From peas and blackberries to cows and flowers, things are growing all over Ohio this time of year! Now is the perfect time to visit or volunteer at a farm or community garden near you to learn about what’s growing & utilize the Ohio Farm Bureau’s “What’s in Season” calendar. Find events that suit your farm to school interests on pages 5 & 6.
Edible Gardening
Available as a free download, this resource features practical advice for learning and teaching gardening. Author Benjamin Eichorn gathers his knowledge – gained growing up on a Central California farm, teaching at the Edible Schoolyard Berkeley, and supporting school gardens as the founder of Grow Your Lunch – into ten "essential practices" for growing a variety of food crops across climates and conditions. Check it out here: http://growyourlunch.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=1003b7f684759477137f2e0de&id=be004189ee

Real Food Media Library
This library was created for educators, organizers, policy makers, good food advocates, and everyone in between. All films are under four minutes long and perfect for showing at events, conferences, classes, or just watching at home. Use at public or private gatherings is encouraged, and they ask you to fill out a form (see website) so they can track the impact. Twelve new short films have been added to the projects library! View them here: http://realfoodmedia.org/library/

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

Summer in the School Garden
This resource, created by Oregon’s Growing Gardens, offers advice for working with volunteers and organizing a maintenance plan to keep your school garden growing over the summer. Read more about it here: http://growing-gardens.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Summer-in-the-School-Garden-A-Resource-for-Working-with-Volunteers-to-Maintain-your-School-Garden.pdf

On-going resources:
- Finding local farms, buyers, or restaurants that purchase/serve local foods, visit Ohio MarketMaker: 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.
- 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
**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**

**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**

**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](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**

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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**

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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](http://www.ysa.org/karma_for_cara_foundation)

**Deadline: Rolling**
Events & Webinars

**Farm Factor**
Sun, July 12 | Chillicothe
Cost: Farm Bureau nonmember $25

This four-course, progressive farm dinner takes place at four family farms in Ross County. The food featured in each course is sourced from local producers. This is a family friendly event. Tickets are available until event is sold out.

More info at https://ofbf.org/counties/ross/

**Richland County Farm to Plate**
Sat, July 18 | Shelby Farmers’ Market

Shelby Farmers Market. Area chefs 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. No RSVP necessary and events are free.

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

**Columbus Urban Farm Tour Series**
Sat, July 25 | Franklinton Gardens | 2-4 pm
Urban Fruit and Vegetable Production & Marketing Tour

The Columbus Urban Farm Tour Series is a joint project sponsored by the Franklin County Office of Ohio State University Extension, The Columbus Agrarian Society, and the Columbus Urban Farmers Network. The goal of the Columbus Urban Farm Tour Series tours is to demonstrate to the general public the many benefits of urban farms in Columbus. There is no fee or advance registration required to participate in these tours which are open to the public. Farm tours will be held rain or shine and participants should dress accordingly.


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

**Integrated Pest Management in Community Gardens Series**
Sat, July 25 | 10 am

More info at http://cuyahoga.osu.edu/sites/cuyahoga/files/imce/Misc_Files/Misc/OSUE%20Urban%20Ag%20workshop%20schedule%202015.pdf

**Community Garden Mixer at Franklin Park Conservatory**
Fri, July 17 | 6 – 9 pm

Are you involved with community gardening or urban farming? You are invited to kick back, relax and celebrate the work of urban farmers and community gardeners in the Columbus area. Network with fellow green thumbs while enjoying food, drinks and live music in the Conservatory’s beautiful outdoor gardens.

More info at http://www.fpconservatory.org/The-Experience/Gardening-Programs/Growing-to-Green
Events & Webinars

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

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, July 09: How to Start a Greenhouse, Cold Storage Options

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

Johnny Appleseed Festival
July 17 - 18 | Apple Creek
More info at

Cheese Heritage Festival
July 17 - 19 | Wellington
More info at
http://www.mainstreetwellington.org/

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:
· July 12: Organic vegetables tour
· July 19: Women Grow Ohio tours
· July 19: Farming for Farmers’ Markets tours
· July 25: Urban Production and Marketing tour
· July 26: Small-Scale Biointensive farm tour


Sweet Corn Festival
July 23 - 25 | Lodi
More info at
http://www.lodiohiochamber.com/sweet-corn-festival

Zucchini Festival
July 25 - 26 | Chardon
More info at
http://www.emeraldrose.org/news-and-events/
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 closed for 2016**

The request for application (RFA) for FY2016 funding is now closed. 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

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Follow Ohio Farm to School on Facebook and Twitter!

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