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

Second round of awards go to thirty-five awardees to use nearly $1.5 million in state funding for food-, agriculture-, and garden-based educational activities

**Salem, Ore., *Update*: May 2020** – This year, school lunch for nearly 42,000 Oregon students is continuing to transform thanks to an infusion of food education. The Oregon Department of Education has announced that thirty-five awardees are the recipients of competitive Farm to School and School Garden grants for food-, agriculture-, and farm-based education activities totaling $1,530,928, which will provide over 113,000 hours of farm to school educational programming. The funding was available to school districts, Sponsors of Child and Adult Care Food Programs, Educational Service Districts, nonprofit entities, commodity commissions or councils, watershed councils, Oregon Food Producers 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 2579—the Farm to School & School Garden Bill—passed by the Oregon State Legislature with unanimous support in 2019. There are other portions to the grant as well, the largest portion being a non-competitive award available to all Oregon school districts and child and adult food care programs 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 is designed to work in harmony with the non-competitive portion to have a greater impact on healthy choices and habits for Oregon students.

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

**Agri-Camp USA** *Awarded: $56,659 (2,250 students)*

The Klamath County Grows project will bring classrooms to life through agriculture and gardening at three Klamath County Schools- Gilchrest Elementary, Peterson Elementary, and Triad Elementary. This project will provide funds to create outdoor learning spaces by revitalizing the greenhouse at Gilchrest Elementary and repairing and adding garden beds at Peterson Elementary and Triad. Additionally, all students in all schools will have twice monthly agriculture and garden based activities designed to inspire and engage students with STEM and Art themes connected to food and agriculture.

**Bethel School District** *Awarded: $99,993 (5,473 students)*

The Bethel Farm to School Project will expand and enhance programming for students at multiple elementary schools and Kalapuya High School in the Bethel School District. Kalapuya High School students will lead spring and fall field trips, becoming farm leaders for the day as they mentor elementary students at different agricultural stations. Kalapuya students will also actively manage the apiary and farm throughout the year – and can apply to become paid summer agricultural interns on the farm. Families will access farm activities, community cooking and nutrition classes, and multi-cultural events, co-hosted with Huerto de la Familia on the farm.

**Capaces** *Awarded: $99,612 (500 students)*

Capaces’ Anahuac Program is a “seed to table” culturally specific agriculture and culinary education program targeted at farmworker children, youth and their families from the

Woodburn School District. Children, youth, and their families will learn and put into practice the gardening, basic farming, production, packaging, and culinary aspects of cultural appropriate agricultural products from the from their indigenous ethnic background (Mixtec, Zapotec, Maya, Purepecha...). This is equivalent to the tribe types of North America. The program activities will be centered at (1) FHDC’s Nuevo Amancer community in partnership with NAPS, WHSA, FPMD, and NMEL, and at (2) Washington Elementary School.

**Curry Soil & Water Conservation District** *Awarded: $72,309 (610 students)*

Curry County K-8 students in two rural coastal school districts will examine and participate in their local food system. In the garden, students will learn natural processes while growing food for the school cafeteria. In the classroom, students will explore Oregon Agriculture and prepare for field experiences. On field trips, students will interact with producers, processors, fisherman, and tribal members. After-school students will learn to cook, plan and then serve a Farm to School dinner showcasing local food in a meal for family and community. We are working closely with school & community to find solutions for education during/after COVID-19.

**Elgin School District** *Awarded: $35,082 (300 students)*

Elgin SD will be developing an educational animal production program for grades PK-12. The Agricultural Science Program at Elgin High School will be overseeing this project through the production of hogs for consumption, which will in turn be utilized in the school lunch program and sold locally to invest back into the swine production program. Students in grades 7-12 will learn management best practices, and in turn manage the daily operations of a swine production facility. EHS students will develop educational field days for students at Stella Mayfield Elementary to learn about livestock production for food.

**Sea Mercy (Growing a Future Farm)** *Awarded: $91,797 (1,476 students)*

The Growing a Future program is a 3-acre Eco-friendly school farm that encourages our K-12 students and community members to participate in ecological and agricultural focused teaching and training programs within a safe, self-sustaining and innovative learning environment. We want the students to be educated on how to correctly manage and care for soil, how to properly grow food from seed to harvest, what ecological farming looks like, as well as why ecological farming is important, and how the students can implement what they learn on the farm at their own home.

