

# Ohio Farm to School Newsletter

National, Regional and State Updates

December 2014



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*Grab a warm beverage and skim the news section – might come in handy at your next holiday gathering.*

We're thankful for the opportunity to work with you in our efforts to bring healthy food to schools around the state. We're looking forward to heading into the new year with inspired projects and a state conference, March 05 at the 4H Center in Columbus. Save the date!

## State, Regional and National

### **New publication highlights funding opportunities for local food**

A new white paper from the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture presents information about 31 federal, state and private grant programs that are available as funding sources for development of local food systems. Financial resources range from USDA grants for beginning farmers, owners of small businesses and rural development groups, to private industry and foundation grants that support community gardens and farm-to-school programs. Find the white paper on the [Leopold Center's website](#).

### **The "Hospital-Food Revolution" Happening in America**

This article explores the role of "anchor institutions" like universities and hospitals as engines of local economies. It highlights initiatives such as the Central Corridor Anchor Partnership in the Twin Cities which harnesses the economic might of institutions to purchase goods and services from local vendors and bring fresh, healthy food to patients. Read the [full article](#).

### **New Documentary on Farm Labor Released**

In this exposé, a group of farm workers engage with the global supermarket industry through their Fair Food program, which partners growers with retailers to improve working conditions for farm laborers in the United States. The film focuses on a group of tomato pickers from Southern Florida – the Coalition of Immokalee Workers – who are working to ensure a dignified life for farm workers and a more humane, transparent food chain. Visit [the film's official website](#) for more information.

### **America's food future in Cleveland's struggling neighborhoods**

Morten Damm Krogh takes a firsthand look at food deserts and urban farming around Cleveland in a great read on the German Marshall Fund Blog. He features the work of **Morgan Taggart of CFAES's outreach arm, OSU Extension**, who showed him around on his visit. "To be perfectly honest," he writes, "I saw more of America's food future in the struggling neighborhoods in East Cleveland than I did in the corn and soybean fields of Nebraska." Krogh is a special adviser for Denmark's Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and a fall 2014 European Marshall Memorial Fellow.

Read full post on the [On Sustainability blog](#)

# News & Resources

## State, Regional and National

### **The Lunch Box**

This digital toolkit is dedicated to supporting school districts and food service teams working to transition food programs to using scratch cooking and fresh ingredients. The comprehensive collection of resources include scalable and downloadable recipes as well as help with menu creation, financial management, procurement, and more.

### **The Lunch Box**

### **On the Trail to Preserve Appalachia's Bounty of Heirloom Crops**

Learn about a growing number of seed savers who are helping revive heritage fruits and vegetables that are on the brink of extinction in the nation's most diverse foodshed. Dedicated seed savers in Appalachia are aging - there isn't much time left to help farmers cultivate these valuable antique seeds.

### **NPR**

### **Food Policy**

Quick study guide on ten major food issues facing the Obama Administration and Congress, including: healthy school meals, GMO labeling, excessive antibiotics, unregulated food additives, and deceptive food claims. **Environmental Working Group**

Find out how your legislators voted to keep food safe, healthy, and affordable by looking them up on the **Food Policy Action map**.

### **On-going resources:**

- Finding local farms, buyers, or restaurants that purchase/ serve local foods, visit **Ohio MarketMaker**: [www.ohiomarketmaker.com](http://www.ohiomarketmaker.com)*
- Finding farms in and around Ohio that sell directly to the public through local farmers' markets, CSA's, and on-farm sales, visit **OEFFA's Good Earth Guide** [OEFFA's searchable on-line directory](#).*
- Farm to School Webinars: National Good Food Network Website:**  
<http://www.ngfn.org/resources/ngfn-cluster-calls/farm-to-school>  
*NGFN offers four recorded webinars on the topic of Farm to School at this time: "Food Hubs and Farm to School", "Market-Based Models for Increasing Access to Healthy Food: Defining What Works", "School Food FOCUS", and "National Farm to School Network". You can also sign up from their website to receive notice of upcoming webinars.*
- GroundWorks Community** URL: [www.edweb.net/schoolgardens](http://www.edweb.net/schoolgardens)
- The Edible Schoolyard Network** URL: <http://edibleschoolyard.org>
- Food Policy Action** URL: <http://foodpolicyaction.org/>

