

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

"Guadagno signs laws offering food for thought," The Times, 8-26-14

"New Jersey trying to boost Farm-to-School program," The Press of Atlantic City, 8-26-14

"Farm-to-school bills signed into law," The Philadelphia Inquirer, 8-26-14

LAW/RWH

P.L.2014, CHAPTER 40, *approved August 25, 2014*
Assembly, No. 2643

1 **AN ACT** concerning the New Jersey “Farm to School” Program and
2 supplementing Title 4 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the
8 Department of Education and any agricultural or farming
9 organization as determined appropriate by the Department of
10 Agriculture, shall establish an awards program to be known as the
11 “Best in New Jersey ‘Farm to School’ Awards Program.”

12 The program shall annually recognize schools or school districts
13 with outstanding achievements in the incorporation of farm-to-
14 school principles into their school meal and snack programs,
15 including, but not limited to:

16 (1) innovative use of local farm produce and products in a
17 school;

18 (2) outstanding and consistent high levels of nutritional balance
19 and excellence in the use of farm produce and products in a school;
20 and

21 (3) quantifiable increases in pupil awareness of the contribution
22 of farmers and farms to the quality of a school’s meal or snack
23 program.

24 b. The department shall establish an application procedure and
25 criteria and guidelines for the eligibility, nomination, and judging of
26 applications for the awards program. Applications shall be
27 evaluated using performance criteria, including but not limited to:

28 (1) incorporation of department farm-to-school principles and
29 measurable increase and documentation of the use of farm produce
30 and products in the school or school district; (2) education and
31 outreach concerning the nutritional importance of fresh produce and
32 food products and the connection of a school or school district to
33 farms and farmers in the State; (3) leadership and innovation by the
34 school or school district; (4) exceedance of nutritional requirements
35 of the school breakfast program or school lunch program; and (5)
36 increased participation in the school breakfast program or school
37 lunch program.

38 c. The department shall post the names of the recipients of the
39 “Best in New Jersey ‘Farm to School’ Awards” prominently on the
40 department’s website, and shall recognize the recipients through the
41 award of a certificate, a press announcement, or another form of
42 recognition deemed appropriate to highlight the achievements of
43 these recipients. The department may coordinate with the
44 Department of Education and any agricultural or farming

1 organization as determined appropriate by the Department of
2 Agriculture, in recognizing the award recipients.

3

4 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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9 This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, in coordination
10 with the Department of Education and any other agricultural or
11 farming organization as determined appropriate by the Department
12 of Agriculture, to establish an awards program to be known as the
13 “Best ‘Farm to School’ Awards Program” for annual recognition of
14 schools or school districts with outstanding achievements in the
15 incorporation of farm-to-school principles into their school meal
16 and snack programs.

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21 _____
22 Establishes “Best in New Jersey ‘Farm to School’ Awards
23 Program” to annually recognize the best farm to school programs
implemented by a school or school district.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2643

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2014

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman PARKER SPACE

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Assemblywoman CELESTE M. RILEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman GILBERT "WHIP" L. WILSON

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

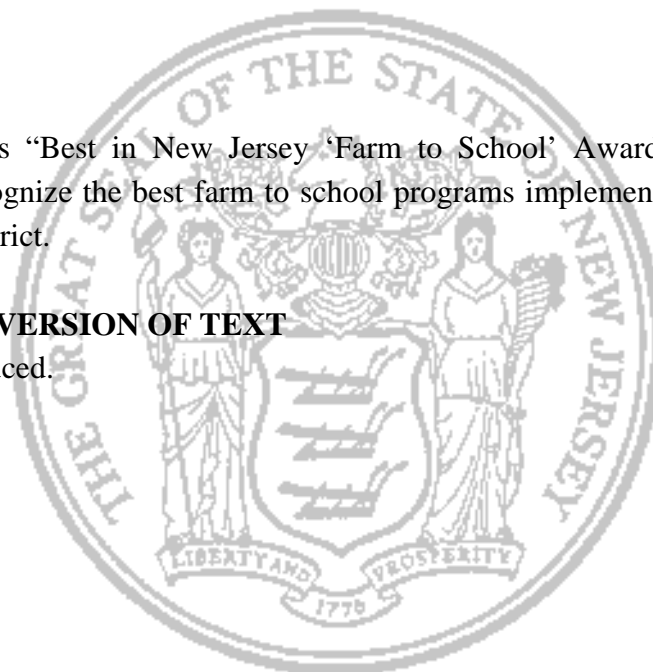
**Assemblywomen McHose, Jasey, Assemblymen C.A.Brown, Clifton,
Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblymen Fiocchi, Rumpf, Assemblywomen
Casagrande, Gove, Assemblyman Coughlin, Senators P.Barnes, III,
Oroho, Beck and Ruiz**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes "Best in New Jersey 'Farm to School' Awards Program" to annually recognize the best farm to school programs implemented by a school or school district.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey “Farm to School” Program and
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ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2643

