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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 2018-2019 calendar. This marks the eighth 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 2017-2018 school year, the program generated nearly \$1.3 million with participation by 87 school districts statewide.

“The judges had an outstanding selection of artwork to choose from with more than 2,700 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 – Yaretzi Barrera Garcia, a fourth-grader at Sallie B. Howard School for Arts and Education in Wilson County.

August 2018 – Drew Barham, a third-grader at Rand Road Elementary in Wake County.

September 2018 – Freya McCormick, a fifth-grader at The Franklin School of Innovation in Buncombe County.

October 2018 – Francheska Jones, a first-grader at Wingate Elementary in Union County.

November 2018 – Francisco Risso-Hemstreet, a fourth-grader at Forest Hill Elementary in Burke County.

December 2018 – Charles Sherman, a fourth-grader at Jesse Mae Monroe Elementary in Brunswick County.

January 2019 – Juhee Park, a fifth-grader at Southwest Elementary in Guilford County.

February 2019 – Dalton Whicker, a second-grader at Caleb’s Creek Elementary in Forsyth County.

March 2019 – Jaycoll Reyes, a fourth-grader at Charles W. McCrary Elementary in Randolph County.

April 2019 – Amon Villarreal, a fourth-grader at Polk Central Elementary in Polk County.

May 2019 – Mason Conard, a kindergartner at Woodland Heights Elementary in Iredell County.

June 2019 – Ella Crider, a third-grader at Chicod Elementary in Pitt County.

July 2019 – Penelope Lipscomb, a second-grader at The Academy of Moore County in Moore 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, and the School Nutrition Association of N.C. 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](http://www.ncfarmtoschool.com).

