The statewide conference is just four weeks away! It promises to be a fun day full of learning, networking, and inspiration. Join us for a chance to hear from the 2014 USDA Farm to School grant recipients: South Euclid Lyndhurst School District and Fremont City Schools. Flip to page 3 to see what else in store for you on March 5th!
News

Register Today and Pass It Along!

LOCAL FOODS ACROSS THE SCHOOL MEAL TRAY
Statewide Farm to School Conference Agenda

8:00 AM  Registration, Informal Networking, Exhibits
8:45 AM  Welcome and Kick-off
  Carol Smathers, Ohio Farm to School State Lead, OSU Extension
9:00 AM  Breakfast at School
  School Breakfast Challenge Team
9:30 AM  USDA Farm to School and the Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Program
  Tara Gleason, USDA
  Local Foods Across Ohio
  Lori Panda, Ohio Department of Agriculture
10:00 AM  Procurement: How to Get Started & Success Stories From Food Service Directors & Farmers
  Liz Solotorm, Ohio Department of Education
11:10 AM  Breakout Session 1
  Panels of producer groups, growers, and food service personnel from across Ohio
Noon – 12:45  Lunch
  Opening Remarks by Keith Smith, Director, Ohio State University Extension
1:00 PM  Breakout Sessions 2, 3 & 4
  Panels will focus on the following four food categories:
  • Fruits, Vegetables, and Legumes
  • Meat, Poultry, and Eggs
  • Dairy- Milk & More
  • Whole Grains
3:30 PM  Starting School Food from Scratch & Student Cook-off!
  Susan Patton, Ohio Department of Education
4:30 PM  Adjourn

Thanks to our sponsors!

2015 OHIO FARM TO SCHOOL CONFERENCE
Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center
THURS, MARCH 05, 2015

Ohio Farm to School Newsletter  OSU Extension
The upcoming Ohio Farm to School Conference has something for everyone! Taste and learn about local foods across the school meal tray. Here’s what’s in store for you:

**School breakfast ...**

- enjoy a breakfast that meets school guidelines, includes local foods and tastes good!
- learn from the Ohio School Breakfast Challenge Team how your schools can improve breakfast, including by adding local foods

**Simple things schools can do to increase local foods...**

- practice using specifications to target local foods for school purchases
- observe how product bids can be obtained quickly and easily
- interact with producers and farm to school supporters in your own region of the state during breakout sessions
  - Fruits and Vegetables
  - Meats, Poultry and Eggs
  - Dairy – Milk and More!
  - Whole Grains
- talk with representatives from producer groups familiar with producers in your area
- participate in “Taste Testings” to learn how to introduce students to new foods

**Resources for your Farm to School efforts...**

- watch a demonstration from Veggie U about unique ways to teach how foods are grown
- browse a showcase of Farm to School curricula and products
- receive a flash drive loaded with Farm to School resources

**School lunch...**

- experience a lunch prepared with a number of local ingredients
- taste Latin American and Asian inspired recipes available from the Department of Education

**Hear from the real experts on foods in schools: KIDS!**

- students from various grade levels will share local foods recipes they created for their school cafeterias in a live **COOK-OFF!**

**Register Today!**

Funding from the USDA Farm to School Program is helping to keep registration fees affordable! Registration is $40 and includes breakfast, lunch and materials. Registration information is available on the conference website at [www.regonline.com/ohiofarmtoschoolconference](http://www.regonline.com/ohiofarmtoschoolconference).
Ohio School's Gardening Program Promotes Healthy Eating
Students across grades at an Ohio elementary school are learning about science and nutrition in the school's Seed to Plate gardening and cooking program, which received a grant to operate year-round. The program teaches agriculture and science while promoting healthy eating in the cafeteria, said Kim Westrick, assistant principal, because "now the kids aren't just picking up applesauce; they're taking the spinach and they're loving it." The Journal-News (Hamilton, Ohio) (free registration)

Garden to Cafeteria: A Step-by-Step Guide
This Garden to Cafeteria Guide provides an approach for school garden educators and stakeholders, both experienced and newcomer, to successfully source products from school gardens for use in the cafeteria or food program. Download the pdf at Michigan State University’s Regional Food Systems website here: http://foodsystems.msu.edu/resources/garden_to_cafeteria

Edible Education 101
Are you ready for a promising list of familiar names for food system change advocates? A new semester of Edible Education 101 began on Monday, January 26, at the University of California, Berkeley. This year’s course features Michael Pollan, Alice Waters, Mark Bittman, Marion Nestle, Eric Schlosser, and twelve other thought leaders exploring how our food system works and what we can do to make it more healthful, equitable, and sustainable. Watch weekly lectures live online at http://edibleschoolyard.org/ee101

What Can We Learn from School Lunch in France?

