

Ohio Farm to School Newsletter

National, Regional and State Updates

May | 2014



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State Food Policy Summit May 27th 1-5PM

The State Food Policy Summit held by the John Glenn School of Public Affairs is the single annual event for food policy interests to join together across the state. The Summit is intended to inspire action by fostering awareness of food policy activities and possibilities at the state level.

Please join us to learn about the current state of food policy in Ohio and envision future policy priorities for strengthening our local food systems. This event is free and open to the public.

Please register by Wednesday, May 21st. To learn more about the day's schedule go to the event page.

[Register Now!](#)

State, Regional and National

The National Young Farmers Conference

Every December, hundreds of beginning farmers from across the United States gather at Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture to learn from agricultural luminaries, peers, and advocacy organizations at the National Young Farmers Conference: Reviving the Culture of Agriculture. **On December 3-5, 2014, Stone Barns Center will host the 7th annual National Young Farmers Conference, providing participants with access to inspiring keynotes and unique workshops that address soil science, technical skills, agricultural policy, farm business management, conservation and more.**

PRE-CONFERENCE: AGROECOLOGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

On December 3, 2014 Stone Barns Center will host a day of workshops and conversations with scientists, farmers and policy experts to explore issues related to agriculture and climate change, with a focus on mitigation and adaptation strategies.

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

[Click here](#) to download the 2014 Call for Proposals as a Microsoft Word Document.

[Click here](#) to download the 2014 Call for Proposals as a PDF file.

CONSULTATION SESSIONS

This year, conference attendees will have the opportunity to sign up for small group consulting sessions with experts in farm financing, food law, farm business planning, and more.

[Click here](#) to download the 2014 Call for Consultant Proposals as a Microsoft Word Document.

[Click here](#) to download the 2014 Call for Consultant Proposals as a PDF file.

SPONSORSHIP

The National Young Farmers Conference is presented with support from generous sponsors and partners. For information about 2014 sponsorship opportunities, please contact Erica Helms at ericah@stonebarnscenter.org.

GENERAL INQUIRIES

yfc@stonebarnscenter.org

914.366.6200 x160

Expanded Eligibility for Summer Food and CACFP Child Care Homes

[New guidance](#) (pdf) from USDA means that more sites and homes in low-income areas may be eligible for Summer Food or for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The new guidance allows Summer Food sites and child care homes to qualify using Census Tracts in addition to Census Block Groups (CBG). The previous policy allowed only CBG. This change will allow more low-income communities to qualify Summer Food sites and child care homes. To see if a site is eligible, use FRAC's [Summer Food Mapper](#) and [CACFP Mapper](#), which have been updated with the new data.

USDA INVESTS \$7 MILLION TO RESEARCH CHALLENGES FACING SMALL FARMS

On Tuesday April 29, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced over seven million dollars in funding to support research on the profitability of small and medium-sized family farms, including their potential role in building local and regional system

State, Regional and National

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.

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

Workshop Locations and Information:

Region	Date	Location	Venue
Northwest	04/29/14	Perrysburg	Hilton Garden Inn
Southwest	04/30/14	Mt.Orab	Mt.Orab Elementary
Southeast	06/10/14	Nelsonville	The Inn at Hocking College
Northeast	09/26/14	Canton	Walsh University
Central	10/24/14	Columbus	Ohio 4-H Center

For more information please visit the [Ohio Farm to School website](#).

Funding Opportunities

Rural Health and Safety Education Program

Focus of the Rural Health and Safety Education Program in FY2014 is on community-based, outreach education and extension programs that provide individuals and families with:

- a) Information as to the value of good health at any age;
- b) Information to increase individual or family's motivation to take more responsibility for their own health;
- c) Information regarding rural environmental health issues that directly impact on human health;
- d) Information about and access to health promotion and educational activities;
- e) Training for volunteers and health services providers concerning health promotion and health care services for individuals and families in cooperation with state, local and community partners.

Visit [Rural Health & Safety Education's webpage](#) for more information.

