

Ohio Farm to School Newsletter

National, Regional and State Updates

February | 2014



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The 7th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference

Ohio Farm to School will be represented at the 7th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference in two poster sessions! Carol Smathers, State Lead, and Jacalyne Adkins, AmeriCorps VISTA will be presenting a poster titled— "Using the Farm to School Census to Raise Awareness, Develop Relationships, and Expand Technical Assistance." Carol Smathers, Bryn Bird of Bird Haven Farms and Alison Patrick from Cuyahoga County Health Department will be presenting a poster titled— "Including Farmers and Public Health in Procurement, Partnerships, and Events – Success Stories from Ohio." For more information on the conference and registration, visit the 7th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference [website](#).

The conference is in Austin, TX from April 15-18, 2014.

State, Regional and National

Food Network Stars Tom Bury and Taniya Nayak splash color over drab Cleveland school cafeteria...

On January 18th-20th, 2014 Cleveland's Benjamin Franklin Elementary School received a cafeteria makeover from FrogTape Love for the Lunchroom. Volunteers from ShurTape, Curb Appeal and the Food Network helped transform this cafeteria.

Parma students working to increase participation in breakfast program...

In Parma, Ohio high school marketing students are working towards developing a campaign to increase the participation in the district's breakfast program in conjunction with the national Football League and National Dairy Council's "Fuel up to Play 60"...

Collaboration grows award-winning project

Reynoldsburg, OH—Edible Schoolyard wins first place statewide honors from parks and recreation association...

Growing Power Provides 40000 Lbs of Carrots to Schools

urbanmilwaukee - The sale marked the largest farm-to-school fresh food procurement ever in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Farm To Lunch Tray

KUNM

It's a win-win, she says, for **schools**, students and New Mexico farmers. ... Roy added that 67 percent of schools in the state are part of the National ...

From Small Potatoes to 36000 Pounds of Carrots: Farm to School ...

USDA.gov (press release) (blog)

In the past few years I've seen an increasing number of news stories about successful farm to school programs. As reflected in the first USDA Farm to ...

From garden to plate, program teaches students 'the whole cycle' of ...

Tampabay.com

"For some kids, it's harder for them to be excited about school, so it's good for them to be working hands-on." Sanderlin's garden, begun in 2012, was ...

Farm to School program gives students a taste of rural life

Capital Press

The event was an educational adjunct to the Farm to School program, which links growers and processors with school lunch programs. As schools ...

Urban Garden Montessori to open downtown this fall

THV 11

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (KTHV) - Applications are already being accepted at Little Rock's Urban **Garden** Montessori, a brand new elementary school set

Funding Opportunities

Health Impact Assessment Funding

The Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, is planning to launch a call for proposals for funding in February 2014. Grants will support health impact assessment, or HIA, demonstration projects as well as development of HIA programs to integrate health in decision-making. Please go to our [website](#) to learn more.

Deadline: February 2014

Voices for Healthy Kids Grant Opportunities

The American Heart Association and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation have joined forces to launch [Voices for Healthy Kids](#). Through this collaboration, and in partnership with a team of experts across the childhood obesity movement, the initiative aims to engage, organize and mobilize people to improve the health of their communities and reverse the childhood obesity epidemic. Voices for Healthy Kids will advance coordinated state, local and tribal public policy issue advocacy campaigns focused on childhood obesity priorities, and will utilize the American Heart Association's proven advocacy capacity to drive meaningful and widespread policy change that will support the reversal of the childhood obesity epidemic. The goal of the grant opportunities within this initiative is to make effective strategic investments in ongoing state, local and tribal public policy issue campaigns in order to increase public policy impact on healthy weight and living among children. Voices for Healthy Kids is focusing efforts on [six priority areas](#), and applicants should link their [applications](#) to these priorities.

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

Community Innovation Grant

The [Bush Foundation](#) in St. Paul is accepting applications from organizations in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota for innovative community problem-solving projects. The foundation's Community Innovation Grant program supports organizations working to create or implement an innovative solution to address a community need or opportunity. The innovation must be developed through community problem-solving — inclusive, collaborative processes focused on making the most of community assets — and be more effective, equitable, or sustainable than existing approaches. The program is part of the Bush Foundation's efforts to enable, inspire, and reward community innovation. Grant amounts will range from \$10,000 to \$200,000. More information [here](#).

Deadline: March 13, 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 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

Funding Opportunities

James Irvine Foundation Leadership Awards

Nominations due by April 2, 2014

The [James Irvine Foundation](#) is accepting nominations for its 2015 Leadership Awards, which recognize individuals who are advancing innovative, effective solutions to significant issues in California. Nominees for the award can be working in any field in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors. The foundation provides each award recipient with \$125,000 to support his or her work benefiting the people of California. Recipients also receive assistance in sharing their promising approaches with policy makers and practitioners in their respective fields.

Deadline: April 2, 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**

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

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

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.

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

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.



Events & Webinars

Farm to School Week at Tallmadge High School

February 10-14, 2014

Tallmadge High School, Tallmadge, OH

Fresh Fork Market (FFM) and Pisanick Partners LLC (PPLLC) are working with Tallmadge High School for a week in February to introduce local foods to the students. Some of the meal choices will include a Tex-Mex burrito bar, smoothie bar, wheat berry salad, local ingredient pasta bar, and pizza with a spelt flour crust. FFM and PPLLC have worked with Hudson Middle School in the past and hope to continue to encourage local foods in schools. For more information visit the [Fresh Fork Market page](#) and the [Pisanick Partners LLC page](#).

2014 Ohio Summer Food Service Program Summit

Tuesday, March 18, 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!

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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](#).



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. ”

Finding, Buying and Serving Local Foods

- 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

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

New USDA Lead for the Great Lakes Region!

We are very excited to welcome Vanessa Zajfen to the regional farm to school family! Vanessa Z is the new USDA Farm to School Regional Lead for the Midwest region (same at the Great Lakes Region). She will provide training, technical assistance and generalized support to a wide variety of farm to school (FTS) stakeholders in our region including but not limited to USDA FTS grantees, rural and urban school districts, farmers, community organizations, FoodCorps service members and more.

Ms. Zajfen comes to the USDA from San Diego Unified School District's (SDUSD) Food Services Department.. There she was the Farm to School Specialist, sourcing and serving over 1 million pounds of local and organic foods to SDUSD students, launching garden to café programs and working directly with family farmers. From 2006 to 2009 she worked at the Urban & Environmental Policy Institute developing and managing Farm to Institution programs. In 2005 she owned and operated, Beyond Organic Produce Company that specialized in sourcing and selling locally grown foods. From 2005 to 2006 she also worked on the last 100% organic farm in Orange County, CA as the Community Supported Agriculture manager at South Coast Farms. Vanessa has a BA from UC Santa Cruz and an MS in Sustainable Agriculture from Iowa State University. **Welcome Vanessa!**

Thank you to all of our partners!



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