



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS
10B Airline Drive, Albany, New York 12235
518-457-8876 Fax 518-457-3087
www.agmkt.state.ny.us

David Paterson
Governor

Patrick Hooker
Commissioner

June 18, 2008

Help connect New York school children to healthy, delicious, local foods!

Dear Friend of "Farm to School":

On behalf of the New York State Farm to School Coordinating Committee, I would like to invite you to participate in a special weeklong celebration of local agriculture and healthy schools. *New York Harvest for New York Kids Week - Farm to You Fest 2008* will be held September 29 to October 5, 2008.

During this educational and fun-filled week:

- School food menus can feature seasonal New York fruits and vegetables;
- Teachers can hold classroom taste-testing;
- Students can visit farms and farmers' markets;
- Farmers can show students about growing food;
- Nutritionists can connect healthy and local food messages; and much more!

For a complete list of *Farm to You Fest 2008* activities, events and other bite sized ideas that your school can participate in, please visit the Department of Agriculture & Markets' website at http://www.prideofny.com/farm_to_school.html. This website also provides a list of resources, people and other programs available to help your day care center, school, or college – large or small, rural or urban – be part of *Farm to You Fest 2008*.

Additional information and details on *Farm to You Fest 2008* will be sent to you later this summer. In the meantime, I hope you will plan to join me in celebrating the Pride of New York - our youth and our agriculture - working together to improve student health while also building healthy, vibrant communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Hooker".

Patrick Hooker
Commissioner