

Local News

A North Dakota Department of Agriculture Initiative - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring

October 1, 2009

Volume 2, No. 9

Community survey work begins to develop Farm to School programs

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) is creating more Farm to School program connections as the Local Foods Initiative enters its second year.

NDDA will survey producers, businesses and others in the community involved in the direct sale or purchase of farm products. The information collected will be used to establish farm-to-cafeteria contracts for the upcoming school year.

The data will generate reports for each community that can be used as a base to mark the progress of local foods use in the state. From the survey data, NDDA staff will begin working to build connections between schools and producers for Farm to School programs.

Community assessments are important work. In 1981, Robert Rodale, the son of the founder of Organic Farming and Gardening J.J. Rodale, began the Farming System Trials, which included “the Cornucopia Project.” The trials documented the energy, chemical and production costs of the nation’s food production and distribution system for the first time and made recommendations on how those costs could be lowered by the adoption of local and regional food production systems.

A Cornucopia study was not done in North Dakota, but a study in Montana has become an important part of the current Montana food system’s work. You can learn more about that initiative called Grow Montana at: www.growmontana.ncat.org.

Thanks to Rodale’s work, Montanans have proof that 70 percent of the food they ate in 1950 was grown in Montana. Today that number has dropped to around 10 percent. Montana has a concrete target to restore the amount of food produced in the state to numbers that were recorded in 1950.



Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring visited the Youth Correctional Center in Mandan to announce the Farm to Cafeteria program.

North Dakota and the Local Foods Initiative will greatly benefit from documenting current local food production and consumption. We need a baseline of our local foods infrastructure to evaluate future growth and trends.

If your community is not contacted in September to be a part of the surveys, and you would like to be a part of a survey team, please contact our office at 701-328-4763 or e-mail suebalcom@nd.gov.

A toolkit is available with the information, press releases and recipe for success your community needs. All you add is volunteers.



Localmotion

Minot touts first certified vegetable producer

Peggy Walter of Cutbank Creek Produce has been issued the first license as an approved operation to sell produce to local stores and restaurants from the First District Health Unit in Minot.

It is part of a new inspection program for small farmers selling fruits and vegetables to insure farmers market vendors are selling safe food.

The certificate is based on the health unit verifying Walter's Good Agricultural Practices, a water test, and an on-site inspection by a member of the health unit's staff.

At least one additional grower is now involved in the registration process.

For more information contact First District Health Unit at: www.fdh.u.org or e-mail Jim Heckman at jheckman@nd.gov.

How Does Your Garden Grow? Gardening in North Dakota

The North Dakota State Heritage Center James E. Sperry Gallery will host the "Gardening in North Dakota" exhibit beginning Nov. 20.

Short growing seasons and cold winters have always challenged North Dakota gardeners. From native Mandan and Hidatsa gardeners to the modern North Dakota State University extension research centers, people have worked to produce fruit and vegetable varieties that are cold-hardy, fast-growing and drought-resistant. This exhibit follows a garden's progress from planting, to harvest, and finally, preservation. Historic garden implements and original seed catalogs are featured.



Growing Together Farmers Market

Location: The Gathering, 3910 25th St S., Fargo
Date: Thursdays, Sept. 24, Oct. 1 and Oct. 8
Time: 5:30 – 7 p.m.

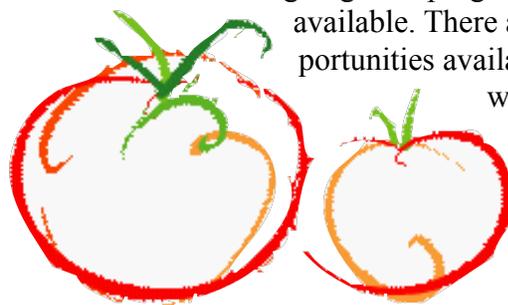
Olivet Lutheran and First United Methodist Churches in Fargo have supported two community gardens this summer, one at the Crossroads and the other at the Gathering. This program has supported 12 refugee families and provided donations to the New Life Center and the Charism Daily Bread Program.

On Sept. 17, the first annual Harvest Celebration was held. Due to the overwhelming success and many requests from people who stopped by, it was decided to offer organically grown local produce for sale at Thursdays' Growing Together Farmers Market.

Produce for sale includes 10 varieties of the heirloom tomato you have heard so much about; the Sun Gold cherry tomato, claimed to be one of the best tasting tomatoes in the world; buttercup and some heirloom varieties of squash; bell, banana, cayenne, and roasting peppers; and also beets, carrots, and eggplant.