**Forest Grove School District** *Awarded: $45,225 (5,920 students)*

FGSD will expand their school garden program by using funds to pay for instructional time of a School Garden Coordinator and Educator for the 2020/2021 school year; a position which is instrumental for providing and increasing accessibility to garden-based education in our schools. Through a partnership with EdenAcres Environmental Education and the Forest Grove School District, the Garden Coordinator will work with teachers to develop and deliver place-, experiential-, and garden-based curricula and coordinate field trips to farms and food-based organizations. They will implement Lunch and Recess garden programming and support the development and installation of existing and new school gardens.

**Kairos PDX** *Awarded: $56,027 (240 students)*

KairosPDX will further grow their Farm to School Programming. This includes hiring a Garden Education Specialist, deepening our farm field trip partnerships, highlighting Oregon growers through Family Engagement programming, solidifying regular cafeteria taste tests, and implementing infrastructure to increase staying power for all the work that our FoodCorps Service Members have done. All Oregon Grown and Processed Foods procured with this grant will prioritize purchases from producers who are people of color, Tribal members, women; those with fair labor and/or environmentally sound practices; as well as purchases of culturally relevant foods.

**Kids Unlimited** *Awarded: $57,607 (700 students)*

Kids Unlimited Academy has committed to building a culture of health within the school over the last five years. This project will expand this effort via a partnership with Rogue Valley Farm to School and their Digging Deeper School Partnership Program, a partnership with OSU SNAP education programs and the establishment of a compost and garden renewal project to revitalize the school garden. The program will serve all 700 of the Pre-k through 8th grade students and summer camp students, providing more than 50 hours of hands-on garden and nutrition education to at least 100 of those students.

**Lane County Youth Services** *Awarded: $93,371 (119 students)*

The MLK Education Center serves adjudicated students who are currently assessed as being high-risk to re-offend and have an active case with Lane County Dept. of Youth Services (LCYS). The mission is to provide students with opportunities to develop skills needed to be successful in school, work and the community. The ‘Phoenix Garden Project’ (PGP) will provide roughly 120 youth monetary stipends and high school science credit, a subject not previously offered by MLK. The project will connect youth with a unique blend of classroom education and hands on learning in the 1-acre garden & industrial kitchen. The goal of the project is providing 2700hrs of curriculum during the grant period.

**Moore Family Center, OSU** *Awarded: $71,573 (9,179 students)*

Providing engaged gardening and nutrition education fosters lasting connections to local foods and enables the next generation of food & health leaders. This project has two connected focus areas: 1) a cohort of teen health advocates will be trained as 4-H Teens as teachers’ educational assistants for an elementary after-school nutrition/gardening program. They will also establish a new Farm to School educational campaign in their District. 2) With these advocates, 2nd and 3rd graders from three underserved schools will engage in the Growing Healthy Kids after-school nutrition/gardening program using new school gardens (established through this project).

**Marion Polk Food Share** *Awarded: $94,876 (510 students)*

The Marion Polk Food Share Youth Farm will promote youth leadership and healthy food access for students in northeast Salem by engaging teens in the sustainable production of fresh produce for the diverse community surrounding the 6-acre urban farm. Through a mixture of farm field trips, intensive garden training, and an in-depth summer internship, youth participants from under-resourced communities will gain the knowledge, skills, and self-confidence needed to produce nutritious, culturally appropriate food for local food-insecure families.

**Multnomah 4H/OSU ext.** *Awarded: $44,725 (700 students)*

The Multnomah Teens as Teachers Project will train/support a cadre of 160 F2S teen leaders for developing youth leadership capacity and expand outreach of F2S through teen teachers who plan, teach and deliver nutrition, food, ag, and garden lessons to 700 youth ages 6-12. Through the Teens as Teachers program, youth from migrant farm worker families in the MESD Migrant Ed Summer school will be actively engaged in learning how to 1) cook and prepare nutritious recipes using local foods; 2) learn agriculture, science and gardening ; and 3) understand farm production and where their food comes from through farm-based field trips.

