Ohio Farm to School Regional Workshops

Ohio Farm to School will be hosting six regional Farm to School Workshops in 2014! The six regions include—Southwest Ohio, Northeast Ohio, Southeast Ohio, Central Ohio, Northeast Ohio and the Cleveland-Cuyahoga area. These workshops will cover Farm to School topics such as—farm to school updates, food safety, procurement, food service, education in the classroom, and local resources. Detailed information and registration will be up soon on the Ohio Farm to School Events page.

For more information and general inquiries please contact Jacalyne Adkins by e-mail at Adkins.285@osu.edu.
Cuyahoga County Board of Health Farm to School Capacity Assessment
Recognizing that we are facing the first generation of children expected to live shorter lives than their parents, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) embarked on its Farm to School initiative in 2010 in an effort to give our youngest citizens the healthiest start to life. Farm to School programs bring food that is grown or processed at local farms into school and preschool meal programs. Farm to School programs also include hands-on learning opportunities, such as school gardens and farm field trips, and integrate classroom-based nutrition and agriculture education into the school or preschool day. The CCBH has been partnering with the South Euclid Lyndhurst School District on local procurement, school gardens, and nutrition education in the classroom and received the 2013 Model Practice Award from the National Association of County and City Health Officials for its successes.

With a strong desire to take the Farm to School program to scale, the CCBH conducted a county-wide farm to school capacity assessment during the 2012-2013 school year in an effort to capture both cafeteria and classroom-based activities. Using a non-traditional approach, CCBH’s registered sanitarians conducted the assessment during the annual school inspection process. Eleven Environmental Public Health Professionals invested over 300 hours completing the assessment in public and private educational institutions within the CCBH health jurisdiction. Please visit the link below to view the highlighted results.

2012-2013 Cuyahoga County Farm to School Capacity Assessment

Let’s Cook School Meals Cookbook
Let’s Cook Healthy School Meals is a first-of-its-kind tool to help school administrators and kitchen staff plan and prepare healthy meals for students that they will want to eat. It meets the new 2012 USDA school meal requirements, and offers 100 recipes that have been kid-tested in cafeteria kitchens. In partnership with Chef Didi Emmons and the Chefs in Schools Program, Project Bread solicited recipes from school food professionals across Massachusetts, then tested and refined them to compile this valuable resource.

Application for the Tribal Communities Project (Please share widely)
The National Farm to School Network seeks to engage and support a diverse range of tribal communities from across the nation who are ready to bring farm to school to their community or who are already engaged in farm to school activities. Is your community organization, tribal department or school working on farm to school activities such as school gardens, local food taste tests, traditional foods knowledge, food production or local food purchasing? If so, please consider applying to attend a pre-conference session for Native peoples that will be held April 15, 2014 in conjunction with the 7th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference in Austin, Texas. The pre-conference convening will focus on sharing what’s working well, challenges you may be facing and your goals for the future. All selected participants will also be registered for the full conference taking place April 15-17. The application for this project is attached, please return it to Alena Paisano at alena@farmtotablenm.org by February 28th. You can contact Alena by email or by phone at 505-473-1004 ext.16 with any additional questions.

Center for Training and Research Translation Webinar: Healthy Food Procurement
Tuesday, March 25, 2014 from 2:00 - 3:00 pm EST
Please join the Center TRT for the Healthy Food Procurement webinar, featuring an initiative developed by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) to create healthier food environments through the adoption and implementation of nutrition standards and healthy food purchasing practices in all County of Los Angeles departments that purchase, distribute or sell food. In 2011, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors adopted Healthy Food Promotion in Los Angeles County Food Service Contracts, a motion which established a process for the County’s Department of Public Health to develop nutrition standards and/or healthy food procurement practices in new and renewing Requests for Proposals (RFP) for food service and vending contracts across County departments. DPH, as the coordinating agency for the motion, reviews and assesses current practices; provides training and technical assistance for departmental staff that handle food service and vending contracts; and, for quality improvement purposes, evaluates contract implementation of nutrition standards and adherence by contracted food vendors. More information about this webinar will be on the Center TRT website soon.
Funding Opportunities

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 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 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

Robot Coupe Announces Schools Recipe Contest
In recognition of School Nutrition Foundation entering into 50 years of service, Robot Coupe is sponsoring a school recipe contest and giving away a CL-50E vegetable processor complete with accessory package.

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

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

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
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.
On an annual basis, USDA awards up to $5 million in competitive grants for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm to school programs. New in FY 2015, USDA will make approximately an additional $500,000 available to eligible entities to support conferences, trainings, and events focused on farm to school program development. and to provide broad reaching support services to farm to school initiatives.
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.
Conference/Event grants are open to all interested parties. They are intended to support conferences, events and trainings that strengthen farm to school supply chains, or conferences, events and trainings that provide technical assistance in the area of local procurement, food safety, culinary education and integration of agriculture-based curriculum.
Letters of Intent for Conference/Event grants are due at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, April 2, 2014.

Important Dates and Deadlines
February 19, 2014: Request for Applications Released
April 2, 2014: Conference/Event Letters of Intent due via email (11:59 p.m. Eastern Time)
April 30, 2014: Planning, Implementation, and Support service proposals due via grants.gov (11:59 p.m. Eastern Time)
November 2014: Awards Announced and Funds Available (pending the availability of federal funds)

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

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
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.

March 10
Adding Value to Farm Products

March 25
Food Safety Liability and Regulations

Action for Healthy Kids Webinar:
School Breakfast: Meeting New Meal Requirements Using Alternative Breakfast Models
Wed, Apr 2, 2014, 4:00pm ET; 3:00pm CT; 2:00pm MT; 1:00pm PT (60 minutes)
Learn strategies to incorporate the new USDA meal requirements for school breakfast and how to incorporate those changes in an alternative breakfast model like Breakfast in the Classroom or Grab and Go. Receive guidance from experts on the new regulations and examples from schools/school districts that have made it work using alternative breakfast models. Register now>

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

Upcoming edWeb Webinars
Tuesday, March 4, 2014 - 4pm / Eastern Time
Regional Support Models for Sustaining School Gardens
Presenter: John Fisher, Director of Programs and Partnerships at Life Lab, with Park Guthrie, Garden Education Specialist for the Oakland Unified School District in California

LunchBites Webinar: Training templates for Farm to school / Farm to preschool
Tue, Mar 11th, 2014, 1pm EST
Introducing a set of new farm to school and farm to preschool training materials developed by and for farmers, child nutrition directors, educators and early care providers. Use these new National Farm to School Network tools to conduct more effective trainings and share the value of farm to school in communities across the country. This webinar will feature Peer Leadership Network members who developed the training materials and offer tips for effective implementation.

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.

Increasing Access to Breakfast, Summer, and Afterschool Meals in Latino Communities
Wednesday, March 19th, 2014 at 2:00 PM eastern.
This webinar will be presented entirely in Spanish and co-hosted by the National Council of La Raza.
The child nutrition programs help families ensure that their kids get healthy food before, during, and after school, as well as over the summer months. By enrolling in these programs, community organizations and schools can get funding to pay for meals and snacks served to all participating children. Join us on this webinar to learn how to bring these programs to the communities you serve, as well as specific strategies used to promote these programs within Latino communities.

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 Invites Schools to Celebrate International School Meals Day on March 6

Last year, the first International School Meals Day was held on March 8. It was a great success and brought teachers and students in both the United States and United Kingdom together to connect on one of the most critical issues facing the world today – child nutrition. This year, International School Meals Day will [...]
Thank you to all of our partners!