



October 1-31, 2023

## FARM TO CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS (CNP): INSIDE THE ISSUE

### October is National Farm to School Month!

This year's Farm to School Month theme is Rooted in Community: Growing Stronger, Together. Throughout October, National Farm to School Network activities will be focused on celebrating achievements, sharing stories of collaboration and community, and highlighting progress toward racial equity in farm to school. [Visit the National Farm to School Network webpage for free resources and more.](#)

### Introducing the first ever Nationwide Farm to School Podcast!

To kick off National Farm to School Month, we are launching a brand new Farm to School Podcast October 1st. The podcast is a project by Oregon State University (OSU) and Oregon Department of Education (ODE), funded by the USDA. [It is hosted by Oregon Farm to School coordinators Rick Sherman of ODE, and Michelle Markesteyn from OSU.](#)

### Join the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network for the Oregon Farm to School Crunch!

[What's a Farm to School Crunch?](#) It's a simple and fun way to feature Oregon produce in your school or community. All you have to do is: 1) [Register](#), 2) Choose a crunchy Oregon grown fruit or vegetable, 3) Coordinate a school/ site-wide time, and 4) Crunch together! [Check out the Crunch Toolkit for more information.](#)

### USDA Farm to School Grant: Local Food for Schools (LFS)

The USDA has given our State just over \$2 million to administer a new Federal Farm to School reimbursement grant entitled [USDA Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program](#), (or, the LFS Grant for short). This is in addition to our regular State-funded grant program that will be operated at the same time.

### Fresh Fruit and Vegetable (FFVP)

SY 2023-2024 FFVP awards were sent out Friday, September 22nd. FFVP SY 23-24 [mandatory training](#) needs to be completed before submitting your first claim. FFVP grant agreements will go out in the next month or two.

### Farm to Summer Celebration Week Challenge

Read about the winners of the Farm to Summer Celebration Week: Bethel SD and Eugene SD!

### Celebrate Oregon Products this October!

[Oregon Harvest for Schools](#) has educational materials available free of charge to Oregon schools. We also feature four new recipes that can be made with Oregon seafood!





## **Introducing the first ever NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL PODCAST!**

To kick off National Farm to School Month, we are launching the first ever Farm to School Podcast October 1st, where we serve up stories of kids lives that have been changed by eating local food and learning where their food comes from.

The podcast is a project by Oregon State University (OSU) and Oregon Department of Education (ODE), funded by the USDA. [It is hosted by Oregon Farm to School coordinators Rick Sherman of ODE, and Michelle Markesteyn from OSU.](#)

### **Why are we doing this?**

“Farm to School” is defined as the three “C’s;” Cafeteria, Classroom and Community. Farm to school programs do a great job with two of the three “C’S” – Cafeteria (serving local foods) and Classroom (school gardens), but the third “C” (community, or parents of the classroom kids) is a little tougher. The podcast aims to make Farm to School a household word!

### **Who is it for?**

This podcast is for practitioners such as Teachers, Nutrition Service Directors and School Garden Coordinators as well as parents and other community members.

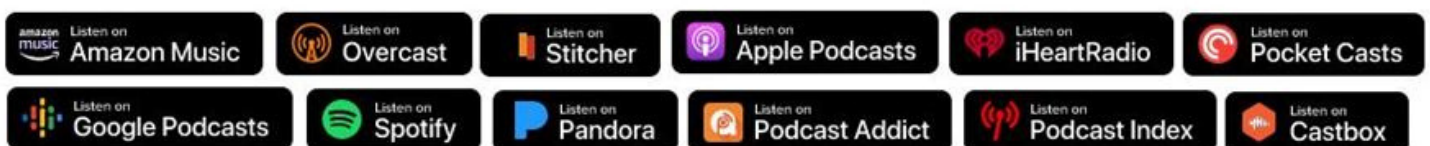
### **How long are the episodes?**

However long the content entails and the conversation flows. Each interview and episode is unique and the length will be posted for each one. They’re designed for the person on the go: while driving, at the gym, shopping or working out in the garden!

