



# What's Growing On... Rhode Island Farm to School



July 2010

## What's Sprouting in Rhode Island?

### Blueberries

from Jaswells and  
Schartner Farms

*Available Now and  
Perfect for Summer Food Service*

### Zucchini

from Confreda Farm

*Available Now  
Great for dipping when cut into sticks*

### Plums

from Hill Orchards

*Available Now  
Tiny and tasty, the best you've ever had!*

### Cucumbers

from Confreda Farm

*Available Now  
Refreshing on a hot summer day*



### Rit, Jeb and Rich Schartner

of Schartner Farms in Exeter  
*Students enrolled in West War-  
wick's Deering Middle School  
summer camp will visit the farm  
for a tour and blueberry picking  
next week*

### "Planting" Ahead

*These RI Grown items are only  
available for a very short time in  
September. Kids First can help  
you arrange to purchase and  
serve them, just call us!*

**Blueberries**

**Plums**

**Nectarines**

**Eggplant**

**Tomatoes**

**Peppers**

**Peaches**

## Chartwells Plans a Season of Serving RI Grown

Last month, 25 food service directors from RI and Mass met at Jansel Valley Farm to tour three area farms that are growing crops specifically for them to serve next autumn. Based on the success of last years weeklong celebration of locally grown produce, Chartwells has been planning an entire autumn menu with a focus on locally grown. Conversations took place with farmers as early as last March, making sure that sufficient crops were planted to satisfy the demand all of the Compass Group divisions will make.

Last year, Chartwells school food service spent about 3 million dollars nationwide, purchasing produce from farmers within their communities. This year the numbers

should triple given that the celebration will go from one week to three months. Rhode Island farmers currently working with Chartwells and their distributor, Sid Wainer and Son, include Young Family Farm, Steere Orchard, Confreda Farm, Quonset View Farm and Schartner Farm.



For Farm to School programs and technical assistance, contact Farm to School Specialist Kimberly Sporkmann at Kids First 401 751-4503

### Would you like to take your staff on a farm field trip?

Kids First & RI Farm to School would be happy to coordinate an outing for your food service managers and workers. We can arrange for a school bus to take a group to one or two of the farms in your area that participate in the Farm to School program, or we can all just meet up at one for a tour. These tours are informative and educational, offering a perspective on food that most are not lucky enough to experience. Farmers speak about their experience with the Farm to School program while showing everyone around their farm. Think about this option for back to school orientation meetings, field trips are a great morale booster!

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