

Ohio Farm to School Newsletter

National, Regional and State Updates

April | 2014



Contents:

School Garden Conference.....	Page 1
News.....	Page 2
Funding Opportunities.....	Page 3
Events/Webinars	Page 4
USDA Webinar Series & Other Opportunities.....	Page 5
Contact Information.....	Page 6

‘Cultivating Curiosity’: School Garden Conference May 2nd

School gardens provide a variety of resources for schools and students, if you are interested in learning more about school gardens attend, “Cultivating Curiosity: The Teachable Garden,” a conference from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 2 at Ohio State University’s Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive, Columbus. The conference will cover topics ranging from how to start a garden to sustaining a garden.

For more information contact Sue Hogan at hogan.239@osu.edu or visit franklin.osu.edu

State, Regional and National

"Farmtastic Agventures!" Google Hangouts for classrooms

Introducing a Google Hangout series called "Farmtastic Agventures!" Each session features a different lesson covering agriculture in our world and will connect your classroom directly with farmers, food producers and other students all around Ohio. Our series includes Pork, Water and Pizza Pizzazz. Contact Nicki Gordon-Coy if you are interested in participating from your classroom.

More information can be found [here](#).

Farm to school / Farm to preschool training templates

The National Farm to School Network (NFSN) is excited to release a set of new farm to school and farm to preschool training materials developed by and for key stakeholder groups including farmers, child nutrition directors, educators and early care providers. Each training template consists of a customizable slide deck, speaker notes, handouts and an evaluation form. Use these tools to conduct more effective trainings and share the value of farm to school in communities across the country. The materials were developed by the Peer Leadership Network, a group of 18 experienced farm to school and preschool practitioners convened in 2013 by NFSN.

Check out the training templates [here](#).

2014 Ohio Farm to School Regional Workshops Announced!

There will be six regional Farm to School workshops through 2014 in Ohio. Regions covered include: Northwest, Southwest, Southeast, Northeast, Central and Cleveland-Cuyahoga area. To find out dates and locations, visit the [Ohio Farm to School website](#).

Goal

Increase capacity of local communities to provide locally produced foods in schools.

Objectives

Through discussion and written materials, participants will:

- Develop an awareness of current practices in Farm to School—the benefits and opportunities for Farm to School programs & the processes and procedures of implementing a Farm to School program.
- Identify purchasing and marketing processes and other procurement methods that apply directly to Farm to School.
- Identify the three C's of Farm to School —Classroom, Cafeteria, Community—and ways producers and schools can increase involvement in each area.
- Recognize how Farm to School functions regionally and unique ways to connect with the local food system.
- Gain resources and strategies for connecting local producers with local school food service.
- Identify and use direct marketing tools to develop networks for procuring and supplying local foods.
- Identify food safety practices and guidelines that apply to using local foods in school food service and minimal standards producers need to meet regarding food safety.

Workshop Sessions

What's happening with Farm to School?

Purchasing Local Foods for Schools

Food Safety

Making Connections with Local Producers

The Education Connection

Funding Opportunities

USDA Announces Request for Applications for Farm to School Grants for 2015

On February 19, 2014, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the availability of federal funds for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Farm to School Grant Program. See the press release here.

[FY 2015 Request for Applications \(pdf\)](#)

[FY 2015 Request for Applications \(doc\)](#)

Program Description

The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools.

Proposals for planning, implementation, and support service grants are due at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, April 30, 2014. A 25% cash or in-kind match of the total project cost is required.

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

Unsung Heroes Program Invites K-12 Educators to Apply for 2014 Class Project Awards

Each year, one hundred educators who are using new teaching methods and techniques to improve learning are selected to receive awards of \$2,000 each to help fund a class project.

