



Index

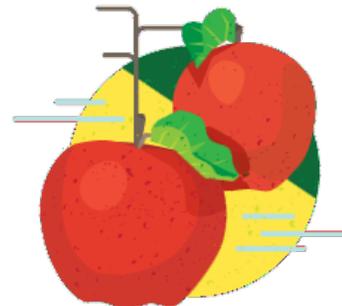
1. Illinois Farm to School Network News
2. Newsworthy in Illinois – Food for Thought
3. Resources for Schools and Feeding Sites
4. News Across the Nation
5. Resources for School Gardens
6. Garden News Across the Nation
7. Resources and Grants for Producers
8. Producer News

Illinois Farm to School Network News

The Great Apple Crunch 2018 Report is out! October 11, 2018 was the largest Apple Crunch on record! Are you curious about Illinois Great Apple Crunch numbers? Want to learn about procurement of local and regional apples for the event?

The report shares information and data gathered from Crunch participants across Illinois and provides a breakdown of participants and activities.

The next Great Apple Crunch will be held on October 10, 2019. [Registration](#) opens on May 15, 2019. Check out the 2018 report on our [website](#).



Newsworthy in Illinois

Local Focus:

Angelic Organics offers education and fun with a side of local

Angelic Organics Learning Center is the non-profit educational partner to Angelic Organics CSA, located in Caledonia, IL. The Learning Center coordinates Roots & Wings, the Blackhawk Court Farm and Garden, and the Youth Farm at Tinker Farm and Cottage, both in Rockford, IL.

The Learning Center at Angelic Organics offers multiple classes, workshops and overnight farm stays for kids of all ages. The folks at the Learning Center say you can turn the farm into a living classroom!

With room for up to 30 people, there are several different farm stay options that allow you to make your own farm experience. You can find more information at LearnGrowConnect.org/fieldtrips, or contact us to plan your trip at

Programs@LearnGrowConnect.org. You can check out their website with a listing of classes, overnights and learning opportunities [here](#).

Angelic Organics Current Offerings:

Soapmaking, 3/2/19 – Learn to make our gentle and highly coveted goat milk soap from scratch! Our lovely goats provide the milk and our veteran soapmaker explains the process while facilitating hands-on soapmaking. This workshop is more than melt-and-pour, and everyone makes two bars of soap to take home.

Kids with Kids Spring Break Camps – Be a farmer during spring break! It's kidding season and campers help run the farm and provide plenty of TLC for newborn goats and their moms. Campers form amazing bonds with newborn goat while learning about responsibility and the cycle of life in our most popular season of the year.

Check out our day camp during Rockford and Madison spring breaks, or overnight camp during Chicago and Milwaukee spring breaks.

Come to our farm with your family to meet and play with the new goat kids, or celebrate spring with tiny seedlings and upcycled planters! Join us for a day or overnight experience for kids and family members of all ages where you can unplug and engage with meaningful work on the farm. You can find family programs throughout the year on our [website](#).

Submit your farm to school story to Seven Generations Ahead!



Seven
Generations
Ahead

Are you an institution or community program that operates a youth garden or farm in Illinois? Or maybe you're a school or early care site buying local foods for your meal program? **Share your story and [apply for the 2019 Illinois Farm to School Case Study Series!](#)**

By sharing your accomplishments and the details of your farm to school experiences, you will help others around Illinois envision what farm to school could look like in their garden and child nutrition programs. The case study is also a great way to promote your activities and attract more funding and support for your project!

In 2019, Seven Generations Ahead and the Illinois Farm to School Network will be accepting applicants who participate in youth farming or gardening, farm to school programming (including the Great Apple Crunch and Harvest of the Month), and those procuring local food for a child feeding program to participate in **Illinois Farm to School Case Studies**. These case studies will be shared publicly through partner organizations and funders, and will be utilized in mapping projects focused on garden activities, culinary programs, and local food sourcing across Illinois. Selected applicants will participate in a phone interview and a possible site visit. We encourage our case study participants to share approved pictures and printed information pertaining to their programs.

Interested? [Apply now!](#) All case study participants will receive a farm to school goodie bag as a thank you for sharing their experiences!

Food for Thought:

The growth of Waltham School Nutrition: Five programs to watch!

Waltham MA

In the past four years, April Liles, food service director for Waltham School Nutrition, has reworked the breakfast and lunch programs in the district, adding options for students while keeping the greater community in mind.

Program Planting

Liles has purchased large metal racks a year ago to house seedlings for each elementary school. By growing basil or other herbs, teachers can incorporate the plants into their curriculum. At an inaugural plant sale this spring, community members will be able to purchase the plants. All the money raised from the sale would return to Waltham School Nutrition; the date of the sale is yet to be determined.

Today there are seven indoor gardens across Waltham's elementary schools.

"It's a small investment for a lot of return," Liles said.

Read more [here](#).



Resources for Schools & Feeding Sites

Fruit and Veggie Grants are still available

Grant Deadline: Available until funding is depleted.

