



Summer Food Service Programs

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, doing educational activities, offering taste tests, and displaying or distributing HOM materials. Montana Harvest of the Month is a perfect way to launch or grow a farm to school, farm to cafeteria, or farm to summer program as it provides an easy framework to follow and ready-to-use materials. Participating sites will 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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How You Can Participate

- **Gather your team and register for HOM today!** Your team should include at least a food service staff member, administrator, and educator or provider. Share the short video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orzwBczAX6A>
- **Find and integrate the HOM foods in at least one program meal or snack per month.** The *Cafeteria Bites* handouts include standardized recipes, cooking tips and menu templates that make it easy to showcase HOM foods. You can also incorporate the HOM foods into your existing recipes or feature on the salad bar. Need help finding or purchasing local foods? Visit <http://www.montana.edu/mtfarmtoschool/resources/school-food.html>.
- **Involve parents and community members.** Montana Harvest of the Month is a perfect way for parents or other community members (such as Master Gardeners, MSU Extension Agents, college students, non-profit organizations, ranchers, farmers, food businesses, grocery stores, etc.) to be involved. Send recipes and *Harvest at Home* handouts with children to share with parents. Share stories and HOM information on your website or social media pages.
- **Display the posters** in the cafeteria or on a bulletin board. Additional posters are available for purchase.
- **Conduct at least one HOM activity each month.** The *Classroom Bites* handouts include a lesson plan for elementary-aged audiences, recipes, fun facts, cooking tips, and children's book ideas. Coordinate with food service staff so HOM activities occur before the item is served in a meal or snack. The most effective lessons are ones that include a taste test or a cooking project but start small and make it manageable for your site. Additional lessons and guides are available for registered sites.
- **Conduct taste tests to help students become adventurous eaters.** Sites should conduct at least one taste test each month and collect voting results using the *Tried It, Liked It, Loved It* voting system. Use the *Taste Test Guide* to set up a taste test system that works for you.