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 10, 2014

The Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2643.

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Department of Education and any other agricultural or farming organization as determined appropriate by the Department of Agriculture, to establish an awards program to be known as the “Best ‘Farm to School’ Awards Program” for annual recognition of schools or school districts with outstanding achievements in the incorporation of farm-to-school principles into their school meal and snack programs.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2643

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 5, 2014

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2643.

As reported, this bill directs the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Department of Education and any agricultural or farming organization as determined appropriate by the Department of Agriculture, to establish an awards program to be known as the “Best ‘Farm to School’ Awards Program” for annual recognition of schools or school districts with outstanding achievements in the incorporation of ‘farm-to-school’ principles into their school meal and snack programs. The program’s ‘farm-to-school’ principles are to include, but not be limited to: 1) the innovative use of local farm produce and products in a school; 2) outstanding and consistent high levels of nutritional balance and excellence in the use of farm produce and products in a school; and 3) quantifiable increases in pupil awareness of the contribution of farmers and farms to the quality of a school’s meal or snack program.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 2643 is identical to Senate Bill No. 1907, which was also reported by the committee on this date.

SENATE, No. 1907

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 27, 2014

Sponsored by:

Senator PETER J. BARNES, III

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Beck and Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Best in New Jersey ‘Farm to School’ Awards Program” to annually recognize the best farm to school programs implemented by a school or school district.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

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(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2014)

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SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1907

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 5, 2014

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1907.

As reported, this bill directs the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Department of Education and any agricultural or farming organization as determined appropriate by the Department of Agriculture, to establish an awards program to be known as the “Best ‘Farm to School’ Awards Program” for annual recognition of schools or school districts with outstanding achievements in the incorporation of ‘farm-to-school’ principles into their school meal and snack programs. The program’s ‘farm-to-school’ principles are to include, but not be limited to: 1) the innovative use of local farm produce and products in a school; 2) outstanding and consistent high levels of nutritional balance and excellence in the use of farm produce and products in a school; and 3) quantifiable increases in pupil awareness of the contribution of farmers and farms to the quality of a school’s meal or snack program.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 1907 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2643, which was also reported by the committee on this date.

Acting Governor Guadagno Signs Bill Package Supporting Student Access To Healthy Foods

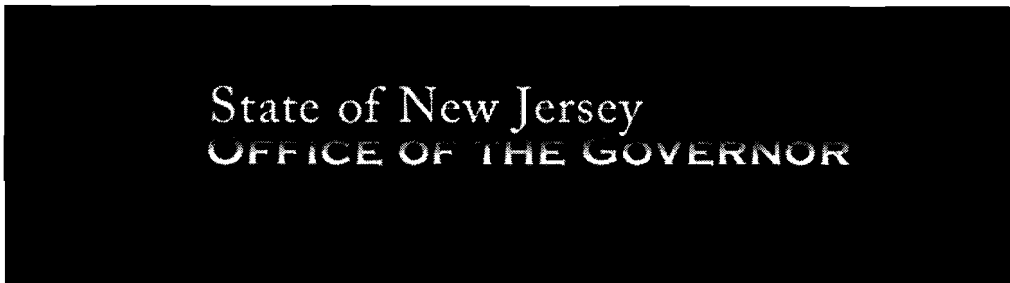
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"Farm to School" Program Sources New Jersey Produce to Area Schools

Trenton, NJ – Taking action to increase student access to healthy, locally-grown foods, Acting Governor Kim Guadagno today signed five bills at Terhune Orchards in Mercer County that support and streamline New Jersey's "Farm to School" program.

