



Illinois Farm to School News

IFSN Webinar: Gardening with Grants and More!

Join us on September 27th for our webinar on Gardening with Grants and More!

Listen in as we explore the grant opportunities available for planning and growing a school garden. We will share information and the experiences from the staff at the East Aurora Tomcat Garden. They will share their garden project and how they funded their work.



We will also share information on the Illinois Great Apple Crunch happening on October 12, 2017.

Our new format will allow listeners to catch this webinar at various times during the day, making it easier to fit it into your schedule. Check out the list below for all your options!

Webinar Schedule:

Wed, Sep 27, 2017 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM CDT

On your computer: [Click here.](#)

Listen via phone: (571) 317-3122

Access Code: 649-602-661

Wed, Sep 27, 2017 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM CDT

On your computer: [Click here.](#)

Listen via phone: (646) 749-3112

Access Code: 149-805-125

Illinois Great Apple Crunch: Registration Now Open

Illinois Great Apple Crunch

CRUNCH INTO FRESH,
LOCALLY GROWN APPLES

OCTOBER 12TH, 2017
AT PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS



The Illinois Great Apple Crunch, on October 12th, is a day-long celebration of fresh, local apples from the Midwest. Schools across the state of Illinois can participate by serving local apples on the lunch tray and 'crunch'-ing into them together as a school. We provide educational supplements for use in the cafeteria and the classroom that will teach your students all about Illinois apples.

Apple Crunch is a part of the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch, which is in its third year. Students across the Great Lakes region participate in this fun celebration of local food. The regional Crunch is a project of the Great Lakes region of the National Farm to School Network, and is coordinated in Illinois by a variety of local partners.

[Check out our website](#) to view pictures from Illinois schools as they crunched into local apples. Register, and plan your Apple Crunch for October 12th!

[Register Here](#)

Harvest of the Month Registration Ends Soon!

Illinois has a new farm to school program, Illinois Harvest of the Month! Our new program has all the tools for schools and early childcare education sites to easily participate in a monthly celebration of local veggies.

Each month has a featured veggie with educational tools, recipes and activities. It's free to participate! Just register online and you will receive a program handbook and beautiful program posters.

If your school, Early Childcare Center or mission related organization is interested in participating or sharing our program for the 2017/18 school year, be sure to register soon! The Harvest of the Month registration page closes on **September 15th at 5:00pm**.

To see a map with the Illinois schools and partner organizations registered for Harvest of the Month [click here](#).

Check out our program at: [Illinois Harvest of the Month](#)



Article: Wendell Smith Elementary to benefit from \$2M donation from Wells Fargo

Tuesday, May 30th, Wells Fargo announced its massive donation to The Kitchen Community which sponsors gardening efforts at Wendell Smith Elementary School in Chicago.



The project is being led by The Kitchen Community, an organization that builds vegetable gardens, and outdoor classrooms. Wendell Smith Elementary is one of 142 schools in Chicago to be granted a Learning Garden from The Kitchen Community.

[Read more here.](#)

Resource: Growing Head Start Success with Farm to Early Care and Education

To make it easier for Head Start stakeholders to implement farm to early care and education, the National Farm to School Network has created Growing Head Start Success with Farm to Early Care and Education. This new, comprehensive resource aims to promote understanding amongst Head Start stakeholders of how farm to ECE supports achievement of Head Start Program Performance Standards and contributes to learning and development benchmarks as outlined in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.



[Dig into the resource here.](#)

Resource: School Garden Support Organizations (SGSO) Best Practices Webinar Series

School Garden Support Organizations work to prepare teachers, organization staff, and community volunteers to lead students in garden-based learning activities. Learn different approaches School Garden Support Organizations use to lead high quality professional development for garden educators. This webinar is a part of the School Garden Support Organizations (SGSO) Best Practices Webinar Series hosted by the National School Garden Network (NSGN).



[Register here.](#)

Resource: Wellness Wednesday: Integrating Nutrition Education into a Well-Rounded Education

Join Action for Healthy Kids for our December 2017 Wellness Wednesday webinar to learn how your school and teachers can integrate nutrition education into core subjects! Strategies, tips and lesson ideas can be used at all levels and in multiple subjects.



Webinar Topics include:

- September 13, 2017: Pumping Up PE: Get Sweaty (Moderate to Vigorous PE Strategies)
- October 11, 2017: Healthy Celebrations
- November 8, 2017: Integrating Movement into Core Subjects
- December 13, 2017: Integrating Nutrition Education into Core Subjects
- January 10, 2018: Super Fit Schools Challenge
- February 14, 2018: Healthy Family Events
- March 14, 2018: Yoga in the Classroom
- April 11, 2018: Healthy Snacking
- May 9, 2018: Volunteer Recognition Programs

[Register here.](#)

Resource: New Recipes from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service for CACFP Menus

Fall in love with these delicious new recipes from Team Nutrition!

These culturally-inspired recipes are standardized to yield 6, 25, and 50 servings. They are a tasty way to introduce new flavors at child care and home and to teach kids about different cultures.

[Find the Recipes Here](#)



Resource: Growing Opportunities; Farm to School Benefits to Farmers and Producers

Join the National Farm to School Network in this webinar to learn about farm to school's opportunities and benefits for farmers and producers. Catch a sneak peak of the National Farm to School Network's forthcoming case studies on the economic impacts of farm to school, and hear firsthand experiences and tips from farmers in the movement. This webinar is generously sponsored by CoBank.



[Register Here.](#)

Grants: Target Field Trip Grants

Who should apply:
Schools in the U.S.
Application Closes:
Oct. 1st, 2017 at 11:59 pm



It's become increasingly difficult for schools to fund learning opportunities outside the classroom. To help them out, Target launched Target Field Trip™ grants in 2007. Target stores award Target Field Trip™ grants to K-12 schools nationwide. Each grant is valued up to \$700. Field trips must take place between January and the end of the school year (May or June) 2016.

[Learn more here.](#)

Grants: Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant

Application Closes:
October 31, 2017 at 5pm CST
Review Period: Winter 2017
Notification to All Applicants:
February 15, 2018



Whole Kids Foundation will be launching the 2017 application for their School Garden Grant program on September 1, 2017. Created in partnership with FoodCorps, the School Garden Grant program provides a \$2,000 monetary grant to a K-12 school, or a non-profit working in partnership with a K-12 school, to support a new or existing edible garden on school grounds.

[Learn more here.](#)

Grants: GreenWorks Environmental Service Learning Projects Grant

Application Closes:
September 30, 2017 at 5pm CST

Project Learning Tree offers GreenWorks! grants up to \$1,000 to schools and youth organizations for environmental service-learning projects that link classroom learning to the real world. Students implement an action project they help design to green their school or to improve an aspect of their neighborhood's environment.



The projects partner students with their whole school, local businesses and/or community organizations, and provide opportunities for student

leadership. The funds can be used by students to implement recycling programs at their school, conserve water and energy, establish school gardens and outdoor classrooms, improve a forest, or restore a natural habitat, for example.

[Learn more here.](#)

Farm to School Related Events

Event: Attend the 2017 IL/IA School Wellness Conference

Save the date for the 2017 IL/IA: School Wellness Conference held on November 2, 2017 in Rock Island, IL. The Illinois-Iowa 2017 School Wellness Conference is hosted by Illinois/Iowa Action for Healthy Kids (IL/IA AFHK).



Conference sessions highlight successful school health and wellness-related outreach in schools, innovative projects that improve the overall health of the school community, and emerging issues impacting school health and wellness.

[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.

