



## 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., beets) by serving it in at least one meal or snack or offering it for purchase, 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:

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[mtharvestofthemonth.org](http://mtharvestofthemonth.org)

### How Producers, Processors, and Distributors Can Participate

- **Register** as a producer on [mtharvestofthemonth.org](http://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 an 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 and serving Montana grown food.
- **Review available resources for selling to schools and institutions in Montana.** Montana Farm to Cafeteria Manual: <http://www.montana.edu/mtfarmtoschool/resources/school-food.html>
- **Use the HOM calendar to plan and market.** Following the calendar (see page 2) is recommended, but teams 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.



August 2023 – July 2024

# 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 – Herbs



October – Brassicas



November – Apples



December – Carrots



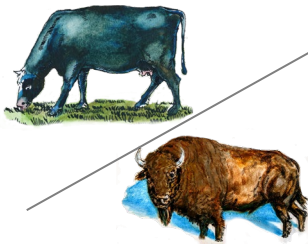
January – Lentils



February – Beets



March – Grains



April – Beef + Bison



May – Chickpeas



June – Leafy Greens



July – Summer Squash



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, Montana State University, Gallatin Valley Farm to School, FoodCorps Montana, Montana Department of Agriculture, Montana Organic Association, and Abundant Montana. More information and resources are available at [mtharvestofthemonth.org](http://mtharvestofthemonth.org).

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