



ODE Farm to School Newsletter



February 1-28, 2021

FARM TO SCHOOL: INSIDE THE ISSUE



Oregon Harvest for Schools

The newest videos are here! In this issue we feature [Blueberries](#) and [Strawberries](#) in English with Spanish versions coming soon!

Grant Updates

Applications for the Competitive Procurement Grant are now available on the [Farm to School Grants webpage](#). We anticipate four rounds of awards before the end of the biennium in June 30, 2021.

FFVP Update

The 2020-2021 FFVP program year is well under way. Read on for ideas about the kinds of fruits and vegetables that can be included in FFVP service.

Farm to School Spotlight

Do you have a butterfly garden at your school? Have you ever thought about creating one? Read about Monarch Waystations and how you can be a part of the effort to conserve monarch butterfly habitat. Free milkweed plants are available for schools and butterfly habitats can be registered through [Monarch Watch](#) to become part of an online listing of Monarch Waystations worldwide.





Our newest videos are here featuring Blueberries and Strawberries!

The month of February brings new additions to the Oregon Harvest for Schools (OH4S) video series; Blueberries and Strawberries in English with Spanish versions coming soon!



An English language version of the [Blueberries video](#).



An English language version of the [Strawberries Video](#).

The Oregon Department of Education's Child Nutrition Program and OSU Extension's Food Hero campaign have teamed up to launch this series which will include a total of 50 videos when complete. The series aims to educate students on healthy, Oregon food. For a comprehensive list of the videos we have available to date visit the [Oregon Harvest for Schools website](#) and click on the Videos tab under "Other Items."

To find local vendors selling blueberries, strawberries or any of our other fruits and vegetables, please visit the [Oregon Harvest for Schools Portal](#) website.

Please visit the [USDA Food Buyers Guide website](#) for more information on USDA crediting for blueberries and strawberries in Child Nutrition Program meals.



Farm to School Grant Updates

Competitive Procurement Grant

Applications for the Competitive Procurement Grant are now available on the [Farm to School Grant webpage](#).

What is the Competitive Procurement Grant?

The Competitive Procurement Grant is part of the Farm to School Program and is intended to provide eligible Farm to School grantees with additional funding above their original Farm to School award amount. These funds are derived from a reallocation process in which the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) redistributes unspent Farm to School award dollars from grantees that have determined they are unable to exhaust their original awards.

To be eligible for these funds, applicants must be either a School District, a provider of center-based programs for children in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, or be an entity that provides meals through the Summer Food Service Program. In addition, applicants must have been awarded a Farm to School Noncompetitive Procurement Grant and 1) have spent all of the Noncompetitive funds, **or** 2) have a zero balance (due to the legislative reduction process).

The intent of the Farm to School Noncompetitive Procurement Grant has always been to support grantee purchasing of Oregon grown and processed food that might otherwise be cost prohibitive. To ensure grant funds are spent within the intent of the grant, the Farm to School team has designed the grant application process as follows:

1) Complete and submit the Competitive Procurement Grant RFA. Every applicant is guaranteed a base award amount (depending on availability of funds), that can be spent on any allowable Oregon grown or processed foods, as with the Noncompetitive Procurement grant.

2) Applicants can be awarded MORE funding by filling out the RFA and achieving preference points. Preference points are given for purchasing plans that include categories such as: purchasing from minority or women-owned companies, serving culturally relevant foods, purchasing a variety of Oregon products or purchasing new Oregon products and developing new commercial relationships. The higher the applicant's preference point score, the higher the additional funding (see RFA for preference point matrix).

The ODE Farm to School team will be offering a training session. Details about the training session will be announced and available on the [Farm to School Grants website](#).

Timeline:

Round 1

Questions/Requests for Clarification Due - February 26, 2021, 10:00am

Applications Due - March 19, 2021, 2:00PM

Round 2

Questions/Requests for Clarification Due - March 18, 2021, 10:00am

Applications Due - March 31, 2021, 2:00PM

Round 3

Questions/Requests for Clarification Due - April 23, 2021, 10:00am

Applications Due - April 30, 2021, 2:00PM

Round 4

Questions/Requests for Clarification Due - May 24, 2021, 10:00am

Applications Due - May 31, 2021, 2:00PM

Please send any questions about the RFA to Noemi Rios, Procurement and Contract Specialist, at Noemi.Rios@ode.state.or.us.

NEED IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO SPEND YOUR FARM TO SCHOOL FUNDS?

- [Oregon Harvest for Schools Portal](#)
– A tool to help school food buyers source Oregon-grown products.
- [Farm to School Combined Claims File](#)
– If you have ever wondered what other school districts and meal sites bought with their Farm to School funds, you can explore the combined claims file from the last biennium (2017-2019). The file can be sorted by County, School District, product, vendor etc. Costs have been removed due to proprietary information. If you would like a copy of the running list from this biennium (2019-2021) please email us at FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us.
- [Regional Procurement Hubs](#) – Regional Hubs are focused on incorporating more local food in school meals. Our Regional Hubs webpage includes maps, a regional hub chart and contact list and meeting dates.
- [Regional Hub Leads](#) - Contact your Regional Hub lead for purchasing ideas and resources in your area.
- Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network - Contact Melina Barker, Program Director of the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network, at melina@oregonfarmtoschool.org for more information about OFSSGN'S Regional Procurement Hubs.

