# October 2020

The Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program is committed to providing equitable and just programming, resources, funding, and technical assistance to schools, farmers, and partners in the local food system.

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## Department Team

We are excited to introduce Hanna Davis to the farm to school team! Hanna will serve at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture over the next year as the State School Garden Manager. Hanna will provide technical assistance to schools, develop farm to school resources, map school gardens around the state, host webinars and trainings, and lead the school garden contest and grant program. Welcome Hanna!!!

Hanna grew up in Dallas, Texas and graduated from Hendrix College with a Bachelor's in Environmental Studies. Hanna spent a year as an AmeriCorps member at the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, teaching food skills classes and implementing outreach for school nutrition programs, and recently completed a term of service with Full Circle FarmCorps. Through Hanna's work at various gardens, restaurants, and community organizations in Arkansas, Hanna has become passionate about fighting food insecurity and removing the barriers that keep people from enjoying healthy, local food.

You can reach Hanna by emailing hanna.davis@agriculture.arkansas.gov.

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## October Farm to School Month

This year for Arkansas Farm to School Month we are "Celebrating Local!" From the farmers who grow our food, to the educators and parents who teach children about gardening, cooking, and nutrition, we together, create a strong local food system.
**#ARF2SMonth #CelebrateLocal**

To Celebrate Local, we can eat local, grow local, and learn about local food. Spread the news and join in this month! We have created a media and promotion toolkit where you can find resources, graphics, language, and examples to promote your Arkansas Farm to School activities. Everything included has a downloadable version for editing and customization.

Another way you can Celebrate Local this October is by joining the Arkansas Department of Agriculture and Heifer USA for a LIVE and INTERACTIVE virtual farm field trip or the National Farm to School Network's Movement Meeting.

**Virtual Farm Field Trip**
*October 28, 2020, 1:30 p.m.*
The Arkansas Department of Agriculture and Heifer USA are hosting a virtual farm field trip and all are invited. We will tour the certified organic production gardens, hear expert advice on gardening best practices, and celebrate local successes from across the state. Attendees will be able to ask questions and interact throughout the LIVE event. In case of rain, the virtual event will be hosted on October 29, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. CST.

**Register Here**

**Food Justice is Racial Justice: National Farm to School Network Movement Meeting**
*October 14, 2020, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.*
Join National Farm to School Network for a virtual Movement Meeting featuring food justice activist Karen Washington, for deep conversation and action-oriented reflection on racial justice in the farm to school movement and wider food system. You'll connect with fellow farm to school and food justice advocates from across the country, dig into conversations about what it means to shift power, and help shape the next steps of progress towards our vision of a just food system for all. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this free event; no prior knowledge of farm to school needed.

**Register Here**

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## Webinars and Trainings

**Goal Setting and Creating Action Steps: Arkansas Farm to School Network Conversation**
*October 22, 2020, 3:30 p.m.*
Join the conversation to hear about Arkansas Farm to School, goal setting, and creating action steps. Cassidy Hobler with FoodCorps Arkansas will share tools and resources that help schools evaluate their farm to school

program and create yearly goals.

Register Here

**Local Procurement: Arkansas Farm to School Network Conversation**

*November 12, 2020, 2:00 p.m.*

Join the conversation to hear about Arkansas Farm to School and local procurement. Ally Mrachek, Child Nutrition Director at Fayetteville Public Schools, will share their farm to school story and how their program has continued to purchase more and more local food.

Register Here

**Missed a previous network conversation?**

Find them on our YouTube Channel

**Lunchtime Learning Series**

*October 16 and 23, 2020, 12:00 p.m.*

The Local, Regional, and Safe Foods Team of the University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture will be hosting a Lunchtime Learning Series in October to assist small food businesses. The first on October 16 is Starting a Small Food Business in Arkansas: Cottage Food. The second on October 23 is Food Safety Documentation and COVID-19 Preparedness for Small Food Manufacturers.

Register Here

**Produce Grower Remote Trainings**

*October 21-22, November 9-10, December 1-2: 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule is the first federally regulated standard for growing, harvesting, packing, and holding fresh produce in an effort to reduce microbial contamination

and foodborne illness outbreaks. If you grow fruits or vegetables, attend a training hosted by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service's Produce Safety Team to learn information about best practices, risk management, and regulatory requirements.

Register Here

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# Resources

### Apple Seeds Virtual Field Trips for Grades 3 and 4

Apple Seeds is a nonprofit Teaching Farm located in Fayetteville, Arkansas, whose mission is to inspire healthy living through garden-based education. For the past 16 years, Apple Seeds has provided garden-based education to students across all of Northwest Arkansas through school garden programming, field trips to the farm, and cooking classes on the farm and in the schools. With this year's challenge to in-person education they rapidly adapted their platform to reach students in any learning scenario. They have made new resources available to support students and educators across the state.

**Grade 3:** While exploring the Apple Seeds Teaching Farm, students will practice fractions as they learn how to be nutrition label detectives and prepare a delicious smoothie with ingredients from the garden.

Register Here

**Grade 4:** While exploring the Apple Seeds Teaching Farm, students will make observations to explain how and why plants adapt to their environment, help solve math problems in the garden, and learn how to make a healthy and delicious snack at home.

Register Here

### Virtual Hunger Simulation

The Arkansas Foodbank has created a Virtual Hunger Simulation as a spinoff of their in-person hunger simulation. This virtual option gives participants a very brief introduction to the lives lived and tough decisions made by so many Arkansans. The launching of this hunger simulation was a part of **#HungerActionMonth** - a month long campaign focused on shedding light on hunger across our nation.

View Here

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# News

[AmeriCorps Grant Funds Community Garden Program]

Arkansas Resource Conservation and Development Council, in partnership with St. Joseph Center in North Little Rock and the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, will reintroduce the Full Circle FarmCorps program this December in Sebastian and Pulaski County. The new $186,557 program has been issued funding approval by the Arkansas State Service Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education.

## 2021 Environmental Mini-Grant Applications Open

The Arkansas Environmental Education Association is soliciting proposals of up to **$500** for AEEA's Environmental Education Mini-grant Program. The program is designed to support, enhance, and expand the implementation of environmental education throughout the state of Arkansas by classroom teachers and non-formal educators and organizations.

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ARKANSAS Farm to School