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**Farm to School and School Garden grants continue to transform Oregon school lunch**

Twenty-two awardees use nearly $990,000 in state funding for food-, agriculture-, and garden-based educational activities

**Salem, Ore., January 11, 2017** – This year, school lunch for nearly 12,000 Oregon students is continuing to transform thanks to an infusion of food education. The Oregon Department of Education has announced that twenty awardees are the recipients of competitive Farm to School and School Garden grant for food-, agriculture-, and garden-based education activities totaling $982,000, which will provide over 116,000 hours of farm to school educational programming. The funding was available to school districts, Educational Service Districts, nonprofit entities, commodity commissions or councils, watershed councils, and Tribal organizations across the state – from the Oregon Coast, through the metro regions, to remote Eastern Oregon.

The grant program is the product of House Bill 2038—the Farm to School & School Garden Bill—passed by the Oregon State Legislature with unanimous support in 2017. There is another portion to the grant that is a non-competitive award ($3.5 million) available to all Oregon school districts to assist in paying for costs incurred by the school district to purchase Oregon grown or processed food. It may not be enough to simply expose students to fresh, local healthy food by itself without teaching them about it, which is where the competitive educational grant comes in. It’s designed to work in harmony with the non-competitive portion to have a greater impact on healthy choices and habits for Oregon students.

This is a continuation of previous grants passed by the Oregon State Legislature. The most recent version of this grant awarded $4.5 million to 141 schools and 15 organizations, resulting in a very successful program in which many best sustainable best practices were showcased and replicated across the state.

**Highlights and Innovations from the Winning Entries Farm to School Grant Proposals**

**Bethel School District** *Awarded: $65,951 (153 students)*

Bethel School District will strengthen and expand its existing Farm to School Program and provide year-round learning opportunities at the district-owned Bethel Farm. Funding will be used to develop and deliver farm-based sustainable agriculture classes during the school year, and a summer internship program that offers career preparation in agriculture and culinary arts. Bethel School District will also collaborate with several community partners to offer family programming and a farm-based Summer Youth Camp for elementary students.

**Curry Watershed Council, Gold Beach** *Awarded: $29,266 (472 students)*

Curry Watershed Partnership reaches K-8 students in three school districts providing hands-on food & farm education including: food systems, field trips, nutrition/cooking, school gardens, taste testing’s, with specific Oregon grown lessons.  Driftwood School Garden will be rebuilt providing each class with their own raised bed, hydroponic lettuce, a pollinator garden, dye garden and high yield beds for our Farm-to-School dinner. Finally, we will pilot an after school and summer program for garden based education.

**Food Roots, Tillamook** *Awarded: $39,911 (160 students)*

Food Roots will provide students in Tillamook County with classroom- and garden-based Farm to School educational lessons, as well as farm field trips, classroom farmer visits, local food tastings, after school and summer activities, family engagement events, and the School to Market project, in which students plan, plant, tend, and cultivate vegetable crops from their school garden to then harvest and sell at local farmer’s markets during the summer.

**Greater Albany School District** *Awarded: $54,602 (150 students)*

Students at Memorial Middle School will benefit by an expansion of their garden curriculum, presence of two Garden Educators advancing the hands-on curriculum, and regular appearances in the classroom by Oregon producers and processors. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to visit farms and processing plants- enabling them to learn firsthand about Oregon agriculture- where our food comes from & what Oregon farmers and processors provide us for healthy eating. The final aspect of this funding will support healthy eating, making smart choices for a healthier lifestyle.

**Growing Gardens, Portland** *Awarded: $86,734 (1250 students)*

Growing Gardens will be cultivating school garden programs that are culturally representative of the communities with whom we partner. At our partner schools we plan to: increase pre-k and family gardening programming onsite; pilot an in-depth food traditions classroom unit during which, a culturally representative garden will be planned and planted; and we will develop a cohort of School Garden Coordinators from our partner school communities.

**Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization** *Awarded: $60,000 (670 students)*

IRCO’s Oregon Farm to School grant will provide services at three schools within Portland Public Schools. Each of these schools have Hunger Relief, gardening and community programs that this grant will enhance. This grant will Include engagement of students/families from communities of color (with a focus on immigrants and refugees); Partner with science and health teachers to incorporate the “science of cooking” into school day and extended day activities; Offer extended day cooking classes using produce from school gardens; Distribute school garden produce in food backpack and pantry programs; Feature school garden produce in food demonstrations in family and community cook-off events and offer student-led “Local Food Day” events featuring local food farms and industries with intention to highlight multicultural immigrant refugee communities.

**KairosPDX** *Awarded: $14,968 (165 students)*

KairosPDX is using this grant to expand their Partnership with Mudbone Grown Unity Farm where students will have opportunities to engage in hands on experiential educational programming while sharing knowledge of and pride in the rich African American historical legacy of farming and gardening in Portland, Oregon.

**McKinney Elementary, Hillsboro School District** *Awarded: $46,678 (469 students)*

W. Verne McKinney Elementary, a Title I STEM school, is bringing agriculture into the classroom and cafeteria in partnership with local food producers and Oregon environmental organizations. The school is advancing academic rigor by embedding agriculture into the newly adopted science curriculum, and through such activities as a school garden and after school clubs. The activities facilitated by this grant seek to bring together community businesses, teachers, and families to strengthen support networks for households that may be experiencing food insecurity.

**Oregon Cattle Experience** *Awarded: $28,149 (860 students)*

Together, Oregon Aglink, Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom, Oregon Beef Council, Oregon Dairy and Nutrition Council and Oregon CattleWomen are excited to present an “Oregon Cattle Experience” to middle school students in seven schools across the state. Students will learn about Oregon’s beef and dairy cattle industries by participating in field trips, preparing recipes and meeting farmers and ranchers.

**OSU Extension, Central Oregon, Madras** *Awarded: $31,922 (500 students)*

The student programs that will be implemented and continued with the ODE Farm to School Education Grant in the 509J School District will occur at Madras Elementary-STEAM into Ag Program; Buff Elementary Garden Club & Metolius Elementary-Meat Magic and Great Grains Curriculum. They will also create a central Oregon ag. education resource library for local teachers/educators.

**OSU Extension, Klamath Basin, Klamath Falls** *Awarded: $47,628 (432 students)*

Klamath Basin Extension and Research Center is partnering with 9 schools in Klamath County and City School Districts to connect youth to their food supply and increase access to healthy foods. Youth “Eat Their Way through Oregon” with monthly food tastings paired with “tasting” passports. 2-4th graders learn how to grow and cook foods and attend farm tours during planting and harvesting. Schoolwide “Taste of Oregon Learning Fair” features each growing region in Oregon. Guest farmers share lunch with students during “Feed Your Farmer” weeks. Youth/families attend gardening workshops, summer farm tours, cooking challenges and “crunch at once” community-wide promotion.

**Outgrowing Hunger, Portland** *Awarded: $58,616 (200 students)*

Earth, Art and Agriculture programming provides experiential learning for children by getting them outside in a garden. Classes engage students with the natural world, and incorporate art-making across the curriculum. Children grow crops from seed, tend raised beds, and learn about plant and animal life cycles and the garden ecosystem. They create art installations using objects found in the garden. They sketch birds, and do botanical drawings, draw maps and design garden plans, write poetry, and sing songs.

**Phoenix School, Roseburg** *Awarded: $8,000 (85 students)*

Through the addition of a ¼ acre of structured raised beds, Phoenix School hopes to increase year-round production of vegetables for their USDA food program. Phoenix believes our garden provides an excellent opportunity to engage our students in meaningful work and skills-learning that lead them to a healthier future.

**Rogue Valley Farm to School, Central Point** *Awarded: $65,362 (350 students)*

This award will support a district-wide partnership between Rogue Valley Farm to School (RVF2S) and Central Point School District #6. Programming will include two on-farm Harvest Meal field trips for all classes in selected grade levels each year, monthly Tasting Tables featuring a different Harvest of the Month in all of the school cafeterias, weekly school garden education programs at all of the elementary schools in the district, quarterly teacher professional development, and the support of RVF2S Farm2Cafeteria coordinator in sourcing Oregon grown and produced food.