Please feel free to contact us at FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us with any additional questions.

The [Resources for Farm to School Spending document](#) is also available for download on the the [Farm to School Grants webpage](#) under "Procurement Grant Resources."

Updates on the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

As a reminder, there are various options for providing FFVP service during COVID times.

- FFVP items can be distributed along with meals at distribution sites.
- FFVP items can be included with meals delivered on a bus route.
- Bulk Distribution method: A week's worth of FFVP items can be handed out at once.

Please let us know if you have any questions about service during COVID as we are here to help. Questions can be sent to FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us.

Please continue to submit claims by the following dates.

- **December** claims must be submitted by no later than **Monday, March 1, 2021**.
- **January** claims must be submitted by no later than **Wednesday, March 31, 2021**.
- **February** claims must be submitted by no later than **Thursday, April 29, 2021**.

You can view the full calendar of claims deadlines on the [FFVP website](#).

Allowable operating expenses:

- Fresh fruits and vegetables (except those mentioned in unallowable costs)
- *Napkins, paper plates, utensils, bowls, small equipment, etc.
- *Fuel surcharges
- *Operating labor costs (these three starred costs cannot exceed 30% of the total claim)
- Administrative labor costs (cannot exceed 10% of the award)

Unallowable expenses: As a reminder, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is intended to introduce kids to fruits and vegetables that would not typically be on a meal tray. We consider the fruits and vegetables listed below to be standard fare that would typically be available and therefore not allowable under this program.

- Apples (red delicious, golden delicious, gala and granny smith), bananas (yellow), oranges (navel), baby carrots/standard orange carrot sticks, unless there is an unavoidable situation; grantee must provide explanation in claim request.
- Canned, frozen or dried fruits and vegetables; fruit snack-fruit leather products; carbonated fruit, flavored fruit, fruit juice, fruit or vegetable pizza, nuts, cheese and other foods that are neither a fruit nor a vegetable.

FFVP Service Spotlight: Sunny Wolf Charter School

We've received several questions about the types of items that can be included in FFVP service.

This month we are highlighting the FFVP purchases made by Sunny Wolf Charter School for the month of January.

These included:

- Mangoes
- Pineapple
- Leeks
- Parsnips
- Rutabagas
- Purple Top Turnips
- Ruby Potatoes
- Honey Golden Potatoes
- Limes
- Coconuts
- Papaya
- Honeydew Melon
- Butternut Squash
- Spaghetti Squash
- Acorn Squash
- Cantaloupe
- Organic Kale
- Raspberries
- Bok Choy
- Blueberries
- Plums

This is an excellent example of a varied FFVP service that meets the program goal of introducing kids to fruits and vegetables they do not see on their meal tray every day as well as to new varieties of some of the more familiar fruits and vegetables.



Butterfly Habitat in School Gardens: Monarch Waystations

Hundreds of millions of monarch butterflies migrate from the United States and Canada to mountains in central Mexico each fall. They wait out the winter in these mountains until temperatures warm and the time is right for a return journey in the spring. However, this great migration is threatened by habitat loss at their overwintering grounds in Mexico and throughout breeding areas in the United States and Canada.

Milkweed plants are key to the monarchs survival. The butterflies need these plants to lay their eggs, as they are the only type of plant their caterpillars eat. Monarchs also need nectar from flowers to provide energy for their long migration journey. However, due to development and the widespread use of herbicides in croplands, pastures and roadsides, milkweed plants and nectar sources are declining.

This is where schools and local gardens can help! Creating monarch habitats, also known as "Monarch Waystations," in school and home gardens can help protect the monarch butterflies. Creating a Monarch Waystation can be as simple as adding milkweed plants and nectar sources to existing gardens or maintaining natural habitats with milkweed.

Monarch Watch currently lists 175 Monarch Waystations in the state of Oregon, 21 of which are based at schools.

Free milkweeds are available for schools and non-profits interested in starting a Monarch Waystation.

Visit the [Monarch Watch webpage](#) for an application and more information.

You can also register your habitat and have it certified as an official Monarch Waystation by Monarch Watch.

Your habitat will then be included in the Monarch Waystation Registry, an online listing of Monarch Waystations worldwide. More information about the habitat registry can be found on the [Monarch Watch webpage](#).

2021 Grow This! Oregon Garden Challenge

With many Oregonians staying home, now is the perfect time to plant seeds. The [Grow This! Oregon Garden Challenge](#) is a call to action to individuals, families, schools, community groups and counties to come together around gardening—to have fun and GROW Oregon's health and food supply.

What is the Challenge?

Grow different seeds. Anyone can join using their own seeds! While supplies last, Oregonians who sign up for the Challenge and request seeds will receive four different seed packets free of charge. Oregon State University will send these seed packets to county Extension offices around the state for pick-up in March.

On the [Food Hero Facebook page](#), Oregon State University Extension professionals will be posting weekly gardening videos and how-to handouts. They'll also host live Facebook events. All materials will also be added to the [Food Hero gardening web page](#).

Once a month throughout the growing season, emails will also be sent to participants with new ideas for growing, tips on harvesting, and recipes.

How do I join?

Visit the [2021 Grow This webpage](#) for details!

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1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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