A huge expression of thanks to Stacy Haught, an OSU Graduate Associate, who worked in the Farm to School office for the last year. Stacy responded to requests for Farm to School information and resources, forged new partnerships, developed newsletters, webpages, and social media posts, coordinated the details of regional workshops and made the 2015 statewide conference a success. Best wishes to her in her new role as a Teaching Assistant and beyond!

Ohio Local Foods Week is Aug 09 - 16! Find more on page 6.
Get Ready Now!
Prepare to Apply for the National Farm to School Grant

Exciting news: the USDA is expecting to triple the funding available for its 2017 round of national farm to school grants. The Request for Applications (RFA) usually comes out in February and will be due in spring. Summer is the perfect time to prepare to apply. You can help to ensure your project earns a share of the available funds by doing the following now:

1. **Gather your team!**
   - Recruit a dedicated, diverse team of teachers, administrators, school food professionals, and parents from your school to develop a plan of action. If your school has a **School Wellness Team**, that’s a great place to start.

2. **Find a grant writer**
   - An experienced grant writer can save you time and help to ensure that your application communicates your vision clearly while meeting the application requirements.

3. **Connect with supporting organizations**
   - Taking time to develop relationships with local organizations can be key to a successful long-term farm to school project. Find professional partners in your community who share in your vision.

According to the USDA, “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. Each year the 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.”

The USDA shares grant program information through their Farm to School E-letter. Sign up [here](http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-grant-program) to stay up-to-date on the FY2017 RFA and National Farm to School Program.

**Check out the archived FY2016 RFA and find more guidance here:**
**News & Resources**

**State, Regional and National**

**Policies and Protocols for School Gardens and Garden to Cafeteria: Life Lab**
This resource highlights how several districts and states are setting up systems to get school garden produce onto cafeteria trays. The collection includes examples of Garden to Cafeteria policy language as well resources for safely handling food. Learn more at [http://edibleschoolyard.org/resource/policies-and-protocols-school-gardens-and-garden-cafeteria](http://edibleschoolyard.org/resource/policies-and-protocols-school-gardens-and-garden-cafeteria)

**School Gardens Enhance Academic Performance and Dietary Outcomes in Children**

**The Edible Schoolyard Academy: Kitchen and Garden Libraries**
The kitchen and garden libraries collect resources shared during this summer’s Edible Schoolyard Academy training. The documents provide an overview of how the Edible Schoolyard Berkeley develops and structures classes in the kitchen and garden.


**Farm to Early Childhood Programs: A Step-By-Step Guide**
Available as a free download, this Farm to Early Childhood Program guide provides tools and resources to help early childhood program providers of all types and sizes purchase and use local foods in their meals and snacks. Check it out here: [http://foodsystems.msu.edu/resources/farm_to_early_childhood_guide](http://foodsystems.msu.edu/resources/farm_to_early_childhood_guide)

**On-going resources:**
- Finding local farms, buyers, or restaurants that purchase/serve local foods, visit Ohio MarketMaker: [www.ohiomarketmaker.com](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 [OEFFA’s searchable on-line directory](http://www.ohiomarketmaker.com)
- Farm to School Webinars: National Good Food Network Website: [http://www.ngfn.org/resources/ngfn-cluster-calls/farm-to-school](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](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

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

National Ag in the Classroom
The $1,500 grants will be awarded to kindergarten through 12th grade core education teachers whose innovative classroom projects use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, nutrition, science and/or social studies. Apply at: http://www.agclassroom.org/get/chs_grant.cfm
Deadline: September 15

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/
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
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

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

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. 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
**Taste of Crawford**
Thurs, Aug 27 | 5:30 – 8 pm
Crawford County Fairground
Cost: $15, RSVP by Aug 25

This event, sponsored by the Crawford County Farm Bureau, Cattlemen’s Association, local pork and dairy producers, and the Bucyrus and Galion Crestline Area Chambers of Commerce, will offer a unique opportunity for the community to gather with farmers, eat delicious, locally produced food, and talk about the role of local farmers in a variety of economies.

More info at https://www.facebook.com/CrawfordCountyFarmBureau

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**Richland County Farm to Plate**
Sat, Aug 01 and 22
Shelby Farmers Market
Cost: Free

This cooking series will feature area chefs as they prepare seasonal meats and produce in a cooking show format. Additional activities for kids and special farmers market discounts and promotions will also be available at each event.

