

Farm to School

The USDA Pilot Project for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables

Washington State is one of eight states selected to participate in the USDA Pilot Project for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables, as directed by the Agricultural Act of 2014, also known as the Farm Bill. The pilot enables school districts to use their USDA entitlement funds to purchase locally-grown unprocessed fruits and vegetables. Through this pilot Washington State hopes to strengthen current school-vendor relationships and broaden the diversity of vendors selling to schools.

farm opportunity

- Support growing demand for fresh products from local schools in your area
- Develop connections with local Food Nutrition Directors and build a foundation for future business relationships
- Broaden your customer base to schools, students and families in a stable, high-volume market
- Show support for your community and help improve childhood nutrition
- Feature your company as a USDA approved vendor

school opportunity

- Serve more healthy, fresh and locally-procured fruits and vegetables
- Support local economy, build community relationships and promote your food service program
- More flexibility over where and how to spend your entitlement money
- Purchase from vendors with approved liability insurance and food safety practices
- Participate with minor adjustments to standard purchasing practices

Food sold through the pilot can include any “unprocessed” produce that has been sliced, diced, chopped, washed, frozen or dried. Foods that have been heat-treated during processing such as canning or pickling are not allowed.

How to participate?

Vendors must apply to become a USDA approved vendor. Application details can be found on the [USDA-AMS website](#) and [WSDA's Farm to School toolkit](#).



1 Product Liability Insurance



2 Food Safety Certification

USDA-AMS Specialty Crops Inspection Division or Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) recognized

Once approved, vendors will need to contract with schools and are responsible for submitting invoices to USDA at fvproject@ams.usda.gov.

School can participate by contacting the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI):

Jim Hemmen
Food Distribution Program Supervisor
Child Nutrition Services, OSPI
(360) 725-6209
jim.hemmen@k12.wa.us

Participation is open on a rolling basis through December for the 2015 - 2016 school year. School districts get to determine their own entitlement set aside amount for the pilot.

More info?

[WSDA's Farm to School Toolkit](#)

[USDA-Agriculture Marketing Services](#)

[USDA-Food Nutrition Services \(FNS\)](#)

Washington State
Department of Agriculture
Farm to School Team
Chris Iberle
ciberle@agr.wa.gov
(206) 256 - 1874

Farmer Requirements & Application Instructions

The USDA Pilot Project for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables

Visit the [USDA-AMS](#) website for vendor application forms, eligibility requirements, invoice templates and more resources

- 1 Product Liability Insurance
- 2 Food Safety Certification

Farm

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

Do you do plan to apply as a distributor or processor to sell produce from other farms or processed product through the USDA Pilot Project?

Certification requirements and your application will vary by activity:

- Processor — Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) & List all GAP Suppliers in Attachment D
- Distributor — Good Handling Practices (GHP) or Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) & List all GAP Suppliers in Attachment D

Meet the requirements? See how to apply below!

A Complete two forms

(1) Vendor Application Form

- Attachment A - Company Info
List the GAP certified products you grow that will be sold through the pilot, and identify your business as a "Grower"
- Attachment B - Self-Certification (yes/no check boxes)
Farms that that sell more than 2,000 lbs per day and/or broker produce need a [PACA license](#).
- Attachment C - Domestic Origin Requirement
This pilot is for US-grown food only.
- Attachment D - Suppliers
List your farm as the "Grower" for all your products to be supplied, and the GAP audit entity. Include a copy of your GAP certificate.

(2) WBSCM Form (obtain online and save as pdf)

This form registers your business to accept payment from USDA
Requires a [SAM](#) (System for Award Management) registration and [DUNS](#) number which are both easy and free to obtain on their websites.

B Submit application to fvpilotproject@ams.usda.gov

- 1 Vendor Application Form
- 2 WBSCM Form (pdf)
- 3 Additional Attachments
Food Safety Certification (for applicant, & supplier(s) if applicable)

USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) or USDA Harmonized GAP or Any Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) recognized scheme. [See GFSI website for options.](#)

Approved Certifiers

- [USDA - Agricultural Marketing Service](#)
- [WSDA - Fruit & Vegetable Inspection Program](#)
- Check out: WSDA's [Bridging the GAPs Guide for Small and Mid-sized Farms](#)
- [Global Food Safety Initiative \(GFSI\)](#) - collaborative that recognizes private food safety certifiers based on global standards