**Oregon Child Development Coalition** *Awarded: $30,666 (150 students)*

Enable 100 preschool aged children from low income families to explore all of their senses in the garden — from helping to plant seeds, to harvesting, to actually experiencing using the produce in food experiences or to take home to their families. Children enjoy hands-on activities and love to be part of garden projects. The mission is to provide a variety of activities to stimulate learning experiences for young children with the goal of providing education for good food choice, sustainability through engaging activities and resources that encourage children to explore and engage in the world around them.

**Oregon State University** *Awarded: $99,997 (2,000 students)*

Oregon Harvest for Schools Cultural Toolkits (OH4S-C) uses an innovative approach to build on the successful and universally used OH4S campaign in ways that increase equity. This project addresses identified barriers and moves towards a more diverse participation in farm to school. OH4S-C will facilitate African Heritage, Latinx and Native American Oregonians through existing diverse work groups to curate three new OH4S toolkits appropriate to each cultural group that includes culturally appropriate activities, recipes and gathering and harvesting techniques. OH4S-C will include posters, videos, coloring sheets, newsletters, garden signs and USDA meal pattern approved quantity recipes for preK-12 and home.

**OSU Ext. Douglas County** *Awarded: $78,692 (1,480 students)*

Douglas County has historically been a county based in agriculture and their school gardens have grown immensely over the last two years. Their farmers’ market has received statewide acclaim for its growth and community involvement, and agriculture remains as one of the principal industries. With their high rates of poverty and food insecurity, gardening is an essential skill for their residents to obtain. With the ODE Farm to Child Nutrition grant, they will build a solid foundation in Douglas County for a healthier future through agriculture and garden education.

**OSU Ext. Wasco County** *Awarded: $69,222 (600 students)*

The Wasco County 4-H “Growing Communities” project will collaborate with three school districts and several local community organizations to provide service-learning opportunities in food and farm education. Building off a solid foundation of community partnerships, the program seeks to reach underserved students through after school garden clubs, summer Migrant Education programming, virtual and in-school Oregon Agriculture instruction, and an innovative hydroponics/aquaponics entrepreneurial project. The project will increase youth’s enthusiasm, involvement, and skills in horticulture; educate youth about the importance of agriculture in Oregon’s economy; and increase the amount of Oregon Food products consumed by students.

**OSU Ext. Yamhill County** *Awarded: $79,999 (2,600 students)*

The OSU Extension 4-H Program is partnering with Elementary Schools in the McMinnville School District to provide learning activities that promote health and nutrition as well as how to prepare healthy recipes from Oregon grown products. The program promotes Oregon Agriculture and highlights the farms that supply produce through the Farm to School Program. OSU Extension has the capacity to provide lessons in Spanish and English both in the classroom and afterschool.

**Phoenix School of Roseburg** *Awarded: $38,928 (603 students)*
Phoenix School is building partnerships with Oregon growers, producers, and processors to increase the consumption of healthy local foods in their year-round food programs. Local farmers, orchardists, ranchers, and processors will help Phoenix Agriculture and Food Services students conduct weekly events to showcase the varieties of healthy, local foods and the many ways they can be featured in school and family diets.

**Prairie City School District** *Awarded: $83,427 (300 students)*

Prairie City School District will hire a Farm to School Coordinator to oversee gardening and agriculture education activities in the elementary grades, in conjunction with the existing agriculture, food and natural resource program in the middle and high school. Students will learn how food is grown/raised in the already established land lab, livestock facility, and greenhouse. Chickens will be raised for eggs, vegetables for the school salad bar, fruit, pork and beef will be raised by students, harvested by students, and prepared in meals for students. The recipes will be shared with parents and the greater community in a cookbook.

**Blue Zones Project** *Awarded: $10,000 (955 students)*

Since 2017, Blue Zones Project and community partners have installed five gardens at schools and juvenile facilities and launched a 1700-hour AmeriCorps School Garden Coordinator position reaching over 500 students since September. In 2020-2021 the AmeriCorps Member will provide garden coordination at three elementary schools and one foster youth education program. Service will focus on education and systems to improve attitudes and knowledge related to agriculture and healthy eating through a sustainable garden program at each site. The Coordinator will assist each facility with developing an annual production cycle that could supplement the school meals program featuring Oregon Harvest of the Month and facilitating outdoor learning classrooms to engage students in all aspects of growing food, inspiring a sense of place and connection.

