



30% NYS Initiative Training February 21, 23 & March 9, 2023 Questions and Answers

On February 21, 23, and March 9, The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM), alongside Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) – Harvest NY, held training sessions for the 30% NYS Initiative. This document contains all the questions and answers provided during those trainings.

Question: How do we know if we are up for an audit?

Answer: SFAs applying for the first time go through a full review. After that, SFAs are audited every 3 years. NY State Department of Agriculture and Markets maintains a schedule and can let SFAs know if they are up for a full review.

Question: Do we need to submit a new application every year?

Answer: Yes.

Question: When are applications due?

Answer: Applications can be submitted once all SFA Child Nutrition claims for the application school year have been submitted, no later than August 15th.

Question: Where do we find the application?

Answer: For complete instructions on how to apply for the 30% NYS Initiative, please refer to the [30% NYS Initiative Application Process](#) guidance document. To apply SFAs must complete the [30% NYS Initiative Application Excel](#) document, which can be found on the NYS Department of Agriculture and Market's [30% NYS Initiative](#) web page. The application and signed [Attestation Statement](#) must be emailed to 30percent@agriculture.ny.gov no later than August 15th.

Question: Do we need to track purchases every year?

Answer: Yes

Question: Do Pilot and DoD purchases count?

Answer: No

Question: Do only foods grown in NY State qualify, or does any product produced or processed in NY State qualify?

Answer: Products must contain at least 51% raw NY agricultural ingredients in order to qualify. Products produced or processed in NY that do not contain at least 51% NY ingredients do not qualify.

Question: If a product is NY Grown and Certified, do you need to provide a Product Formulation Statement?

Answer: No

Question: If we provide samples of a NY food product during lunch, does that count as a 30% purchase?

Answer: A food item needs to be served on the lunch menu in order to count. If an item is served on the lunch menu and samples of that item are provided to students who did not take it from the lunch line that day, the cost of these samples would count.

Question: Can the school cafeteria purchase foods grown in the school garden, grow towers, etc., and do such purchases count as 30% purchases?

Answer: Yes. An invoice must be provided.

Question: Is there a database of documentation required from producers?

Answer: Yes. The [30% NY Initiative Eligible Product Database](#) includes the required Product Formulation Statements for products that are not NY Grown and Certified.

Question: Do only milk purchases for lunch count?

Answer: Yes. Milk purchased for use in the School Breakfast Program does not count.

Question: Do you have recommendations for any NY producers that are excited to host or offer sampling sessions?

Answer: Most vendors are able to provide samples, and many are interested in attending product sampling events in person. SFAs are encouraged to work together to host product samplings. Farm to School Coordinators are available to spearhead or help coordinate product sampling events.

Question: If a vendor we purchase from is in the 30% NY Eligible Product Database, do we need any additional documentation?

Answer: No, you will not need additional documentation beyond what is in the database.

Question: Do qualifying purchases made using SCA funds count?

Answer: Yes.

Links shared during the presentation:

- NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets [30% NYS Initiative](#) website
 - **URL:** <https://agriculture.ny.gov/30-percent-initiative>
- The [30% NYS Initiative Application Excel](#) document
 - **URL:** <https://agriculture.ny.gov/school-year-application-30-initiative>
- 30% NYS Initiative [Attestation Statement](#)
 - **URL:** <https://agriculture.ny.gov/attestation-statement-sheet-fillable-30-initiative>
- [30% NYS Initiative Application Process](#) guidance document
 - <https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/application-process-30-initiative>
- [30% NY Eligible Product Database](#)
 - **URL:** <https://cals.cornell.edu/cornell-cooperative-extension/join-us/new-york-state-farm-school/find-farm-school-resources/30-farm-school-initiative/30-ny-initiative-eligible-product-database>
- [NY Food Database](#)
 - **URL:** <https://cals.cornell.edu/cornell-cooperative-extension/ny-food-database>
- [NYS Farm Directory](#)
 - **URL:** <https://agriculture.ny.gov/farming/new-york-state-farm-directory>
- [Farm to School Coordinator Map](#)
 - **URL:** <https://harvestny.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=152>
- [Recording for the 30% NYS Initiative Training](#)
 - **URL:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j4w8XvV02aY>