



ODE Farm to School Newsletter



Welcome to our first issue! April 1-15, 2020: Inside the Issue



OREGON HARVEST FOR SCHOOLS

The new videos are here! In this issue we feature **Kale** and **Brussels Sprouts!** Learning about veggies is about to get even more fun!

FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT UPDATES

Second Round Education Grant applications are due April 10th. Plus, tips for grantees in the COVID-19 era.

FARM TO SCHOOL STAFF

The Farm to School team is growing! In February, Emily Griffith joined Rick Sherman and Amy Williams as the third member of the Farm to School team.



FARM TO SCHOOL UPDATES

Welcome to the new ODE Farm to School newsletter! Things are changing rapidly and we are all weathering strange new times. However, we are committed to supporting our Farm to School education and procurement sponsors. Please feel free to reference the [Child Nutrition Programs' new website detailing our COVID-19 response and resources](#). The Farm to School team is also here to answer any questions directly related to education or procurement grants.

Over the past two weeks we have been inspired to see the work, care and creativity that has gone into alternative meal distribution sites and systems. Educators have been talking, collaborating and sharing ideas about how to creatively alter educational offerings to students at a distance; and farmers have been reaching out to create avenues for distributing more local goods to school districts.

We have included tips, ideas and updates about how to move forward with Farm to School projects and programs in this newsletter and plan to continue doing so. Please stay in touch if you have anything you would like to share about the work you are currently doing by e-mailing us at farmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us.



New Oregon Harvest for Schools Videos Available!

This month we are launching two new videos in the Oregon Harvest for Schools (OH4S) series: [a Kale video](#) and [a Brussels Sprouts video](#)! They join **Salad Greens** as the first three in a series of 50 videos showcasing Oregon grown items from the farm to the cafeteria tray.

The new videos are currently available in English and will be available in Spanish soon. Salad Greens is currently available in both English and Spanish. You can check out all three on the [Oregon Harvest for Schools website](#).

The videos kicked off in October 2019 to celebrate National Farm to School Month and are part of a joint project of ODE's Department of Child Nutrition Programs and OSU Extension's Food Hero campaign.

The vignettes encourage young viewers to develop healthy relationships with Oregon-grown food by presenting a diverse group of students, farmers and adults harvesting, preparing, cooking, and serving Oregon-grown foods.

Rick Sherman, Farm to School and School Garden Coordinator for ODE has said of the videos, "Simply offering healthy food is not enough. When students learn about their food, they eat it and make lifelong healthy choices. The more they understand, the healthier they eat. We need to help students know where their food comes from."

Please visit the [USDA Food Buyers Guide website](#) for more information on USDA crediting for Kale and Brussels Sprouts in Child Nutrition Program meals.

To find local vendors selling Kale and Brussels Sprouts, please visit the [Oregon Harvest for Schools portal website](#).

Tips and ideas for using OH4S videos in cafeterias and social media:

- Share the YouTube links on your districts' Facebook page.
- If you have a smart menu board or monitor in your cafeteria, loop the video along with your menu selections so students can watch the video while they are in line.
- Share with your teachers and garden educators as tools for teaching about Oregon grown and processed food.



FARM TO SCHOOL STAFF



Rick Sherman was hired by the Oregon Department of Education in 2012 as the Farm to School/School Garden Coordinator after working for 32 years as a Nutrition Services Director. The last 20 of those years have been spent as a Director of Nutrition Services in Eugene, Albany and Dallas (Oregon). Rick graduated from Western Washington University with a degree in Education. Rick is a Master Gardener, loves home brewing, & riding dirt bikes. He spends his spare time in his backyard garden and raising chickens.

As of the first of the year, **Amy Jean (AJ)** has been promoted to Farm to School Administrative Specialist II. She is expanding upon her knowledge of all things Farm to School, as well as gaining a more in-depth understanding of program planning and evaluation. She is entering her final term at OHSU-PSU School of Public health and is thrilled to be earning a Bachelor of Science in Community Health Promotion in June.

Emily Griffith is the newest member of the Farm to School team. She was a mixed veggie grower and youth educator for the past 10 years working to empower teenagers through the act of growing food for their communities. She worked in both the Boston, MA area with The Food Project and in Salem, OR with the Marion Polk Food Share Youth Farm. She is excited about her new role supporting the Farm to School Program as an Office Specialist 2.

GRANT UPDATES

Second Round Education Grants:

Completed applications for both the mini grants (\$2,000-\$10,000) and larger grants (\$10,000-\$100,000) are due April 10, 2020!

Because school is not in session this Spring and students are not gathering, make sure you either have your project started next school year, or take that into account by having alternative/virtual educational activities when designing projects for this Spring.

Visit the [Farm to School Grant website](#) for more details.

Procurement Grants:

Need help getting access to your Farm to School funds or getting set up to submit your first claim? Please contact the Farm to School team and we would be happy to help. Please e-mail Amy (Amy.Williams@ode.state.or.us) or Emily (Emily.Griffith@ode.state.or.us).

Upcoming Grants:

In the next couple of months we will be posting information on our **Competitive Procurement Grant** as well as our **Technical Assistance Grant**.

Check the [Farm to School Grants website](#) for updated details or sign up for the [Farm to School listserv](#) to be informed as soon as information is posted.



IDEAS FOR GRANTEEES IN THE COVID-19 ERA

We are hearing from Farm to School sponsors about the challenges of reaching students directly now that they are no longer in school. We are also learning about some of the innovative solutions sponsors are considering and implementing around the state and wanted to highlight a few ideas.

For Farm to School Educators:

- Virtual educational resources including: virtual field trips in the garden, story telling, [Oregon Ag in the Classroom lessons](#), on-site video cameras so kids can see what is happening on the farm or in the garden.
- Educational materials at food distribution sites including: [Food Hero Monthly Magazines and recipes](#), [Oregon Harvest for Schools Family Newsletters](#), and cooking tips on how to cook fresh vegetables.
- Distributing seeds, plants and container gardens to students/families.
- Creating a blog to share gardening tips.
- Plant the garden as planned and send out weekly updates.

For Farm to School Procurement Grantees:

- Continue to support local growers and producers by purchasing local products with your Farm to School funds.
- Getting creative with meal delivery methods. It is possible to use up to 20% of procurement funds on transportation.
- Delivering boxed or bagged produce to families in addition to prepared meals.
- Connecting with local farmers to offer easy grab and go produce for sack meals.
- Providing produce from school gardens to families or into school meals where possible.

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Questions or suggestions for future issues? Please send an email to Emily.

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