

Currant Affairs

September 14, 2023 Edition

Compiled regularly by Nick Riordan for Alaska Community Action on Toxics and the Alaska Food Policy Council

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

WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, & SPECIAL EVENTS

****September 14**

Fund Your Farm panel discussion tonight at 6 pm hosted by Homer Soil and Water Conservation District. <https://www.facebook.com/homerswcd> Part two on Oct 5

September 16

ABG Garlic Sale from 10 am – 4 pm, in person at the garden. Online sale begins September 18.

September 16

Harvest Moon Local Food Fest in Soldotna. <https://www.kenailocalfood.org/>

September 16 (and 23)

Advanced composting class for those who completed their backyard and vermicompost class this summer, there is an all-day advanced composting class on either September 16 or the 23.

September 19-20

The PNW-ISA will host two days of **arborist training in Anchorage** with classes in tree id, fruit tree pruning, and more. \$375

September 20

Anchorage Tree Forum – an ad hoc gathering of tree enthusiasts at Wendler Middle School, time TBA

****September 22**

Mushroom Cultivation Workshop at ABG from 5-7 pm. Read on and register here https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTg3NTU0

September 23

Anchorage Veg Fest is an uplifting and fun event that celebrates plant-based lifestyles. This year it will be from 10 am – 4 pm at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. Website for more details. <https://www.anchoravegfest.com/>

****September 24**

Fall Workparty at Midtown Garden Depot and Community Garden - Building 6 new lasagna beds, consolidating stockpiles, wood chipping paths. Lots to get done, come support the Depot! And help create space for more gardeners here next summer. Lunch and hot drinks provided – RSVP with garden@akaction.org or 907 717 4392

****September 26**

Intro to Canning for Gardeners and Yardeners as part of the Museum's Urban Harvest Program. 6-8 pm in person at the Seed Lab. \$10, registration required. Learn more here.

<https://www.anchoragemuseum.org/visit/calendar/event-details/?id=mlqugubuphgukn4gor8okhtnpo>

****September 27**

AFPC Food Waste Working Group Monthly meeting – 6 pm via Zoom. Ongoing efforts to compile, connect, and celebrate food waste reduction efforts in Alaska.

September 28

Ornamental invasive plants to avoid and some alternative options class offered by the CES.

12 –1 pm on Zoom. <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/>

October 5

Growing Pumpkins: From Seed to Fruit is the topic of Anchorage Garden Club's October meeting. Central Lutheran, 10 am.

****October 5**

Fund Your Farm panel discussion from 6-7 pm hosted by Homer Soil and Water Conservation District. <https://www.facebook.com/homerswcd> Part of HSWC 2023 Know Your Land Series

October 12

Succulent Gardens in Glass with Paul Marmora, hosted by the Wildflower Garden club, 10 am at Central Lutheran Church

October 16

New Website for Garden Design with Elise Huggins at this month's AMGA meeting, 7-8 pm Submit your photos to share. Come for the nibbles, stay for the company.

November 2

Anchorage Garden Club monthly education meeting. Open to the public. Central Lutheran Church, 7-9pm

November 7

Eat Your Weeds class offered by CES from 12-1 pm in person (Mat-Su) and on Zoom.

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/>

November 9

Wildflower Garden Club monthly meeting – Summer photo share and luncheon, 10-1

November 10-12

Alaska Food and Farm Festival will be at the Egan Center in Anchorage. Attend or present at the Alaska Food Policy Council's 7th annual conference. Featuring local and national speakers, networking, and educational opportunities for agricultural producers and food system advocates. Share your food story! Scholarships available

<https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/2023-festival-conference>

November 16

Invasive bird cherry and their toxicity to moose class offered by CES from 12-1 pm in person (Mat-Su) and on Zoom. <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/>

PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

****Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program.** USDA is accepting applications for planning projects and community food projects. Applications from organizations that address food insecurity in rural, tribal, and underserved communities are encouraged.

