

**Summary of Initiatives and Events
In Surrey
October 2007 to September 2008**



A campaign that aims to give children first-hand experience of seeing, growing and cooking food to better understand where food comes from, what happens in the countryside and why it is important to have a healthy diet. Prince Charles is the patron.

This is what is happening in Surrey:

Seeing:

- Schools can visit “school accredited” farms. Schools in deprived areas have been offered free transport vouchers. A list of farms is available on the YOFF web site.
- At the County Show in Guildford on 26th May (est 40,000 visitors) , there will be professional chef cooking with local food, and a special display area celebrating 50 years of farming and food in the Surrey Hills. This will feature displays on the history of farming and fun activities such as using pedal power to create your own fruit smoothie!

Growing:

- Details of Free Potato growing packs (from the Potato Council) were sent to all Surrey schools at the end of the Autumn term.
- 100 primary schools will be taking part in a growing competition as part of Food Awareness Week 16th to 20th June 2008. 4,000 YOFF branded seed packets are being sent out with how to grow support from the teachers’ resource site “grow your own grub”. Targeted schools in deprived areas will have their own growing workshop.

Cooking and Eating:

- Local food into schools: Omega 3 rich fish cakes from the South coast and South Downs Lamb burgers are now on an extended trial in 13 schools across Surrey.
- During Food Awareness Week, schools will be encouraged to feature a “Local Produce Day” on the menu. 10 District Managers from SCS will target one school each.
- Vegetable box scheme: Plans are in progress to offer a local vegetable box scheme to schools to be sold to parents supported by school PTA’s who will be able to take a commission on sales for the school. Big Lottery funding is being sought.
- How to cook: From Autumn 08 onwards Surrey schools will be included in the regional “Lets Get Cooking” programme with support from a coordinator.

New Schools Farming and Food Event:

Surrey County Agricultural Society plan to hold the county’s first ever Food and Farming Event specifically for schools. This will create a tangible legacy for YOFF in Surrey. Plans are in progress to hold the event at RHS Wisley in October 2008 with the intention of linking farming and food through a series of fun child-focused activities. The event will be open to all schools.

Communication:

- YOFF resource packs and an invitation to all Surrey activities, have been sent to all Surrey schools by Surrey Commercial Services and 4S.
- Web sites: National: www.yearoffoodandfarming.org.uk & South East www.yoffse.org.uk.
- On 17th July there is a Healthy Schools Conference at Surrey University due to be attended by schools signed up for the Healthy Schools programme (linked to the Govt’s 5 A Day healthy eating initiative) see www.surreyhealthyschools.co.uk

www.yearoffoodandfarming.org.uk and www.yoffse.org.uk