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For Immediate Release

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### **USBE Celebrates Utah Apple Crunch and Farm to School Month**

SALT LAKE CITY– The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) are celebrating National Farm to School Month this October by hosting the annual Utah Apple Crunch Day. This event will take place on Wednesday, October 21st from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Utah State Capitol's South-West Plaza.

One hundred and fifty kindergarten students from Canyons School District will meet local apple farmers to learn how fresh fruit travels from Utah orchards to school lunchrooms. During the event, they will also engage in apple-themed educational activities hosted by community partners dedicated to youth health and local food.

National Farm to School Month highlights the importance of connecting children with fresh, local food while supporting Utah farmers and strengthening relationships among schools, childcare providers, families, and communities. Apple Crunch offers a fun, hands-on opportunity for K-12 and early childhood students to learn about local agriculture and gain a greater appreciation for where their food comes from.

"Farm to School programs help students make meaningful connections between the food they eat, the people who grow it, and the communities where they live," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Molly Hart. "By bringing local agriculture into educational experiences, we are helping students develop healthy habits, supporting Utah farmers, and creating stronger connections between schools and their communities."

In addition to the event at the Utah State Capitol, schools and childcare centers across the state are spending the month of October participating in taste tests, farm visits, gardening activities, classroom lessons, and other learning activities that allow young Utahns to develop a stronger appreciation for local farmers and agriculture.

Utah's Apple Crunch began in 2017 as a fun and educational way to celebrate National Farm to School Month. In 2018, Utah pursued its first official statewide Farm to School Month declaration. After a brief pause, the statewide declaration will return in 2026. The 2026 statewide Farm to School Month declaration was pursued by the Utah Department of Health and Human Services in partnership with USBE, UDAF, and Farm to School partners and communities throughout the state.