The 2015 statewide conference, held last month in Columbus, was a great success! Thanks to everyone who joined us and made it a special day.

USDA Farm to School grant programs for 2016 are now open. See pages 2 and 8 for information about the latest USDA funding opportunities for farm to school projects.
Dear Farm to School Supporters,

The USDA announced funding last week for grants to support local food systems, specialty crop producers, and farm to school programs. **These grants include the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program and the USDA Farm to School program.** The following link provides more information: [http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAOC/bulletins/f833f3?reqfrom=share](http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAOC/bulletins/f833f3?reqfrom=share)

**OSU Extension is offering a grant writing workshop** specifically focused on these funding opportunities. The training will be held on **Monday, April 6 at 4-8 pm at the Ohio 4-H Center in Columbus.** Because this event is covered by a grant, there will be no cost for registration.

**The training will cover the following topics:**
- USDA grant program overview
- Idea development
- Grant proposal preparation
- Application submission process (DUNS, SAM, etc.)

We have created a shortened URL for the registration: [http://go.osu.edu/LocalFoodsGrantWriting](http://go.osu.edu/LocalFoodsGrantWriting). However, some people (but not all) are reporting that the link will not work for them. The full link is: [https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_57GfhoutGXrEiot](https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_57GfhoutGXrEiot). Again, participants must sign up in advance and registration is free.

Happy Spring!
Carol Smathers
Ohio Farm to School State Lead
Farm to School Regional Workshop

Monday, April 13, 2015
1:00pm - 5:00pm
Kent State University Hotel & Conference Center
215 S Depeyster St, Kent, OH 44340

Let’s excite young people about growing and eating nutritious foods. Join the Ohio Farm to School Network at GreenTown at Kent on April 13, for a workshop on increasing the capacity of local communities to provide locally produced foods in schools. The workshop will cover several topics including:

- What’s happening with Farm to School?
- Purchasing Local Foods and Meal Planning
- Food Safety for Farm to School
- Making Procurement Connections - Online Tools and More
- Student Connections: Hands-on Education

Contact Gary Cuneen at gary@seven generations ahead.org for more info. To register, go to greentownconference.com.

Produced by

GreenTown is co-produced by a5, a brand consultancy focused on sustainability, and Seven Generations Ahead, a non-profit devoted to creating healthy, sustainable communities.

Visit GreenTownConference.com to register!
**Why Some Schools Serve Local Food and Others Can’t (Or Won’t)**

According to this NPR report, the biggest barriers to going local, for schools who want to but haven’t, are contract requirements, paperwork, and a difference in the scale of need at the school and production on the farm. It’s not a supply or cost problem. Read the full article at [http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2015/03/11/392183832/why-some-schools-serve-local-food-and-others-cant-or-wont](http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2015/03/11/392183832/why-some-schools-serve-local-food-and-others-cant-or-wont)

**Kids will eat more veggies if you let them play first...**

Looking for ways to inspire students to eat more vegetables at school? A study to be published in the Journal of Preventive Medicine says having recess before lunch is key. Read more about it here: [http://www.treehugger.com/health/pro-tip-kids-will-eat-more-veggies-if-you-let-them-play-first.html](http://www.treehugger.com/health/pro-tip-kids-will-eat-more-veggies-if-you-let-them-play-first.html)

**Food Safety News**

“Current Issues in Produce Safety: The Packinghouse” is part 1A of a five-part series on produce safety, explained by a registered professional sanitarian. These articles explore factors in the contamination of fruits and vegetables and identify areas of food safety management systems that need strengthening. Learn about food safety by reading the series of articles here: [http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2015/02/current-issues-in-produce-safety-the-packinghouse/#](http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2015/02/current-issues-in-produce-safety-the-packinghouse/#)

**Clever produce snacks can turn a school bake sale into an UnBake Sale**

New federal nutrition guidelines on snacks sold at schools have prompted some worry that parents won’t be able to make the kind of snacks that would help to fund programs not funded by taxes. Bolthouse Farms, in California, came up with the UnBake Sales program, replacing baked goods with fruits and vegetables in fun shapes. Check it out at here: [http://www.latimes.com/health/la-he-unbake-20150207-story.html](http://www.latimes.com/health/la-he-unbake-20150207-story.html)

**On-going resources:**

- Finding local farms, buyers, or restaurants that purchase/ serve local foods, visit [Ohio MarketMaker](http://www.ohiomarketmaker.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](http://www.ohiomarketmaker.com) 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](http://www.groundworkscommunity.org) URL: [www.edweb.net/schoolgardens](http://www.edweb.net/schoolgardens)
**On-Going 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**

**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. For great ideas for other equipment, recipes and procedures with real-world examples go to [http://www.saladbars2schools.org/](http://www.saladbars2schools.org/)

**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**

**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

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. We hope to have someone from the Project speak at a future meeting.