On-going resources:
- Finding local farms, buyers, or restaurants that purchase/serve local foods, visit Ohio MarketMaker: www.ohiomarkettaker.com
- Finding farms in and around Ohio that sell directly to the public through local farmers' markets, CSA’s, and on-farm sales, visit OEFFA’s Good Earth Guide OEFFA’s searchable on-line directory.
- Farm to School Webinars: National Good Food Network Website: http://www.ngfn.org/resources/ngfn-cluster-calls/farm-to-school
  NGFN offers four recorded webinars on the topic of Farm to School at this time: “Food Hubs and Farm to School”, “Market-Based Models for Increasing Access to Healthy Food: Defining What Works”, “School Food FOCUS”, and “National Farm to School Network”. You can also sign up from their website to receive notice of upcoming webinars.
- GroundWorks Community URL: www.edweb.net/schoolgardens
**Funding Opportunities**

**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**

**Let’s Move Salad Bars to School Foundation** believes that salad bars + schools = more fruits and vegetables for children. They could get a free salad bar (or multiples for multiple school sites) into your schools by end of November. A fairly easy application is now open, and must be initiated by the school district nutrition director. Word has it that they are flush with funds right now so sooner is better for applying. For great ideas for other equipment, recipes and procedures with real-world examples go to [http://www.saladbars2schools.org/](http://www.saladbars2schools.org/)

**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**
Healthy Playground Makeover Sweepstakes
Anyone can now enter on behalf of a Pre-K or elementary school to win our annual Healthy Playground Makeover Sweepstakes. Entering once a day, everyday increases the chance to make a big difference at a local school. Enter today! Little kids have a chance to make big changes too! Pre-K Schools and Head Start programs are eligible to enter to win a Smart from the Start Award. Ten schools will be awarded a $2,500 grant and one grand prize winning school will receive a $20,000 grant. The grants go toward making healthy improvements at the school, and incorporating energy balance concepts into classrooms. Learn more at http://www.togethercounts.com/at-school/win-for-your-school/sweepstakes

USDA Requests Applications for Rural Child Poverty Nutrition Center
This grant will support strategies to reduce child food insecurity in rural communities.
Deadline: Rolling

The Pollination Project is a nonprofit organization that provides $1,000 seed grants to individual change makers. The Project has granted numerous awards to various small agriculture related operations who want to bring change into a community. The Project has received repeated media reports on how the organization is impacting small agricultural practices. New grants are awarded daily and there is no deadline for when to apply. Please click here to navigate through the organizations website for detailed information. We hope to have someone from the Project speak at a future meeting.
Deadline: Rolling

Micro-Grants/ Karma for Cara Foundation
These grants are awarded to children 18 and under to fund service projects in their communities, with ideas including rebuilding a playground or turning a vacant lot into a community garden.
Go to http://www.ysa.org/karma_for_cara_foundation
Deadline: Rolling

Scotties Facial Tissues annual Video and Essay Contest: TREES ROCK!
Did you know that Scotties Facial Tissues (which plant 3 Trees for Every 1 they use) puts on an annual Video and Essay Contest called TREES ROCK!? The contest is for 3rd through 8th graders in the 50 United States and Washington D.C. They are sure you are always looking for ways to engage your kids in the classroom or in a club. TREES ROCK! is an excellent way to get kids to be creative on their own or as a team when learning about trees and the environment.

There are lots of prizes to be won and 2 schools will receive $10,000. To learn more, check out their videos on the Growing School Gardens Home Page. To download all of the important documents to get started, go to www.scottiestreesrock.com
**Events & Webinars**

**Farm to School Webinar Series Starts January 15!**
“Growing Roots in Farm to School”
January through May, 2015 | 2 PM EST

USDA Farm to School staff and guest speakers have just what you need to start or expand your farm to school program in the new year. This 11-part webinar series will help you build your farm to school skills and develop new strategies for bringing local foods into the lunchroom. Join us for tips and insights on topics like building a team, menu planning, program sustainability, and more! New this year: earn SNA Continuing Education Units for each webinar attended.

**February's Schedule:**

1. *Finding and Buying Local Foods*, February 05, 2PM
2. *Farm to School Menu Planning*, February 19, 2PM

Can't join live? **Webinars will be recorded for your future reference.**

**For the full listing of webinars, visit**

**You can register for the series at**
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YMTTVNK

**Webinar: A Look Back, A Path Forward – Lessons Learned from Food Hub Vanguard, Volume I**
Wed, Feb 19 | 3:30 – 4:45PM (ET)

Grasshoppers Distribution in Louisville, KY was in the vanguard of innovative food hubs. After seven years and directing over $2.25 million into the hands of local farmers and food entrepreneurs, they closed their doors in Dec 2013. Join them for this deep dive looking at their many transitions within its lifetime including changes in business model and leadership.

