

Currant Affairs

July 22, 2021 Edition

Compiled regularly by Nick Riordan on behalf of Yarducopia and the Alaska Food Policy Council

****Marks new and updated items in this issue**

WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, CONFERENCES, & SPECIAL EVENTS

****July 24**

Yarducopia is hosting a **Garden Tour by Bicycle** through Mountain View and NE Anchorage this Saturday! We'll be biking between some of the amazing gardens, urban agriculture, and other projects, and meeting and learning from the individuals and organizations that make it happen. Small loop (1-2 hours) stays in Mountain View and bigger loop (3+ hours) continues around Russian Jack Park through Nunaka Valley and Airport Heights. [Check out the event page](#) for more details.

July 27

Attend **Chicken University** with the staff of the Cooperative Ext. And Matanuska Experimental Farm for one hour on Tuesday. [Read more and register for the Zoom class here](#). And as always, you can check out the [full list of this amazing organizations events here](#).

July 28

Community Composting Experiment continues in Midtown. Have ideas on how to compost yard waste (leaves, grass, wood chips)? Interested in trialing different techniques, teaching, turning, and talking everything compost? We'll be working from 12-2 pm every other Wednesday. Contact garden@akaction.org for more info.

****July 29**

Free Dial Gauge Testing at the Matanuska Experimental Farm. Call or email Julie Cascio to set up your appointment (907-745-3677 or jmcascio@alaska.edu). 'With thoughts of gardening, fishing and hunting this summer, prepare ahead to make sure your canning equipment is working properly. Pressure canner dial gauges need to be tested for accuracy every year.'

July 29

Canning Fish in Jars and Smoking Fish will be the next installment from the Cooperative Extension & Experimental Farm's Food Preservation Series starting at 12 pm - [list of events](#) and their details

August 5

Dehydrating Fruits and Vegetables (including Herbs) is the next installment from the Cooperative Extension & Experimental Farm's Food Preservation Series starting at 12 pm - [list of events](#) and their details

August 10

Urban Harvest: Creative Uses for an Abundance of Kale hosted by the Anchorage Museum, 5:30 – 7:00 PM. [Read more about the event and sign up here.](#)

August 12

Canning Fruits will be the next installment from the Cooperative Extension & Experimental Farm's Food Preservation Series starting at 12 pm - [list of events](#) and their details

****August 14**

AMG Plant Sale from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Benny Benson School on Campbell Airstrip Road!

****August 14**

Yarducopia is hosting a **Harvest Party Potluck** at Mountain View's Lions Community Park from 2-5 pm to celebrate the growing season, fresh fruit and veg, and the supportive gardening community of Anchorage. Come join, bring something to share, & looking forward to catching up. [More info on our FB event page.](#)

****August 19**

Free Dial Gauge Testing at the Matanuska Experimental Farm. Call or email Julie Cascio to set up your appointment (907-745-3677 or jmcascio@alaska.edu). 'With thoughts of gardening, fishing and hunting this summer, prepare ahead to make sure your canning equipment is working properly. Pressure canner dial gauges need to be tested for accuracy every year.'

August 19

Canning Tomatoes is the next installment from the Cooperative Extension & Experimental Farm's Food Preservation Series starting at 12 pm - [list of events](#) and their details

August 26

Pickles and Sauerkraut is the next installment from the Cooperative Extension & Experimental Farm's Food Preservation Series starting at 12 pm - [list of events](#) and their details

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

****2021 Alaska Food Security Investment Recommendations** published by the AK Food Policy Council. [Available to view and download on their website.](#)

****Grow North Farm-stand** along Mountain View Drive is open 4:00-7:00 PM Mondays to Fridays selling fresh produce picked on-site that day! It doesn't get much fresher. Bonus - Food

trucks on site 4-7 pm on Thursdays. Contact Nick Bachman for more info at 865-5213 or nbachman@anchoragelandtrust.org.

WIC Benefits Increasing (June-September) -Alaska families enrolled in WIC can eat more fruits and vegetables thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act, also called the federal COVID-19 stimulus package. Benefits will be increasing for each mother and child enrolled in WIC between June through September to buy fresh, frozen, or canned fruits and vegetables at over 160 participating stores across the state. [WIC prescreening tool](#) & [Sign up](#).

The Alaska Farmers Market Association's [Market Directory](#) is a simple and easy way to see what farmers markets you live by, where they are, hours, and their acceptable forms of payment. Check this site out!

A List of Anchorage Food Pantries can be found at AnchorageFood.org (address, hours, etc)

The Spenard Community Garden hosts weekly garden gatherings on Wednesdays from 4-7. Live in the neighborhood? Pop on by. [You can learn more about the garden here.](#)

The Cooperative Extension Service's Heidi Rader will be teaching the next **Online Master Gardener Class** from August 23 to December 3. Registration is open. [More details here.](#)

The **Alaska Master Gardeners** will be offering another **Advanced Master Gardeners course** taught by Brenda Adams this fall. Details TBA. [Sign up here for more information.](#)

Looking for space to grow your own food? To learn how to garden? Or to get connected with a gardening project in your neighborhood? Yarducopia might be able to help. [You can read more and sign up on our website.](#) Or reach out to garden@akaction.org

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Alaska Village Initiatives' agAlaska program has a [variety of funding opportunities](#) to support agriculture across the state supporting beginning farmers, conservation efforts, and high tunnels.

OPEN POSITIONS & INTERNSHIPS

Landscaping and Gardening Jobs – Anecdotally, I've been hearing experienced gardeners-for-hire are in demand in and around Anchorage. Reach out if you'd like to learn more about these opportunities (907)-717-4392

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

****The AK School Garden Network** is planning to re-start meetings before the next school year begins in August. [Their Facebook Page](#) continues to be a good point of contact, and they released the [results of their last survey of ASD School Gardens as a pdf.](#)

Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage and the **Alaska School Garden Network** compile a list of public garden projects and volunteer opportunities – [you can view it here](#).

Boyers Orchard in Anchorage is requesting donations to help cover utilities costs while the Anchorage Municipality searches for funding opportunities to purchase the property. [You can donate here](#).

Anchor Gardens is recruiting **neighborhood garden coaches**. Coaches serve as community mentors for those interested in learning about growing food in their own neighborhoods and assist in linking people to resources. Reach out to anchorgardensanc@gmail.com.

To **RECEIVE** Currant Affairs, suggest items to **ADD, CHANGE EMAIL ADDRESS** or **UNSUBSCRIBE**, contact Nick Riordan at riordannk@gmail.com.