



ODE Farm to School Newsletter



November 1-30, 2020

FARM TO SCHOOL: INSIDE THE ISSUE



Oregon Harvest for Schools

The newest videos are here! In this issue we feature Radishes in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Program Updates

The first round of Competitive Procurement Grants have been awarded. We will update everyone via our listserv as soon as the application for the second round is posted.

FFVP Update

SY 20-21 funds have arrived from USDA! In this issue we also 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 Grantees **Phoenix School of Roseburg** and **Corvallis Environmental Center**. 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.



Oregon School Garden count for the month of November: 771!

Take a look at the [Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Map](#) to explore and learn more!



Our newest videos are here featuring Radishes!

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



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



A Spanish language version of
the [Radishes 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 radishes 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 radishes in Child Nutrition Program meals.

Learning & Networking Opportunity: National Children & Youth Garden Symposium (NCYGS)

Each year, our Farm to School community usually has the opportunity to travel to a couple national and regional Farm to School gatherings. The national gatherings are typically the National Farm to School Network Conference (which takes place every other year), and the National Children & Youth Garden Symposium (NCYGS). The NYCGS has just been announced. The gathering will be online this year, creating the opportunity for even more people to attend! See the announcement below.

The American Horticultural Society is pleased to announce its 29th annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium (NCYGS), the only national professional development event of its kind where we are cultivating tomorrow's gardeners by energizing, inspiring, and training today's garden educators.

The 2021 event will take place online July 7-9. At the core of the symposium are peer-led educational sessions that focus on relevant, thought-provoking topics, provide attendees with practical knowledge and skills, and appeal to attendees representing a variety of experience levels, educational settings, and youth audiences.

Now's your chance to share your expertise with garden educators by presenting a session! Session presenters receive a discounted registration rate to attend the symposium. Please reference these [tips and guidelines](#) and [submit your session proposal online](#) by January 8, 2021.

Email education@ahsgardening.org for more information.



Program Updates

Farm to School 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](#) and we will send out a listserv message to let everyone know when they are posted.

USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

SPECIAL NOTE - THE LAST DATE TO SUBMIT SY 2019-2020 CLAIMS IS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020.

Reminders about SY 2020-2021 Operations:

- 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 for approval PRIOR to entering your claims into EGMS.

The FFVP funds have finally arrived from the USDA! We are working to get the funds set up in EGMS as quickly as possible and will let you know as soon as they are available. You are welcome to submit October claims whenever they are ready for approval, even if the funds are not available in EGMS yet.

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. If you have any questions about the FFVP please email us at FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us.

Farm to School Spotlight: Phoenix School of Roseburg

By Rachel Johnson, Healthy Futures Leader - United Communities AmeriCorps Member

A semi-truck arrives at Phoenix School one morning to unload 200-pound rolls of polyethylene plastic and wiggle wire. Typically, high school students would be rushing out of the garden, curiosity taking over to see what was going on. But instead, the materials are left in front of a quiet greenhouse, on a quiet school campus.



Like most education systems this year, Phoenix School of Roseburg is learning to navigate operations in the midst of COVID-19. A few months ago, I started my role as an AmeriCorps member working in the garden and mentoring students on creating healthy futures. Since then, I've witnessed the effects of learning during a pandemic. I've also witnessed the passion and unique relationship each student has with the garden. It is a place where they can practice stress management and relief in a productive manner through interacting with the natural world. For many, it is a sanctuary of sorts. The garden also provides an excellent opportunity to engage in meaningful work. Students learn the science behind growing food, living a healthier future, and help provide fresh produce to the cafeteria and farmer's market.

This fall has been full of enhancement and expansion to the learning garden, including re-covering our 40x100 foot greenhouse, experimenting with hydroponics systems, and building 'soil sandboxes.' While we originally planned for 80+ helping hands in the garden, it has turned into 3 garden staff members creatively finding ways to complete these projects with limited manpower.



[Watch a video](#) of the Phoenix School greenhouse being re-covered!

Though students can't physically be present in the garden, we adapt by bringing the garden to them. Original plans for the student-run projects have turned into a series of fun instructional videos and monthly updates to continue engagement. Phoenix had a successful harvest throughout the summer and fall, with over 1,000 pounds of fresh produce distributed to our students and community to help address the issues of food insecurity. The students' hard work and commitment to the garden in the spring came to fruition and reasons like these are why we're working tirelessly to create an amazing learning space.



The garden work never stops, but for now, it awaits the students' return. The improvements we've made like upgrading garden beds, a higher functioning greenhouse, and installing new food producing systems will allow for deeper creative inquiry and learning exploration for students, all while engaging in meaningful work. Hopefully in the new year, they'll be able to jump in right where they left off - with new garden enhancements, and have an even more successful 2021 season.

Farm to School Spotlight: Corvallis Environmental Center

- By Emily Olivo, Program Director

The Corvallis Environmental Center's (CEC) Farm to School program encourages children to make healthy food choices, promotes outdoor learning in gardens, and supports regional farms and producers. Supported by the ODE Farm to School Education Grant, we serve students of Benton County including Corvallis and Philomath School Districts.



A frame from our CEC Connects video featuring a recipe for the November Harvest of the Month: Carrots!

In response to the school district switch to remote learning this Spring, the CEC launched our remote learning platform CEC Connects, where we provide virtual field trips, at-home activities, garden reading time, recipes, and fun videos all about food and how it is grown. Audiences can tour a local farm, learn the parts of a flower, or follow along with fruit-and-veggie yoga!

This summer, we created Camp-in-a-box, providing families with all of the materials they need for a week of garden activities plus virtual live instruction twice a week. Participants made a pizza from scratch, planted their own garden, and constructed mason bee houses, getting the summer camp experience from home.

[My children] had an awesome time yesterday... They were so proud of their sauce and showed it off to their dad as soon as he got home. They're both super excited to make pizzas tomorrow.

-Parent of Camp in a Box participants



Photos of our Camp-in-a-Box kits that students took home. Right: Camp Pizza Pie. Left: Roots & Shoots.



One of our Garden Adventures participants learning about worms and soil at SAGE.

Following all safety guidelines, we have been able to provide in-person educational programming this Fall through our Garden Adventures classes, where students learn how to garden and the science behind it in 3-hour, weekly classes. Students have the opportunity to safely socialize, learn, and get their hands dirty at our Starker Arts Garden for Education (SAGE).

Both of my children have expressed excitement at the different foods they have gotten to try during their gardening class. I bought some chard at the farmers market and [my daughter] grabs a leaf and says "I like chard, I had it at garden camp." She ate a whole leaf at the park...plain and raw! Thanks for exposing my kids to new things. It helps when someone other than their parents asks them to challenge themselves. The camp has been wonderful for our family.

-Parent of Garden Adventures participants

Additionally, we are excited to provide our Classroom Food Adventures (CFAs) this Fall, though they look a little different than usual! In Classroom Food Adventures, students cook and consume the Harvest of the Month and complete an interdisciplinary food/agriculture lesson such as a science experiment (How can a cabbage measure pH?) or social studies lesson (How are herbs used in recipes around the world?). This Fall, we have taken our CFAs virtual for Kings Valley Charter School. The Harvest of the Month and cooking supplies are sent home, then our educators provide a virtual lesson that families follow along together.

As this pandemic continues, we will continue to adapt our programming so that we can provide food, garden, and nature connection to our community when it is needed more than ever.

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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.

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