We live in Oregon and Pacific Northwest programs and experiences will be highlighted, but the podcast is designed for a nationwide Farm to School audience.

The Farm to School Podcast will be available wherever you are able to find your podcasts. The goal is to record at least two per month.

Listen to the first episode, [“Farm to School in Remote Areas - Rikkilyn Starliper” here](#) or on any of the platforms listed below!



# NATIONAL FARM to SCHOOL MONTH



## Celebrate Farm to School Month with the National Farm to School Network



Fall is almost upon us, and we are excited to welcome the changing leaves, cooler weather, and delicious fall treats. This season also brings National Farm to School Month in October—and we want you to join us in celebrating!

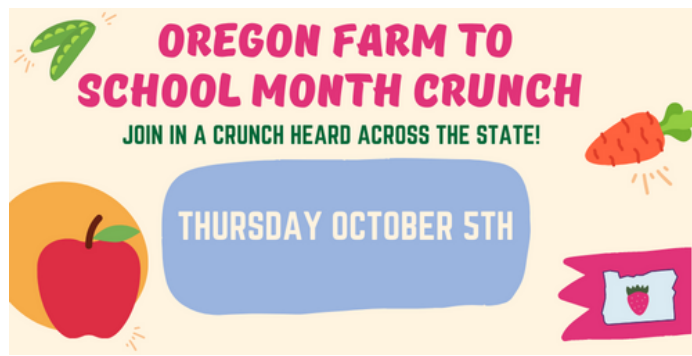
**This year's Farm to School Month theme is Rooted in Community: Growing Stronger, Together.** It highlights that at the core, farm to school is built for and by communities, with all of us working together to cultivate a better future for us all. Farm to school brings together a community of individuals across sectors, generations, and interests—farmers, parents, students, advocates, teachers, food service workers, and lawmakers—who all share a common vision of an abundant, nourishing, and equitable food system.

Throughout October, our activities will be focused on celebrating achievements, sharing stories of collaboration and community, and highlighting progress toward racial equity in farm to school, so that we can continue to grow stronger, together.

Here are some ways you can get started now:

- **Use our free resources:** Check out our newly updated resources, which include a fact sheet, poster, postcard, bookmark designs, coloring page, and stickers (and more!) that you can download and print for free. Our Farm to School Month artwork has been beautifully redesigned this year by artist Rachel Yumi Chung.
- **Submit an event to our calendar:** If you are hosting an event for Farm to School Month, make sure to submit it to our national calendar of events. Just click on the green "Submit Event" button!
- **Follow us on social media:** Follow us at @farmtoschool on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [X](#) to see all of the upcoming Farm to School Month content. Use the hashtags #F2SMonth and #farmtoschool when you are posting or finding content, and make sure to tag us so that we can re-share your posts!



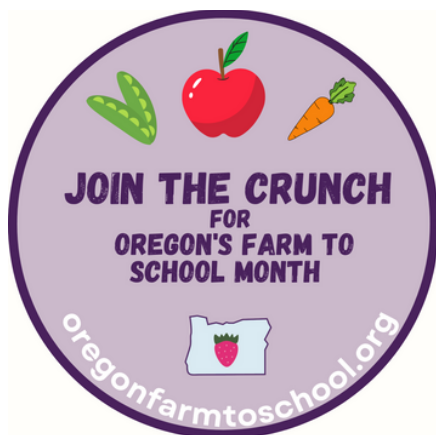


The Oregon Farm to School & School Garden Network is coordinating the first annual Oregon Crunch for Farm to School Month! So far, schools and early care sites across the state are registered to support over 10,000 young crunchers this October.

Kids will be crunching into locally-grown apples or carrots and learning about local food. It's not too late to be a part of the Oregon Crunch!

You can still register [here](#) to have your Crunch counted. The OFSSGN has a toolkit and lots of editable templates for outreach and promotion on their [website](#). You can join the Crunch on October 5th or anytime throughout October.

Don't forget to share your photos and videos at #OregonF2SCrunch2023. For questions, email [Melina Barker](#).



