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# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward  
Secretary of Agriculture

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## 2022-2023 Farm to School Grant Application Deadline Extended

**LITTLE ROCK, AR** – The Arkansas Department of Agriculture has extended the deadline for applications to the Arkansas School Garden Grant Program and the Arkansas Taste Test Grant Program through **January 25, 2023**.

The Arkansas School Garden Grant Program is available to help schools start or expand gardens on school grounds. The Department will award \$500 grants to 50 schools to purchase soil, specialty crop seeds and plants, and gardening equipment. More information about the Arkansas School Garden Grant Program can be found at [agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-programs/farm-to-school/school-gardens/arkansas-school-garden-grant-program/](http://agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-programs/farm-to-school/school-gardens/arkansas-school-garden-grant-program/) or by contacting Erica Benoit at [erica.benoit@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:erica.benoit@agriculture.arkansas.gov).

The Arkansas Taste Test Grant Program is available to help schools lead cafeteria taste tests of locally grown specialty crops. The Department will award \$250 grants to 20 schools to purchase kitchen equipment and utensils, serving materials, and specialty crop seeds and plants.

“School gardens and taste tests have proven to be valuable tools in teaching children about agriculture, nutrition, and a variety of skills,” said Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward. “The lessons learned through these programs can have a lasting impact on children, their families, and entire communities.”

More information about the Arkansas Taste Test Grant Program can be found at [agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-programs/farm-to-school/local-procurement/arkansas-taste-test-grant-program/](http://agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-programs/farm-to-school/local-procurement/arkansas-taste-test-grant-program/) or by contacting Lindsey Cartwright at [lindsey.cartwright@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:lindsey.cartwright@agriculture.arkansas.gov).

The grant programs are available to public and private K-12 schools, early care facilities, and alternative learning environments. All eligible schools are encouraged to apply, whether they already have existing farm to school activities or they are just getting started with school gardens and local procurement. Technical assistance is available to all grantees.

The application for both programs can be found at <https://bit.ly/3TILT7d>. Applicants are welcome to apply for one or both grant opportunities within the same application.

Both grant programs were developed with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Specialty Crop Block Grant Program to increase the production and consumption of specialty crops in schools. Specialty crops as defined by the USDA are fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, floriculture, and nursery crops.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit [agriculture.arkansas.gov](http://agriculture.arkansas.gov). The Arkansas Department of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



# ARKANSAS Farm to School