



ODE Farm to School Newsletter



September 1-30, 2020

FARM TO SCHOOL: INSIDE THE ISSUE



Oregon Harvest for Schools

The newest videos are here including Celery which was filmed entirely in [Spanish](#) and translated into [English](#) as well as Cabbage which is available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) versions.

Grant Updates

Progress reports for both Procurement and Education Grantees are due September 30, 2020. We also have an important update about the Competitive Procurement Grant.

FFVP Update

Updates on spending deadlines, USDA waivers and applications for SY 2020-2021.

Farm to School Spotlight

This week we focus on ODE Farm to School Education Grantees **The Environmental Center** and **CAPACES Leadership Institute**. We are interested in featuring and learning about what other programs and meal sites are doing as well. If you have pictures and stories you'd like to share with us for future issues please send them to us at FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us.





Our newest videos are here featuring Celery and Cabbage!

The month of September brings some new and exciting additions to the Oregon Harvest for Schools (OH4S) video series!

For the past ten years, we've introduced a lot of content in English, and then translated most items into Spanish. Since we continue to introduce new Oregon Harvest for Schools videos, we thought we'd try some totally in Spanish, with translation into English. Our very first video using this new process is Celery. Stay tuned as we have more projects like this coming soon that will be more relevant to our Latinx, Native American and African Heritage communities with continued partnership with Oregon State University's Food Hero Campaign and Rootopia!



A Spanish language version of the [Celery video](#) with Spanish captions.



A Spanish language version of the [Celery video](#) with English captions.



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



A Spanish language version of the [Cabbage Video](#).

Oregon Department of Education Child Nutrition Program's 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 cabbage and celery 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 cabbage and celery in Child Nutrition Program meals.

COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT GRANT UPDATES

We have an important update regarding the Competitive Procurement Grant and the recent Legislative Budget cuts. We were able to change our procedure and allow sponsors to apply for Farm to School funds, **even if their initial non-competitive award was liquidated.**

The Competitive Procurement Grant is now available to any recipients of a non-competitive Oregon Farm to School Procurement grant who have a zero balance of their initial non-competitive Oregon Farm-to-School Procurement Grant award.

This includes **grantees who have spent all of their funds** as well as **grantees who had their grant funds zeroed out due to the recent budget cuts.**

Applications can be found on the [Farm to School grants webpage](#). There is no due date for applications. Instead, we will accept and process applications until all available funds have been awarded.

PLEASE NOTE: We are awaiting final approval from the State Board of Education (SBE) on a rule change allowing sponsors who have used 100% of their competitive funds as well as those that have a zero balance due to the recent cuts, to apply for this grant. We are accepting applications but cannot grant awards until the new rule is adopted by the SBE in October.



Farm to School Grant Updates: Progress Reports Due September 30, 2020

Procurement Grant

Procurement Grant progress reports for Procurement Grant recipients are due **September 30, 2020**. You can link directly to the [progress report](#) or access it through the Farm to School grants [web page](#).

This progress report is mandatory, and required of all sponsors that participate in the ODE Farm to School Procurement Grant for Oregon grown or processed food. The survey should take about 1 hour to complete.

It may be helpful for you to review your baseline data from year 1 (for new sponsors), or your final report from last time (for returning sponsors). To request a copy of this data please contact the ODE Farm to School Team at FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us.

REMINDER: This report is due **September 30, 2020**. After this due date, you will not be able to submit future reimbursement claims or receive additional funding until this report is submitted.

Education Grant

Progress reports for **FIRST ROUND** Education Grantees are due on **September 30, 2020**. You can link directly to the [progress report](#) or access it through the Farm to School grants [web page](#).

You are required to submit a progress report for activities that occurred between July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. You will be asked to provide a summary of your project, activities completed for the time period above, goals and objectives achieved, and quantifiable outcomes. The progress report should be completed by the current Project Director for the Oregon Farm to School Education Grant. The progress report should take you approximately 1 hour to complete.

REMINDER: This report is due **September 30, 2020**. After this due date, you will not be able to submit future reimbursement claims until this report is submitted.

SECOND ROUND grantees will only be asked for a final report due in September 30, 2021.



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

Applications for 2020-2021 Now Open

Applications for the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) for SY 2020-2021 are [now open](#). You can also link to the application on the [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program webpage](#). These funds will cover any FFVP costs your participating schools incur between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021.

We will be accepting applications for SY 2020-2021 until **October 2, 2020**. Applications will be reviewed and turned around fairly quickly. An application does not guarantee an award, as we will award to schools with the highest need on down. Please submit applications to FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us.

If you are curious, or would like to learn more about the program, you can take a look at the slides from our annual training that took place on September 22, 2020 on the [FFVP webpage](#).

Reminders about SY 2020-2021 Operations

If you have questions about FFVP operations during COVID, SNS recently put out a very helpful [Q&A about Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Operations for SY 2020-21 during COVID-19](#).

Oregon also received two USDA waivers related to FFVP.

[Alternate Site Waiver](#) - This waiver allows approved school food authorities to offer FFVP foods from elementary schools closed due to COVID-19 at sites operating during school closures associated with COVID-19 through June 30, 2021.

[Parent Pick-Up Waiver](#) - This waiver allows State-approved school food authorities participating in the FFVP to distribute FFVP foods to a parent or guardian to take home to their children during non-congregate meal services due to the novel coronavirus through June 30, 2021.

FFVP IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

SY 2019-2020

The deadline to spend your FFVP balance for FY 2020 (October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020) is **September 30, 2020**.

July claims must be submitted by **Wednesday, September 30, 2020**.

August claims must be submitted by **Friday, October 30, 2020**.