Deadline: April 30, 2014

CONTEST: Ag Innovation Prize

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation and the University of Wisconsin-Madison have launched the [2014 Agricultural Innovation Prize](#). The competition is open to US undergraduate and graduate students across all academic disciplines and runs through spring 2014. Teams will compete for the chance to win \$215,000 in prize money with a grand prize of \$100,000, making this the largest agriculture-focused student competition in the world. The contest encourages student teams to develop innovative plans to address social and agricultural challenges within food systems, improving the standard of living and quality of life for the world's population

Deadline: Spring 2014

Mini Grants for Agricultural Literacy Application Information

The White-Reinhardt Mini-Grant Program funds projects that will increase agricultural literacy. County and state Farm Bureaus may apply for grants of up to \$500 for classroom education programs for grades K-12 to initiate new programs or expand existing programs to additional grade levels or new subject areas. Grants are available on a competitive basis.

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

2014 Ohio Farm to School Regional Workshops

- Northwest Ohio
Tuesday, April 29
Perrysburg, OH
8am-4pm
- Southwest Ohio
Wednesday, April 30
Mt.Orab, OH
3:30pm-7:00pm
- Southeast Ohio
Tuesday, June 10
Nelsonville, OH
8:30am-3pm
- Northeast Ohio
Friday, September 26
Canton, OH
TBD
- Central Ohio
Friday, October 24
Columbus, OH
8:30am-3pm

For more information, visit farmtoschool.osu.edu

Events & Webinars

NASBE WEBINAR SERIES

Community Eligibility: What Policymakers Need to Know About Changes Coming to School Meals

April 9, 2014

3pm-4pm

Join NASBE on **April 9, 2014, from 3:00-4:00 PM (EST)** for a webinar discussion about the changes ahead in the community eligibility provision, and how state policymakers should prepare. This is an easy and effective way to increase access to school meals, and this webinar will give you a chance to learn more about how it works, specifically at the state level.

National Farm to Cafeteria Conference

April 15-18, 2014 in Austin, TX

Powering Up, the 7th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference, will convene more than 1,000 diverse stakeholders from across the farm to cafeteria movement who are working to source local food for institutional cafeterias and to foster a culture of food and agricultural literacy across America. Registration opens in January 2014. ALSO: **Submit your proposal** for a workshop, poster or lightning talk by November 8. For more information, [download the official request for proposals](#) and visit the [conference website](#).

Second Annual School Garden Conference

May 2, 2014, Columbus, OH

9am-4pm

The second annual "Growing a School Garden Conference has been scheduled for May 2, 2014 at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center. Information about the conference will be distributed in the winter of 2014. Find out more information on the [Franklin County Extension site](#).

"Agriculture is Cool!" entries now being accepted

Deadline: June 6

"Agriculture is Cool!" entries for the Creative Expressions contest are now being accepted. Ohio children enrolled in school or home schooled during the 2013-2014 academic year have until June 6 to capture their personal interpretation of why Ohio agriculture is cool for their chance to win prizes including tickets to the Ohio State Fair. Entries can include an original video, photograph, drawing, or painting and will be judged in age categories. More information can be found [here](#).

Teacher Workshop - Feeding the World: Science, Energy and Agriculture

A workshop for teachers where questions are answered: How do we feed 9 billion people? How does production agriculture affect water quality? What is the value of corn production? Why biofuels? How can ag biotechnology contribute to food security? Soil and Sustainability: what is the link? Taking **place Aug. 6-7 at Greene County Career Center**, participants will see demonstration plots, talk to experts and practice a variety of labs related to water, soil and plant science. Each participant will receive over \$300 worth of classroom science materials. Ashland graduate credit is available with on-site registration. All expenses are paid including materials, food, one-night shared hotel room. More information can be found [here](#).

USDA Updates

USDA Webinar Series

“Beginning January 2014 through June 2014, the USDA Farm to School Program will host two webinars each month to showcase the variety of ways school districts can purchase local foods. **The webinars will be held at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.** Topics will include everything from procurement basics to using geographic preference, to finding local producers, to buying local through DoD Fresh. See the schedule for more information.”

