



ODE Farm to School Newsletter



March 1-31, 2021

FARM TO SCHOOL: INSIDE THE ISSUE



Oregon Harvest for Schools

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

Grant Updates

Applications for the Competitive Procurement Grant are now available on the [Farm to School Grants webpage](#). We anticipate four rounds of awards before the end of the biennium in June 30, 2021.

FFVP Update

If a school participating in the 2020-2021 FFVP will use up the awarded FFVP funds before the end of the program year, additional funds may be requested by emailing FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us.

Farm to School Spotlight

This week we focus on ODE Farm to School Education Grantee **School Garden Project of Lane County**. We also highlight the work of the **Linn County School Garden Hub**. 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.





Our newest videos are here featuring Peaches and Watermelon!

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



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



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

The 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 peaches, watermelon 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 peaches and watermelon in Child Nutrition Program meals.

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

Please continue to submit claims by the following dates.

- January claims must be submitted by no later than Wednesday, March 31, 2021.
- February claims must be submitted by no later than Thursday, April 29, 2021.
- March claims must be submitted by no later than Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

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

Do you need more FFVP money for program year 2020-2021?

If your school has spent down the FFVP funds awarded for this program year and could use more, please send us an email at FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us with your request for additional funds. Requests will be considered as we receive them.

General questions about the FFVP program can also be sent to FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us.



NEED IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO SPEND YOUR FARM TO SCHOOL FUNDS?

- [Oregon Harvest for Schools Portal](#)
– A tool to help school food buyers source Oregon-grown products.
- [Farm to School Combined Claims File](#)
– If you have ever wondered what other school districts and meal sites bought with their Farm to School funds, you can explore the combined claims file from the last biennium (2017-2019). The file can be sorted by County, School District, product, vendor etc. Costs have been removed due to proprietary information. If you would like a copy of the running list from this biennium (2019-2021) please email us at FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us.
- [Regional Procurement Hubs](#) – Regional Hubs are focused on incorporating more local food in school meals. Our Regional Hubs webpage includes maps, a regional hub chart and contact list and meeting dates.
- [Regional Hub Leads](#) - Contact your Regional Hub lead for purchasing ideas and resources in your area.
- Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network - Contact Melina Barker, Program Director of the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network, at melina@oregonfarmtoschool.org for more information about OFSSGN'S Regional Procurement Hubs.

Please feel free to contact us at FarmtoCNP@ode.state.or.us with any additional questions.

The [Resources for Farm to School Spending document](#) is also available for download on the the [Farm to School Grants webpage](#) under "Procurement Grant Resources."



Competitive Procurement Grant

Applications for the Competitive Procurement Grant are now available on the [Farm to School Grant webpage](#).

What is the Competitive Procurement Grant?

The Competitive Procurement Grant is part of the Farm to School Program and is intended to provide eligible Farm to School grantees with additional funding above their original Farm to School award amount. These funds are derived from a reallocation process in which the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) redistributes unspent Farm to School award dollars from grantees that have determined they are unable to exhaust their original awards.

To be eligible for these funds, applicants must be either a School District, a provider of center-based programs for children in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, or be an entity that provides meals through the Summer Food Service Program. In addition, applicants must have been awarded a Farm to School Noncompetitive Procurement Grant and 1) have spent all of the Noncompetitive funds, **or** 2) have a zero balance (due to the legislative reduction process).

The intent of the Farm to School Noncompetitive Procurement Grant has always been to support grantee purchasing of Oregon grown and processed food that might otherwise be cost prohibitive. To ensure grant funds are spent within the intent of the grant, the Farm to School team has designed the grant application process as follows:

1) Complete and submit the Competitive Procurement Grant RFA. Every applicant is guaranteed a base award amount (depending on availability of funds), that can be spent on any allowable Oregon grown or processed foods, as with the Noncompetitive Procurement grant.

2) Applicants can be awarded MORE funding by filling out the RFA and achieving preference points. Preference points are given for purchasing plans that include categories such as: purchasing from minority or women-owned companies, serving culturally relevant foods, purchasing a variety of Oregon products or purchasing new Oregon products and developing new commercial relationships. The higher the applicant's preference point score, the higher the additional funding (see RFA for preference point matrix).

The ODE Farm to School team offered a training session on March 17th. A link to the webinar will be posted on the [Farm to School Grants website](#).

Timeline:

Round 1

Questions/Requests for Clarification Due - February 26, 2021, 10:00am

Applications Due - March 19, 2021, 2:00PM

Round 2

Questions/Requests for Clarification Due - March 18, 2021, 10:00am

Applications Due - March 31, 2021, 2:00PM

Round 3

Questions/Requests for Clarification Due - April 23, 2021, 10:00am

Applications Due - April 30, 2021, 2:00PM

Round 4

Questions/Requests for Clarification Due - May 24, 2021, 10:00am

Applications Due - May 31, 2021, 2:00PM

Please send any questions about the RFA to Noemi Rios, Procurement and Contract Specialist, at Noemi.Rios@ode.state.or.us.

Farm to School Spotlight: School Garden Project of Lane County

In April 2020, School Garden Project (SGP) team members were provided video equipment and the only direction given to staff was to create videos that highlighted topics related to science, gardening, art or food/nutrition.

Through these efforts the [School Garden Project of Lane County YouTube Channel](#) was born! We currently have over 52 videos available for viewing.



SGP reimagined the in-class portion of the 2020 fall curriculum typically taught in partner school classrooms, and transformed it into videos to be delivered virtually. Many of our teaching partners have incorporated the videos into their virtual lessons on platforms like SeeSaw.

Cesar Chavez/Delores Huerta Celebration

SGP is participating on the committee for the 2021 celebration held in Springfield, in coordination with the Springfield School District, in honor of Cesar Chavez and Delores Huerta. This year, the event will be taking place virtually. The [celebration website](#) will be updated daily through April 8, 2021.

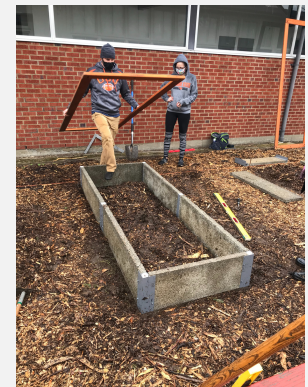
SGP provided materials for the 200 family activity packets prepared in honor of the celebration, including coloring and information sheets telling the legend of the "Three Sisters" in both English and Spanish. Additionally, SGP provided seeds and Oregon Farm to School Harvest Newsletters for the corresponding crops.



School Garden Updates

The Linn County School Garden Hub held a workday on Sunday, March 14, 2021. Four raised beds were installed at Waverly Elementary's second courtyard school garden in Albany.

You can find more information about school garden hubs on the [Regional Hubs webpage](#).



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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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