September claims must be submitted by **Tuesday, December 1, 2020**.

SY 2020-2021

The deadline for application submission for SY 2020-2021 is **Friday, October 2nd, 2020**. Please submit applications to FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us.



Farm to School Spotlight: The Environmental Center

By Denise Rowcroft, Program Manager, School Gardens



Reflecting on our Spring & Summer Garden Pivot

When schools initially shut down due to COVID-19, we thought we were just getting a longer spring break. We were excited to start working with 2 schools right after spring break, working in our Kansas Ave learning garden and in a Redmond school garden. However, like many others, we quickly pivoted our planned work to other avenues when schools closed.

Learning Garden to Resilience Garden

For our on-site Kansas Avenue Learning Garden, we slowly planted it out to grow food for The Family Kitchen, potentially grow food for our students to harvest in the fall, and maybe to use with the Boy & Girls Club kids over the summer. Students that were supposed to come to the garden got weekly garden update videos instead. The full cycle farm field trip they were supposed to go on was turned virtual, and they got seeds and supplies to plant at home.

Grab and Go Garden & Nutrition Activity Kits

In Redmond, we went from planning to work directly with teachers and students to figuring out how we could get resources in the hands of parents now at home with their kids. We turned to Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom, who provided us with Living Necklaces and many other materials. We reached out to Redmond Nutrition Services to inquire about making activity packets to hand out to families that come for the meals, and our Grab and Go Garden & Nutrition Activity Packets idea was born. Over the course of 10 weeks we handed out 1,025 family activity packets. Kits included supplies for each kid to do the activity themselves, or to work on as a small group with siblings. The kits alternated weekly, from garden at home, seed germination or planting activities, to nutrition focused activities like mindful eating, learning about 'go, glow, grow' foods and how to make a 'power plate.'



Survey Says!

About half of the families completed surveys, and 79% of those parents said that 'After doing the garden-based activities, my child is interested in gardening and/or plants more than before,' and 32% of parents reported that 'After doing the nutrition-based activities, my child is interested in healthy foods more than before.' Said one mom, "My boys loved these activities. Even the ones that weren't so popular they made great conversation during meal times." Another said "It was wonderful having something positive and educational for our family during this time. Thank you so much!" We loved that we were able to pivot quickly and reach new families with these activities that aim to connect kids to nature through food.



From Cooking Food to Preparing Snacks

This summer, our partnership with our local Boys & Girls Club continued but with two stable groups of 10 kids who were grouped together all summer long. We strategized how we could still cook in the garden with kids while being safe in regards to COVID-19. For the cooking element this year, we went from preparing and cooking a shared meal to preparing an individual snack. These included making and eating a black bean dip (with a mortar and pestle!), "ants on a log," a lettuce wrap, pollinator salad, and a final garden harvest salad.

Looking Ahead

As the 2020-21 school year kicks off, we'll be adapting to Comprehensive Distance Learning alongside our whole community. Our staff will be working to support, maintain and expand outdoor garden classrooms as needed, while creating educational video content. We'll be navigating how to best support teachers with garden and nutrition-based learning opportunities for their distance classes now, and looking ahead to the next phase of hybrid in-school and distance learning. While we were excited to kick off and expand our popular Tasty Tuesdays to 4 schools this year, we're planning for the future and coming up with alternative ways to expose students and families to fresh healthy local food!

Farm to School Spotlight: Capaces Leadership Institute

By Jaime Arredondo, Executive Director

Somos Anahuac! Somos Capaces!

¡Ya levántate mijo! Vamos a pisar fresas. Wake up son! We are going to pick strawberries. Those were the words of my parents in my summer “vacations” growing up en *el valle*, the Willamette Valley--where everything grows. At first I enjoyed *las piscas*. *Acarisiaba las plantitas* (I would caress the plants) as I gently pull the fruit down into my bucket. It was like money grew on trees. The more I picked, the more money. And, the more money, the more food.



But, by the time I was a teenager, something had changed along the way. Maybe it was the fact that I couldn't afford those strawberries. *O quizás* that I had to drop school to go work. Or that my hands were stained, and people would look at them--*como si estuviera sucio* (like I was dirty). I started to hide them. I didn't want people to know that I was a *campesino* (farmworker).

Fast Forward to 2005. I had just graduated from college. After 12 years of spending my summers en *las piscas*, I was ready to move on. “*No mas piscas* (no more picking!). *I'm gonna be a teacher*,”--I remember telling everyone. Little did I know that I couldn't run away from myself. Later that summer I got a job as community organizer for Farmworker Housing Development Corporation's (FHDC) Colonia Libertad housing in Salem. I had to work right away. My *familia* needed me to contribute. “*I'll try this for a bit*,” I said to myself.



That bit turned into years, then a decade. And, after doing just about every job in the *movimiento campesino* and burning out several times along the way, I started to reflect on my experience, particularly my interaction with farmwork. I realized something massive was missing. Something hadn't healed. It was my relationship with the land y *todos sus frutos* (and all its fruits). Then came Anahuac.

Anahuac is Capaces' newest program. Its purpose is to preserve and pass on ancestral knowledge related to agriculture and food to our future generations. Children, youth, and families participating in the Anahuac Program connect with their cultural heritage through traditional agricultural ceremonies, community elders, traditional healing practices, traditional herbalism, native seeds, traditional cooking practices, diverse ancient art practices and land stewardship. Anahuac started as a pilot project of TURNO, our youth leadership program, in 2018. Despite COVID-19, it has continued to grow—literally—and is now our largest program. We serve TURNO youth, families from FHDC, youth from MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility, and this fall will be expanding to Washington Elementary School in Woodburn.



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1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
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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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