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

The Aetna Foundation Regional Grants Program – GoLocal: Cultivating Healthy Communities – funds community wellness initiatives aligned with our Healthy Eating and Active Living focus area in our designated funding locations. Grants will support local initiatives that promote eating fresh fruits and vegetables and being physically active, which can help to prevent obesity and many chronic health conditions. Grants will target underserved, low-income and minority communities where healthy food can be difficult to buy, and where social and environmental factors may limit people's ability to be physically active.

Grant Application Dates

Cycle 1: April 10 to June 5, 2014, 5:00 pm EDT

Cycle 2: June 16 to July 30, 2014, 5:00 pm EDT

How to Apply

- Learn more about our [Regional Grants Proposal Guidelines and Review Process](#)
- Review the Foundation's [General Funding Guidelines](#)
- If you meet our guidelines, review these [step-by-step instructions](#) (PDF)
- Follow this link to [Apply for a Grant](#) using the online grant application portal

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

USDA Summer Meals Webcasts

We have concluded our 2014 Summer Meals webcasts and you can access the full playlist [here!](#)

The webcasts covered information, tips, best practices, and lessons learned that will help make your Summer Program a total success! The series included:

- [Exploring the New USDA Summer Meals Toolkit & Website](#)
- [Be a Summer Meals Champion](#)
- [Can Elected Officials Help Feed Hungry Kids This Summer?](#)
- [Food That's In When School Is Out – The Summer Food Service Program and Afterschool Meals](#)
- [Utilizing Grants & Unique Partnerships to Serve More Summer Meals](#)
- [How Can You Solve Your Summer Meals Transportation Problems?](#)
- [Finding Ways to Keep Schools Involved in Summer Meals](#)
- [Make Your Summer Meals Site the Talk of the Town](#)

Going for Green: Getting Federal Funding

Tuesday, May 20, 2014
2:00-3:00pm Eastern

This Webinar will highlight lesser-known federal funding opportunities, such as Specialty Crop Block Grants, Community Development Block Grants, Community Development Financial Institutions, and USDA rural development grants.

[Register here.](#)

Events & Webinars

Center for Disease Control Webinars

Upcoming Webinar: Healthy Places, Healthy People – A Progress Review Webinar on Nutrition and Weight Status & Physical Activity

Friday, May 9, 2014
12:30-2:00pm Eastern
[Click here](#) to register.

Americans who combine a nutrient-dense diet of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains with regular physical activity decrease their risk for chronic diseases such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and some cancers. Place matters, too – healthy environments and healthy communities ultimately contribute to healthy people. Please join Healthy People 2020 for a Progress Review featuring the Nutrition and Weight Status & Physical Activity topic areas. Progress Reviews are focused on tracking and measuring the progress of select Healthy People 2020 objectives.

Summertime in the School Garden: Exploring Opportunities to Support and Share Your School Garden

May 28, 4 - 5 p.m. EDT

Hosted by EdWeb and the National Farm to School Network, Summertime presents both unique challenges and important opportunities when it comes to school gardens. Mary Stein, Associate Director of the National Farm to School Network, hosts two partners from the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project and the USDA-FNS for a discussion of various aspects of school gardens in summer. [Register here.](#)

WANT TO LEARN about Farm to School?

May 22, 28, & June 21

Three-day training Farm to School programming connects children to local farms, local food and healthy eating. Across the country, school and community leaders are joining the Farm to School movement as they realize the health and economic benefits of providing children education and access to fresh, nutritious food.

Don't miss our next Educator Training Workshop in Chicago, IL.

We'll be unveiling our new Garden Curriculum, Sow & Grow!

Fresh from the Farm is an externally validated and nationally ranked experiential farm to school program featuring K-8 curricula that encourages healthy choices and environmental awareness among children. Fresh from the Farm curricula align with Common Core and Illinois State Learning Standards.

Cost of training: \$145 per person. Walk away with:

- Curriculum materials and activities to implement immediately in your classroom.
- Knowledge and resources to start and maintain a garden.
- A network of farm to school experts and educators to support your efforts.

Questions?