All proceeds from the Growing Together Farmers Market will go to support our 2010 Refugee Garden. We will also have an exchange for dry goods, flour, rice, sugar and pasta to be donated to refugees.

Information on how you can participate in the Grow - ing Together program will be available. There are many opportunities available to help with this program.



We look forward to seeing you at the garden.

McHenry Market News

Just a quick note to report that McHenry County's three farmers markets are going strong: Anamoose started its "Market in the Park" this year and has had a great turnout; Velva's on its third year and going strong with 10 vendors; Granville, in their second year, has five vendors; and Towner has an unorganized market on Saturdays.

McHenry County is really proud of its Growing Local vendors. Promoters are looking forward to expanding both purchasing opportunities for our citizens and the economic base for our growers.

*Velva Farmers Market photos
by Maria Effertz Hanson*

USDA announces programs to assist rural communities with local food and regional food systems

Communities of 20,000 or less can apply to the Rural Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a Community Facilities (CF) Program loan or grant to build, buy or renovate community facilities or to buy equipment for community projects, such as local foods programs.

Among other things, these facilities can improve access to high-quality and affordable local foods and provide opportunities for local food producers in those communities to develop and grow their businesses. For example, CF funds can be used to set up cold storage as part of an effort to retrofit a school cafeteria to buy produce directly from farmers.

Local governments, non-profit organizations, and federally-recognized Indian tribes are eligible to apply for funds to finance "essential community facilities." Applications must be for projects in rural areas.

Projects that support local and regional food systems that may qualify for CF funding include:

- Farmers markets
- Community kitchens/food processing centers



- Facilities and equipment used by not-for-profit food distribution networks
- Cooking schools
- Community food banks

Loan amounts vary widely depending on the project, but the average CF direct loan in 2008 was \$665,229. Grants for projects in communities with smaller populations and lower median household incomes are usually highly leveraged with other loan and grant awards.

More information about the program is available at www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/cp.htm.

All CF applications are filed and processed in either the state or local USDA Rural Development Office for the project location. These offices put out a request for applications and make awards once a year for a 12 month funding cycle. Contact the North Dakota RDA office at (701) 530-2037 or your local RDA office for more information. A listing of local offices can be found at www.rurdev.usda.gov/nd/field-list.htm.

Bowdon Farmers' Market News

by Linda Widicker

The first season of the Bowdon Farmers' Market has been a big success! A great line-up of vendors from Bowdon, Manfred, Fessenden, Tuttle, Sykeston and Carrington have offered for sale fresh garden produce, jams and jellies, homemade breads, pies and other baked goods, as well as hand-crafted items such as herb wreaths, garden signs, soaps, candles and jewelry.

Wednesday markets at the school gym in Bowdon have been a special treat for local folks and visitors alike who have come out to enjoy the vendors' wares along with "Taste of Bowdon," flea market finds, craft demonstrations and down-home musical entertainment. Market performers have included Dakota Thunder (Paul Schneider & Nathan Johnson), Mrs. Wonderful & Those Other Guys (Norma & Richard Bruer & friends), Clinton Krause, Alyssa Bruer, Nancy Schneider, former members of the Pea Pickers, Roger Lauckner, Heather Schmelfenig, Sam Kleinsasser and Lydia Gessele. The Bowdon Farmers' Market has ap-

preciated the willingness of each and every performer as they've livened up the evenings with their musical talents! Not only have the Wednesday markets provided fresh foods direct from local gardeners and bakers, they have also provided a weekly gathering place for folks to visit and catch up on the news.

Sunday afternoons at the Junction of Highways 52 and 200 have been busy, too, as vendor booths and tables have overflowed with great garden goodies, colorful flowers, home-made baked goods, jams, and jellies. Travelers and passers-by, as well as area folks, have benefited from the availability of the good quality, in-season fruits and vegetables.

Each vendor is to be commended for their hard work and commitment – Pete and Rose Anderson; Hampton and Cynthia Spencer; Donna Johnson & Shirley Meharry; Patti Patrie; Lydia Gessele; Fay Fandrich and Pam Rodacker; Nancy Schneider and Family; Ellen Kreiter; Anne West; Audrey Johnson and Family; Rod and Linda Widicker; and Brenda Klein – we couldn't have done it without you!

The Bowdon Farmers' Markets not only helped nourish the body, they helped nourish community spirit! We want to thank everyone who helped to make our first season a big success ... the musicians; the Flea Market organizers, Laurene Heintz & Joan Martin; and the craft demonstrators, Leslie Hulbert & Shirley Faul. A big thanks also to each one who helped provide the "Taste of Bowdon" suppers. What great cooks we have! Lastly, a heartfelt thank you goes to the people of Bowdon and the surrounding area for your support! Thank you, each and every one!