**Central Oregon Locavore** *Awarded: $4,185 (310 students)*

Central Oregon Locavore aims to expand the Farm Kids program to offer field trips during the fall harvest months. In the autumn of 2020, they anticipate making field trips to local farms available to 300 students from schools with 40% or more of their students receiving free and reduced meals. They also plan to engage high school students involved with Future Farmers of America (FFA) as learning station leaders. Their aim is to create a meaningful, curriculum-based experience for elementary and high school students alike that enhances their knowledge of sustainable agricultural process and healthy food choices.

**David Douglas School District,**

**Gilbert Park Elementary** *Awarded: $8,348 (550 students)*

Gilbert Park will utilize funding to enhance and expand their garden by partnering with Grow Portland to bring expert garden school programming to their K-5 school of 550 students. Grow Portland serves three Title 1 David Douglas schools, integrating experiential and culturally responsive environmental stewardship education into the curriculum. Grow Portland will guide Gilbert Park’s students and teachers in growing fresh vegetables and coordinating harvests with the cafeteria to promote healthy eating. Grow Portland educators will make scientific concepts come alive through hands-on activities and outdoor exploration as students discover and interact with the natural world outside.

**FOOD for Lane County** *Awarded: $5,987 (7 students)*

The Youth Farm Corps (YFC) will meet October-April and be open to 7 youth, ages 15-18. They will meet 8 hours per month, travel to FFLC Partner Agency gardens to help with maintenance, help with gardening tasks at gardens managed by the School Garden Project, receive training and education in gardening, nutrition, food systems and food security, and have a guest speaker or field trip 1 time/month. Participants will come from schools with a high percentage of students who qualify for free/reduced lunch. The Gardens Program Manager will arrange educational activities, coordinate with Partner Agencies and recruit/supervise interns and volunteers.

**Greater Albany School District** *Awarded: $9,991 (195 students)*

1.) Provide a hands-on Gardening Educational Experience to participants/students from Memorial Middle School (MMS) & Boys & Girls (B&G) After-School Club participants at Waverly Elementary School (WES).2.) Develop lesson plans with teachers to utilize their garden experiences to meet state standards across curricula (math, science, language arts, etc.) 3.) Provide participants with weekly (Facebook-type), “What’s Happening in the Garden” at MMS & B&G After school Club at WES. 4.) Provide materials and supplies to support those gardening activities for families, students and educators. 5.) Enrich participants’ diets with healthy fresh grown fruits and vegetables from the garden & Oregon producers.

**Jefferson School District** *Awarded: $9,988 (377 students)*

Jefferson Elementary School has seen a lot of change in a short amount of time. In the process of passing a bond measure and completing major expansion of the school and parking lot, they lost their existing school garden. They are seeking grant-based funding to assist in the re-establishment of an outdoor learning environment in a different location.They would like to create an area adjacent to their playground that would have an outdoor classroom, 12-14 raised beds, shade trees, benches/tables, and an automated irrigation system. This area would be accessible by students, staff, and families.

**Klamath County School District,**

**Lost River School** *Awarded: $10,000 (550 students)*

Lost River High School hopes to bring more agricultural projects to not only its own student body, but to the student bodies at the two elementary schools in its communities. By completing this outreach project, high school students will get to teach elementary students about growing their own food, by doing it right in their own cafeterias with the use of Tower Gardens. Lost River students will also expand its own growing areas with the addition of a Farm Bot and another greenhouse.

**Kings Valley & Luckiamute Charter** *Awarded: $9,997 (300 students)*

Funding will provide supplies to replicate a successful model for outdoor garden-based education currently in Kings Valley Charter School and begin a new gardening program from scratch on two campuses of Luckiamute Valley Charter School. Over 200 students from three rural schools in grades K-8 will receive direct education and experiential learning in weekly outdoor garden-based education as part of their regular curriculum based on the learning and milestones gained through experience. Our model program will advance from school garden, to a small farm program that could include high school students within the next couple of years and classroom STEM learning.

