About the DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

- The program allows schools to use USDA Foods entitlement dollars to buy fresh produce. The program is operated by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) at the Department of Defense.
- In school year (SY) 1994-1995, the program began as a pilot in eight states; $3.2 million of produce was delivered to schools. Today, schools in 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam participate in the program.
- No cap on DoD, currently almost $200,000,000 per school year, projected to continue the trend up.

Benefits to Participating in the DoD Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

- DoD Fresh distributors can connect growers to school districts and coops.
- DoD Fresh dollars can be used to purchase local agriculture.
- Schools can now legally procure local foods. Definition of local is locally defined.

How to Participate in the DoD Fresh Program

- Visit www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/dod-fresh-fruit-and-vegetable-program for more information about the DoD Fresh Program and to sign up in your local community. The DoD Fresh website contains contacts for both state and local levels.
- Reach out to your local distributors to see if they are DoD suppliers.
- If your distributor does contract for DoD.
  - Promote our Harvest of the Month Materials
  - Promote our MushroomsInSchools Resources
  - Promote our Recipes: Feature Thai Meatballs for Sampling and Promoting

Available Resources

The Mushroom Council has a variety of materials available that are specifically designed for School Nutrition. Growers are encouraged to distribute and share these materials with:

- The State contacts
- Your school distributors
- With schools and coops

For additional Mushrooms In Schools resources please visit www.mushroomsinschools.com or contact Katie Preis: kathleen@mushroomcouncil.org