

Currant Affairs

August 14, 2024 Edition

Compiled by Nick Riordan on behalf of AK Community Action on Toxics and the AK Food Policy Council

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

WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, & SPECIAL EVENTS

****August 15 – Plant Nomenclature walk – Every Plant Tells a Story** – at ABG 5:30 pm

https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MjEyNDMz

August 16 – September 2nd – Alaska State Fair – Vegetable entries are August 21 and 28

August 17 – Composting Class @ 10 am - <https://anchorgardens.org/events/backyard-composting-class-downtown/>

****August 20 - Community Food Forest Grant Q&A** - Get your questions answered about this grant opportunity from Alaska DNR Community Forestry. Register here:

<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/9876543210>

****August 21 – Spenard Community Garden Workparty** from 6-8 pm – herbs, veggies, and perennial plants to share

****August 25 - Yarcopia Harvest Party & Anchor Gardens Picnic** at the Midtown Garden Depot starting at 6 pm <https://anchorgardens.org/events/picnic-tour-august-25/>

****August 28 – Garden Insect Ecology** @ ABG starting at 5:30 pm

https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MjEyNzQ1

****September 4-6 - Orchard and Food Forests Training** put on by RurAL CAP - Free for anyone growing or planning to grow an orchard or food forest in service of a disadvantaged community. More info, agenda, and registration here: <https://forms.gle/Zb4ViAuD5xDGtEoq5>

September 7 – Vermicompost Class @ 10 am - <https://anchorgardens.org/events/vermicomposting-class-downtown/>

September 14 – Vermicompost Class @ 1 pm - <https://anchorgardens.org/events/vermicomposting-class-turnagain/>

September 20 - Advanced Composting Class @ 10 am

<https://anchorgardens.org/events/advanced-composter-course-at-sws/>

September 28 - Advanced Composting Class @ 10 am

<https://anchorgardens.org/events/advance-composter-course-at-sws-2/>

PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

Rose Garden volunteer days – All summer, Tuesday from 1 – 4 pm

Pioneer Home Garden volunteer days – All summer, Wednesday from 1 – 3 pm

Statewide food-related job opportunities listed at AK Food Policy Council's website

<https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/food-systems-network-job-opportunities>

Statewide food-related funding opportunities listed at AK Food Policy Council's website

<https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/funding-opportunities>

Midtown Garden Depot is open! Lots of free garden supplies to share. We also accept donations of materials anytime. Gate is unlocked, come by at your convenience. 2930 Cheechako Street. Follow the link to the [Midtown](#) Garden Depot webpage. Coordinated by Alaska Community Action on Toxics.

Are you or someone in your village interested in starting a community garden? AK Village Initiatives Ag-in-a-Box program is offering free hands-on subsistence agriculture workshops this summer. This is a free on-site course — our team will come to your village. All you need to supply is interest, excitement, and people. Reach out to AVI for more info.

****The 2024 NACD PAC/SW Joint Region Meeting** is tentatively scheduled for September 11th through 13th, 2024 in Anchorage Alaska – themed Living with the Land from Ground to Glacier: A Journey of Discovery. <https://nacd.akvillage.org/>

Share Waste is a [handy website](#) for seeing where to drop off food waste to be used by neighbors in personal compost piles, fed to flocks, and used at community gardens. This isn't a 'new' website, but it might be new to you! In my experience, the more people using Share Waste (giving and receiving), the better it will work - <https://sharewaste.com/>

Yarducopia (a program of Alaska Community Action on Toxics) is accepting signups for gardeners looking for growing space, landowners offering space, and volunteers offering time to help make it all happen. Reach out to Yarducopia at garden@akaction.org or [their website](#).

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](#).

FINDING FOOD: FARMERS MARKETS, FOOD PANTRIES, & FOOD HUBS

Anchorage soil and water conservation district created an **interactive map of farmers markets in Anchorage**. Check it out! http://anchoragewcd.org/farmers_markets.html

The Alaska Farmers Market Association new **Farmers Market Toolkit** for starting, enhancing, and supporting a farmers' market in your community.

The Alaska Farmers Market Association's [Market Directory](#) helps you easily find farmers markets you live near, the address, hours, etc.

Locally Grown Resource Guide made by the Mat-Su Cooperative Extension – [Link to PDF](#).

Arctic Harvest Deliveries – [a great source of local foods!](#)

Blue Market carries lots of locally grown and fermented foods throughout the winter. You can find **Happy Mushrooms**, **Common Root** kimchi and curtido, greens from **Seeds of Change** & much more.

City Farms is an indoor hydroponics farm in Anchorage. Their veggies can be found at New Sagaya, Natural Pantry, Fred Meyer, and Walmart. <https://www.cityfarmsalaska.com/>

Local Greens sell hydroponically grown veggies year-round in Anchorage. [Get a weekly or every-other-week subscription](#), and pickup at Double Shovel Cidery at your convenience

Far North Fungi grows and sells fresh and dried mushrooms in Anchorage & teaches fungi cultivation.

Anchorage Greens sells direct to consumers through a weekly Green Bag subscription as well as folks who stop by for on-site ala carte purchases. <https://www.anchoragegreens.com/>

Alaska Sprouts sells sprouts and microgreens online for pickup in Anchorage - <https://www.alaskasprouts.com/> . Read more about their story in a [2017 issue of Edible Alaska](#)

Thriving Greens sells sprouts, salad greens, and home sprout kits. Check them out on instagram to find their next pop-up sale.

Mat-Su Microgreens provides weekly deliveries of fresh microgreens to your door. Also available at Friday Fling in Palmer - <https://www.matsumicrogreensak.com/>

Local Food Pickups in Anchorage and Valley - goat milk, duck/chicken eggs, and chicken, turkey, goat, and rabbit meat. Call or text (907)-885-7732 Or (907)-312-6779

LunaChick Farm sells sustainably raised animals, eggs, etc with drop-offs on the Kenai Peninsula, Anchorage, and Valley. Learn more about the operation [here](#) or [here](#) or this [entertaining radio interview from 2020](#).

Whispering Bay Ranch has **local eggs for sale** in Anchorage on Thursdays, Mat-Su on Mondays. Chicken and Duck. (907) 885-7732

Support Alaska's American Indian Producers - <https://www.indianagfoods.org/alaska-1> & check out Ag Alaska's list of AK farms - <https://agalaska.org/alaska-farms/>

Alaska Food Hub opened for its 7th season, with pick-ups in Homer, Soldotna, Ninilchik, and Seldovia, with more locations in the works.

To **RECEIVE** Currant Affairs, suggest items to **ADD, CHANGE EMAIL ADDRESS** or **UNSUBSCRIBE**, contact Nick Riordan at garden@akaction.org.

What did I forget?? Send along ideas and updates!