

PRESS RELEASE

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WOODBINE SCHOOL ONCE AGAIN RECEIVES FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES GRANT

Woodbine—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that Woodbine Elementary School will for the third year be a participant in the United States Department of Agriculture Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Program.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) exposes school children to new, healthier foods and increases their fruit and vegetable consumption, ultimately leading to improved lifelong dietary habits. The federal Farm Bill, which became law in June of 2008, expanded what had been a pilot program in a few states to include all 50 states.

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher announced that 101 schools in 17 counties have been chosen to participate in the program for the 2010-2011 school year. During the current year, 60 schools are operating the program. The program has grown every year since it began in New Jersey. During the first school year, 2008-2009, the Department allotted funding for 33 schools to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to students on a regular basis. Increased funding has allowed the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to expand the program so that more school children can benefit next year. The USDA has allocated \$2,530,957 for the 101 schools.

“We are proud to note that Woodbine has been a participant since the New Jersey Program began, and is the only recipient in Cape May County,” noted Mayor Pikolycky. “We also thank the New Jersey Department of Agriculture for the funding it provided Woodbine under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which provided the school with two new refrigerators and a hot food server for its cafeteria kitchen.”

Some of the criteria used in making the selections included: schools needed to be elementary schools and have 50 percent or more of their students eligible for free or reduced price meals; schools planned to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables as much as possible; the program would be well-publicized and all students would have access to the produce offered; and schools planned to partner with outside organizations to enhance nutrition education.