# Funding Opportunities

**Attention Schools, School Districts and Licensed Childcare Centers in Cuyahoga County: Funds are Available to Help You Create Healthier Food Environments! Ohio State University Extension Cuyahoga County and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health are offering YOU the chance to Update Your Plate!**

In celebration of National Farm to School month, the Update the Plate Mini-Grant is for eligible schools, schools districts, and licensed childcare centers to Update the Plate by implementing one or more components of the Farm to School or Farm to Childcare Model. Eligible applicants can apply for up to \$2,000 for a new or existing program. Applications are due December 5, 2014. For full details about the purpose of the mini-grant program, eligibility, and how to apply, please read the overview and application document linked [HERE](#).

Don't miss this chance to Update Your Plate and support farm to school and farm to childcare programs in Cuyahoga County!

## ***Questions about the Update the Plate Mini-Grant Program?***

Contact Nicole Wright (OSU Extension) 216-429-8200 x249 | [wright.1128@osu.edu](mailto:wright.1128@osu.edu) or Alison Patrick (Cuyahoga County Board of Health) 216-201-2001 x1513 | [apatrick@cdbh.net](mailto:apatrick@cdbh.net)

## **WEGO Health Activists Nominations**

Nominations for the Fourth Annual WEGO Health Activist Awards are now open!

- We heard you – we made the nomination process faster and easier than before
- Have questions? Great, check out our new FAQs and if you still have a question, shoot us an email at [community@wegohealth.com](mailto:community@wegohealth.com)
- Want to know who won last year – check out the amazing winners on our listed website above
- Nominations will be open until December 31st, so you can nominate as many Health Activists as you would like!
- Engage with us on social media – we want everyone to share in the excitement on Facebook

Go to <https://awards.wegohealth.com/nominees>

## **Applications Invited for Terri Lynne Lokoff/ Children's Tylenol National Child Care Teacher Awards**

Fifty pre-K teachers will be selected to receive grants of \$1,000 in honor of their dedication to providing high-quality child care.

**Deadline December 08, 2014**

## **USDA Requests Applications for Rural Child Poverty Nutrition Center**

This grant will support strategies to reduce child food insecurity in rural communities.

**Deadline: Rolling**



# Funding Opportunities

## **Scotties Facial Tissues annual Video and Essay Contest: TREES ROCK!**

Did you know that Scotties Facial Tissues (which plant 3 Trees for Every 1 they use) puts on an annual Video and Essay Contest called TREES ROCK!? The contest is for 3rd through 8th graders in the 50 United States and Washington D.C. They are sure you are always looking for ways to engage your kids in the classroom or in a club. TREES ROCK! is an excellent way to get kids to be creative on their own or as a team when learning about trees and the environment.

There are lots of prizes to be won and 2 schools will receive \$10,000. To learn more, check out their videos on the Growing School Gardens Home Page. To download all of the important documents to get started, go to [www.scottiestreesrock.com](http://www.scottiestreesrock.com)

## **Healthy Playground Makeover Sweepstakes**

Anyone can now enter on behalf of a Pre-K or elementary school to win our annual Healthy Playground Makeover Sweepstakes. Entering once a day, everyday increases the chance to make a big difference at a local school. Enter today! Little kids have a chance to make big changes too! Pre-K Schools and Head Start programs are eligible to enter to win a Smart from the Start Award. Ten schools will be awarded a \$2,500 grant and one grand prize winning school will receive a \$20,000 grant. The grants go toward making healthy improvements at the school, and incorporating energy balance concepts into classrooms. Learn more at <http://www.togethercounts.com/at-school/win-for-your-school/sweepstakes>

**Environmental Justice Small Grants Program** administered by the Environmental Protection Agency provides funding for eligible applicants for projects that address local environmental and public health issues within an affected community. For more info visit <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>

**Deadline: December 15, 2014.**

**The Pollination Project** is a nonprofit organization that provides \$1,000 seed grants to individual change makers. The Project has granted numerous awards to various small agriculture related operations who want to bring change into a community. The Project has received repeated media reports on how the organization is impacting small agricultural practices. New grants are awarded daily and there is no deadline for when to apply. Please [click here](#) to navigate through the organizations website for detailed information. We hope to have someone from the Project speak at a future meeting.

