



ODE Farm to School Newsletter



January 1-31, 2021

FARM TO SCHOOL: INSIDE THE ISSUE



Oregon Harvest for Schools

The newest videos are here! In this issue we feature [Dairy](#) in English and [Rhubarb](#) in English with Spanish versions coming soon!

Grant 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

Grant agreements went out via email on January 7th and SY 20-21 funds will be released when agreements are signed, returned and fully executed.

Farm to School Spotlight

This week we focus on ODE Farm to School Education Grantees **OSU Extension Service - Wasco County, Lincoln County SD** and **OSU Extension Service - Marion County**. 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 January: 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 Dairy and Rhubarb!

The month of January brings new additions to the Oregon Harvest for Schools (OH4S) video series; Dairy and Rhubarb in English with Spanish versions coming soon!



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



An English language version of the [Rhubarb Video](#).

Oregon Department of Education's Child Nutrition Program 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 dairy, rhubarb 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 dairy and rhubarb in Child Nutrition Program meals.

Farm to School Competitive Procurement Grant

We will be posting an RFA for another round of the Competitive Procurement Grant soon.

We have a balance of \$164,260.17 available 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 update everyone via our listserv when this occurs.

The Competitive Procurement Grant is 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.



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

Thank you for your patience during the transition to a new FFVP program year. Grant agreements were sent out via email on January 7th and most have been returned. FFVP SY 2020-2021 funds are released in EGMS when the grant agreements are signed, returned and fully executed.

As a reminder, there are various options for providing FFVP service during COVID times.

- FFVP items can be distributed along with meals at distribution sites.
- FFVP items can be included with meals delivered on a bus route.
- Bulk Distribution method: A week's worth of FFVP items can be handed out at once.

Please let us know if you have any questions about service during COVID as we are here to help. Questions can be sent to FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us.

Please continue to submit claims by the following dates.

- **November** claims must be submitted by no later than **Friday, January 29, 2021**.
- **December** claims must be submitted by no later than **Monday, March 1, 2021**.
- **January** claims must be submitted by no later than **Wednesday, March 31, 2021**.

You can view the full calendar of claims deadlines on the [FFVP website](#).

Allowable operating expenses:

- Fresh fruits and vegetables (except those mentioned in unallowable costs)
- *Napkins, paper plates, utensils, bowls, small equipment, etc.
- *Fuel surcharges
- *Operating labor costs (these three starred costs cannot exceed 30% of the total claim)
- Administrative labor costs (cannot exceed 10% of the award)

Unallowable expenses: As a reminder, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is intended to introduce kids to fruits and vegetables that would not typically be on a meal tray. We consider the fruits and vegetables listed below to be standard fare that would typically be available and therefore not allowable under this program.

- Apples (red delicious, golden delicious, gala and granny smith), bananas (yellow), oranges (navel), baby carrots/standard orange carrot sticks, unless there is an unavoidable situation; grantee must provide explanation in claim request.
- Canned, frozen or dried fruits and vegetables; fruit snack-fruit leather products; carbonated fruit, flavored fruit, fruit juice, fruit or vegetable pizza, nuts, cheese and other foods that are neither a fruit nor a vegetable.

FFVP Service Spotlight: Medford SD

We've received several questions about the types of items that can be included in FFVP service.

This month we are highlighting the FFVP purchases made by participating schools in Medford SD for the month of November.

These included:

- Blueberries
- Purple Cauliflower
- Fuyu Persimmons
- Sweet Mini Peppers
- Green Beans
- English Cucumber Coins
- Black Candy Grapes
- Tangerines
- Blush Oregon Grown Apples
- Red Plums
- Sugar Snap Peas
- Baby Red Bananas

This is an excellent example of a varied FFVP service that meets the program goal of introducing kids to fruits and vegetables they do not see on their meal tray every day as well as to new varieties of some of the more familiar fruits and vegetables.



Farm to School Spotlight: OSU Extension Service - Wasco County

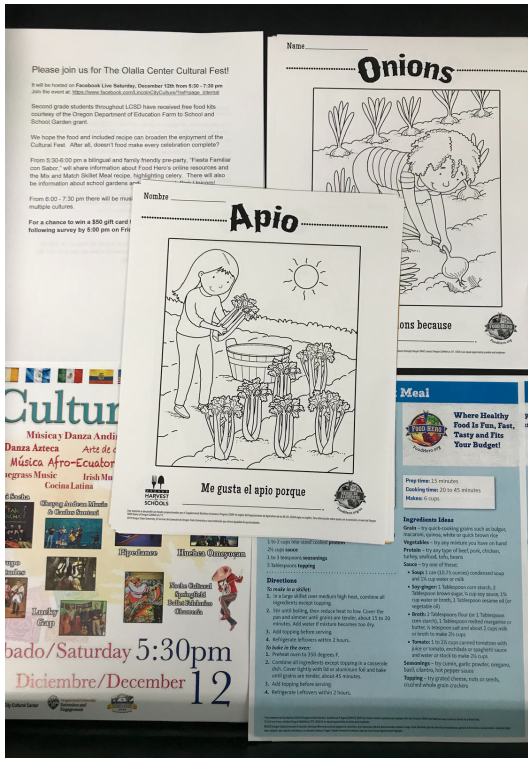
Videos Diaries of fall 4-H Garden clubs



[4-H Garden Club at Colonel Wright Elementary in North Wasco County SD](#)