(More Bowdon market photos on page 14)



Wool-spinning demonstration by Leslie Hulbert (summers in Carrington, winters in California.)



"Dakota Thunder" - Musical Entertainment (left to right) Benjamin Schneider, Paul Schneider and Nathan Johnson.

Young People's Healthy Heart promotes local at farmers markets

Young People's Healthy Heart Program at Mercy Hospital is part of the Barnes On the Move Partnership, a 13-entity partnership dedicated to encouraging residents of Barnes County to consume more produce and to be physically fit.

To promote fresh vegetables, dietitians from Mercy Hospital served samples of Romaine-Raspberry salad at the Saturday market in July and grilled vegetables the last week of August.

Valley City has two farmers markets. One is held from 4 to 6 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays in the Pamida parking lot. The other is from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays at Hirschberger Park.

Here's the Mercy Hospital salad recipe:

RASPBERRY SPINACH SALAD

Yield: 14 servings

One Serving: 1 cup

2 pounds (14 cups) spinach or romaine, washed and cut

1 pound (3 cups) raspberries*, washed

1 oz. (2 tablespoons) part-skim shredded mozzarella cheese

3 tablespoons toasted, slivered almonds (optional)

1/4 cup fat-free berry or balsamic vinaigrette

Combine first 4 ingredients.

Just before serving drizzle salad with dressing and toss.

*Can substitute blueberries, strawberries, or grapes.

Nutrient Analysis per Serving:

Calories: 31 Carbohydrates: 4 grams

Fat: 1.3 grams Dietary fiber: 1.3 grams

Saturated fat: 0.4 grams Sodium: 94 milligrams

Cholesterol: 1.8 milligrams

Young People's Healthy Heart Program at Mercy Hospital, a member of the Barnes On The Move Partnership, served a free Romaine-Raspberry Salad garnished with edible flowers. The produce was donated by the Farmers Market vendors on Saturday, July 25. In the top photo: Bev Loken (left) sampled the salad served by Larissa Musgrave in her pea costume and Sharon Buhr (right), dietitians at Mercy Hospital. Below, the pea visits with the crowd.



Local foods networking site grows to 191

Join in the fun of socializing online with our Going Local ND networking site. Local food supporters are getting to know each other through www.goinglocalnd.net. It's easy to join.

We are at 190 members conversing about gardens, eggs, events, and other pertinent food topics. Members from North Dakota, Minnesota, and Canada can talk to each other, ask questions, post photos and announce upcoming events.

If you have questions or would like our staff to assist you with signing up to become a member of Going Local ND, please call 701-328-4763 or e-mail: suebalcom@nd.gov.



Farmers market at the Capitol on Aug. 4 was a huge success. Marv Baker (top right) sold organic garlic; Wanda Agnew, (left) Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health enjoyed grilling vegetables and Chuck Waible, (bottom) Milan, Minn., sold his new winter greenhouse book.



Free newsletter for farmers market managers

A new online newsletter, "Managing the Farmers Market," will be available beginning in September from "Farmers' Markets Today." If you are interested in the free e-newsletter, please e-mail: mshepherd@farmersmarketstoday.com with "Managing the Farmers Market" in the subject line.

"Farmers' Markets Today" magazine has information, ideas and inspiration for producers and consumers. It is published six times a year by Scissortail Productions in Cedar Falls, Iowa and can be found online at www.FarmersMarketsToday.com.

"Farm to Market: North Dakota's guide to direct farm marketing" was featured in the July/August

issue of "Farmers' Markets Today." This booklet is for anyone who would like to begin selling produce and other farm products at markets on, or off, the farm. It is available free of charge from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 602, Bismarck, ND 58505-0020, or e-mail suebalcom@nd.gov.

A PDF version of the book can be downloaded at: www.agdepartment.com/Programs/LocalFoodsInfo.htm.

Online garden planning made easy

A new tool for planning your garden on the computer is available from www.GrowVeg.com.

With the web-based drawing tool, gardeners can create a scale diagram of the garden space, add plant icons to represent rows, visually see what their space can accommodate and plan crop rotation.

Each vegetable icon also has information about growing requirements. An annual subscription to the site is \$25 with a 30-day free trial.



Another cool tool from the Leopold Center

Iowa State University in Ames, IA, has released another project from its Fruit and Vegetable Working Group. This group project is one of several food system building projects funded through the Value Added Agriculture Program and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Iowa.

