



# Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program



## November 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.

## Webinars and Trainings

### 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](#)

### Produce Grower Remote Trainings

*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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## Grants

### **NEW! Arkansas School Garden Grant Program**

*Deadline: November 30, 2020*

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is pleased to announce the new Arkansas School Garden Grant Program to help schools start or expand gardens on school grounds. The Department will award \$500 grants to 40 schools to purchase soil, specialty crop seeds and plants, and gardening equipment, and will provide technical assistance to grantees upon request. The grant program is available to public and private K-12 schools, early childhood education facilities, and alternative learning environments. All eligible schools are encouraged to apply, whether they are just getting started with a garden or have had a garden program for many years.



[Apply Here](#)



### **USDA 2021 Farm to School Grant Request for Applications**

*Deadline: January 8, 2021*

The fiscal year (FY) 2021 Farm to School Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA) is now available! The solicitation officially opened October 16, 2020, and will remain open until 11:59 p.m. ET on January 8, 2021. The USDA seeks to award up to \$10 million this fiscal year. New for FY 2021, institutions operating the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program at non-school based sites are included in the definition of eligible schools and may apply for funding. Register for informational webinars scheduled November 10 and November 13.

[Apply Here](#)

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## Resources

### **Virtual Field Trips on the Apple Seeds Teaching Farm 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.

These free Virtual Farm Field Trips designed for Grades 3 and 4 are fun and interactive while reinforcing essential grade-level standards. The virtual field trips hit on math, science, literacy, and health standards. The program is suitable for 2nd thru 6th grades.

[Access Here](#)



### \$10 Challenge Lesson Plan

Interested in teaching your students how to shop for, prepare, and eat more healthy foods on a budget? The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance has developed a universal lesson plan for K-12 teachers that teaches just that! The lesson focuses on food skills such as front-of-package and label reading (English), using ingredient lists (Science), calculating and comparing unit prices (Math), and much more. The lesson goes beyond just increasing knowledge about which foods are better for our bodies, focusing on why the words we use to talk about foods with kids is critical and how we can use language to promote adopting healthier eating. Though our lesson plan is designed for teachers, it is also useful for non-profits that work with teachers and/or offer nutrition education.

[Access Here](#)

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[Visit Our Website](#)

