



DID YOU KNOW?

- Oregon has 100% of their gardens mapped, with a contact for each one
- Oregon has school garden data as a part of the NSLP application process
- Oregon has a Annual Farm to School Network meeting as well as a School Garden Summit

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Farm to School

& SCHOOL GARDENS Newsletter

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SUMMER 2014

514 School Gardens...and Counting!

On my first day that I started working at this job, my very first question I got was "how many school gardens ARE there in Oregon?" Of course, this was not an easy question to answer, and I found out there was really no way to find out easily. I didn't have the first clue as to how many there are. So, I set about calling each and every school in Oregon. I personally called over a thousand schools whenever I had a few minutes to spare every day over the course of over three months with a simple "yes or no" question: Does your school have a school garden? The result was that we found out there was 514 school gardens in Oregon! The next step was to circle back with these schools and identify a "person in charge"

of the garden, with contact information so we could disseminate information. On our website (see page 4 for link), you'll see a section where the below interac-

they serve garden produce in the cafeteria.

We also want to know how many schools are using garden produce for school meals and how many gardens have active educational programs, so we included those questions into the National School Lunch Program's yearly application process. We have gotten a lot of calls from other States who are interested in duplicating this process. It will be interesting to see what comes of this!

-Rick Sherman, Farm to School / School Garden Coordinator, Oregon Department of Education



Interactive map of all 514 school gardens in Oregon, which is on our website

tive map is hosted. When you click on a dot, a window opens up that shows contact information for the garden, as well as our network's goals such as if

Website Update

We have been doing a lot of changes to the Oregon Farm to School/School Garden Website. Changes include separating content to their own sub groups so there's not as much scrolling, and adding new sub groups. These include a new "Showcase" to highlight Oregon success stories. Also, one of the most requested

items has to do with specific **curriculum** for school gardens. The Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network just completed an extensive workgroup, which created an Oregon Curricula with can be located on its own sub group.

There's also new sub groups for **Resources, Meetings & Trainings, and Grants**. More will be added and updated in the year to come.

Visit the website today by going to: www.ode.state.or.us/go/f2sgardens

Oregon Department of Education

SCHOOL GARDEN
FOOD SAFETY TRAINING
& DOCUMENTATION MANUAL



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Download the
manual at our
website!

*“Plans are underway
to combine the
Oregon Farm to
School and School
Garden Network
(OFSSGN) Annual
Meeting with the
School Garden
Summit in a two day
conference next
year!”*



School Garden Coordinator of the Month



ODE Farm to School and School Garden Network nominated Kelly Douglas from Molalla High School for the OPHI Billi Odegaard Public Health Genius Award... And she WON! This prestigious award is

**Kelly
Douglas
showing
off her
creation**

given to the person who labor tirelessly to help Oregonians support optimum health of communities.

Quite often we hear the excuse that it's

too difficult to start a school garden due to lack of funding and effort. Kelly single-handedly raised over \$30,000 in a short time and built the garden at MHS in one day by coordinating a huge volunteer project. Kelly is the advisor of the

School's largest student body activity club, the "Culture Club." This school celebrates the school's diversity by gathering around the fresh produce of the school garden and teaches the students to make healthy choices, both nutritionally and socially.

Kelly will be honored at an event at the Multnomah Athletic Club in Portland on Friday, September 12th. You can read more about the award by googling "OPHI genius award winners" and clicking on the 2014 link.

**"For this year,
we are looking
for a volunteer
school who
will want to
pilot a very
unique straw
bale garden"**

Calling Garden Innovators

Two of the Farm to School and School Garden Network's school garden goals are to increase the number of edible school gardens in Oregon, and to have at least one garden in every county. One way to help reach these goals is a new idea where a school can try out a completely temporary garden that can be recycled after it's done! This is called "straw bale gardens"

and it can be done for surprisingly less money than you would think. There are many benefits, including virtually no weeding and a nice raised-bed access.

We love to collect examples of innovative gardens in Oregon. For this school year, we are looking for a volunteer school who will want to pilot a very unique straw bale garden. Ideal locations would be

where there are poor growing conditions, especially poor soil. One can even be done on asphalt, and is perfect for a school who wants to try out a garden, and it is completely temporary! Check out the book "Straw Bale Gardens" by Joel Karsten. If you are interested in hosting a site like this, please contact Rick Sherman at the contact info on page 4.

New Regional School Garden Hubs Forming

In January 2014, Oregon hosted its first annual School Garden Summit at the 4H center in West Salem. We had over 200 individuals who were mostly made up of school garden coordinators at local schools throughout Oregon.

The feeling that was shared was that those attending used to feel all alone, however because of this

meeting and the Oregon school garden map (see lead story on page 1) they are feeling more and more connected, and are able to get help and advice more easily now.

One of the thoughts that came out of this gathering was to create **regional school garden hubs**. One such pilot project was started in Linn county, which includes schools

mostly from Albany and Lebanon. The group met three times this summer and also went on a garden tour and are planning to host a back to school garden day. If your area is interested in forming a hub, contact Rick Sherman (contact info on page 4)



**Some of the 15 Linn County
Hub members meeting this
summer**



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This newsletter is *planned* to be published quarterly by the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Department (ODE FSSG) of Oregon Department of Education, Office of Learning, Child Nutrition Programs.

ODE FSSG is part of the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network. For a listing of the network's goals and resources, please visit the "Resources" section of the website on the left.

Do you have an interesting photo or school garden story you'd like to share? Please forward to Rick Sherman at the address on the left.

Oregon Harvest for Schools

The Oregon Harvest for Schools is a program that was developed to promote and educate people about Oregon grown produce.

Initially, the program had 12 components which included posters, Spanish & English newsletters, menu templates and an educational "poster activities" piece. Funding was secured to print out the initial 12 items, many of which are still available to ship for free to schools and organizations in Oregon. The next phases of the project expanded this from the initial 12 items to include 14 new fruits and veggies, plus new items like a passport and stickers, and farmer's posters. The "poster activities" were reconfigured to a more user-friendly "Classroom Connections" educational supplement. As funding has become available, we have printed cer-

tain portions of new materials to add to our inventory to send out to Oregon schools and organizations.



UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE!!!

We are in the late stages of completing the rest of this project. We will end up having 36 items! When new items come online, they are placed on

the website (see below) for downloading. We are trying to secure additional funding to enable us to print out hard copies to ship out to Oregon schools and organizations for free.

Not only are we highlighting Oregon fruits and veggies as normal, but we are able to highlight other Oregon-produced foods in the dairy, meat, seafood and grains categories.

The website will go through a redesign and re-launch early in the 2014-15 school year. Check the website often to see the new happenings.

There is an order form on the website, fill this out and email it to the address provided for free materials.

The website is at:

www.ode.state.or.us/go/h4s