"Children who live in the Garden State should have ready access to the more than 100 varieties of produce grown by our state's 9,000-plus farms," said Acting Governor Kim Guadagno. "By signing these bipartisan bills, we are nurturing a program that puts more of these healthy, locally-grown foods directly into the hands of our kids while supporting New Jersey's third-largest industry: agriculture."

The package of unanimously passed bills supporting the "Farm to School" program raise awareness of the program, create potential revenue streams for continued development and create a clearinghouse web portal to allow farmers to better connect with schools and food banks. The bills that were signed today include:

A-156 (Space, McHose, Andrzejczak, Riley/Barnes, Oroho) – Requires the Department of Agriculture to post on its website certain information regarding the state's Farm to School program

A-2641 (Space, Andrzejczak, Dancer, Wilson/Barnes) – Provides for voluntary contributions on gross income tax returns to support Farm to School and School Gardens programs

A-2642 (Andrzejczak, Riley, Space, Dancer/Barnes, Oroho) – Allows contributions to the New Jersey Farm to School program

A-2643 (Space, Riley, Dancer, Wilson, Andrzejczak/Barnes, Oroho) – Establishes "Best in New Jersey 'Farm to School' Awards Program" to annually recognize the best Farm to School programs implemented by a school or school district

A-2644 (Dancer, Andrzejczak, Space, Wilson/Beach, Beck) – Directs the Department of Agriculture to establish a clearinghouse website for farmers to offer produce and dairy products for use by school breakfast programs, school lunch programs and food banks

"I'm proud to sign these bills, which fuel a program that fuels our kids," added Acting Governor Guadagno.

More than 250 New Jersey schools participate in a "Farm to School" program, connecting school nutrition with local farms, improving the quality of school meals and strengthening relationships in the community. The program also helps children understand where their food comes from through the integration of food-related education into the

curriculum and hands-on learning activities such as school gardening, farm visits and culinary classes.

"The Farm Bureau has been a steadfast supporter of the Farm to School and recent School Gardens programs," said Ryck Suydam, President of the New Jersey Farm Bureau. "We think they substantially improve the understanding of food nutrition among the student population and also provide the potential for an expansion of our great Jersey Fresh produce onto the menus of school lunches and other meals provided by school districts. It's a win-win for nutrition and local farmers. We applaud Acting Governor Guadagno for signing these bills."

Following the bill signing, the Acting Governor toured Terhune Orchards, which provides produce to more than a dozen schools in the area, adding great local and fresh food choices to the cafeteria offerings. Since 1975, the Mount Family has owned and operated the Orchards. Terhune grows more than 35 crops on 200 acres, including about 30 varieties of apples, 28 varieties of peaches and 7 varieties of pears, and offers a "Pick-Your-Own" program for apples, berries, flowers and pumpkins. The farm is open to the public year-round and hosts seasonal festivals throughout the year.

"We are so happy to welcome Acting Governor Guadagno to Terhune Orchards today," said Pam Mount, owner of Terhune Orchards. "For the last forty years we have hosted educational tours and camps for school-aged children. Every year, more than 10,000 kids learn how to grow fruits and vegetables and how New Jersey farms work to provide them the healthy foods they eat."

In 2011, Governor Christie signed legislation to establish the last week of September as "Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week" in New Jersey to highlight and promote the value of New Jersey agriculture and fresh foods, as well as the value and importance of fresh farm foods for children, their health and success in school.

Agriculture is New Jersey's third largest industry. In 2012, the state's 9,071 farms on 715,057 acres generated sales totaling \$1.14 billion. The horticulture industry is one of New Jersey's top agriculture commodities. The industry includes nursery, greenhouse, sod and Christmas trees and generated \$444.8 million in sales in 2012.

Acting Governor Guadagno was joined by, among others, Senator Steven V. Oroho (R-Morris, Sussex and Warren), Senator Shirley K. Turner (D-Hunterdon and Mercer), Assemblywoman Celeste Riley (D-Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem), Assemblywoman Donna Simon (R-Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset), New Jersey Department of Agriculture Secretary Douglas Fisher and New Jersey Department of Education Acting Commissioner David Hespe.

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Press Contact:
Michael Drewniak
Kevin Roberts
609-777-2600



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