



FACT SHEET: NEW YORK AGRICULTURE LITERACY DAY

NY Agriculture Literacy Day provides 2nd graders with the opportunity to learn about New York state agriculture—where food comes from and the people who are involved in growing and producing it.

Spoons Across America® partners with New York Agriculture in the Classroom (NY AITC) serving as the county coordinator for New York City, covering the boroughs of Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens.

Spoons Across America® supports NY AITC's mission of fostering awareness, understanding, and appreciation of agriculture and the food and fiber systems.

In 2008, 13 New York City public schools, 58 classrooms and over 1,300 2nd Graders participated in the program. They learned all about maple syrup through classroom activities, several classrooms received a visit from a maple syrup producer, and the reading of a book that told the story of maple syrup production.

Spoons Across America®

- Trains volunteers to conduct the lesson plan and to read and discuss a book with an agricultural theme and talk to students about agriculture
- Conducts Taste Exploration activities
- Engages students in classroom literacy activities in the following areas: English language arts, science living, career development, and social studies
- Arranges for farmers to visit classrooms to engage students in activities
- Donates the selected book to each of the participating classrooms and NY AITC donates a book to each school library

ABOUT SPOONS ACROSS AMERICA®:

Spoons Across America® (SAA) – the source for children's culinary education – is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to educating children, teachers, and families about the benefits of healthy eating. We work to influence the eating habits of children through hands-on education that celebrates the connection to local farmers and the important tradition of sharing meals around the family table.

Spoons Across America® is a collaborative effort of professional organizations, businesses, and volunteers committed to supporting the **Spoons Across America®** mission. Our partners include The James Beard Foundation; The American Institute of Wine & Food/New York Chapter; Freedman Meats, Inc.; Lonesome Dove Western Bistro, Fort Worth, TX; March of Dimes; New York City College of Technology/CUNY; Greenmarket (the citywide farmers market program of the Council on the Environment of New York City); New York Women's Culinary Alliance; Blue Smoke-Jazz Standard; Wheat Foods Council; plus farmers, chefs, restaurateurs, and food professionals across the United States.



New York Agriculture in the Classroom (NY AITC) educates youth, teachers, and consumers about agriculture and the food and fiber system. NY AITC is a partnership between Cornell University, the NY State Department of Agriculture and Markets, the NY State Education Department and the New York Farm Bureau. www.nyaged.org

Press Contact: Joyce Appelman PH: 516-482-1016, greatappel@aol.com