Check out this [Crunch video](#) from West Linn-Wilsonville School District's Center for Research in Environmental Sciences and Technologies! (Video credit: Justin McWhirter, Digital Communications Specialist for West Linn-Wilsonville SD)



**Fun fact:** A local Oregon food processor is processing a million pounds of green beans a day this month!!



## Farm to Summer Celebration Week Challenge: Winners

### BETHEL SD!

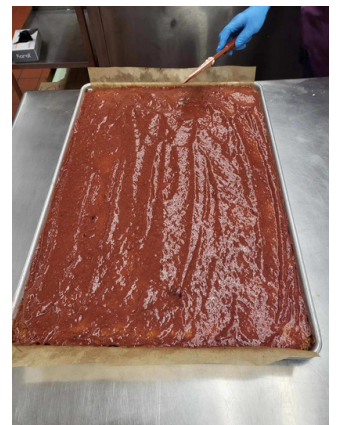
During the third week of July (17th-21st) about 25 Bethel fifth graders enrolled in the Bethel Farm Camp, as well as about 75 students enrolled in the Boys and Girls camp within one of our schools, participated in [strawberry and blueberry picking](#)! July is when most of our berry varieties peak. Students got to witness the entire farm to table experience as students in Farm Camp made strawberry jam as well as strawberry scones with the strawberries they picked on the farm – and a few berries were consumed as they picked. Bethel Farm strawberries were also included in several of our menus during July and served to students in the greater Bethel community who access our summer meals program. Children under the age of 18 are invited to have breakfast and lunch with us at one of three schools throughout the summer.



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### Eugene SD 4J!

4J Farm to School Breakfast Bar - Celebrating summer with our Strawberry & Rhubarb Breakfast Bar. Combined using items grown and produced right here in Oregon. Miffy's Certified Gluten free muffin mix, made in West Linn, OR. Combined with Bob's Red Mill Old fashioned Oat, made in Milwaukie, OR. Melted together with butter from Dairy Gold and Sweetened with Honey produced at Oregon Growers Honey. A delicious filling of Rhubarb from Brice Creek Croft. Blended together with strawberries from Oregon Sweet Lead Farms and Ground Works Organic all right here in Lane County. An amazing way to enjoy Oregon, right in your hand. Our product was also featured on the [local news \(KVAL 13\)](#).





# CNP Grant Updates

## Federal USDA Farm to School Grant: Local Food For Schools (LFS) Grant

- The USDA Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program, (or, the LFS Grant for short), is a Federal, one-time award that enables State Agencies to reimburse School Districts for local foods that meet certain criteria. This grant is only available for NSLP sponsors.
- Agreements were sent to sponsors with completed requirements for receiving federal funds on September 12, 2023. Please sign and return your grant agreements as soon as possible in order to make funds available for reimbursement.

### **Allowable Items:**

- Milk from either inside the Oregon border or up to 400 miles outside of the Oregon border (Fluid milk - half pints, flavored milk).
- Unprocessed or minimally processed food from up to 400 miles outside the Oregon border.
- **NEW:** Unprocessed or minimally processed food from inside of the Oregon border, only after your initial Farm to CNP Noncompetitive Reimbursement Grant award is exhausted.
- The mandatory training as well as the LFS Allowable/Unallowable document can be found on on the [ODE Local Food for Schools Grant website](#) under Training Resources, and Resources for Claims, respectively. Please refer to these resources for additional details and claim guidance.
- This grant begins March 1, 2023 and closes on August 31, 2024.



## Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

- Please continue to submit claims to [FarmtoCNP@ode.oregon.gov](mailto:FarmtoCNP@ode.oregon.gov) according to the [SY 2022-2023 FFVP timeline](#). July claims must be submitted by no later than **Friday, September 29, 2023**. August claims must be submitted by no later than **Monday, October 30, 2023**. September claims must be submitted by no later than **Wednesday, November 29, 2023**.
- Award amounts for the 2023-2024 school year were sent out on Friday, September 22nd.
- FFVP grant agreements will go out via email later this fall. Please have your Authorized Representative sign and return the agreement as soon as they are able. Your EGMS contacts will receive an email directly from EGMS when the FFVP subgrants are built in EGMS.
- Please note: Subgrants will be on hold in EGMS until grant agreements are fully executed and the [mandatory 2023-2024 FFVP training](#) is complete and we have received your attestation as such. If the agreement roll-out process is delayed for any reason, you are still required to submit claims for review by their claim month's due date to be reimburse for the claim once agreements are fully executed. At this time, a delay of this magnitude is not expected. [The SY 2023-2024 FFVP timeline can be found here.](#)
- Supplements will no longer be accepted on a rolling basis. There will be a one-time issuance of any available supplemental FFVP funding sometime during summer 2024. The FFVP Supplement Request Portal will be available on the FFVP webpage during the month of May 2024. This is when supplements may be requested up to \$75/student. Supplements are not guaranteed. More details on this process will be available on the FFVP webpage in April 2024.
- Any questions can be sent to us at [FarmtoCNP@ode.oregon.gov](mailto:FarmtoCNP@ode.oregon.gov).

# CNP Grant Updates

## Noncompetitive Reimbursement Grant

- Noncompetitive Reimbursement Grant award amounts were announced on July 18, 2023.
- All NSLP, CACFP and SFSP CNP sponsors were automatically opted in to receive a Farm to CNP Noncompetitive Reimbursement Grant for the 2023-2025 biennium (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2025).
- This Farm to CNP Noncompetitive Reimbursement Grant will require a grant agreement. The grant agreement will be sent from an ODE Procurement and Contract Specialist this fall. Please prioritize signing and returning the Grant Agreement to avoid delays in the release of funds from the ODE's Electronic Grants Management System (EGMS).
- Although the funds will not be available in EGMS for several weeks, the Grant's start date is retroactive and you will be able to submit claims for items purchased starting July 1, 2023 when your district or grant organization's Grant Agreement has been signed and returned to ODE for Agency's signature.

### **Action Needed:**

- Nutrition Service Directors and Program Directors **MUST** sign up for the [Farm to CNP listserv](#). ODE communicates its Grant Program updates predominantly through the listserv. Staff working on Farm to CNP activities, including purchasing and finance are encouraged to sign up as well. (Note: When you click on the link it will direct you to an "Oregon Department of Education email updates" sign-up page).

The following is due before Sponsors can submit claims in EGMS:

- View the [Mandatory Training](#). After viewing is complete, each grantee must fill out a [Reimbursement Grant Attestation Form](#).
- Baseline report (for new Sponsors) available on our [grant webpage](#) under "Reporting."
- Final report from last biennium (returning Sponsors) due Sept 29, 2023. The final report is available on our [grant webpage](#) under "Reporting."
- Sign Grant agreement
- If you do not plan to participate in this Grant during the entirety of the 23-25 biennium, please complete this brief [form to indicate you would prefer to opt out](#). This form will be shared with our Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network. The Regional Farm to School Hubs may reach out to you to confirm.
- The 2023-2025 claim form can be found on the [Farm to CNP Reimbursement Grant webpage](#). It is the first item under the "Resources for Claims" section.

Please let the Farm to CNP team know at [FarmtoCNP@ode.oregon.gov](mailto:FarmtoCNP@ode.oregon.gov) if you have any questions.



## Education Grant

- The Oregon Department of Education Farm to Child Nutrition Program Competitive Education Grant is now open! Go to the [Education Grant website](#) for full details.

New this year! You must choose one of two grants:

- \$2,000-\$15,000 capacity building mini grant. Designed to be a simpler application to do starter Farm to School projects or start/expand a school garden.
- \$15,001-\$100,000 capacity sustaining full grant. More competitive, intensive application for larger projects.
- Please explore by expanding all sections of the grant website to learn more. Additional items like training links and FAQ documents will be added to the website in the days to come.
- If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at [farmtoCNP@ode.oregon.gov](mailto:farmtoCNP@ode.oregon.gov).



