

May 5, 2016

Hello Western region farm to school leaders,

Below are your updates for this week. **Western region and other important items** highlighted in yellow. **Early care content in blue**. As always, most of this information is also archived on our blog: <http://www.farmtoschool.org/news-and-articles/this-week-in-farm-to-school-5-4-16>.

Thank you!  
Angela

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## Webinars & Events

### 1. Last Chance! Join Us at the National Farm to Cafeteria Conference

Don't miss the [8th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference](#) in Madison, Wis., June 2-4, 2016. This event is the only national gathering of stakeholders from across the farm to cafeteria movement, making it a crucial leadership development opportunity to advance community health, build economic opportunities for farmers and producers, and ensure long-term sustainability for local food efforts nationwide. **The registration deadline is May 16** – that's less than two weeks away. Register today at [farmtocafeteriaconference.org](http://farmtocafeteriaconference.org).

### 2. Webinar: New Healthier CACFP Meal Standards: What you need to know

*Food Research & Action Center*

*Monday, May 9, 1-2:30pm ET*

USDA has issued the new healthier meal pattern for the Child and Adult Care Food Program and related programs. Join the Food Research and Action Center and USDA for a webinar on the new rules and USDA's implementation plans. Learn what you need to know about USDA's recently issued healthier CACFP meal pattern and nutrition standards for the Child and Adult Care Food Program in Head Start, child care centers, family child care homes, afterschool programs, emergency shelters and adult day care and school meal programs in school-based PreK. [Register here](#).

### 3. Webinar: School Garden Education for Children Experiencing Behavioral and Mental Health Challenges

*Slow Food USA*

*Tuesday, May 17, 2pm ET*

School Gardens for students with behavioral and mental health challenges provide interesting opportunities to develop positive and empowering life skills. The Creeks School Garden in Portland Oregon integrates practical education theory and methods into tangible, thoughtful teaching exercises that results in dynamic behavioral changes. The Creeks School Garden team will describe: the learning characteristics of these special children, their school settings, the importance of community partnerships, and specific activities that help these student's gain confidence and develop productive collaborative relationships. [Learn more here](#).

## Research & Resources

### 1. Film: Food Frontiers

Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future has released a short film that tells a half-dozen stories about projects around the country that are aimed at increasing access to healthy food. One of the stories covers farm to school programs in Riverside, Calif., and Claremont, Calif., including extensive material on farm to school pioneer Rodney Taylor and his farmer collaborator Bob Knight. [Watch the film here](#).

## Jobs & Opportunities

### **1. USDA Office of Community Food Systems - two positions**

USDA's Office of Community Food Systems has posted two, permanent, full-time positions. One will be charged with coordinating efforts to bring more local foods into our schools programs, while the other will manage our summer and CACFP portfolio. The deadline to submit applications is Tuesday, May 17. [Learn more here.](#)

### **2. Executive Director, Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network**

The Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network has re-opened its search for a new Executive Director. WSFFN's Executive Director will lead The Network into a new decade, providing both vision and action to strengthen sustainable food and farming systems. The position will remain open until filled. [Learn more here.](#)

### **3. Program Manager, Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network**

The Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network is a national, cooperative extension-based network that includes practitioners (producers, processors, other related businesses), government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and others supporting processing infrastructure essential to local and regional meat production. This position is based at Oregon State University, but open to telecommuting from outside of Oregon. [Learn more here.](#)

### **4. Wellness Dietitian, Burke County Public Schools**

Burke County Public Schools (Georgia) seeks a Wellness Dietitian to join its School Nutrition team. The position is heavily involved with the district's farm to school and Early Head Start work. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

## **Farm to school in the news**

### **[Trying To Alleviate Food Deserts In Arizona's Desert](#) - *shout out to Cindy Gentry, NFSN Arizona State Lead!***

There are a number of food deserts in and around Maricopa County, Ariz. - areas in which residents have little-to-no access to healthy food. In this radio interview, Cindy Gentry, food systems coordinator for the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, speaks about the role schools play in trying to alleviate food deserts. [Listen here.](#) KJZZ

### **[Local Food Learning Lab Sparks Growth](#) - *shout out to ASAP, NFSN Southeast Regional Lead Agency!***

Preschoolers at ASAP's new Growing Minds Learning Lab are getting their hands dirty this summer. Hear them talk about their gardening experiment and find out how the Child Care Center of First Presbyterian Church of Asheville, N.C. is bringing local food into the lives of its littlest learners. [Listen here.](#)