

Currant Affairs

August 31, 2022 Edition

Compiled regularly by Nick Riordan on behalf of Yarcupia (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 31**

The **Cooperative Extension** agents will be at the **AK State Fair** Grounds touring the livestock from 2:15-3:15 PM - Join them on Facebook Live!

****August 31**

Spenard Community Garden Weekly Workparty from 4-6 pm this evening. [info on their FB](#)

****September 3**

You Pick at Clark's Apple Orchard across from Rabbit Creek Community Church. [More info.](#)

****September 3-4**

Girdwood Fungus Fair returns! Hosted by the Turnagain Arm Mycological Society - [Read on!](#)

****September 7**

Weekly Community Composting Workparty at Midtown Garden Depot (2930 Cheechako Street), 1:30-3:30. Contact Mary-Ellen for more info - 207 409 5018. Compost, Leaves, manure, wood chips available free from the Depot all week – [more info here](#). Come help make it!

****September 8**

Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska is hosting **Mulching with Mother Nature** presented by Debbie Hinchey. 'Debbie has experimented with many types of mulching materials, utilizing seasonal timing, and has developed incredibly rich and productive soil in her garden beds.' Feed the soil for healthy plants and food!

****September 10**

Harvest Moon Festival is the Kenai Peninsula's biggest farmers market and local food celebration of the year! In Soldotna, more info on their [event page](#).

****September 11**

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association is hosting the first of two **apple tasting events** from 1:00-2:30 pm at Anchorage Begich Middle School. This is an excellent opportunity to taste fruits when deciding what kind of apples you may want to grow yourself, as well as simply having a good time.

****September 11**

Anchor Gardens and Yarducofia are hosting a **plant pot recycling** and perennial plant exchange from 1-4 pm at the Midtown Garden Depot (2930 Cheechako Street). Up-to-date details on the [Anchor Gardens calendar](#).

****September 12**

Webinar: Alaska Farmers Market Management & Food Access Toolkits from 5:30-7 PM. Do you have questions on how to start a market? How to set up a SNAP redemption program? Concerns about setting market policy? Join us for the answers to all this and more as the Alaska Farmers Market Association reviews two new awesome resources: The AK Farmers Market Management and Food Access Toolkits! This is for farmers markets, farm stands, CSAs, food hubs, and interested groups and individuals! Registration is free, but required. Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkc-mgpzMrG9XQsg6KluPzqhelLZHZI8II>

****September 13**

Planting Garlic Workshop (online) offered by Alaska Botanical Garden – [More info](#)

****September 14**

USDA Food Loss and Waste Innovation Fair (online) from 6 – 10 am. [More info here.](#)

****September 19**

AMGA Membership Meeting (online): Will Criner will be speaking on plant propagation.

****September 20**

Edible Mushroom Kit Workshop at the **Alaska Botanical Gardens.** [More info on their website.](#)

****September 21**

Putting your Garden to Bed with Margaret Timmerman at the Mt. View Library 5:30-7:00

****September 21**

Planting Next Years Flowers hosted by [Anchorage Museum's Urban Harvest Program](#)

****October 8th & 15th**

In-Person Workshop: AFMA Storytelling Workshop with Story Works Alaska 9 AM to 12 PM. This workshop is designed for farmers and AFMA members who would like to develop a

personal narrative that can be used to promote their business or connect with their community. More info here - <https://storyworksak.org/afma-workshop-registration/>

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

PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

Saturday & Wednesday Farmers Markets!

Most farmers markets are on Saturday (Spenard, Muldoon, Midtown, Pena Park, South Anchorage, & Anchorage Farmers Market) **and Wednesday** (South Anchorage and APU Market), with a few exceptions (e.g. Grow North Farm farmstand is open Mon-Fri from 4-7 pm; Pena Park is open Sat-Sunday). Plan your weekly grocery shop on these days!