Deadline: Rolling

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

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
Grant Writing Workshop
Mon, Apr 06 | 4-8PM
Ohio 4-H Center in Columbus

OSU Extension is offering a grant writing workshop specifically focused on the newly announced USDA funding opportunities. Because this event is covered by a grant, there will be no cost for registration.

The training will cover the following topics:
- USDA grant program overview
- Idea development
- Grant proposal preparation
- Application submission process (DUNS, SAM, etc.)

Register at http://go.osu.edu/LocalFoodsGrantWriting

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.

April’s Schedule:
1. School Gardening, April 02, 2PM
2. Curriculum Integration, April 16, 2PM
3. Program Sustainability, April 30, 2PM

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

For the full listing of webinars, visit http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/videos-and-webinars

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

Spring into Real Food: Strengthening the Food System through Campus Purchasing
Fri, April 03 | 9 AM – 4 PM
Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center

The Local Matters Student Ambassadors, a student organization at The Ohio State University is hosting a daylong conference to bring together university and food system stakeholders to initiate a dialogue around building stronger food systems through campus purchasing power. Registration is free and open to the first hundred registrants.

Registration: http://senr.osu.edu/about-us/events/spring-real-food-strengthening-food-system-through-campus-purchasing
Events & Webinars

Farm Bureau Community Breakfasts
Connect with others, meet local farmers and enjoy a good meal at these events. Many feature locally grown products and are collecting donations for local food banks and animal shelters in an effort to give back to the community. Get complete details at each county’s website.

Columbiana County
Sat, Apr 11 | 7:30 – 11AM

Portage County
Sat, Apr 18 | 7:00 – 10:30AM

2015 Urban Agriculture & Community Gardening Summit
O-H-I-GROW
Sat, April 11 | 8AM – 5PM
Franklin Park Conservatory, Columbus
Cost: $75, includes lunch.

A gathering of gardens and gardeners from Ohio and beyond. Take part in this one-day summit exploring urban agriculture and community gardening in the Ohio region. Become versed in best practices, viability and movement trends. Hear about successes and challenges of different urban agriculture projects—from large scale to small and grassroots. Network, share and celebrate with individuals involved in projects across Ohio. The summit will include a keynote speaker, panel discussions with individuals involved in projects from cities throughout the state, and tours of the Conservatory and Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Community Garden Campus.

Program & Registration details: http://www.fpconservatory.org/The-Experience/Gardening-Programs/Growing-to-Green/O-H-I-GROW

Hocking County Ag Days
Sat, April 11 | 9AM – 5PM & April 12 | 10AM – 4PM
Hocking County Fairgrounds, Logan
Cost: FREE

Ag Days is a two-day free event with displays for the whole family. Come learn about agriculture both past and present and hear from speakers, plus interact with live animals, enjoy tractor pulls and children’s activities. Don’t miss the live bands and be sure to purchase food and beverage to support local organizations such as 4-H.

For more information, contact Hocking County Farm Bureau at hocking@ofbf.org or 740-474-6284
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](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 word 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](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/](http://blogs.usda.gov/2014/09/30/the-easy-way-to-find-local-food-usda-launches-new-local-food-directories/)

Farm to School Grant Program is open for 2016
The request for application (RFA) for FY2016 funding is now available! 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. Get the link for RFA and guidance here: [http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-grant-program](http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-grant-program)
Thank you to all of our partners and supporters!

Ohio Farm to School Newsletter

Put together by:
Carol Smathers, Ohio Farm to School State Lead
Stacy Haught, Ohio Farm to School Coordinator

Follow Ohio Farm to School on Facebook and Twitter!

For Ohio Farm to School inquiries or to submit information, e-mail farm2school@osu.edu

The Ohio State University
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

Ohio Department of Education

Ohio Proud

Action for Healthy Kids®

United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

American Dairy Association MID EAST

NATIONAL FARM to SCHOOL NETWORK

Thank you to all of our partners and supporters!