until 2019 to administer the survey to increase the time between censuses from two to four years. We intend to engage the States and SFAs early in the process to allow them to prepare Census responses ahead of time, including the provision of a pre-survey worksheet to help them gather and calculate the requisite information, as we plan to improve the validity of the data. 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.

FNS also plans to disseminate the data in an interactive and visually-appealing way, as was done for the 2015 Census. The interactive display was well received by stakeholders and its data frequently downloaded by academic, government, and non-profit researchers.

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

Very best,

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