Eligibility: Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. Schools with greater than 50% free and reduced eligible enrollment encouraged to apply.

Funding: \$2,500 per school.

The Information: This grant program awards school projects that help kids learn about and eat more fruits and vegetables. The grant is sponsored by Skoop and the Chef Ann Foundation. Learn more [here](#).

Fuel Up to Play 60 Grant Opportunities

Grant Deadline: Wednesday, **February 27, 2019**

Eligibility: This offer is open to schools in Chicago

Funding: \$2,000 to support a new or existing breakfast program

Fuel Up to Play 60 is excited to present a new Special Breakfast Opportunity that offers the chance for educators in eligible cities to apply for \$2,000 to support a new or existing breakfast program. The funding is provided by GENYOUth, with thanks to the generosity of UnitedHealthcare. Read more [here](#).

Farm to Early Care and Education webinar series resource available

This webinar series is designed for early childhood program staff including food service directors, cook staff, administration, teachers, and family day care home providers, and can also be beneficial for those seeking to support farm to ECE efforts. There are twelve webinars in all. Check out the resource [here](#).

Downloadable Resource: Guide to using the Creative Curriculum® to support Farm to ECE models

This resource, developed by The Policy Equity Group, aligns farm to ECE strategies with one of the most widely used ECE curricula—The Creative Curriculum®. The guides explore how teachers can use The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool and The Creative Curriculum® for Infants, Toddlers, & Twos as a foundation to embed farm to ECE learning opportunities into their existing practices. Read the full resource [here](#).

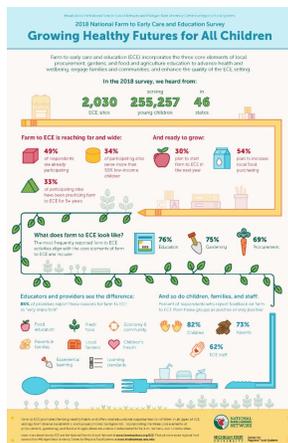
New Year, New Ways to Use Yogurt

Last fall, the Chef Ann Foundation and Danone North America teamed up to host a recipe contest featuring yogurt in school food recipes.

Are you ready for your new favorite healthy ingredient? Creamy and delicious, yogurt is packed with key nutrients to keep students going throughout their busy day. Yogurt is a versatile ingredient that can be used as a healthy replacement to foods such as cream cheese, mayonnaise, and sour cream. Best of all, yogurt can credit to the meat/meat alternate (m/ma) component of the USDA meal pattern.

Find the recipes [here](#).

2018 National Farm to Early Care and Education Survey



National Farm to School Network

In 2018, the National Farm to School Network and Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems surveyed early care and education (ECE) providers across the country. Nearly 2,030 providers serving 255,257 young children in 46 states responded and shared with us the benefits and challenges of connecting young children to healthy, local foods, gardening, and food and agriculture education through farm to ECE.

Read more [here](#).

Resources for School Gardens

2019 Gro More Grassroots Grant

Grant Deadline: Open now, will close on **February 15, 2019**

Eligibility: The Gro More Grassroots Grant is open to all nonprofit and tax-exempt organizations (including schools) in the United States and US Territories planning to use the funds to install new or expand existing youth-focused gardens or green spaces.

Funding: The top 25 programs will receive a check for \$1,000.

The Information: In 2019, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation and KidsGardening will award 175 grants worth a collective total of \$100,000. 150 grant recipients will be awarded a check for \$500 to support their initiatives.

Learn more [here](#).

Carton 2 Carton Contest from Kids Gardening

Grant Deadline: March 25, 2019

Eligibility: Carton 2 Garden is open to all K-12 public and private schools in the United States. Your school does not need a garden to participate. Pre-K classes located at schools serving additional elementary, middle and or high school grade levels may also enter the contest.

Funding: 15 prizes will be awarded a grand prize valued at \$5000.

The Information: Show your students' creativity by repurposing milk and juice cartons from your school cafeteria to enhance your school garden. Educators can engage students in a hands-on experience creating teachable moments on environmental stewardship, sustainable packaging, and healthy living. Read more [here](#).

Free Seeds for Your Learning Garden!!

Seeds for everyone! Every year seed companies across the country gather their seeds from the past year and donate them to school gardens. Through these donations, schools can receive a variety of FREE seeds as well as grow and learn about new and unique varieties! Here are two companies that are ready to donate seeds to your school! Read more [here](#).

Harvest for Healthy Kids Garden Lessons toolkit

Harvest for Healthy Kids helps children develop healthy eating habits. The program connects young children with fresh food grown close to home through activity kits that teach science, math and literacy. Each kit is developed and tested by teachers and childcare providers, and includes hands-on activities with different fruits and vegetables, colorful picture cards, newsletters for families and background information for adults. All Harvest for Healthy Kids activities are aligned with early learning standards and have been rigorously evaluated.

Access the toolkit [here](#).

Check out Big Green's Video Library [here](#).

Check out more resource [here](#).

