



Illinois Farm to School Network Updates

IFSN Webinar in 5 Days! School Wellness Policy Reboot!

Take the next step with your Wellness Policy and use it as a tool to help create a healthy and productive space for learning! Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the best ways to orchestrate your Wellness Policy in your school district.



The 2016 final rule required local educational agencies (LEAs) to develop a revised local school wellness policy during School Year 2016-2017. LEAs must have fully complied with the requirements of the final rule by June 30, 2017. If you are struggling with next steps to apply your revised wellness policy join us on November 15!

Illinois Farm to School Network Webinar: Putting Wellness Policy into Practice - Implementing, Communicating and Reporting

Listen in on November 15 to hear about best practices and learn how you can orchestrate your policy to serve as a more efficient and accessible Wellness Plan.

Join the Webinar! Wed, Nov 15, 2017 9:00-9:45am

On your computer:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/166671221>

Call in: (224) 501-3412

Access Code: 166-671-221

IFSN Wishes Lydia Van Slyke a Fond Farewell!

The Illinois Farm to School Network and Seven Generations Ahead wish Lydia Van Slyke a fond farewell as she begins the next chapter in her career.

Lydia began her work at Seven

Generations Ahead in May of 2014, working with the Fresh From the Farm program in local schools. She later accepted the role of Farm to School Program Manager and began building the Illinois Farm to School Network, brick by brick. Farm to School programming followed with the addition of the Great Apple Crunch and Illinois Harvest of the Month.



We wish Lydia a bright and productive future!

Farm to School News, Grants and Resources

News: Smarter, Brighter, and More Inviting Salad Bars: Marshall Public Schools

At Marshall Public Schools in Marshall, Michigan the salad bars were redesigned. Food service staff made some adjustments to their salad bar in effort to draw more students in and encourage them to eat more fruits and vegetables.

One change that was made at Marshall was making the salad bar items more colorful and appealing. Handmade salad bar items were also added. This change helped attract students to the salad bar area, making them more likely to choose fruits and vegetables with their meal.



[Read More Here](#)

Want to learn more about Smarter Lunchrooms? [Go Here.](#)

Grants: NRCS Help For Cook County Urban Farms

Who should apply: Individual Cook County growers or groups

Timeline: Two application deadline dates have been established-November 17, 2017 and January 19, 2018.

The urban landscape has many challenges for growing healthy food. NRCS can help with financial and technical assistance to manage natural resources like soil, water, and plants that can improve the crops urban farms grow. Financial assistance from NRCS is provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Individual growers or groups can apply to



receive EQIP financial assistance by filling out the program application, establishing records, and creating an account at their local USDA Service Center. Two USDA offices service Cook County growers.

[Read more here.](#)

Grants: 2018 Kid's Gardening Youth Garden Grant

Who should apply: Any nonprofit organization, public or private school, or youth program in the United States planning a new garden program or expanding an established one that serves at least 15 youth between the ages of 3 and 18 is eligible to apply.

Timeline: Applications due: December 8, 2017

Since 1982, KidsGardening has awarded Youth Garden Grants to 5456 schools, nonprofits, and youth programs across the United States contributing over 2.9 million dollars in funding to youth gardening initiatives. The 2018 Youth Garden Grant is sponsored by KidsGardening's generous donor base with contributions from leading companies in the horticulture industry: Dramm Corporation, Eartheasy, Fiskars Brands Inc., Gardener's Supply Company, Growers Supply Company, High Mowing Organic Seeds, JavaCycle, and Smart Pots.



[Read more here.](#)

Grants: 2018 USDA Farm to School Grant RFA released!



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Who should apply: K-12 Schools, state and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, small- and medium-sized agricultural producers or groups of small- and medium-sized agricultural producers, and non-profit entities working with schools or school districts

Timeline: Submissions due by 11:59pm ET on December 8, 2017.

The USDA has just released the Farm to School Grant RFA. The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. On an annual basis, USDA awards up to \$5 million in competitive grants for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm to school programs.

[Read more here.](#)

Resource: School Food Institute Online Courses Now Available!

School Food Institute, an initiative of the Chef Ann Foundation, gives school food service professionals and childhood nutrition advocates the in-depth training, operational skills, and strategic vision necessary to make school food fresh, healthy, and sustainable. Eight engaging online courses give you a front row seat in Chef Ann Cooper's classroom, where you can learn directly from a leader in school food change on how to transition school meal programs to scratch-cooked operations that provide real, healthy food to kids at school every day.



[Learn more here.](#)

Save the Date: 9th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference April 26-27, 2018 // Cincinnati, OH

Save the date for the 9th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference, coming to Cincinnati, Ohio, April 26-27, 2018! Hosted by the National Farm to School Network, this biennial event will convene more than 1,200 movement leaders working to source local food for institutional cafeterias and foster a culture of healthy food and agricultural literacy across America.



Cafeterias in schools, early care and education settings, universities, prisons and hospitals serve more than 40 million Americans every day, placing the farm to cafeteria movement at the forefront of the fight to end obesity and strengthen local food systems and economies. The [National Farm to Cafeteria Conference](#) is the only national gathering of stakeholders from across this movement, making it the premiere opportunity to learn, network and collaborate with likeminded leaders from across the country.

BECOME A NETWORK MEMBER

Join our growing movement. [Click here to take the Farm to School pledge](#), and then spread the word. Forward this email and invite anyone you know who cares about Farm to School to join the conversation.