The new Post-harvest Handling Decision Tool provides information, as well as prices, for equipment in the following areas:

Crop Groups

- Bunched greens
- Tender crops
- Dry-cured alliums
- Bulk roots and tubers

General Considerations

- Equipment consideration
- Equipment links
- Packing facility consideration
- Food safety considerations

The tool can be found on the web at: www.extension.iastate.edu/valueaddedag/info/postharvesthandlingdecisiontool.htm.



Community supported agriculture survey results now available

Interest in buying more local fruits and vegetables has increased considerably in the past few years contributing to the popularity of community-supported-agriculture (CSA) boxes.

In a CSA program, a farmer sells a share, membership or box, to people or restaurants who in turn receive fresh produce weekly during the growing season. Members share the risk involved in farming vegetables such as cold weather, hail, drought or insect damage, thus insuring the farmer can continue growing.

In the early 1980s, there were only one or two CSAs in the U.S. That number has grown considerably in the past few years. Five or more CSAs are now operating in North Dakota this summer, nearly double from last season.

Key findings of a survey directed by Tim Woods, associate extension professor at the University of Kentucky Department of Agricultural Economics, included:

- The average CSA has operated just over four seasons.
- The average number of CSA members among all farms surveyed grew 50 percent between 2007 and 2009: from 59 patrons in 2007 to 80 in 2008 and 89 in 2009.
- The average operator is 45 years old, and 25 percent of respondents had no farming experience before starting their CSA. Another quarter of respondents indicated the CSA was their first horticulture direct marketing experience.
- Most CSAs are structured as sole proprietorships. There were no clear differences in CSA business structure preferences (sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability corporation, etc.) between CSAs of differing sizes or experience levels.

Is your community planning a local foods meeting or event?

Send your information to

suebalcom@nd.gov

or visit our networking site at

<http://goinglocalnd.ning.com/>

- Less than half (43 percent) of CSAs required their members to sign a contract.

- Two-thirds of those surveyed said they grow produce according to organic standards but are not certified.

- 87 percent of those surveyed also marketed products through another market channel.

- Nearly one in three (29 percent) of CSAs surveyed did not produce all products distributed in their CSA shares.

- Over 40 percent of CSAs surveyed donate excess product to a food bank.

- More than 85 percent of CSAs surveyed found direct e-mail a very effective means of communicating with members; over half found web site communication helpful. Just 35 percent rated direct mail (snail mail) communication effective.

- 70 percent of respondents used computer software (Quicken, Quickbooks, or Excel) to track their production costs. Computer use is heaviest among CSAs with more than 50 members.

- CSA operators cited the two greatest factors in setting CSA share price were prices at other local CSAs and overhead or fixed costs of production.

If you are interested in the entire report, please e-mail suebalcom@nd.gov or call 701-328-4763.

USDA official highlights support for local food systems

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Kathleen Merrigan has released a memo, "Harnessing USDA Rural Development Programs to Build Local and Regional Food Systems," the first step in what is promised to be a series of USDA activities to raise the profile of federal programs that supports regional food system development. Merrigan says she plans to play "matchmaker" during this Administration to ensure USDA program administrators better understand how existing programs throughout the agency can serve the efforts of building local and regional food systems. The memo can be viewed at <http://sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2008/08/local-food-memo.doc.pdf>.



Grant opportunities

Donors Choose:

<http://www.donorschoose.org/>

Donors Choose allows public school teachers to post requests that will directly benefit students. The process and rules are pretty straightforward. Teachers complete a one-page application on line. The proposal cannot foster discrimination or proselytize a religious or political viewpoint. Contributors select projects to fund. See www.donorschoose.org.

National Gardening Association announces Healthy Sprouts program

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts.asp>

The National Gardening Association encourages the growth of health-focused youth garden programs through the Healthy Sprouts Awards sponsored by Gardener's Supply Company. They support school and youth garden programs that teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger in the U.S.

To be eligible for the 2009 Healthy Sprouts Awards, a school or organization must plan to garden in 2010 with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18. The selection of winners is based on the demonstrated relationship between the garden program and nutrition and hunger issues in the United States. The In 2009, program will present awards to 20 schools or organizations. Each winner recipient will receive gardening supplies and resources, including gift certificates toward the purchase of gardening materials from Gardener's Supply. The top five programs will each receive a certificate valued at \$500; 15 more programs will each receive a \$200 gift certificate. The application deadline is Oct. 17. See www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts.asp.