Email: shari@sevengenerationsahead.org

www.sevengenerationsahead.org

708.628.4505

Events & Webinars

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](#).

Healthy Food + Healthy Ecosystems = Healthy Neighborhoods: A summer garden program for middle school youth

**June 16, 4 - 5 p.m. EDT
Hosted by EdWeb**

Middle schoolers can get a lot out of the school garden experience, from growing food to learning about the science underlying the natural world. At CitySprouts summer youth program in Cambridge, MA, 100 young people ages 11-13 go through a month-long summer internship program at various schoolyard garden locations.

[Register here.](#)

OPGMA-Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association Announce: Summer Tour & Field Day!

Date: June 25, 2014

Locations: Canfield, OH & Columbiana, OH

Meet the Farms

OPGMA has scheduled two amazing locations for their Summer Tour and Field Day. Between the two farms, attendees will experience agri-tourism at its best, as well as what it takes to be successful as both a wholesaler and retailer.

Tour Visits

White House Fruit Farm - Canfield, OH

"Little did the family's ancestors realize when they first settled in the area in the 1800s that the beautiful rolling hills would become some of the most productive farmland in the state. Today, this 200-acre produce farm features apples, peaches, strawberries, blueberries, and vegetables. White House Fruit Farm (WHFF) markets all their crops through their own farm market. David and Phyllis Hull, and their children David and Debbie, have diversified the business into a year-round agritourism experience. They offer at least one on-farm agritourism event every month from May-October. The tour will include orchard and small fruit production locales and the farm market."

McMaster Farms - Columbiana, OH

"McMaster Farms is a third-generation 1,800-acre farm. 350 acres are devoted to sweet corn; 75 acres to pumpkins; the remainder to grain crops. McMaster has a one-of-a-kind sweet corn counter that counts the corn that goes into the bag being filled for the customer. They also pack into crates and RPCs for different customers. The hydro-cooler keeps sweet corn as fresh as first picked. The wholesale side of the business ships as far away as South Carolina. McMaster recently launched Tico Irrigation, which repairs and customizes aluminum irrigation pipe and fittings. You will see this operation while on the tour."

To find more information and to register...

Please visit www.opgma.org/Tour

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](#).

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 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](#).

Farm Business Management and Benchmarking Informational Webinar – May 15th at 3 p.m. (Eastern)

Please share this Webinar with your colleagues.

This Webinar will be instructed by Susan Shockey, Family & Consumer Economics National Program Leader. To register for the webinar, email USDA/NIFA Program Specialist, Sylvia Montgomery at smontgomery@nifa.usda.gov before May 15th.

Announcing the USDA/NIFA “Farm Business Management and Benchmarking” Competitive Grants RFA

The Farm Business Management and Benchmarking (FBMB) Competitive Grants Program is now open until May 30, 2014. Approximately \$1.3 million is available to fund applications in FY 2014. **Proposals need to be submitted by 5 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, May 30th.**

The federal funds provided are to (1) improve the farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers; and (2) establish and maintain a national, publicly available farm financial management database to support improved farm management. Eligible applicants are: (A) State agricultural experiment stations; (B) Colleges and universities; (C) University research foundations; (D) Other research institutions and organizations; (E) Federal agencies; (F) National laboratories; (G) Private organizations or corporations; (H) Individuals; or (I) Any group consisting of two (2) or more of the entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (H).

The Farm Business Management and Benchmarking program contributes to the USDA Objective “Create Thriving Communities”. The selection criteria in making funds available are: (1) demonstrate an ability to work directly with agricultural producers; (2) collaborate with farm management and producer associations; (3) address the farm management needs of a variety of crops and regions of the United States; and (4) use and support the national farm financial management database.

For more information go to <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/funding.cfm> and search for grant “Farm Business Management and Benchmarking (FBMB)”. There will be an Information Webinar about the FBMB competitive grant on May 15, 2014 at 3 p.m. (Eastern). To register for the webinar, email USDA/NIFA Program Specialist, Sylvia Montgomery at smontgomery@nifa.usda.gov

Thank you to all of our partners!



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