Register at
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8761996430383139585
**Webinar: School Breakfast - Panel of Examples**  
Wed, February 4 | 4 - 5PM (ET)

Considering changing to a model to increase school breakfast participation? Want to know more about what works for schools and districts that have implemented Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab and Go or other unique models of breakfast service? Join us for this webinar to learn more from those who are doing it every day.

Register at [http://www2.actionforhealthykids.org/l/21152/2014-12-15/rl8l5](http://www2.actionforhealthykids.org/l/21152/2014-12-15/rl8l5)

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**Webinar: Every Kid Healthy™ Week 2015**  
Tues, February 17 | 2 - 3PM (ET)

Action for Healthy Kids is proud to work with schools nationwide to promote Every Kid Healthy™ Week – a national movement to make all schools healthier places. Every Kid Healthy Week is focused on the nation’s problem of childhood obesity as well as its solutions: sound nutrition, regular physical activity and health-promoting school programs. Learn how to get involved and find resources to plan a great event!

Register at [http://www2.actionforhealthykids.org/l/21152/2014-12-15/rl8n9](http://www2.actionforhealthykids.org/l/21152/2014-12-15/rl8n9)

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**OEFFA's 36th Annual Conference**  
Feb. 14 & 15 | Granville

Registration is now open for the Friday, February 13 pre-conference intensive workshops and the two-day conference, which runs Saturday, February 14 through Sunday, February 15, 2015. All activities take place at the Granville Middle and High schools in Granville, Ohio (Licking County).


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**Webinar: School Meals - Challenges and Opportunities | AFHK Parent Leadership Series**  
Thurs, February 12 | 2 - 3PM (ET)

Many parents become involved in the school wellness movement to improve school meals. Positive change is happening in districts all across the country due to the efforts of dedicated food service personnel, non-profit and foundation support, and school food requirements. Learn about national school meal programs, the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, and how parents can best collaborate with nutrition services to create healthier school food environments.

Register at [http://www2.actionforhealthykids.org/l/21152/2014-12-15/rl8kh](http://www2.actionforhealthykids.org/l/21152/2014-12-15/rl8kh)
USDA Resources

Dig in to USDA Team Nutrition resources!
Team Nutrition offers a variety of materials that can enhance your farm to school program, including curriculum, event ideas, posters, and stickers. All Team Nutrition materials are available for download on the website and print copies can be provided for free to any school operating the National School Lunch Program. Go to http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/team-nutrition

Here are a few of our favorites:

- **Dig In! Standards-Based Nutrition Education from the Ground Up**: Explore a world of possibilities in the garden and on your plate using ten inquiry-based lessons to engage 5th and 6th graders in growing, harvesting, tasting, and learning about fruits and vegetables.
- **The Great Garden Detective Adventure**: Discover what fruits and vegetables are sweetest, crunchiest, and juiciest through a series of investigations and fun experiences connecting the school garden to the classroom, cafeteria, and home with this eleven-lesson curriculum for 3rd and 4th graders.
- **Popular Events Idea Booklet**: Discover fun ways to promote nutrition and physical activity at your elementary or middle school with ideas for 20 themed events, from scavenger hunts to try-day Fridays!
- **Make Today a Try-Day! Stickers**: Use these fun stickers as part of your taste-testing event and order posters to match!

Tools for Schools is an online toolkit where you can find all of USDA’s best resources on school meal topics (e.g., fruits and vegetables, whole grain-rich foods, and reducing sodium) and implementing Smart Snacks. In the toolkit, you will find policy documents, nutrition education materials, Smarter Lunchroom strategies, kid-friendly recipes, and success stories from other schools. Visit http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools

USDA Local Food Directories
Local and regional food systems, including farmers markets, are one of USDA’s four key pillars to revitalize rural economies and improve access to fresh, healthy food for millions of Americans. Four USDA Local Food Directories are now available online to give potential customers, business partners and community planners easy, one-stop access to the most current information about sources of local foods. The four directories are: National Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) Enterprise Directory, National Food Hub Directory, National On-Farm Market Directory, and National Farmers Market Directory. For more information on the launch: http://blogs.usda.gov/2014/09/30/the-easy-way-to-find-local-food-usda-launches-new-local-food-directories/

USDA Farm to School – Health Habits Take Root Video Series
In celebration of National Farm to School Month, USDA announced a five-part video series featuring testimonials from more than 30 USDA Farm to School grantees. From Maine to Alaska, USDA supports farm to school programs all across the country. School districts - large, small, urban and rural - are serving local products and teaching students where their food comes from. The videos highlight the many ways grantees are bringing the farm to school. Watch the videos at http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/videos-and-webinars
Thank you to all of our partners and supporters!

Ohio Farm to School Newsletter
Put together by:
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For Ohio Farm to School inquiries or to submit information, e-mail farm2school@osu.edu

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