NGA announces continuation of Youth Garden Grants

The National Gardening Association has announced that the Home Depot is returning as the Youth Garden Grants sponsor for 2010. NGA annually awards Youth Garden Grants to schools and community organizations with child-centered garden programs across the United States. Schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities, and intergenerational groups throughout the United States

are eligible. Applicants must plan to garden with at least 15 children between the ages of three and 18 years. Previous Youth Garden Grant winners who wish to reapply may do so, but must wait one year before applying again, and must have significantly expanded their garden programs.

For the 2010 grant cycle, 100 grants are available. Five programs will each receive gift cards valued at \$1,000. (a \$500 gift card to the Home Depot and a \$500 gift card to the Gardening with Kids catalog and educational materials from NGA).

Ninety-five programs will each receive a \$500 gift card to the Home Depot and educational materials from NGA. See <http://assoc.garden.org/grants>.

National Gardening Association invites applications for 2009 Hooked on Hydroponics Education Grants:

The [Grow Store and ProgressiveGardening.org](http://GrowStoreandProgressiveGardening.org) have joined with the National Gardening Association to offer hydroponic equipment to expand indoor gardening opportunities for elementary and middle and high school students. The program will provide 36 schools with equipment and learning materials for hydroponics projects that involve at least fifteen children between the ages of 6 and 18 during the 2010 school year. Applicants must verify that their facility can accommodate the equipment in the award packages available for their age group.

Bright Green Dream: A School Sustainability Challenge

The Lutron Greenovation Bright Green Dream School Sustainability Challenge invites teachers to critically evaluate their classroom environment — then propose creative solutions for increasing energy efficiency, enhancing the learning environment, and reducing your carbon footprint. The goal is to identify areas that can have the greatest effect on sustainability in the classroom. The winning entry will receive a \$15,000 sustainable classroom upgrade and four finalists will receive a Greenovation classroom lighting upgrade. The contest is open to all educators in K-12 public, private, and parochial schools in the United

(Continued on page 10)



States. Submissions may focus on one area of inefficiency, such as lighting, or on multiple areas within the classroom. Projects should include a description of the issues in the room, a hypothesis describing the solution and its effect, and a description of the expected outcomes, should the solution be implemented. All submissions must have the prior approval of the building administrator to ensure winning schools may implement the prize(s) of the proposed sustainable classroom upgrade.

See www.greenovationnation.com/dream
Submissions close on October 12.

Grow What You Eat Raised Bed Giveaway:

If you're growing vegetables, take a minute to sign the Gardener's Supply Company "[Grow What You Eat](#)" pledge and enter to win a 3' x 6' Grow Bed! No purchase is necessary to enter or win. The contest is open only to residents of the United States over the age of 18.

To be eligible to win the prize, submit your e-mail address online or send entries by standard mail. The winners will be determined by a random drawing from all eligible entries received. You can also find information at the site about why growing your own vegetables is an important way to help fight climate change! Prizes will be awarded weekly until Nov. 13.

Green Your High School contest:

The Student Conservation Association's (SCA) Green Your School Contest is a national competition to stimulate and/or identify conservation service projects designed by high school students that improve or restore or beautify or conserve their high school environment. To be eligible, projects must have been started after Aug. 1, 2008. There will be one grand prize of \$5,000 and two runner-up prizes of \$2,500 each. Prizes will be awarded directly to high schools and not to individuals. Entries will include up to 10 photos and/or a link to a video (max 5 minutes) documenting the project. Entries must be completed by a student. The project must improve the environmental health of the school, should be sustainable, must be initiated by students and engage other students, teachers and school administrators, and should also engage the community.

Contest submission will end at 11:59 p.m. ET October 9, 2009. See <http://www.thesca.org/green-your-school>.

Earth Science Week Contests

AGI is sponsoring three national contests for Earth Science Week 2009. The photography, visual arts, and essay contests allow both students and the general public to participate in the celebration, learn about Earth science and compete for prizes. The first-place prize for each contest is \$300 and a copy of AGI's "Faces of Earth" 2-DVD package. All entries are due by the Friday of Earth Science Week, Oct. 16. See www.earthsciweek.org/contests/index.html.

Science Zine-a-thon Contest

The Science Zine-a-thon Contest is a competition that combines art and science. Participants can write about anything in science, aligned with one of the Year of Science themes. Participants tell an entire science story in art and text on a single 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper. The entry deadline is Nov. 1. See www.yearof-science2009.org/about/zine-contest.html.

