



MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

TO PROMOTE HEALTHY EATING AND NUTRITION AWARENESS

This "Memorandum of Agreement" between and among the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA), the Department of Education (DOE), and the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) (collectively, the "Agencies") is entered into on this 5TH day of March 2010, confirms the Agencies' partnership to: (i) encourage healthy eating, healthy lifestyles, health education, and the consumption of local food products; (ii) promote nutrition education in the public education system, and the establishment of school gardens; and (iii) improve the nutritional value of food products consumed in our public schools and facilities, as well as through DHSS programs. This partnership will facilitate and nurture connections between private sector food providers and public sector consumers.

WHEREAS, childhood obesity and childhood diabetes are reaching epidemic proportions nationwide and represent a significant national public health concern; and

WHEREAS, foods grown and processed locally have been demonstrated to be of higher nutritional value for local residents; and

WHEREAS, the value of healthy eating, healthy lifestyles, and proper nutrition education for school-aged children can be reinforced in the public education system; and

WHEREAS, using nutritious foods in our public school lunch programs can contribute to healthy eating patterns among children and support healthy lifestyles;

WHEREAS, a nutritious diet can help improve student health, attendance, and classroom behavior; and

WHEREAS, the consumption of nutritious local foods in DHSS funded programs and facilities can contribute to improved public health and have economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the use of local agricultural products in public facilities can have additional environmental and economic benefits, such as reduced transportation costs and increased opportunity for local agricultural businesses.

Now therefore in consideration of the above, the Agencies hereto agree to the following:

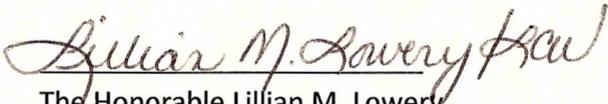
1. The Agencies agree to promote healthy eating through the consumption of nutritious local food products and fostering awareness of the benefits of healthy eating in public schools, facilities, and programs. The DDA will serve as the lead agency to coordinate activities among the Agencies and will also assist the other Agencies by identifying local agricultural producers and processors who can supply local farm products and by encouraging the

participation of local farmers and agricultural suppliers to provide agricultural products to the Agencies.

2. The DDA and the DOE will develop a comprehensive “Farm to School” strategy which includes many of the activities referenced in this MOA.
3. The DOE, in partnership with others, will lead the development of new and/or enhance existing School Nutrition Programs which incorporate local agricultural products.
4. The DHSS will explore opportunities to use local agricultural products in its facilities and programs such as SNAP and WIC.
5. Under the leadership of the DOE, all Agencies will partner with the private sector and other entities to develop new and/or enhance existing public school nutrition education curricula, which may include school gardens.
6. The use of agricultural best management practices, good food handling practices and good agricultural practices by farmers and processors can have benefits for not only our health, but the health of the environment in Delaware and elsewhere. The DDA shall work to ensure that these practices are implemented as appropriate among farmers and processors seeking to work with the Agencies. The Agencies will further evaluate and discuss whether and how such practices might bring additional benefits to the State by ensuring these practices are implemented throughout the entire food system (from the field through processing and transport to the table) during projects related to this agreement.
7. The standard business practices of the farming community and the seasonality of agricultural products will be accounted for in the development and implementation of all projects generated from this mutual agreement.
8. In the development and implementation of the policies and practices of this agreement, the Agencies will seek the input of experts, stakeholder and the community at large, including:
 - representatives of Nemours Health and Prevention Services;
 - representatives of the farming community including the food processing sector;
 - food and nutrition extension personnel from the University of Delaware and Delaware State University;

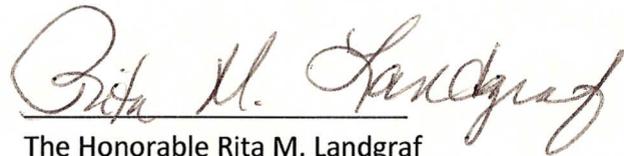
- master gardener extension personnel from the University of Delaware and Delaware State University;
- nutrition supervisors from Delaware Public Schools;
- representatives of the Federal Food Commodities Program, and;
- parents of school-aged children.

9. This agreement will be effective when signed by all the Agencies and may be terminated by any Agency upon notice to the others.



The Honorable Lillian M. Lowery
Secretary
Department of Education

3-5-10
Date



The Honorable Rita M. Landgraf
Secretary
Department of Health and Social Services

3/5/10
Date



The Honorable Ed Kee
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

3/5/10
Date