



**Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
Farm to School  
Farm to School Stars Recognition Program**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is excited to announce the Farm to School Stars Recognition Program, provided by Ag Tag funding. KDA will recognize three separate Kentucky school districts demonstrating a commitment to increase purchases directly from Kentucky farmers. Purchases of locally grown produce and proteins increases on-farm income and positively impacts schools.

The intent of KDA FTS Stars Recognition Program is to recognize districts that purchase the highest percentage of locally grown items/products.

Eligible districts must participate in the national School Lunch program (NSLP). Only Kentucky grown or raised products are eligible. Only breakfast and lunch meals will be considered for this award. Procurement sources can include (but are not limited to) general food procurement, DoD Fresh, USDA's Local Food for Schools program (LFS) and FFA. Purchases **NOT ALLOWABLE** are milk, snacks or summer meals. The formula for deciding the top three districts will be total dollars spent on KY products divided by number of meals served in the district.

A panel of KDA staff will review applications, score the districts, and select the top three. The top three districts will be required to provide invoices confirming their purchases. Districts must submit the requested application to KDA by July 31, 2025. No late submissions will be considered.

Recognition for the 2024-2025 school year will be announced during Farm to School Month October 2025. Incentive levels will be first place at \$10,000, second place \$8,000 and third place \$6,000. The award must be spent on local food purchases for the following school year. A winning district is ineligible to participate in the year following an award.

**Application:**

You may submit a completed application via email, to [tina.garland@ky.gov](mailto:tina.garland@ky.gov).

**Deadline for Applications: July 31, 2025**



## Application for KDA Farm to School Stars Recognition Program

Name of School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person for Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Type: (choose one or more) **SBP** ☐ **NSLP Lunch** ☐ **DoD** ☐ **FFA** ☐ **LFS** ☐ **Buy Local** ☐

Project Timeline: August 2024 to June 2025

Total dollars spent on KY Product: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of meals served in the district: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of farmers purchased from this school year: \_\_\_\_\_

At the time of the application how long have you been buying from local producers?

☐ Less than 2 years      ☐ 2 – 5 years      ☐ 6 – 10 years      ☐ More than 10 years

What other groups are you a member of or affiliated with? (Check all that apply)

☐ Kentucky Proud™    ☐ Grow Appalachia    ☐ KY Farm 2 School Network    ☐ Appalachian Proud

☐ Home-grown by Heroes    ☐ Other Programs: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit the following items along with this form:

- ☐ Cost report with figures for KY products and meals served
- ☐ A sample of your menu including the local product
- ☐ A photo of your local product on the tray
- ☐ A standardized recipe using local ingredient(s)