There are three entry levels by age: Youth (8-12 years), High-School (13-17), Adult (18 and older) and there are twelve themes so there will be 36 different awards! Each winner will receive prizes donated by YoS partners and one top zine contributor will receive a \$500 grand prize and two prize winners will receive a \$250 prize each. Selected zines will also be highlighted and shared through the Year of Science 2009 website.

Environmental Focus: Astronomy, Biodiversity, Climate Change/Weather, Conservation, Creative Arts, Energy, Environmental Health, Geology, Sustainability

Academic Focus: Arts - Visual, Interdisciplinary, Language Arts, Science, Technology

The deadline for entry is Nov. 1.

National Schoolyard Birding Competition

The National Schoolyard Birding Challenge is a monthly bird watching contest open to students in all public and private schools in North America. Submit your entries online by clicking on your region (Eastern or Western) at the lower right of the main page. Students work together to observe, identify, and record various bird species found on their school grounds in a single month. Teams compete for prizes each month and will be entered to win monthly drawings (PreK-4th; 5th-8th; and 9th-12th grade). The overall winner

(Continued on page 11)



for each monthly challenge will receive an autographed copy of the Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America in addition to their division's prizes. See <http://fledgingbirders.org/challenge.html>.

Student participants in the NSBC will work together to observe, identify, and record various bird species found on their school grounds in a single month. Teams compete for prizes each month and will be entered to win monthly drawings (PreK-4th; 5th-8th; and 9th-12th grade). The overall winner for each monthly challenge will receive an autographed copy of the Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America in addition to their division's prizes!

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants

The Lowe's Toolbox for Education awards \$5 million annually to public schools (K-12) and parent/teacher groups across the United States. The Foundation provides funding only to 501(c) (3) tax-exempt non-profit schools. School projects should encourage parent involvement and build stronger community ties.

Grants are for \$2,000 to \$5,000 grants for school projects that. Samples of funded projects are ones that engage students with their school's surrounding environment, such as planting a school / community garden or developing a nature trail.

The deadline is Oct. 16. See www.toolboxforeducation.com.

Environmental Focus: Animals/Wildlife, Conservation, Creative Arts, Ecology, Gardening/Composting, Habitats/Ecosystems, Nature Awareness, Outdoor Skills/Recreation, Plants, Team-building/Problem-solving

Academic Focus: Arts - Visual, Character Education, Interdisciplinary, Science, Social Studies

Lowe's Toolbox for Education accepts only the first 1,500 applications per grant period. The deadline is Oct. 16.

Georgia Pacific Foundation Grants

The Georgia-Pacific Foundation supports a wide range of organizations that improve the quality of life in communities where Georgia-Pacific operates. The foundation has identified the following key investment areas: educational efforts that empower youth and provide workers with job readiness training; community enrichment issues such as affordable housing and community safety; environmental programs that promote clean air and water, recycling, and land and resource conservation; and entrepreneurship initiatives

that foster self-sufficiency and economic empowerment, especially among youth, women, and minorities.

Applications may be submitted online from Jan. 1 through Oct. 31, annually. Visit the Georgia Pacific website to take the Foundation's Eligibility Survey.

Audience Served: Non-formal Educators, Private Schools, Public Schools, Scouts/Youth Groups, Teachers

Environmental Focus: Career Choices, EE Best Practices, Environmental Justice, Recycling/Waste Management, Sustainability, Team-building/Problem-solving, Trees/Forests, Water

Academic Focus: Character Education, Interdisciplinary, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies

Visit the Georgia Pacific website to take the Foundation's Eligibility Survey.

Target Field Trip Grants

The Target Field Trip Grants program will award U.S. educators grants of up to \$800 each to fund a field trip for their K-12 students. Applications must be submitted electronically by Nov. 3.

See <https://targetfieldtripgrants.target.com>.

Target Field Trip Grants may be used to fund trips to art museums, cultural events, civic experiences, and environmental sites. Up to 5,000 grants will be awarded across the United States. Grants will be awarded to educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, and/or classified staff.

Applications must be submitted electronically until Nov. 3.

Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program

The Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education (SFE) Grant Program gives small (\$100 to \$500) monetary grants to schools, nature centers, or other non-profit educational organizations for the purpose of establishing outdoor learning centers. Funds will be provided only for the purchase of native plants and seed. Application deadline is Nov. 15.

See <https://targetfieldtripgrants.target.com>. Cash awards range from \$100 to \$500 each. Successful grants are eligible for partnership with SFE native plant nursery partners for discounts on seed, plants, etc.