**LaGrande School Disctrict/Central School** *Awarded: $9,085 (487 students)*

Central Elementary will install nine aeroponic tower gardens to use in the classrooms, cafeteria, and during after-school clubs and community events. These efficient indoor gardens address the challenge of the short growing season in Eastern Oregon. Supported by admin, teachers, OSU Extension SNAP Educators, and the FoodCorps service member, the gardens will be integrated into math, science, social studies, language arts, and nutrition curriculum. Students will receive hands-on programming in planting seeds, maintaining the towers and their plants, harvesting, and tasting and cooking with the produce to foster self-sufficiency and enable students to play a key role in food production.

**Neighborhood House** *Awarded: $6,405 (209 students)*

With this grant funding, Neighborhood House programs will be able to build a school garden at their SCC center and Markham classroom. This will provide at-risk students, aged 3-5, the opportunity to grow their curiosity and creativity, language and communication, cognitive and social-emotional skills. Students will assist in building, growing, and maintaining a school garden. Through this project, students will be exposed to nutritious foods and healthy eating habits, positively impacting their health and sense of community.

**Oregon Ag Link** *Awarded: $9,983 (240 students)*

Adopt a Famer connects middle school students with farmers and ranchers around the state to engage in agriculture-based education. This project will build on current programing by incorporating nutrition and culturally relevant experiential activities on farm field trips, classroom visits, and Oregon Harvest of the Month table tastings in two large, urban schools. Through these experiences, students will increase their knowledge of agriculture, their curiosity of careers in Oregon’s food system, and their preferences for new food.

**OSU Extension Lincoln Co.** *Awarded: $10,000 (400 students)*

This project, named Rural Roots, incorporates elements of education, procurement, and school gardens. Rural Roots will focus on the Eddyville Charter School community, and aims (1) to empower students to discover, implement, and promote opportunities for changing the nutrition environment in their school, while (2) engaging students and school partners in efforts to incorporate Oregon grown produce in school meals, and (3) providing hands-on edible garden education for students and families, coordinating with existing school garden and greenhouse activities. Rural Roots will result in (4) sustainable programs and resources that promote Oregon produce in the cafeteria, classroom, households, and community.

**Madison High School, Portland Public** *Awarded: $9,985 (1,241 students)*

This grant will allow the Madison High School Sustainable Agriculture Program to extend the summer use of an auxiliary farm site into the fall and spring. The site can be used as a hub for program activity in the 2020-21 school year. The funding will be used to hire Youth Interns and a Farm Manager who will build the educational capacity of the Program. Youth Interns will educate students while providing produce for cafeteria food demos and cooking projects in the classes. In addition, the grant will support field trips and community farm work gatherings.

**Tillamook School District** *Awarded: $9,909 (60 students)*

Wilson River is Tillamook’s alternative high school. Students placed here are at risk of dropout and have been traditionally unsuccessful. 100% of the students qualify for Free and Reduced meals. The school’s garden and soon to be built greenhouse are the school’s hub. They provide a living classroom where students experience growing and harvesting plants and preparing food. We would like to expand the greenhouse to include a hydroponics system. Fish growth and harvest could be added, as well as fertilization. With this addition, a self-sustaining ecosystem will be created as well as great opportunity for student learning.

**Winston-Dillard School District,**

**Douglas School** *Awarded: $7,278 (225 students)*

The next critical step in reviving the Ag program at Douglas High School is developing the horticulture program. They are repairing an old greenhouse to become a hydroponics center for growing food grade produce to be used by the cafeteria and sold to the public. This grant will provide funding to purchase equipment to get the hydroponics program in place. Students will learn the basics of hydroponics systems while building them and then using the system to grow food grade produce. Students will learn industry standard skills that they will be able to use in the future.

**To learn more about the individual grant proposals and grant program details, please visit the** [**Oregon Farm to School website**](http://www.bit.ly/orf2s)**, or contact Rick Sherman, Oregon Department of Education, Farm to School and School Garden Coordinator,** **Rick.Sherman@state.or.us****.**