



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Local students win N.C. Farm to School calendar art contest

RALEIGH— Thirteen elementary school students' art pieces have been chosen for the North Carolina Farm to School 2017-2018 calendar. This marks the seventh year for the popular contest.

The Farm to School program began in 1997 as a collaborative effort of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food Distribution and Marketing divisions. The two divisions work together to secure orders from child nutrition directors and then source and deliver locally grown fruits and vegetables for school lunch programs. During the 2016-2017 school year, the program generated nearly \$1.3 million with participation by 79 school districts statewide.

“The judges had an outstanding selection of artwork to choose from with more than 2,000 entries,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “It is interesting to see agriculture from their perspective, and I am proud they are learning more about where their food comes from, and that agriculture and agribusiness is North Carolina’s leading industry.”

The winners of the calendar contest and the month their artwork will represent are as follows:

Cover Art – Veronica Wilfong, a fifth-grader at Tuttle Elementary in Catawba County.

August 2017 – Amari Honan, a fourth-grader at Sallie B. Howard School for Arts and Education in Wilson County.

September 2017 – Mallie York, a kindergartner at White Plains Elementary in Surry County.

October 2017 – Calvin Pierce, a second-grader at Perquimans Central School in Perquimans County.

November 2017 – Kya Gross, a fifth-grader at Barringer Academic in Mecklenburg County.

December 2017 – James Michael Jacobs, a first-grader at Union Chapel Elementary in Robeson County.

January 2018 – Emmalyn Rathbone, a third-grader at Polk Central Elementary in Polk County.

February 2018 – Justin Park, a first-grader at Morris Grove Elementary in Orange County.

March 2018 – Yared Nava, a second-grader at Chicod Elementary in Pitt County.

April 2018 – Aiden Fitzgerald, a fourth-grader at Hiddenite Elementary in Alexander County.

May 2018 – Lorine Miller, a third-grader at Grays Chapel Elementary in Randolph County.

June 2018 – Allie Solomon, a fifth-grader at Helena Elementary in Person County.

July 2018 – Jayda Leonard, a kindergartner at Cedar Grove Elementary in Nash County.

The contest was open to all public elementary students across the state. The winners received \$50 gift cards sponsored by the N.C. Farm to School Cooperative, the group of farmers supplying produce to the program. The N.C. Grange sponsored the Farm to School calendar.

Winners were announced at an awards ceremony at the Got to Be NC Festival in Raleigh. The winning artwork will be on display throughout the year in the Agriculture Building and at the N.C. State Fair in October.

Limited numbers of the calendars will be available through participating school systems before the start of the school year. Additional copies will be available at NCDA&CS on a first-come, first-served basis, and printer-friendly versions will be available online at www.ncfarmtoschool.com.