

School News & Notes

Helping School Lunches Make The Grade

(NAPSA)—Perfectly good foods that may have gone to waste are making it to the plates of school-children across the country. Thanks to the National School Lunch Program, which uses surplus agricultural commodities made available through the USDA's Farm Service Agency Commodity Operations, American children are fed nutritious and affordable meals every day at school.

The National School Lunch Program is one of three Child Nutrition Commodity Programs that support American agricultural producers by providing cash reimbursements for meals served in schools, but also by providing nutritious, USDA-purchased food. FSA's Commodity Operations purchases the food on the behalf of the Food and Nutrition Service and makes these available to school districts that choose to take part in the program. School lunches must meet federal nutrition requirements, but decisions about what specific foods to serve and how they are prepared are made by local school food authorities.

"The National School Lunch Program is a win-win situation, benefiting the agriculture industry and school children. The Farm Service Agency is extremely proud to contribute to a program that boosts the health of our nation's



Brain Food—A number of American schools get donated food from farmers across the country.

children, while supplementing the income of our nation's farmers," said FSA Administrator James R. Little.

Additionally, when dairy producers end up with more milk than they can sell, or grain growers are left with excess bushels at the end of the harvesting season, FSA purchases the surpluses and agency personnel aid in the donation of the commodities to schools to become delicious and nutritious foods.