More info at https://www.facebook.com/RichlandCountyFarmToPlate

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**Ohio Local Foods Week**
Aug 09 - 15 | various events statewide

OSU Extension educators are working with communities to showcase their local food producers through special events and educational programs. Just as there is no one definition for “local,” there is no one way to celebrate Ohio Local Foods Week. You are invited to participate in the $10 Ohio Local Foods Challenge by committing to spend at least ten dollars (or more) on your favorite local foods during Ohio Local Foods Week. Look for regional community events, follow the event on Facebook and Twitter, and sign up at http://go.osu.edu/olfw10dollars for the $10 Ohio Local Foods Challenge

More info at http://localfoods.osu.edu/ohio-local-foods-week

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**Cuyahoga County Urban Agriculture Workshops**
Ohio State University Extension

- **Integrated Pest Management in Community Gardens Series**
  Mon, Aug 03 | 6 pm

- **Integrated Pest Management in Community Gardens Series**
  Sat, Aug 08 | 10 am

- **Compost Systems That Work!**
  Tues, Aug 11 | 6 – 7:30 pm

- **Fall Gardening and Putting the Gardening to Bed**
  Wed, Aug 19 | 6 – 8 pm

- **High Tunnel Series: Getting Ready for Fall**
  Thurs, Aug 20 | 6 – 8 pm

More info at http://cuyahoga.osu.edu/sites/cuyahoga/files/imce/Misc_Files/Misc/OSUE%20Urban%20Ag%20workshop%20schedule%202015.pdf
National Hamburger Festival
Aug 08 - 09 | Akron
More info at http://hamburgerfestival.com/

Backyard Food Production Program
The Carroll and Harrison Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and NRCS along with OSU Extension will be offering a series of programs on Backyard Food Production for 2015. This program encourages the utilization of your backyard or unused green space for food production while creating wildlife habitat and supporting the conservation of our natural resources. This is a great program for Gardeners of all skill levels.

Thurs, Aug 13: Planning Cover Crops for the Fall Canning and Preserving Your Harvest

To register for a workshop or to be added to the mailing list please call: Carroll SWCD at 330-627-9852 or the Extension office at 330-627-4310.

More info at http://agnr.osu.edu/sites/agnr/files/BackyardFoodProduction.pdf

Reynoldsburg Tomato Festival
Aug 14 - 15 | Reynoldsburg
More info at http://www.reynoldsburgtomatofestival.org/

Lexington Blueberry Festival
Aug 13 - 16 | Lexington
More info at http://www.lexblueberryfest.com

Fairborn Sweet Corn Festival
Aug 15 - 16 | Fairborn
More info at http://www.fairbornsweetcornfestival.org/

Pierogi Fest
Aug 22 - 23 | North Royalton
More info at https://www.facebook.com/holytrinity.church.7

2015 Ohio Sustainable Farm Tour & Workshop Series!
Farm tours and workshops in cooperation with The Ohio State University Sustainable Agriculture Team, The Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association, and the Clintonville Farmers’ Market. In total, the series features 29 farms tours, one university research center tour, 10 educational workshops, a one-day Women Grow Ohio event, and a benefit dinner.

Farm Tours this month:
- Aug 01: Pasture-Based Livestock and Poultry Tour
- Aug 02: Sustainable Urban Produce Farm Tour
- Aug 05: Organic Dairy Farm Tour
- Aug 07: Grain and Alfalfa Production Farm Tour
- Aug 09: Urban Farming in Small Spaces Tour
- Aug 14: Aquaponic Fish Production Tour
- Aug 15: Food, Family, and Farming Tour
- Aug 16: Value-Added Fruits and Vegetables Farm Tour
- Aug 24: Large-Scale Urban Farm Tour
- Aug 25: Hops Production Workshop
- Aug 30: The Farmers’ Table


To find more festivals near you, visit http://ohiofestivals.net

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More info at http://agnr.osu.edu/sites/agnr/files/BackyardFoodProduction.pdf

Fairborn Sweet Corn Festival
Aug 14 - 15 | Fairborn
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More info at http://agnr.osu.edu/sites/agnr/files/BackyardFoodProduction.pdf
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 Preschool**
Farm to Preschool is a natural expansion of the national farm to school model and encompasses a wide range of programs and activities. Farm to Preschool serves the full spectrum of child care delivery: preschools, Head Start, center-based, programs in K-12 school districts, nurseries and family home care facilities. Its goals are multi-level and include: influencing the eating habits of young children while their preferences are forming; creating healthy lifestyles through good nutrition and experiential opportunities such as gardening; improving healthy food access at home and within the community; and ultimately influencing policies to address the childhood obesity epidemic through a local food lens. Program activities can take an environmental and systems change approach by serving preschoolers, teachers and child care providers, parents and family members, as well as communities. Find resources here: [http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-preschool](http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-preschool)
Thank you to all of our partners and supporters!

Ohio Farm to School Newsletter

Put together by:

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Follow Ohio Farm to School on Facebook and Twitter!