



# Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program



## February 2021

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

### Farm to Early Care and Education Webinar

*February 25, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.*

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Curricula Concepts, and the Arkansas Coalition for Obesity Prevention have partnered to offer an hour-long webinar on the topic of farm to early care and education. Join on February 25, 2021 at either 12:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. to learn about the statewide Go NAPSACC program and how to start or expand your farm to school classroom, cafeteria, and community.



The webinar will be offered at two different times to allow educators, administrators, and child care staff flexibility.

February 25, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

February 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

[Register Here](#)

## Recordings of the Arkansas Farm to School Network Conversations 2020 - 2021

Over the past twelve months, Arkansas Farm to School Network Conversations were held monthly and focused on a range of farm to school

topics with expert speakers. These conversations were a time to share successes in farm to school, problem-solve farm to school barriers, and provide peer-to-peer mentorship. Check out the recordings from last year!

## 2020

- February - Starting a School Garden
- March - Summer Garden Successes
- April - Food Safety in the School Garden
- May - School Meal Programs and COVID-19
- June - Farm to Early Childhood Education
- July - Nutrition Education
- August - Grants and Funding
- September - Preparing for Arkansas Farm to School Month
- October - Goal Setting and Creating Action Steps
- November - Local Procurement
- December - Farmers Selling to Schools



## 2021

- January - Successful School Garden Programs

Find them on our YouTube Channel

## Congratulations to the Arkansas School Garden Grant Program Recipients



The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is pleased to announce that 52 schools across Arkansas have been approved for funding through the Arkansas School Garden Grant Program. Each of the schools will receive a \$500 grant to be used for starting or expanding gardens on school grounds.

Read more here

## 2020 Annual Reports

The Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program submitted the Arkansas Farm to School and Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act 2020 Annual

Reports to the Governor and Legislative Councils at the end of 2020. We are pleased to share them with the public and greatly appreciate our partners who supported the creation of both reports.

## Arkansas Farm to School 2020 Annual Report

## Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act 2020 Annual Report



[View Report Here](#)



[View Report Here](#)

## Upcoming Grant Opportunities

### Arkansas Farm Bureau Outdoor Classroom Garden Mini-Grant Program

*Deadline: February 15, 2021*

*Funding: Up to \$500*

The Outdoor Classroom Garden Mini-Grant Program is designed to show that agriculture is an integral part of our everyday environment. Farms, wildlife, forestry, people, and cities are all interrelated with agriculture. As most of Arkansas's wildlife resides on and feeds off private property, including farms and timberlands, the gardens can demonstrate the connection between agriculture, food, fiber, conservation, wildlife, and the urban environment. Schools, FFA Chapters, and 4-H Clubs with a minimum of 100 students for average daily attendance are eligible to apply. [Apply here.](#)



### Blue & You Foundation Mini-Grant

*Deadline: February 15, 2021*

*Funding: \$1,000*

Blue & You Foundation offers \$1,000 mini-grants to support health improvement projects in



Arkansas. Any health related activity is eligible. Applications for mini-grants are accepted January 1 – February 15, with funding decisions made by March 15. [Apply here.](#)

# Blue & You FOUNDATION

**FOR A HEALTHIER ARKANSAS**

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

## Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant

*Opens: February 15, 2021*

*Deadline: March 31, 2021*

*Funding: \$3,000*

Through the Garden Grant program, schools and non-profit organizations turn outdoor spaces into powerful hands-on learning gardens that connect kids with food, spark their curiosity, and support classroom curriculum. The program provides funding to support a new or existing edible educational garden at K-12 schools and non-profit organizations. [Apply here.](#)



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## In the News

### Farm to School FAQs

Since Farm to School's inception, over 300 schools have implemented farm to school programs across the Natural State with more popping up every year. If you would like to participate in the cultivation of young minds and fresh produce, check out this blog on frequently asked questions. [Read more here.](#)

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## Visit Our Website



# ARKANSAS Farm to School