



# ODE Farm to School Newsletter



October 1-31, 2020

## FARM TO SCHOOL: INSIDE THE ISSUE



### Oregon Harvest for Schools

The newest videos are here including Beets in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) and Spinach in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). We also have two new posters, [Celery](#) and [Cucumbers](#) in English with Spanish coming soon!

### Grant Updates

Progress reports for both Procurement and Education Grantees are past due. If you have not submitted one yet, please do so as soon as possible. We also have important new updates about the Competitive Procurement Grant.

### FFVP Update

Welcome to a new year of FFVP! In this issue we highlight changes to the claims process for SY 2020-2021 and provide information on the most updated Q&A for operations during COVID.

### Farm to School Spotlight

This week we focus on ODE Farm to School Education Grantee **Marion Polk Food Share Youth Farm**. 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](mailto:FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us).







## Our newest videos are here featuring Beets and Spinach!

The month of October brings new additions to the Oregon Harvest for Schools (OH4S) video series!



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



A Spanish language version of  
the [Beets video](#).



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



A Spanish language version of  
the [Spinach video](#).

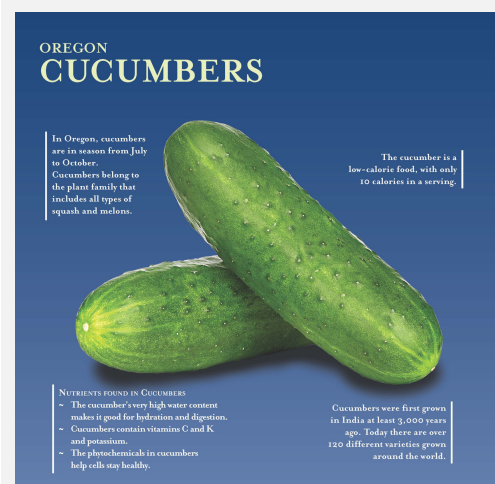
Oregon Department of Education Child Nutrition Program's and OSU Extension's Food Hero campaign have teamed up to launch this series which will include a total of 50 videos when complete. The series aims to educate students on healthy, Oregon food. For a comprehensive list of the videos we have available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

To find local vendors selling beets and spinach 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 beets and spinach in Child Nutrition Program meals.

## NEW OH4S POSTERS: CELERY AND CUCUMBERS!

Now available in English with Spanish coming soon. Feel free to download and print from the [Oregon Harvest for Schools website](#).





# Farm to School Grant Updates

## Competitive Procurement Grant

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**.

There is no due date for applications. Instead, we will accept and process applications until all available funds have been awarded.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to Legislative budget cuts, the funding for the Competitive Procurement Grant has been reduced from \$1,744,944 to \$450,000. The "first round" of the competitive procurement grant has closed. We will be posting an RFA for another round very soon. We have a balance of \$164,260.17 available so far for this next round. We will have more funds available during subsequent rounds of reallocation. Applications for the next round will be posted on the [Farm to School grants webpage](#).

## Procurement Grant

Procurement Grant progress reports for Procurement Grant recipients were due September 30, 2020. **If you have not yet completed your progress report, please do so as soon as possible.** You will not be able to submit future reimbursement claims or receive additional funding until this report is submitted.

You can link directly to the [progress report](#) or access it through the Farm to School grants [web page](#). The survey should take about 1 hour to complete.

## Education Grant

Progress reports for **FIRST ROUND** Education Grantees were due on September 30, 2020. **If you have not yet completed your progress report, please do so as soon as possible.** You will not be able to submit future reimbursement claims until this report is submitted.

You can link directly to the [progress report](#) or access it through the Farm to School grants [web page](#).

## USDA FNS FY 2021 FARM TO SCHOOL GRANTS ANNOUNCED

The fiscal year (FY) 2021 [Farm to School Grant Program Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) is now available. The solicitation officially opened October 16th, 2020, and will remain open until 11:59pm ET on January 8th, 2021. FNS seeks to award up to \$10 million this fiscal year.

Eligible schools, State and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, small- to medium-sized agricultural producers or groups of small- to medium-sized agricultural producers, and non-profit organizations are eligible for Farm to School grants.

New for FY 2021, institutions operating the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program at non-school based sites are included in the definition of eligible schools and may apply for funding.

