

June 2016



Farm and Garden Camp

Farm and Garden Camp will be held from **June 27th - July 1st** this summer, for students entering grades 1-5. Participants will plant, harvest, and tend the Youth Garden, enjoy a healthy lunch, and visit local farms to learn about sustainable agriculture. Activities will incorporate scientific, nutritional, and economic concepts, while providing outlets that encourage creativity and imagination. Applications can be found at the Mountain View Elementary front office, or at foodpartnership.org. Questions, please contact Beth Williams at beth.williams@foodcorps.org or (408) 898-0931.



SnapPlus becomes Double SNAP Dollars

Our successful SnapPlus program has changed it's name to Double SNAP Dollars.

This program that accepts SNAP (food stamps) at the Red Lodge Farmers' Market, provides matching funds up to \$20 per family per market. That means you can continue to put \$20 on your SNAP EBT card and the market will give you \$40 to spend on fresh, local food! What could be better!!

Double SNAP Dollars is a partnership with other groups in the state to share marketing and grant resources. The generous people in our community that have donated to SnapPlus in the past can rest assured that your money still stays in our community. Donated funds are not shared with other communities. Our goal is that this change will give us a chance to grow this program while learning and sharing within our state.

Local Foods Challenge

Are you up to the challenge? For the month of July 2016, join we are joining Northern Plains Resource Council in challenging you to eat more local foods, ask for more local foods in your community, and help support Montana agriculture in a bigger way.

The Montana Local Food Challenge is an opportunity for individuals, families and businesses to challenge their current buying and eating habits and make a commitment to eating locally while learning about the benefits to localizing their eating and shopping practices.

Just go to mtlocalfoodchallenge.org, click "sign-up", fill out the survey, and track your regular progress.



Montana Ethic Project: Many reasons to grow, eat local food

The Montana Ethic Project is a series of video presentations created by a group of students at Montana State University and the University of Montana with interviews of state leaders in business, politics and academics. The Project wanted some of the brightest, most inspiring people in Montana to speak directly to other residents of this state about subjects important to themselves and to the larger society. The various episodes can be found on Last Best News, <http://lastbestnews.com>.

In the 12th chapter of the 32-part video series this chapter features Bruce Smith, Dawson County extension agent, talking about “Montana’s Food Economy.” Among his notable quotes, Bruce states, “Food security is an issue that comes up a lot of times when people talk about not knowing where your next meal comes from. It is usually associated with low income or people that are down on their luck a little bit. But my contention has always been that everybody in the state of Montana is food insecure.

“We’re three days away from not having food on the shelves. One snow storm, one trucker strike, those kinds of things are a big deal here.

“We are at the end of the food chain.” Watch this video in it’s entirety at:

<http://lastbestnews.com/site/2016/05/montana-ethic-project-many-reasons-to-grow-eat-local-food/#sthash.F2bzK9Cj.EsvgPdQM.dpuf>



It's in the Bag!

Food Access for All, a sub committee of FPC, recently completed a pilot for *It's in the Bag!* weekend meal program for Red Lodge K-8 schools.

The goal of the *It's in the Bag!* is to provide easy-to-prepare, nutritionally dense meals on Fridays to youth K-8 to cover missed meals over the weekend, thereby reducing food insecurity for these students and arriving to school on Mondays, ready to learn. A total of 1032 meals were distributed.

This pilot was funded by generous grants from Kids Corner and the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation (RLACF). Additional funding will be received by Baretooth Cupboards.

Notes were sent home to all families describing the pilot and requested that families opt in or opt out of the program. Food was purchased from Beartooth Market and Moon Lake Market at a reduced cost. In each bag, students received two meals each of Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner including fresh fruit and veggies. In addition, students received simple instructions for meal preparation and a fun puzzle or other activity.

Volunteers helped to pack and distribute the bags on Friday afternoons. Between 38-43 students received weekend meals each week (more than the expected 26 meals per results of previous staff surveys.)

Surveys have been distributed to school staff and participating families post pilot in an effort to better serve students starting in the fall. It is also desired to use local produce when able.

Food Access for All hopes to continue funding this program through grants, donations, sponsoring a student per week, month or school year, and peanut butter and other food drives.

If you are interested learning more about *It's in the Bag!* or would like to make a donation to this program, please contact Therese Picasso-Edwards at theresepicasso@gmail.com or call (406) 425-1343.

Want to get More Involved?

FPC has several projects or initiatives in the works at the same time. You can get involved in whatever interests you. Contact Janet Peterson at foodpartnership@gmail.com or call (406) 425-3806.