Projects must emphasize involvement of students and volunteers and increase the educational value of the site. Creativity in design is encouraged but must

(Continued on page 12)



show complete and thoughtful planning. The use of and teaching about native plants and the native plant community is mandatory and must be appropriate to the local ecoregion and site conditions (soil, water, sunlight).

Application deadline is Nov. 15.

Global ReLeaf Grants

Global ReLeaf, a program of American Forests, is offering annual grants toward tree planting projects. They are accepting tree-planting project proposals for the fall of 2009 and for all of 2010. Global ReLeaf is American Forests' education and action program that helps individuals, organizations, agencies and corporations improve the local and global environment by planting and caring for trees. Since its creation in 1988, the program has supported planting of over 25 million trees worldwide. The deadline for grant proposals is Jan. 15, 2010. See www.americanforests.org/global_releaf.

Global ReLeaf is particularly interested in partnering with private and public sector organizations and agencies to plant trees and improve the environment in projects that would otherwise not be feasible. Competitive grant requests must maximize the use of total project funds per tree planted. Global ReLeaf Forests funds reforestation projects on public lands -- managed by a local, state or federal organization -- or certain public-accessible projects meeting special criteria on private lands.

Jenny Jones Community Grant Program

Talk show host and philanthropist Jenny Jones has announced that she will donate an additional \$1 million during 2009 to continue her Jenny's Heroes community grant program. Jenny's Heroes provides grants of up to \$25,000 each to fund projects that promise long-term community benefits. The program's focus is primarily on smaller communities where fundraising can be difficult. See www.jennysheroes.com.

Complete the electronic application form describing the charitable project for which you would like to use the money.

Love Your Veggies Grant

The Love Your Veggies grant program is sponsored by the makers of Hidden Valley Salad Dressings in partnership with the School Nutrition Foundation and is supported by Produce for Better Health Foundation. The program will award 10 grants of \$15,000 each to elementary schools (grades K-6) across the

United States. Each grant award will support an elementary school in developing a program offering fresh vegetables and fruits lasting through the school year. The deadline for entries is Nov. 6.

See www.loveyourveggies.com/school_grants.php.

Grant awards will be based on proposals that demonstrate need, sustainability, innovation, and potential for community involvement. Funding must be spent on any of the following: fresh produce (vegetables and fruits); a vegetable station (such as a dedicated salad bar); kitchen equipment (primary usage must relate to the proposed program); program staffing (cafeteria personnel, lunch-room staff, etc.); nutrition education supplies; or food safety training.

National Education Foundation Achievement Grant

The NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants are provided resource materials, supplies, equipment, transportation, software or scholars-in-residence to help improve students' academic achievement by engaging them in critical thinking and problem solving that deepen knowledge of standards-based subject matter. The work also should improve students' habits of inquiry, self-directed learning and critical reflection.

The maximum award is \$5,000. Practicing U.S. public school teachers, public school education support professionals, and faculty and staff members at public institutions of higher education are eligible.

Grant funds may be used for resource materials, supplies, equipment, transportation, software, or scholars-in-residence. Although some funds may be used to support the professional development necessary to implement the project, the majority of grant funds must be spent on materials or educational experiences for students. Applications are reviewed three times per year: Feb. 1, June 6 and Oct. 15, Jan. 1, June 6, and Oct. 15.

Captain Planet Foundation Grants

The Captain Planet Foundation provides grants of up to \$2,500 to school and community groups to support hands-on environmental projects. The objective of the foundation is to encourage innovative programs that empower children and youth around the world to work individually and collectively to solve environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. See <http://captainplanetfdn.org/default>.

(Continued on page 13)



[aspx?pid=3&tab=apply](#).

You can submit a proposal at any time during the year. However, proposals will only be reviewed the last day of March, June, September, and December. It is very important to remember this information if your project is seasonal. For example, if you are seeking funding for a summer project you would want to submit an application no later than the Dec. 31 deadline in the year prior, otherwise you will not have your grant money in time for the project.

All applications must be submitted using online form.

GameStop \$500 Youth Grants

Do Something and GameStop are putting the fun back in funding by giving you the big bucks (\$500) to get things going in your neighborhood. Weekly GameStop Youth Grants are available for anyone in the U.S. or Canada, 25 years of age or under (at time of application), who has a great idea for a community action project. GameStop grants are given out weekly. See www.dosomething.org/grants.

Plum \$500 Youth Grants

Do Something's Plum Youth Grants are available to provide funding to sustain and further the growth of a recently created project, program, or organization. Plum Youth Grants are given out weekly. Applicants must be 25 years of age or younger and be a U.S. or Canadian citizen. All awards are for \$500. See www.dosomething.org/page/applying-a-plum-grant.