Chicago Public Schools and the Seeds of Change™ Brand Announce a \$500,000 Grant to Support Eat What You Grow

United States Senator Dick Durbin and Chicago Public Schools joined Mars Food to announce a \$500,000 donation to the Children First Fund: The Chicago Public Schools Foundation (CFF) from the company's Seeds of Change™ organic food brand. The grant will support the Eat What You Grow (EWYG) program at 130 CPS schools across Chicago, including the cultivation of learning gardens, farm-to-table education and professional development, farmers markets at two schools and 30 summer gardening jobs for high school students.

Read more [here](#).

Garden News Across the Nation

Spring Beet Fever

CHICAGO IL

Check Out Big Green's Blog

For most of us, winter is still in full swing but we know spring is right around the corner! It is the perfect time to explore healthy and tasty beet root recipes. Beets are a colorful and delicious treat that can be prepared in a number of different ways – as a classroom snack, a dinner side, or as a main feature for lunch!

Read more [here](#).



Resources for Producers

Organic Grain Conference

February 13-14, 2019 | Urbana, IL

The Organic Grain Conference is the largest event in Illinois dedicated solely to organic grain education and networking! The 2019 conference will build upon the first two amazing years by increasing the number of break out sessions from two to four and growing the trade show to 25+ vendors. Read more about this conference [here](#).

Read more and register [here](#).

ReGenerate Illinois Summit: Small Grains + Agroforestry + Markets

March 14, 2019 | Bloomington, IL

Join ReGenerate Illinois and our partner organizations for the ReGenerate Illinois Summit: Small Grains + Agroforestry + Markets on Thursday, March 14, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Epiphany Farms Restaurant in Bloomington, Illinois. Farmers in the Middle Mackinaw Watershed and the IDEA Farm Network are encouraged to come together with value supply chain representatives and invest in a day of conversations and collaboration that look to the future of Illinois sustainable food resources. Low commodity prices are driving many farmers to look for out-of-the-box solutions and crops like oats, wheat, rye, peas, and dry beans can be an excellent addition to an existing production system Read more and register [here](#).

ILFMA Annual Conference

April 4, 2019 | Allerton Mansion, Monticello, IL

Do you manage or sell at a farmers market? Or maybe you're interested in the local food movement? Then save the date of Thursday, April 4, 2019 for the

Illinois Farmers Market Association (ILFMA) annual conference at Allerton Park & Retreat Center in Monticello, Illinois. This full-day conference will be packed with informative and inspiring speakers, 3 educational tracks (Market Managers, Market Vendors, and Market Presentations), targeted break-out sessions at all experience levels, networking opportunities, and a fabulous winter market and vendor fair.

Getting Started with Cottage Food: New Law, New Foods, New Business

February 18, 2019

University of Illinois Extension, in cooperation with the Illinois Stewardship Alliance and the Illinois Farmers Market Association will be offering a webinar “Getting Started with Cottage Food: New Law, New Foods, New Businesses” on February 18, 2019, from noon to 1 p.m. Join Molly Gleason from the Illinois Stewardship Alliance as she discusses the ins and outs of the new Illinois cottage food regulations for the 2019 farmers’ market season. If you are a new businesses, Gleason will talk about everything you need to know about getting started in the cottage food industry. Register [here](#).

2019 Small Farms Winter Webinar Series

Ongoing through April 4, 2019

The University of Illinois Extension presents a weekly educational series for the small farm community. This series will provide practical knowledge on emerging topics which advance local food production in Illinois. These online presentations will give small farm producers a look at how leading practices in production, management, and marketing enable operations to improve profitability and sustainability. Webinars will be held from noon – 1:00 pm on Thursdays and are free. You can find the complete list of topics and speakers [here](#).

Writing a Farm Food Safety Plan (FEB)

March 8, 2019 | Location TBD

Writing a food safety plan for your farm can help you organize and manage the task of complying with the law and managing your food safety risks. In this workshop, we will provide you with a template for crafting a food safety plan for your farm, walk you through the process of developing your plan, and provide you with access to experts who can answer your burning questions about managing food safety. Read more [here](#).

The Land Connection Webinars

Ongoing

Did you know The Land Connection offers a treasure-trove of informational webinars online, and at no cost? Check out the many topics offered from Mastering the Farmers Market to Post-Harvest Handling [here](#).

Producer News

Rice farming takes root in Illinois Blake Girard at River Bend Rice and Cahokia Rice



MCCLURE IL

Tired of seeing his corn drowned by heavy rains and flooding, farmer Blake Girard found a crop that loves water — rice.

With 1,175 acres of rice this season in Alexander and Union counties, Girard has 1,015 acres of long-grain rice for River Bend Rice Farms, 160 acres of high-protein rice for Cahokia Rice. This acreage also

includes some seed rice.

He’s also farming upwards of 1,500 acres of soybeans as his rotation crop with his rice fields and uses cereal rye as his cover crop. Read more [here](#).

STAY CONNECTED AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Sign up for this newsletter



This newsletter was created by **Seven Generations Ahead**

Seven Generations Ahead | 708.660.9909 | [Email](#) | [Website](#)