**Deadline: Rolling**

## **Micro-Grants/ Karma for Cara Foundation**

These grants are awarded to children 18 and under to fund service projects in their communities, with ideas including rebuilding a playground or turning a vacant lot into a community garden.

Go to [http://www.ysa.org/karma\\_for\\_cara\\_foundation](http://www.ysa.org/karma_for_cara_foundation)

**Deadline: Rolling**

# Funding Opportunities

## **Fruit Tree Planting Foundation - Orchard Donations**

The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) is dedicated to planting fruitful trees and plants to alleviate world hunger, combat global warming, strengthen communities, and improve the surrounding air, soil, and water. FTPF programs donate orchards where the harvest will best serve communities for generations, at places such as community gardens, public schools, city/state parks, low-income neighborhoods, Native American reservations, international hunger relief sites, and animal sanctuaries. Recipients must be nonprofits, public schools, or government entities. In addition, the "Fruit Tree 101" program creates outdoor edible orchard classrooms at public schools of all levels, across the country, to provide generations of students with environmental education opportunities and a source of organic fruit for improved school lunch nutrition.

**Deadline: Rolling**

## **Home Depot's Retool Your School - Campus Improvement Grant**

Home Depot's Retool Your School program provides grants through a two-tier structure for campus and facility improvements at historically black colleges and universities. The program awards Tier I and Tier II grants based on a combination of consumer voting and advisory board panel selections. The college with the highest score will receive a \$50,000 Tier I grant; thirteen other applicants will receive Tier II grants of \$10,000 each. An additional three Campus Pride grants of \$25,000 each will be awarded to the schools with the most votes and social media activity, as determined by Home Depot. Grant funds will go toward an improvement project at each school that is likely to have impact on the lives of students, faculty, and alumni for generations to come. **Deadline: Rolling**

## **Awesome Food \$1000 Project Grants**

Each month, Awesome Food will give one applicant \$1,000 to help pull off an awesome idea involving food. The ideas must relate to food in some form, and the definition will be more inclusive than exclusive. Examples could include educating the public about DIY-farming, creating an ad-hoc eatery in a subway car, or recording videos of immigrants' recipes. Anyone is eligible to apply: for profit, nonprofit, individuals, companies, schools, adults and children. Applications are reviewed as they are received. One grant is awarded each month.

**Deadline: Rolling**

**Let's Move Salad Bars to School Foundation** believes that salad bars + schools = more fruits and vegetables for children. They could get a free salad bar (or multiples for multiple school sites) into your schools by end of November. A fairly easy application is now open, and must be initiated by the school district nutrition director. Word has it that they are flush with funds right now so sooner is better for applying. For great ideas for other equipment, recipes and procedures with real-world examples go to <http://www.saladbars2schools.org/>

## **Simply Organic 1%**

The Simply Organic 1% fund supports and promotes the growth of organic and sustainable agriculture, including research, education and efficient/quality improvement projects.

**Deadline: Rolling**

## Events & Webinars

### **Conference: Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual**

Feb. 14&15, 2015 | Granville

This year's theme is "Sustainable Agriculture: Renewing Ohio's Heart and Soil"

Register and learn more [here](#).

### **Webinar: How to Create a Healthier School Food Culture**

Tues, Dec. 09 | Noon – 1:15PM

The school food culture goes way beyond the cafeteria. This is part of the Action for Healthy Kids Parent Leadership Series.

Register [HERE](#).

### **Event: First Friday Monthly Tours**

OSU South Centers at Piketon and the OARDC Horticultural Research Area at Wooster

The tour will be held on the FIRST Friday of every month at both locations, lasts about two hours, and is full of educational information on hops. You MUST preregister for the tour.