**Sauvie Island Center, Portland** *Awarded: $51,249 (600 students)*

Through the Seasons, Connecting Urban Students to a Working Farm: Students from North and Northeast Portland will participate in two field trips to the Sauvie Island Center and two classroom lessons to experience how a farm changes through the seasons. Students explore, tend, and taste vegetables on the farm, take home veggie bundles and kid-friendly recipe booklets, and track the vegetables they taste in a passport. Teachers receive a materials and curricula to support and extend the field trip experience.

**School Garden Project, Lane County** *Awarded: $25,792 (1866 students)*

This support will enable School Garden Project to provide hands-on garden education for more than 1,800 students in 12 Eugene and Springfield schools. Next Generation Science Standards serve as the basis for lessons that engage students in their own school gardens, gaining science skills, growing vegetables and eating what they grow. Join us in the garden for active science lessons, planting, tasting, and fun!

**Schoolyard Farms, Milwaukie** *Awarded: $72,955 (299 students)*

Schoolyard Farms will innovatively use the school farms at Candy Lane Elementary and New Urban High School as pathways to engage diverse communities in skills-training, social support and fostering a culture of Farm to School through weekly school day STEM-based gardening and cooking lessons, monthly tastings of Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables in the cafeteria and Family Cooking Nights.

**South Fork John Day Watershed Council** *Awarded: $29,358 (120 students)*

Their Farm to School Academy will connect elementary students with local food producers, teach them the science behind healthy foods in the human body, and encourage the larger community toward healthy lifestyle choices. Our program is designed to show youth the variety of ways that members of our community produce healthy foods, from small hobby gardens to large-scale ranching ventures. We will then give students the opportunity to build a community garden of their own.

**Salem Keizer Education Foundation** *Awarded: $47,613 (700 students)*

This project focuses on 17 schools that will include four distinct, yet inter-related programs:

Urban Ag Fest field trips; Mobile Ag Fest and Family Night Cooking Classes; Seed to Supper and

Native Culture Cooking Classes.

Each program will include a variety of activities based on next generation science standards such as: living necklaces, what’s the source, wheat grinding and bread in a bag, smoothie bike blenders, bug bonanza, strawberry DNA extraction, tastebud science, vermicomposting, tasting tables and family nights, we will provide food, agriculture, culinary and garden-based Farm to School activities to Salem-Keizer students and their families.

**South Lane School District, Cottage Grove** *Awarded: $40,345 (530 students)*

South Lane School District will implement new opportunities to further engage their students, particularly those with limited resources and access to enrichments programs. Recess Garden Clubs will be established at three K-5 schools to provide additional accessibility to garden based activities during the school day. Kennedy High School will cultivate a small-scale orchard and berry farm on their campus that will provide technical skills, healthy food and a strong connection to the land and community.

**Supa Fresh Youth Farm, Portland**

**(Oregon Human Development Corporation)** *Awarded: $48,987 (810 students)*

The Supa Fresh Youth Farm will provide educational opportunities for disadvantaged students, grades K-12, in the Tigard-Tualatin School District. Students will increase healthy habits, knowledge of local food systems, and cultivate food justice in their community through leadership activities and lessons. High school students will operate a farm business, create an edible garden and food pantry at their high school campus, and lead a mentoring program to teach elementary students lessons on nutrition and agriculture.

**Zenger Farm, Portland** *Awarded: $27,914 (831 students)*

Farm School is built on an innovative collaboration between the David Douglas School District (DDSD) and Zenger Farm. It includes all 28 of the district’s 5th-grade classrooms, students visit the farm during 3 seasons (fall, winter, and spring) and complete different science-focused lessons in the farm, garden, and wetland during each visit while harvesting and tasting different crops available in each season. Lessons are responsive to teachers’ needs and aligned with the DDSD science curriculum.

**To learn more about the individual grant proposals and grant program details, please visit the Oregon Farm to School website, or contact Rick Sherman, Oregon Department of Education, Farm to School and School Garden Coordinator, 503-947-5863,** **Rick.Sherman@state.or.us****.**