



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

Florida Farm to School Week Talking Points

Dear Presenter,

We are excited to have you on-board for “Bring a Farmer to School Day” during the inaugural Florida Farm to School Week. In preparing to visit your school(s), take some time to consider the age of the students you will be speaking to and plan your talking points accordingly. Below, we have compiled a list of suggested talking points that students have responded well to in past Farm to School events.

- Channel your Inner-Child: Recall your upbringing—how did agriculture shape your childhood? Did your family farm? Did you work on a farm and what did you do? Were you a member of FFA or 4-H? What is your favorite childhood memory involving agriculture?
- A Day in the Life: What does your daily schedule look like? What time do you and your workers start each morning?
- Planting the Seed: Talk about the growing process—students may already know the basic stages of plant growth so talk about what you plant. How much of it do you plant each season? How much land do you have (instead of acreage, compare to number of football fields or standard house lots)? Note: If you are not a plant farmer, talk about the production processes involved with your commodity.
- Mapquest It: What parts of the state, country or world do you send your product to? Which commodities, including yours, are prevalent in the immediate county and surrounding towns?
- Playing Favorites: What are some of your favorite commodities? Ask students to identify their favorite foods then follow-up with “Is it an agriculture product?”—Of course the answer will be ‘Yes!’ every time.

As with any group of individuals, you will have all types of learners, so try to supplement your spoken information with some visual or hands-on learning tools:

- Photographs: Some students may have never been on a farm before, so they may think farming happens in neighborhoods like theirs. Photographs of your land, equipment, and product(s) will help reach visual learners. Some schools may be equipped with big-screen projectors, which would allow you to create a slide show and avoid printing pictures.
- Props: Most **farm equipment** will likely be too large or too unsafe to bring to your school, but smaller pieces of equipment are welcomed. If you use any **apps** on your computer or smartphone (i.e. My Florida Farm Weather app, etc.), show off your technological prowess. **Samples** of your commodity will help students connect your product to the same product they purchase at the grocery store. Also, if feasible, we encourage you to conduct a tasting of your product with the students.