See schedule [here](#)

### **Webinar: Community Capacity**

Dec. 09 | 1:00PM – 1:20PM EST

How can collaborative networks and partnerships support farm to school programs? And how can communities build those partnerships and networks? Here from Peter Allison, network director for Farm to Institution New England.

[Register HERE](#)

### **Conference: Ohio Farm and Food Leadership Forum**

Dec. 10 | Hyatt Regency, Columbus

The second annual Ohio Farm and Food Leadership Forum will focus on how Ohioans can effectively engage and improve their local communities. The forum brings together members of farm and food organizations, civic groups, business, government and other sectors for a day-long event that features four themes: leadership development, community development, technology in agriculture and current issues.

The Forum [website](#) provides the agenda and online registration.

### **Partnership for a Healthier America 2015 Building a Healthier Future Summit**

February 25 – 27, 2015 | Washington Hilton | Washington, DC

PHA, in coordination with PHA Honorary Chair First Lady Michelle Obama and Honorary Vice Chairs The Honorable William H. Frist, MD and the Honorable Cory A. Booker, invites you to the fourth Building a Healthier Future Summit. Join us for breakouts, nationally renowned speakers, thought-provoking keynotes, and an audience of industry leaders. We look forward to seeing you there.

Register today and lock in early bird pricing:  
<http://ahealthieramerica.org/summit/registration/>

# USDA Updates

## Dig in to USDA Team Nutrition resources!

Team Nutrition offers a variety of materials that can enhance your farm to school program, including curriculum, event ideas, posters, and stickers. All Team Nutrition materials are available for download on the website and print copies can be provided for free to any school operating the National School Lunch Program. Go to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/team-nutrition>

Here are a few of our favorites:

- **Dig In! Standards-Based Nutrition Education from the Ground Up:** Explore a world of possibilities in the garden and on your plate using ten inquiry-based lessons to engage 5th and 6th graders in growing, harvesting, tasting, and learning about fruits and vegetables.
- **The Great Garden Detective Adventure:** Discover what fruits and vegetables are sweetest, crunchiest, and juiciest through a series of investigations and fun experiences connecting the school garden to the classroom, cafeteria, and home with this eleven-lesson curriculum for 3rd and 4th graders.
- **Popular Events Idea Booklet:** Discover fun ways to promote nutrition and physical activity at your elementary or middle school with ideas for 20 themed events, from scavenger hunts to try-day Fridays!
- **Make Today a Try-Day! Stickers:** Use these fun stickers as part of your taste-testing event and order posters to match!

**Tools for Schools** is an online toolkit where you can find all of USDA's best resources on school meal topics (e.g., fruits and vegetables, whole grain-rich foods, and reducing sodium) and implementing Smart Snacks. In the toolkit, you will find policy documents, nutrition education materials, Smarter Lunchroom strategies, kid-friendly recipes, and success stories from other schools. Visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools>

## USDA Local Food Directories

Local and regional food systems, including farmers markets, are one of USDA's four key pillars to revitalize rural economies and improve access to fresh, healthy food for millions of Americans. Four USDA Local Food Directories are now available online to give potential customers, business partners and community planners easy, one-stop access to the most current information about sources of local foods. The four directories are: National Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) Enterprise Directory, National Food Hub Directory, National On-Farm Market Directory, and National Farmers Market Directory. For more information on the launch: <http://blogs.usda.gov/2014/09/30/the-easy-way-to-find-local-food-usda-launches-new-local-food-directories/>

## New USDA Farm to School Video

The next installment of our new five-part video series, **Healthy Habits Take Root: How School Districts Across the Country are Bringing the Farm to School**, is a video highlighting how districts are promoting their farm to school programs. In this video, you'll hear farm to school practitioners talk about how they get kids excited about eating healthful, local foods. From taste tests, to farm visits, to culinary competitions, there are lots of ways to engage with, and get excited about, local products! Watch the video at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmentoschool/farm-school>



# Thank you to all of our partners and supporters!



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