The Office of Community Food Systems will host webinars:

[Tuesday, November 10th](#)  
and  
[Friday, November 13th](#),

each at 2:30pm ET, to help interested applicants learn more about the RFA and put together a grant package, respectively. A Frequently Asked Questions document will also be available through the [Farm to School Grant Applicant Resources Page](#) of the FNS website.

**SPECIAL NOTE FOR OREGON:** To support successful applications, the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network (OFSSGN) can connect potential applicants across the state or in regions of the state. If you are planning to apply, please let the OFSSGN know, and let them know if you would like to be aware/connected to others applying in your region or across the state. Email Melina at [melina@oregonfarmtoschool.org](mailto:melina@oregonfarmtoschool.org).





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

Welcome to another year of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program! The FFVP's fiscal year 2021 started October 1st. We hosted the annual training on Friday, October 2nd, but if you missed it, don't worry. You can review the training slides on the [FFVP web page](#).

Please take note of a few changes for this program year.

- We have a [new claims form](#). Please use this form moving forward.
- We also have a new claims process. This year please submit your claims to [FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us](mailto:FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us) for approval PRIOR to entering your claims into EGMS

We are expecting FFVP funds to arrive from the USDA by the end of October. Your EGMS contacts will receive a message when the funds are available in EGMS. You are welcome to submit October claims whenever they are ready for approval, even if the funds haven't been released yet. If you have any questions about the FFVP please email us at [FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us](mailto:FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us).

## **Reminders about SY 2020-2021 Operations**

If you have questions about FFVP operations during COVID, SNS put out an updated [Q&A about Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Operations for SY 2020-21 during COVID-19](#) on October 23, 2020.

Oregon also received two USDA waivers related to FFVP for SY 2020-2021.

**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.

These waivers relate directly to questions #4, #10, #12 and #13 on the [updated Q&A](#) and mean the answers will be slightly different for Oregon schools participating in FFVP as the waivers give allowances for our state.

**\*Special Note for FFVP participants from SY 2019-2020. The last date to submit September claims is Tuesday, December 1, 2020.**



# Farm to School Spotlight: Marion Polk Food Share Youth Farm

By Jared Hibbard-Swanson, Farm and Garden Program Manager



It's October 19th at the Marion Polk Food Share Youth Farm, and the teen farm crew is pulling in the last of this season's eggplants and peppers from our 6-acre vegetable plot. The totes of produce are stacked high on pallets in the barn, and the crew leaders tick off the numbers as the harvest is weighed 25...38...63...84...112 pounds of jalapenos alone. Outside, the farmers gather around the smoker to see how the smoked peppers are coming along, eager to take some home for autumn stews and salsas.

Despite the challenges of online education, a prolonged air quality emergency, and a global pandemic, the 19 teens of the Youth Farm crew are celebrating their accomplishments this season, and with good reason. Even with reduced working hours and crew sizes, the 2020 team managed to harvest a weekly average of more than 1000 pounds of fresh, nutritious produce every single week from July through October. They learned to cook healthy snacks with their peers, and they built the confidence to deliver workshops on gardening, cooking, and personal development to each other. And they did all of this while they struggled to navigate a newly isolated world under the threat of the virus.

What motivates these teens to contribute so much is not simply the sense of accomplishment they get from a day's job well done or the friendships they make. They are inspired to continue coming to the Youth Farm because they know that, as a team, they can make a positive difference in the lives of their neighbors. Many of the Youth Farmers have experienced the anxiety of not knowing where their next meal is going to come from. Many have felt the cultural dislocation of trying to find healthy and familiar foods in a new and unfamiliar country. And all of them have recognized the injustice of a food system that produces so much and still does not feed all of us.

The food the Youth Farmers grow goes directly into the community to help address some of these problems. This year, more than 25,000 pounds of fresh produce was distributed to 85 food insecure households who pick up weekly boxes of food, along with recipe ideas and cooking tips, at a local health clinic. The farmers strive to grow and offer food that will be accessible, enticing, and culturally relevant to the diverse populations they serve through their distributions.

Back at the farm, the peppers are coming off of the grill, and the bags of produce are being assembled for the crew to take home to their families as well. Potatoes, onions, scallions, cilantro, kale, bell peppers...the list goes on. As the tired farmers prepare to leave, they take their produce to get a taste of the nourishment that they are sending back out into the community.



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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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