****Food Waste Diversion Project** between Providence Hospital and Yarducopia – [Read on!](#)

****Food Pantry/Bank infrastructure grants available** – Deadline Sept 26 - [more info here](#)

Alaska UAF Apple Tree Pollinator Survey. In order to provide better integrated pest management information and services across the state of Alaska, the UAF Integrated Pest Management Team is conducting a fruit tree pollinator survey for 2022. This is an ANONYMOUS SURVEY and will be used to facilitate the development of useful outreach and educational resources as well as guide potential research to improve pest management in our state. [Link to form.](#)

Grow Local, Give Local a program of Catholic Social Services, uses donations to buy food directly from Fresh International Gardens and Grow North Farm to distribute through the St Frances Food Pantry – [More info here.](#)

Homer Grown gardening show has a new episode on **Nome Grown**. You can listen to this and their other insightful programs at the [KBBI radio website](#)

AG Matters on Palmer's Big Cabbage Radio recent episodes with APFGA and USDA. Check out this and past episodes here - <https://www.radiofreepalmer.org/category/ag-matters/>

Growing Classes through the [Space Farming Institute](#) and [Seeds and Soil](#) are worth a look!

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/>

Food For Thought food fridge in Mountain View is once again the topic on AK Public Media, this time as part of a full hour Talk of Alaska – Check the earlier piece and radio show [here](#) and [here](#). Amazing work Ziona and the FFT team!

Midtown Garden Depot has started accepting fresh 'green' waste to compost on select days and by special arrangement (e.g. pesticide-free grass, yard waste, and food scraps). Check with garden@akaction.org for more info and to lend a hand & learn about small-scale composting.

****Harvest of Hope Garden** at the Lutheran Church of Hope is run by Don Bladow, producing thousands of pounds of fresh produce each summer distributed by the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry. Learn more at Don's [blogspot for the garden](#).

Anchor Gardens is hosting a **Garden Questions Hotline** called Roots and Shoots every Tuesday starting at 7 pm. [Sign up for Anchor Gardens to learn more, get the link, etc.](#) They also have Wednesday classes on [Garden Planning](#) and [Seed Saving](#). Check out this [great group!](#)

Urban Harvest (a program of Anchorage Museum) has posted their July/August lineup of classes – As always, great topics – [Check it out](#).

AK Food Policy Council - We are working on a **statewide map of the state food system resources**. If you wish to add yourself or your organization to this map, please visit this page to read more about this important effort to provide an inclusive map of all our state food system resources. [Link to info](#).

Summer Garden Tours are nearing the end! Many of the organizations listed above and below host garden tours all summer long. I encourage you to join a garden club (or three!) and attend their tours. It can be a great way to be inspired, learn from others' experiences, and meet fellow enthusiasts and friends.

Midtown Community Garden – a new community garden at 2930 Cheechako Street has space and materials to construct more garden beds. Reach out to Yarduopia at garden@akaction.org to sign up & get more info, or drop by during one of our gatherings (see above).

Chanshtnu Community Garden in Muldoon still has a few spaces available!

Anchor Gardens' I Street Garden Depot info - anchorgardens.org/stockpiles

Yarduopia (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 Yarduopia 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

The Alaska Farmers Market Association launched a [New Farmers Market Toolkit](#) for starting, enhancing, and supporting a farmers' market in your community. Well done AFMA!

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

A List of Anchorage Food Pantries can be found at [AnchorageFood.org](#) (Address, hours, etc.)

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

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

APU Farmstand this Wednesday from 3:00-6:30 with kale, bok Choi, salad greens, sorrel, and more! Come get your early summer fix of fresh greens!

Grow North Farm Farmstand open 4-7 pm Mon-Friday. Thursdays feature global cuisine to-go from a rotating Grow North Farm farmer! SNAP and WIC welcome.

Arctic Harvest Deliveries – produce share sold out, [meat and seafood shares still available](#)

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

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/>

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](#)

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