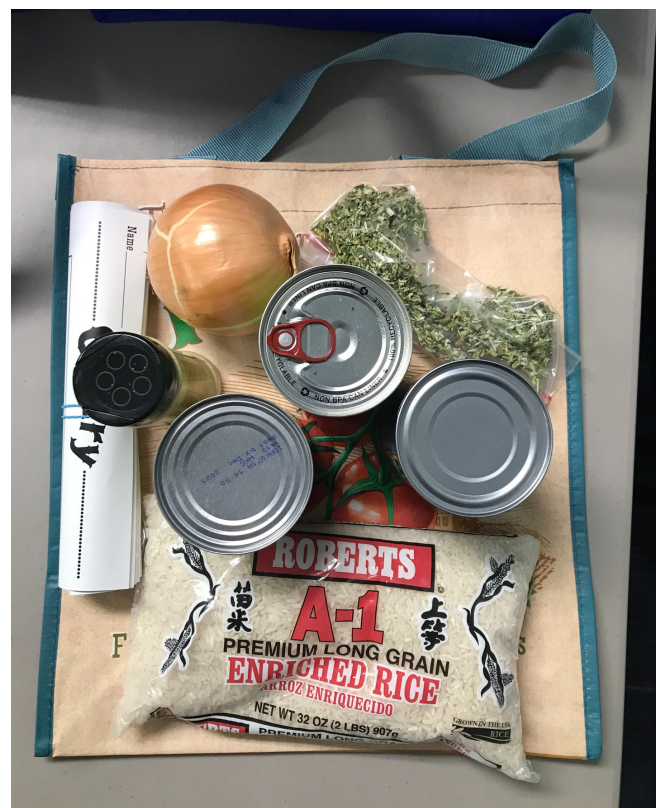


[4-H Garden Club at Dufur Elementary in Dufur SD](#)



Farm to School Spotlight: Lincoln County SD

A recent partnership between Lincoln County School District, City of Newport, OSU Extension and a local non-profit, the Olalla Center, resulted in the creation of 300 bags that were sent home with second graders throughout the district to be used in conjunction with [Olalla Center's Virtual Cultural Festival](#). The first thirty minutes of programming of this video are directly related to the food bags and highlight celery as a locally grown and preservable food.



Farm to School Spotlight: OSU Extension Service, Marion County

By Sarah Contreras, Education Program Assistant 2



After months of learning and meeting via Google Classroom for Virtual Garden Club, Sarah Contreras and Santiam Elementary student, Isabela "Izzy," celebrated meeting in-person at the Healthy October Celebration in Mill City with Winter Squash.

The Marion County Oregon Farm to School Project is delivered through The Oregon State University Marion County Extension Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education (SNAP-Ed) and 4-H Youth Development programs, reaching students and their families at Four Corners Elementary in Salem, OR, Kennedy Elementary in Keizer, OR, and Santiam Elementary in Mill City, OR.

Although this academic school year is running much differently from previous years, our program continues to pivot, keeping focused on the needs of our students and their families by developing and providing opportunities through hands-on learning of nutrition education, gardening, and cultivating knowledge and excitement around fruits and vegetables through web-based and take-home deliverables.

Onboarding in the midst of a world pandemic could easily result in difficulties and struggles, but after 6 months of settling into my EPA-2 position, my takeaway of our program and community is, in one word: resilient. With continuous collaboration and support, this team of program assistants and coordinators, teachers, school and kitchen staff have taken each hurdle and helped transform into new and bright opportunities.

A glimpse into our 2020 programming:

Oregon Farm to School Virtual Garden Club: June to September 2020. Sarah Contreras and Yolanda Rodriguez recorded, edited, and delivered weekly videos and held live check-ins, accessible in English and Spanish. Virtual Garden Club topics included growing plants from seeds and plant starts, nutrition content, identifying plant parts, recipe demonstrations, as well as planning and creating a new garden.



Sarah Contreras greeting students in Virtual Garden Club.



From October through June of 2021: Each month we highlight an Oregon grown food for students and their families to discover. With access to monthly interactive English and Spanish Bitmoji classrooms, the students have an opportunity to engage with games, resources, and information relating to the featured produce item of the month.

With the healthy celebration Bitmoji classrooms and efforts to maintain hands-on learning, we partner with a local farm to provide partner schools with the featured produce item, encouraging students and their families to try and cook with their fresh, local produce. Along with their fresh produce item, students also receive a take-home healthy celebration packet filled with activity pages and recipes related to the featured produce item of the month.



No yearly field trip? No problem! We're bringing the farm to students! Our first virtual farm field trip spotlights Lucky Crow Farm in Monmouth, OR offering students and their families a chance to fully experience how a small farm operates, where their food comes from and the growing process, how those whole foods are harvested, concluding in how produce is delivered throughout our communities!



Virtual Garden Club member, Malillany (Four Corners), participated in the Virtual Farm Field Trip by asking Farmer Eden (left) interview questions about growing and harvesting beets in Oregon.

Throughout November, Oregon Farm to School teamed up with the Master Food Preservers to hold the Put-It-Up Preservation Series for Youth, a 3-week bilingual Zoom series combining local Oregon fresh produce, science-based preservation research and activities, nutrition and fun!

"We learned how easy it can be to preserve food." -Krystyn

"I liked the information about the foods [pears, beets, onions, and broccoli] we were using each class. I even learned more about them! I wish we could be in-person! But this was the next best thing!" - Jordan and Parker

With an uncertain future ahead of us, our top priority remains with students and their families by continuing to adapt our programming by providing healthy opportunities and sustainable learning.

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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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