



Producers & Food Businesses

HOM 101

About Montana Harvest of the Month

The Montana Harvest of the Month (HOM) program showcases Montana grown foods in Montana schools, institutions, and communities. Each month, participating sites focus on promoting one locally grown item (e.g., winter squash) by serving it in at least one meal or snack and displaying or distributing HOM materials. Additionally, schools, afterschool programs, early care and education sites, and summer food service program sites participate by offering taste tests to children and doing educational lessons and activities. Montana Harvest of the Month is a perfect way to launch or grow a farm to school or farm to cafeteria program, as it provides an easy framework to follow and ready-to-use materials. Participating sites receive a free packet of materials (includes posters and cafeteria, classroom, and home handouts) as well as guides, additional resources, and training.

Dig Deeper

Get more information, register, or download resources:

Molly Kirkham

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mtharvestofthemonth.org

How Producers, Processors, and Distributors Can Participate

- **Register** as a producer on mtharvestofthemonth.org to:
 - Let institutions know what HOM products you produce, process, or distribute.
 - Receive a free Abundant MT Directory listing with a 'HOM Participant' tag.
 - Be listed on the HOM website as HOM Producer, visible to all HOM institutions.
 - Get access to general guides to the HOM program, as well as strategies and resources for making institutional sales work for you.
 - Give your input for future HOM products.
- **Find HOM sites** in your area at <https://mtharvestofthemonth.org/home-public-vid/hom-institution-map/>. These sites are committed to promoting Montana grown food in schools.
- **Review available resources for selling to schools and institutions in Montana:**
 - Montana Harvest of the Month Webinar for Producers: <http://farmtocafeteria.ncat.org/2016/04/05/webinar-the-montana-harvest-of-the-month-program/>
 - Montana Farm to Cafeteria Manual: <http://www.montana.edu/mtfarmtoschool/resources/school-food.html>
- **Use the HOM calendar, posters, recipes, and other HOM materials to plan and market.** Following the calendar (see page 2) is recommended, but participants can change the order to suit your growing schedule or the site's needs. The calendar will likely change each year as new items are added.
- **Meet with the food service director** at participating sites to discuss HOM purchasing needs, delivery schedule and requirements, food safety considerations, quantities, and product specifications.
- **Offer to host a field trip or to visit the sites** to teach about HOM items. Bring samples for taste tests and talk about your process in raising, growing, processing, or making food.

Updated July 13, 2021

MONTANA
*Harvest
of the Month*

August 2021 – July 2022

Calendar

Although we recommend following this calendar, your school or program can change the order of the calendar to suit your needs. None of the materials are printed with the month. The calendar will likely change each year to include new foods!



August – Cherries



September – Brassicas



October – Apples



Nov. – Winter Squash



December – Lentils



January – Carrots



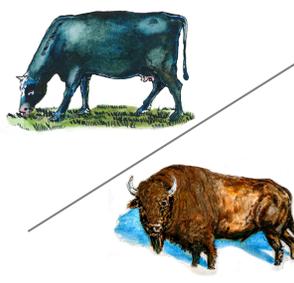
February – Beets



March – Grains



April – Chickpeas



May – Beef + Bison



June – Leafy Greens



July - Dairy

For More Information

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The Montana Harvest of the Month program showcases Montana grown foods in Montana communities. This program is a collaboration between Montana Farm to School, Office of Public Instruction, Montana Team Nutrition Program, National Center for Appropriate Technology, Montana State University Extension, Gallatin Valley Farm to School, FoodCorps Montana, and Montana Department of Agriculture. More information and resources are available at: <http://mtharvestofthemonth.org>.

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