Are you a social entrepreneur, age 25 or under (at time of application), who wants to see BIG change in the world?

Did you recently create a sustainable project, program or organization?

Do you need \$500 to further the growth and success of your program?

If you answered, "YES!" to all those questions, you are eligible to apply for a Plum Youth Grant.

Audience Served: Families, Home Schools, Private Schools, Public Schools, Scouts/Youth Groups

Age Groups: Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 4th Grade, 5th Grade, 6th Grade, 7th Grade, 8th Grade, 9th Grade, 10th Grade, 11th Grade, 12th Grade, College Students, Adults

Environmental Focus: Agriculture/Farming, Air, Animals/Wildlife, Biodiversity, Climate Change/Weather, Conservation, Consumer Education, Creative Arts, Cultural Awareness, Ecology, EE Best Practices, Endangered Species, Energy, Environmental Health,



Environmental Justice, Gardening/Composting, Geology, Habitats/Ecosystems, Litter, Nature Awareness, Plants, Pollution, Population, Recycling/Waste Management, Soil, Stormwater, Sustainability, Team-building/Problem-solving, Trees/Forests, Water.

4imprint In-Kind Grants

One by one® is 4imprint's way of giving back and making sure that every day they do something – even it's just one thing – to help make the world a better place. It's a program that reflects 4imprint's culture and philosophy. A culture that recognizes that each one of us has a special contribution to make and a philosophy that success is rarely built through bold moves and broad strokes. It's achieved through many small successes each layered one over the other.

Each business day 4imprint gives a daily \$500 grants to worthy organizations \$500 in promotional products to spread the word, recruit volunteers, thank donors, offer comfort to someone in need or in some other way turns one thing into something much more. See <http://onebyone.4imprint.com>.

If you are employed by, or serve on the board of directors of a 501(c)3 charity, religious organization or accredited school, and are working hard to make a difference in your community, let 4imprint help.

American Honda Foundation Grants

The American Honda Foundation makes grants of \$10,000 to \$100,000 to K-12 schools, colleges, universities, trade schools, and others for programs that benefit youth and scientific education. The foundation seeks programs that are scientific, creative, humanistic, youthful, innovative, and more. See <http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf>.

In general, grant ranges of \$10,000 - \$100,000 will apply to requests of a one-time only basis, payable in one lump sum, within one quarter's (3 months) grantmaking. Multiple year associations or grant requests made payable over more than one quarter could be proportionately higher. The average grant range is \$40,000 to \$80,000 per year.

The American Honda Foundation makes grants on a quarterly schedule. Application deadlines are Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1, and Nov. 1.

Braitmayer Foundation Grants

The Braitmayer Foundation funds a broad range of K-12 education programs, with particular interest in

(Continued on page 10))

curricular reform initiatives and professional development opportunities for teachers.

A special focus is on encouraging people of high ability and diverse background to enter and remain in K-12 teaching. Grants for up to \$10,000 and \$35,000 are available. The deadlines are June 1 and Nov. 15 annually. See www.braitmayerfoundation.org.

Operation Green Plant - Free Seed Grants

America the Beautiful Fund's Operation Green Plant program is offering grants of free seeds (vegetable, herb and flower) to encourage citizens to protect and preserve America's lands and resources. Shipping and handling fees for the first set of 100 seed packets is \$14.95.

Additional set(s) of 100 packets are available for \$5 per set. See http://www.america-the-beautiful.org/success_stories/operation_green_plant.php.

Ben & Jerry

The Ben & Jerry's Foundation offers competitive grants of \$1,000 to \$15,000 to not-for-profit, grassroots organizations throughout the U.S. which facilitate progressive social change by addressing the underlying conditions of societal and environmental problems. The foundation will only consider proposals from grassroots, constituent-led organizations that are organizing for systemic social change. See www.benjerry.com/company/foundation.

Lowe's Charitable & Educational Foundation Grants

The Lowe's Charitable & Educational Foundation awards more than \$3 million for community improvement projects, public school initiatives, and vocational trade school scholarships.

Grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. See www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=frameSet&url=apps.bridgetree.com/funding/default.asp.

More Bowdon photos



Vendors ... Pete & Rose Anderson of Manfred talking with Audrey Johnson, Tuttle



Clinton Krause, Bowdon, on the concertina.

Submit your photos, announcements and news to:

Sue Balcom

ND Department of Agriculture

Phone: 701-328-4763 - E-mail: suebalcom@nd.gov

Mail: 600 E. Blvd. Avenue, #602, Bismarck, ND 58505-0200