## Competitive Reimbursement Grant

- The [Competitive Reimbursement Grant](#) is a separate sub-program that will be available again this biennium. A Request for Application (RFA) will be developed and available for applications in approximately December 2023. The Competitive Reimbursement Grant is only available for Sponsors that use all their available Noncompetitive Reimbursement Grant Funds.







## [Buy Oregon Products During Farm to School Month!](#)

To find local vendors selling Oregon products, please visit the [Oregon Harvest for Schools Directory website](#). The Directory connects school food buyers with Oregon producers who are ready to sell to schools. It includes more than 120 food businesses who grow, harvest, and process more than 45 products and includes several search categories and ways to sort including producer identity, USDA meal components and availability.

## [Oregon Harvest for Schools: Featured Seafood Recipes](#)

[Oregon Harvest for Schools](#) has educational materials including posters, videos, recipes and other materials available free of charge to Oregon schools.

The posters we currently have in stock include the following:

Beans, Dried | Beef | Beets | Bell Peppers | Blueberries | Cabbage | Cane Berries | Carrots | Kale | Peas | Salad Greens | Salmon | Tomatoes | Tuna | Watermelon | Winter Squash

[You can order posters for your school here.](#)

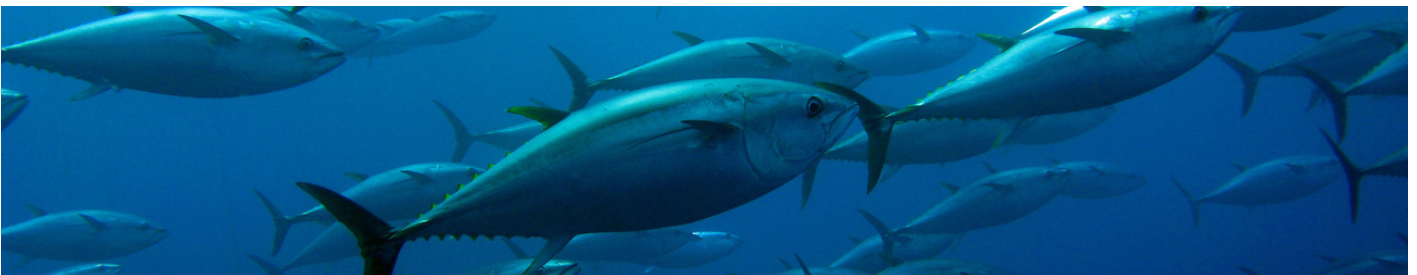
A complete list of resources for close to 50 fruits, vegetables, seafood and dairy items can be found on the [Oregon Harvest for Schools webpage](#).

### **Featured recipes of the month!**

Four new seafood recipes were just added to the [Oregon Harvest for Schools webpage](#)! These include:

- [Blackened Pacific Dover Sole Fish Tacos](#)
- [Sesame Ginger Tuna Sandwich](#)
- [Oregon Pink Shrimp Chowder](#)
- [Teriyaki Rockfish Rice Bowl](#)

[Watch preparation videos for each of the featured recipes here!](#)



Questions or suggestions for future issues?

Please send an email to the Farm to CNP team at [FarmtoCNP@ode.oregon.gov](mailto:FarmtoCNP@ode.oregon.gov).

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## **Civil Rights and Complaints Process**

The Oregon Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs (ODE CNP) works closely with the regional USDA Office of Civil Rights and other organizations committed to equal educational opportunity and respectful environments.

ODE CNP actively promotes equity. We offer training and technical assistance to ODE CNP sponsors and providers to assist them with their responsibilities regarding discrimination and harassment. ODE CNP also conducts workshops on these and related subjects at state, regional, local program sites, and conferences. Future activities include developing outreach strategies and tactics aimed at inclusiveness and increased program participation.

To file a Child Nutrition Programs complaint of discrimination with the State of Oregon, please send an email to ODE CNP Civil Rights or write to:

Director of Child Nutrition Programs,  
Oregon Department of Education,  
255 Capitol Street NE,  
Salem, OR 97310  
or call (503) 947-5888, (voice)  
or (503) 378-2892(TDD).

### **USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-program-discrimination-complaint-form.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 Complaint form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

mail:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

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



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