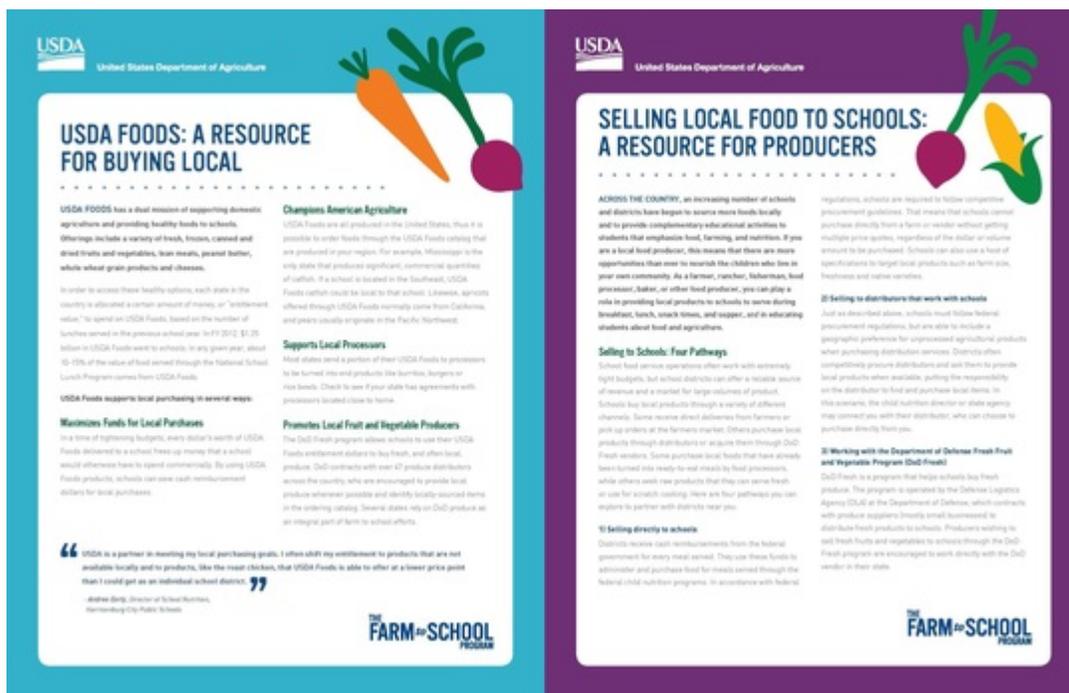
Webinar Schedule:

- Using a Forward Contract – April 10
- Introduction to Geographic Preference – April 24
- Using Geographic Preference – May 8
- Using USDA Foods as Resource to Purchase Local – May 22
- Using DoD Fresh to Purchase Local – June 12
- Tying It All Together and Digging In – June 26

To register for one or several of the sessions, please click [here](#).

USDA Fact Sheets

USDA has recently published two new fact sheets, which are now available to download from their [website](#). *Selling Local Food to Schools: A Resource for Producers* and *USDA Foods: A Resource for Buying Local* are the newest additions that both focus on ways producers and districts to serve more local foods and expand their farm to school program. The *USDA Foods: A Resource for Buying Local* fact sheet also provides a map that highlights the dollar value of food that was purchased from each state for the USDA Foods program. Check out both fact sheets [here](#) on the USDA Farm to School website. In addition to these two new fact sheets there are several other fact sheets that the USDA offers including: 10 Facts About Farm to School, Using DoD to Buy Local, Geographic Preference: What Is it and How to Use it?, Farm to School Resources, USDA Farm to School Grants, and Farm to School at the USDA.



Thank you to all of our partners!



Ohio Farm to School Newsletter

151H Campbell Hall
1787 Neil Ave.
Columbus, OH 43210
Phone: 614-688-1801
Fax: 614-292-7478
Smathers.14@osu.edu
[u](#)

To submit information for the newsletter or to be shared on the Ohio farm to school Facebook or Twitter, e-mail Jacalyne Adkins at Adkins.285@osu.edu

Follow Ohio Farm to School on Facebook and Twitter!

