

Currant Affairs

August 12, 2021 Edition

Compiled regularly by Nick Riordan on behalf of Yarcucopia (a program of Alaska Community Action on Toxics) and the Alaska Food Policy Council

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

WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, & SPECIAL EVENTS

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**

Yarcucopia (a program of Alaska Community Action on Toxics) is hosting a **Harvest Party Potluck** at Grow North Farm from 2-5 pm to celebrate the growing season, the supportive gardening community of Anchorage, and the end of ACAT's food security canvass. Come join and let's keep these conversations going. [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 jmascio@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 20**

DIY Mushroom Workshop from 5:30 – 7:00 PM at the Alaska Botanical Gardens. Far North Fungi's Allison and Gabe will be teaching how to grow your own blue oyster mushrooms. [Register here.](#)

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

****September 2**

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

****September 2**

Making Sauerkraut workshop with the Anchorage Garden Club - [More info on their website.](#)

****September 9**

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

****September 16**

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

****September 20**

Urban Gardening in Anchorage with Yarcucopia and Grow North Farm presented by Nick Bachman, Keenan Plate, & Nick Riordan at the monthly AMG meeting at 7 pm. [More info.](#)

****September 29**

Seeds and Soil Farm offers **Harvest to Home: Food Storage and Preservation** from 6:30-8:30 pm. [See their website for registration.](#)

****October 7 Hydroponics for the Home Gardener** with the Anchorage Garden Club. [More info here.](#)

FARMERS MARKETS, FARMSTANDS, & CSA's

The Alaska Farmers Market Association's [Market Directory](#) is a simple and easy way to find and learn more about farmers markets you live by, locations, hours, payment options, etc.

Grow North Farm-stand along Mountain View Drive, open 4:00-7:00 PM Mon-Fri, selling fresh produce picked on-site that day. Food trucks on site 4-7 pm on Thursdays. Contact Nick Bachman for more info at 865-5213 or nbachman@anchorageandtrust.org.

****Weekend Market at Centennial Park:** Sat & Sun, locally grown produce, amazing, prepared food, [looks like this](#)

****Muldoon Farmers Market:** Saturday from 9:30-2:30 at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park. Accepts: cash, check, credit/debit, food stamps/SNAP/EBT, WIC, senior nutrition coupons

****Spenard Farmers Market:** Saturdays from 9 am to 2 pm in the Chilkoot Charlies parking lot on Spenard Road. [Check out their FB for more info.](#)

****APU Farm stand** with produce from Spring Creek Farm is at [APU](#) from 3-6 PM and ANTHC from 3:30-7 PM on Wednesdays.

****Center Market:** A Year-Round market open Wed & Fri 10-6, Sat 10-4 inside Midtown Mall.

****Midtown Anchorage Farmers Market:** Sat 9-2 at the BP Building parking lot. Runs through October.

****South Anchorage Farmers Market:** Saturday 9-2 pm at the O'Malley Sports Center, Wednesdays 10-4 pm at Dimond Center's south parking lot.

****ANC Market Social** from 11:00 – 5:00 Sundays at Town Square Park featuring local makers, growers, and artisans. Last market - Sept 26. [More info here.](#)

****Eagle River Farmers Markets:** Tuesdays 3-7 pm in the VFW Post parking lot, Saturdays 10-4 pm at 12110 Business Blvd.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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.](#)

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

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.

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

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