<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/community-food-projects-competitive-grants-program>

Job opportunity at Seeds of Change – Agricultural Specialist - You can reach out to Sara Renard via email - srenard@akbh.org for a copy of a *detailed* job description and job preview.

ABG is hiring a Facilities Maintenance Associate this Fall – Great people and organization to join. Check out the [job advertisement](#) and their website for more info.

Regional Food Business Center Director at AFPC <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/job>
Applications due by September 21.

Friends of Boyers Orchard volunteer evenings continue every Thursday from 4-7 pm. White board near the front gate explains needed tasks to get done. So many tasty apples this time of year, great time to visit, lend a hand, and enjoy the fruit of your labor.

<https://www.facebook.com/boyersorchard/>

Call for Volunteers and Native Plants - To help support the vision of the Habitat Rehabilitation Project planned for the forested portions of the 5 acres the BP building sits upon, they are looking for donations of native plants to reestablish the forest understory. If you have an upcoming garden project and need to rehome any native plants, please consider letting us know. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities associated with this extensive project, we want to hear from you! You can contact our Director, Melody Price at mprice@alaskacf.org for more information.

The 'Teaming With Microbes' podcast series with Jeff Lowenfels and Jonathan White promotes organic gardening and addresses Alaska and Anchorage specific gardening and yardening issues. Available through the Anchorage Daily News

Southcentral Alaska Beekeepers Association monthly meetings. We're a friendly and diverse group of Alaskans with a common interest: Bees! SABA meets the fourth Monday of each month (except December) at the VFW Post 9785 10527 VFW Rd. Eagle River, AK from 6:30 - 8:30pm. Meeting reminders emailed out each month to members.

Alaska Food Policy Council is searching for an Operations and Strategic Planning Coordinator. Learn more here <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/job>

Composting class series offered through Anchor Gardens, Mountain View Library, and SWS. Backyard composting and vermicomposting. Knowledgeable teachers and a range of dates, times, and locations. All free. Check out the class dates and topics [here](#).

Matanuska Community Farmers Market is a new farm and food-specific market in Palmer so you can buy food directly from the amazing growers in the area. Market started Wednesday June 14 and will go through September every Wednesday from 4-7 pm in the parking lot of the United Protestant Presbyterian Church of 1,000 Logs (713 South Denali Street).

AG Matters on Palmer's Big Cabbage Radio has tons of new content. Check out past episodes here - <https://www.radiofreepalmer.org/category/ag-matters/>

Herb Study Group - The Herb Study group meets the second Friday of each month from noon - 1 p.m. for lively discussion and hands-on activities that center around specific herbal topics. These meetings will be held virtually using Zoom and are free and open to the public. Please email anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com for information on how to join

AFPC's Food Waste Working Group is compiling a living archive of food waste activity across the state. Take their survey here - <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/foodwaste>

Midtown and Spenard Community Gardens weekly workdays on Sunday 10-1 and 2-5 pm respectively. Follow the links to the [Midtown](#) and [Spenard Garden](#) Facebook pages

Midtown Garden Depot has weekly composting workshops on Tuesdays 6-7pm. This is an opportunity to bring your compostable organics, learn how to compost them, and take home a great soil amendment and composting worms! The **Depot also has regular 'office hours'** on Wednesday from 6-7 pm. Come chat, figure out how the Depot works in person, lend a hand, and get help loading and unloading materials.

Treats for your Chickens available at 3740 Williams Street on Mondays and Thursdays. These are vegetables and fruits collected from a nearby commercial kitchen and made available by

ACAT's Yarcucopia program. Bring your own container, keep things tidy, and text or call Nick @ 907-717-4392 to get on the group text that lets you know when the bins are full and when they're empty. Leftovers go to our chickens and compost piles.

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/>

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.

Yarcucopia (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 Yarcucopia 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

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

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.

Seeds of Change/Evie's Brinery is for sale weekly at the ANC Market Social every Sunday from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. in Town Square (E Street, between 5th and 6th Avenue)

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

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

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 garden@akaction.org.

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