Farm to School Regional Workshops

Farm to school regional workshops for 2014 are in the planning process! The workshops will take place in the following regions: southwest Ohio, northwest Ohio, Cuyahoga/Cleveland area, southeast Ohio, central Ohio and the Akron/Youngstown area. The workshops will include information on procurement, food safety, education connections, integrating local foods into school menus, and connecting farmers to schools. If you or your organization are interested in helping support or sponsor a regional workshop, please e-mail Jacalyne Adkins at Adkins.285@osu.edu

Dates and details of the workshops will be announced at a later date.
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 below for more information.”

To register for one or several of the sessions, please click here.

All webinars will be recorded and available on this page within 1-2 weeks of initial viewing. While each webinar will build on the ones before it, feel free to pick and choose sessions based on your interest.

USDA grantee site visits

Carl Smathers, Ohio Farm to School State Lead and Jacalyne Adkins, AmeriCorps VISTA will be visiting the three Ohio USDA grantee sites this January. Look for updates and pictures on the Ohio farm to school Facebook.

Finding, Buying and Serving Local Foods

- Introduction to Procurement – January 9
- Conducting a Local Procurement Baseline Assessment – January 23
- Finding Local Producers – February 13
- Using the Informal Procurement Method – February 27
- Using Specifications to Target Local Products – March 13
- Working with Distributors – March 27
- 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
Funding Opportunities

USDA Announces Notice of Funding Availability for Value-Added Producer Grants
Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the availability of nearly $10.5 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grants to help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities designed to give them a competitive business edge. The funding is being made available through the Value-Added Producer Grant program. Grants are available to help agricultural producers create new products, expand marketing opportunities, support further processing of existing products or goods, or to develop specialty and niche products. They may be used for working capital and planning activities.
Deadline: February, 24, 2014

2014 Mantis Tiller Award
For the past 18 years, Mantis has provided the Mantis Awards to charitable and educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life in their host communities. To date, Mantis has provided 296 programs with tillers…
Deadline: March 7, 2014

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

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

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

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

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

Champions for Healthy Kids
Promoting healthy nutrition and fitness for America’s youth, Champions for Healthy Kids has helped more than 1 million kids since its inception in 2002.

Launched in partnership with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation and the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, this has become a flagship program of the General Mills Foundation, distributing more than $5 million in grants to nonprofit organizations. Through the Champions for Healthy Kids program, the General Mills Foundation will award 50 grants of to nonprofit organizations working to improve nutrition and physical fitness behaviors for youth.
The application period for this year is now closed. Applicants who have submitted applications may access their completed Champions for Healthy Kids application. To view the 2013 Champions for Healthy Kids recipients, please click here.
Deadline: March 15, 2014

Farm to School Newsletter OSU Extension
Free Farm Commons Webinars
The nonprofit firm Farm Commons is hosting eight free webinars this winter on a variety of legal issues faced by farmers who sell directly to consumers. Registration is now open for all webinars at www.farmcommons.org/webinars. All webinars are at 6 pm CST.

January 13
Hosting On-farm Events
January 28
Workers and Employees
February 10
Selling Products to Larger Buyers
February 25
Starting a Farm
March 10
Adding Value to Farm Products
March 25
Food Safety Liability and Regulations

Events & Webinars
EdWeb Webinar Tools to Create Social Change Through Youth Farming and Gardening
Tuesday, January 7, 2014 – 4pm / Eastern Time
(Register Here)
Presented by: Greg Gale, Associate Director of Programs, VISIONS and Training Consultant, The Food Project, with Johanna Gilligan, Founder and Executive Director, Grow Dat Youth Farm.

2014 Ohio Summer Food Service Program Summit
Thursday, February 6, 2014—9:30am-3:30 PM, Mid-Ohio Food Bank, Grove City, OH
(Register Here)
This February learn more about the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), a federally funded nutrition program for children over the summer months, when school meals are not available. We invite you to join a statewide group of organizations involved in the program at the upcoming SFSP Summit. Special topics this year include the upcoming Child Nutrition Reauthorization, schools and seamless summer, connecting summer sites to schools, tutors and supplemental trainings, making quality meals and procuring food.

OEFFA’s Annual Conference Announced
Mark your calendar for OEFFA’s 35th annual conference, Affirming Our Roots, Breaking New Ground, on Saturday, February 15 and Sunday, February 16, 2014 in Granville, Ohio. A full-day pre-conference event will be offered on Friday, February 14. Registration will open in December. Ohio’s largest sustainable agriculture event!

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.
Farm to School
Newsletter

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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

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