

September 2016



Red Lodge Area
Food Partnership Council

Peanut Butter Drive: Sept 12 - 14

Support **It's in the Bag!** Weekend Meal Program for Red Lodge students K-8! We will be gratefully accepting peanut butter donations, as well as pasta/rice/bean donations at sites around Red Lodge on Monday, **September 12 through Wednesday, September 14.**

Look for boxes with the **IT'S IN THE BAG!** logo at the following locations:

- Altana Credit Union
- Bank of Red Lodge
- Beartooth Children's Center
- Beartooth Market
- First Interstate Bank
- Moon Lake Market
- Mountain View Elementary
- Red Lodge Area Community Foundation
- Red Lodge High School
- Red Lodge Senior Center
- Roosevelt Middle School
- Sam's Tap Room
- True Value
- Well Approach

Thank you for your support of our youth!



Rocky Fork Food Hub Opening for Fall Purchases: Oct

Look for messages in your inbox as the Food Hub opens again in October after a summer break. Local growers will be listing their apples, vegetables, meats and other local foods for online ordering and delivery every other week. Dates and times will be determined soon.

If you are a current member of RFFH, your membership has been extended 3 months to cover the period of closure. If you are interested in becoming a new member or getting more information about our online farmers' market, visit www.rockyforkfoodhub.com. Registering as a new user will put you on our mailing list for updates.

For a free one-month trial of the Rocky Fork Food Hub, enter the promo code FM2016 when it asks for membership. Stay tuned for updates!

Farm to Table Celebration of Community Dinner: Sept 17

Martha Young is teaming up with Rocky Mountain Organic Meats, Shoshoni River Farm and Muier Mur Farms to bring you a feast of fine Italian cuisine made with the freshest, local ingredients. The cost for this Farm to Table dinner is \$30. Dinner is at **5:00 pm on Sept 17th** near Powell, WY. For reservations and location information, contact Martha at essentialfood@yahoo.com or (406) 425-0347.

Farm to Table Dinner in a Beautiful Setting: Sept 21

Wildflower Weddings and Honey's Cafe are partnering to bring you one of the highlights of late summer - a Farm-to-Table dinner on **September 21st**. They are providing a locally-sourced, 4-course dinner, prepared by Honey's own Chef Melissa, paired with Red Lodge Ales brews. Come enjoy the bounty of the season with your friends and neighbors in a beautiful setting at Wildflower Weddings. For reservations and tickets (required - \$75 per person) call (406) 446-4933 or come down to Honey's Cafe. Seating can be sized to your group or you can join others at the big farm table.



AERO Expo and Annual Meeting: Oct 7 - 9

Each year, the AERO Expo and Annual Meeting brings members and non-members together in a local Montana community to learn, connect, have fun, and be inspired. Visit aeromt.org/expo to check out the full agenda, including Keynote Speaker Mary Berry!

This year's Expo & Annual Meeting is gearing up to be the best yet: you don't want to miss our unique Flathead tours, exciting speakers (including keynote Mary Berry, coming all the way from Kentucky!), innovative panelists, and so much more. We hope to see you in **Kalispell on Oct 7th – 9th at the Red Lion Hotel**.

The Governor's Local Food & Agriculture Summit: Oct 28 - 29

This Governor's Summit will examine our local food systems and explore opportunities for expanding these systems. The summit takes place on October 28th and 29th in Bozeman. The registration fee is \$150, which includes meals and resource materials.

The summit is structured around topical tracks. Attendees will be asked to pick a track and stay with it for a good part of the summit, so they can take an in-depth look at the topics, identify challenges that exist, and brainstorm ways to address them. The tracks will be a mixture of panel presentations, small group discussions, and attendees prioritizing next steps. All of the tracks will report out their top recommendations at the summit's conclusion.

The tracks are:

Track 1: Challenges of Food and Agriculture Manufacturing, Processing, and Local Distribution

Track 2: Farm to Folk: Positive Economic and Health Benefits of Communities Becoming Markets for Local Food

Track 3: Who Is Your Farmer? Demographic Shifts Creating a New Generation of Farmers

Track 4: Resilience in Agriculture: Diversifying, Adapting and Planning for a Changing Environment

Track 5: Montana and Beyond: Marketing Montana Food and Agriculture to the World

For assistance or more information, contact Travis McAdam at the National Center for Appropriate Technology, 406-494-4572 or travism@ncat.org.

Help Fund **IT'S IN THE BAG!**

Food Access for All is a subgroup of the Red Lodge Area Food Partnership Council. Our belief is that everyone is entitled to nutritious food regardless of income. In May of 2016 we partnered with school administration to pilot a weekend meal program at the Red Lodge School's K-8 called **IT'S IN THE BAG!**. We are working toward raising funds so we can continue this program during the 2016-'17 school year.

We sent a letter to all K-8 families explaining the program and invited them to participate. Here is a summary of what we learned during the pilot phase:

- *Pilot occurred during the four Fridays of May 2016
- *Average Bags Distributed per week: 40.5
- *Meals included in each bag: 6
- *Meals served during the pilot: 1032
- *Average cost per bag: \$8
- *Fresh produce was included every week such as carrots, apples & oranges
- *88% of the food served was purchased locally

We included simple instructions for food preparation and fun nutrition related activities in each bag.

Overall, the feedback from staff and families was quite favorable and the administration would like us to continue the program.

Our fundraising efforts include a peanut butter drive (September 12-14), engagement with local churches and community organizations, grant writing, a Pint Night (October 18) and an opportunity to Sponsor a Student.



Our goal is to raise \$6500 prior to beginning the program this year to ensure we can provide bags every week. Please make checks to RLACF/FPC with memo stating "**IT'S IN THE BAG!**". Mail to: Food Partnership Council, PO Box 1604, Red Lodge, MT 59068. If you have any questions, contact Therese Picasso-Edwards at theresepicasso@gmail.com or (406) 425-1343. We appreciate your consideration in supporting this initiative!

In the Schools

While the school year has just begun, there has already been a lot happening in The Youth Garden. Students planted spinach and lettuce to continue the garden through the fall, and dug up plenty of potatoes as well. Every week many pounds of produce have been taken to the Red Lodge Schools cafeteria to be served to students. This is such an exciting time of year with so much ready to be harvested in the garden!

This month the Harvest of the Month item is summer squash. Look for a summer squash taste test in the cafeteria later this month along with summer squash lessons in the classroom.



Farm Tour Recap

A small but sturdy group left Red Lodge in the rain to tour Shoshone River Farm in Wyoming. The weather was much more agreeable in Wyoming.





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.