



November 1-30, 2023

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

Farm to School Podcast - New Episodes Available!

[What is Farm to School?](#) - Rick & Michelle discuss exactly what is this movement, and how it came about. [School Garden Sustainability: Kelly Douglas](#) - Learn how Kelly transformed a local high school to have $\frac{3}{4}$ of the student body involved in the school garden and raised approximately \$30,000 in an underserved community to start the garden.

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 CNP Grants

Applications for the [Farm to CNP Education Grant](#) are now open and are due by Friday, November 3rd at 4pm. Agreements for the [Noncompetitive Reimbursement Grant](#) should be coming soon. In the meantime you can submit claims from July 1, 2023 on.

News from Around the State

Read about Farm to School successes and other exciting things that have been happening around the State.

Marketing Oregon Products

How are you marketing your Oregon Farm to CNP products in your cafeterias? We want to hear what is working well and what you are proud of. Your ideas may be shared out in a future Farm to CNP newsletter to inspire others! Please send pictures and a brief description of your marketing strategies to

Farmtocnp@ode.oregon.gov.





NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL PODCAST - New Episodes!

Two new Farm to School podcasts are now available:

What is Farm to School?

Rick & Michelle discuss exactly what is this movement, and how it came about.

School Garden Sustainability: Kelly Douglas

Learn how Kelly transformed a local high school to have $\frac{3}{4}$ of the student body involved in the school garden and raised approximately \$30,000 in an underserved community to start the garden.

The Farm to School 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.**

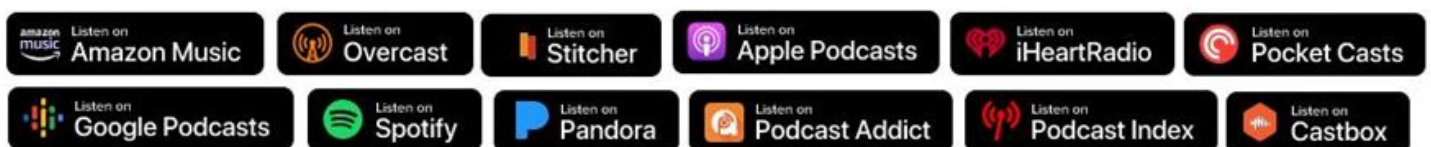
The Farm to School Podcast will be available wherever you are able to find your podcasts. The goal is to record at least two per month.

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.



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 according to the [SY 2022-2023 FFVP claims deadlines](#). 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 sometime in the next two months. 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 reimbursed for the claim once agreements are fully executed. At this time, a delay of this magnitude is not expected.
- October claims must be submitted no later than Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024. [The SY 2023-2024 FFVP claims deadlines can be found here](#).
- Any questions can be sent to us at 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 in the next month or so. 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." New sponsors must complete this step before submitting their first claim.
- Final report from last biennium (for returning Sponsors). The final report is available on our [grant webpage](#) under "Reporting." Returning sponsors must complete this step before submitting their first claim.
- 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 if you have any questions.



Education Grant

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

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd by 4PM!

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.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at 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.





Farm to CNP news from around the state

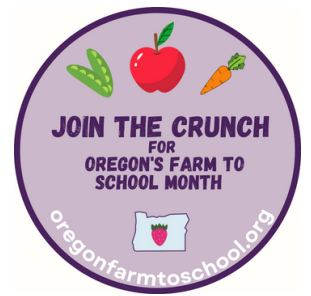


Commissioners Issue Proclamation for Farm to School Month in Douglas County

Douglas County Commissioners Tom Kress, Chris Boice, and Tim Freeman issued a proclamation October 18, 2023 at the Weekly Business Meeting calling upon all citizens of Douglas County to observe the month of October as National Farm to School Month. The Commissioners honored the work being done to enrich the lives of our children by local farm to school educators, volunteers, participating schools, community supporters, and local farms. [Read the full press release here.](#)

Oregon Crunch

The Oregon Farm to School & School Garden Network (OFSSGN) coordinated the first annual Oregon Crunch for Farm to School Month, with kids crunching into locally-grown apples or carrots and learning about local food across the state. Check out the [OFSSGN website](#) to see which schools and early care sites registered to support over 30,000 young crunchers this past October.



Redmond SD Expands FoodCorps Program

The Redmond School District in Oregon is teaming up with FoodCorps, a nationwide program focused on promoting healthy eating and food education in schools. The program, which includes serving fruits and vegetables during lunch, school gardens and outdoor education, aims to improve students' nutrition and connection to food while expanding its reach to all schools in the district. [Watch and read the full story at KTVZ-TZ.](#)



Luckiamute Valley Charter School - Fall Garden Successes

From the September 2023 school garden newsletter: So far 140 pounds of food have been harvested from the school garden. Students tasted food every week in the month of September including Chips and Salsa (made in class with tomatoes from the garden), watermelon and cantaloupe, corn on the cob (cooked fresh at school) and Asian pears. Some of the fruits and vegetables came from a local farm thanks to funding from the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP).



Marketing Oregon Products

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Buy Oregon Products this Fall!

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

[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](#).



Questions or suggestions for future issues?

Please send an email to the Farm to CNP team at FarmtoCNP@ode.oregon.gov.

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



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.