



An official press release

Maschio's Food Services, Inc.



Maschio's Partners with Race Farms for Fresh Produce

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The apple doesn't fall far from the tree, especially with Maschio's recent partnership with Race Farm in Blairstown.

"Since Maschio's opened its doors over 25 years ago we talked about partn very own produce and here we are," said President Frank E. Maschio.

The partnership, announced over the summer, will help boost the amount of local produce in the school districts, said Lyn Mahony, Maschio's Farm-to-Scl



"These are fourth generation farmers and it's a name that New Jersey knows' she said. Mahony said she wanted not only a produce farm, but one with orchards as well.

"There are kids across the state who don't know how different varieties of apples can taste from one another," she said.

With 2.5 acres dedicated strictly to Maschio's, students this year should expect a variety of produce to complement their trays and awaken their taste buds.

"Our partnership with Race Farm has dedicated several acres of prime farmland to support our continuing effort to provide the finest and freshest locally sourced produce to our students," said CEO of Maschio's, Ken Torchia.

"The growing season is expected to produce a bountiful supply of tomatoes, peppers, grape tomatoes, plum tomatoes, cucumbers, basil, sweet potatoes, small pumpkins, sweet corn, some watermelons, and a variety of apples," said Brian Erdman, Director of Purchasing for Maschio's.

"This is the first time some of our schools will be serving early Jersey sweet corn," Mahony added.

"All produce is non-GMO and subject to minimal pesticides," said Doug Race, a third-generation farmer.

The 80-year-old establishment is a farmer's market staple with a long-standing presence in Union Square Green Market in New York City as well as Boonton and Summit. In addition to increasing the push for local produce into the schools, the partnership will include school field trips that can accommodate up to 300 students. The Farm-to-School tours provide students a first-hand experience in participating on a working farm. The field trips will also include tractor rides, agricultural education, and tastings.

"I want this to come full circle," said Mahony. "I want to point and say 'that apple that you ate yesterday? This is the tree it was picked from.'"

With their own fleet of trucks, Maschio's will pick up fresh produce twice-a-week during peak harvesting times and once-a-month from November onward until Race's apples are no longer available.

"Last year we had Fujj, Gala and Honeycrisp (apples)," Mahony said. "And the kids know the varieties. You have 20-30 year-olds who want to know where their food comes from and it trickles down to their kids."

With Race's and Maschio's sights set on a "growing partnership for years," the ultimate goal for the Farm-to-School program is to provide as much local produce into the schools as possible, said Mahony. Farm-to-School week is scheduled for the last week in September with October dedicated as Farm-to-School month.

About Maschio's Food Services, Inc.

Maschio's Food Services, Inc. is a K-12 food service management services provider, located in Chester, New Jersey, that currently services school districts in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Florida.

For more information about Maschio Food Services visit www.maschiofood.com

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