

Currant Affairs

September 24, 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

September 24

AK Botanical Gardens is hosting a Blue Oyster Mushroom Workshop on Friday from 5:30-7:00 PM taught by the owners of Far North Fungi. [Sign up here.](#)

****September 26**

Anchor Gardens & Yarcucopia are hosting a Plant and Pot Swap this Sunday from 2-5 p.m. at the Midtown Garden Depot (2930 Cheechako Street). Bring plants, pots, grass, leaves, etc and take home gardening stuff to put your garden to bed and get ready for next year! Contact Nick (907-717-4392) or Theresa (907-947-8217) for more details, to volunteer, or with any questions.

****September 29**

Food assistance in Alaska during the pandemic at 1:00 PM, brought to you by **ALSC** and representatives from the **Division of Public Assistance, Department of Education & Early Development**, and the **Alaska Food Bank**. They will provide information about food benefits available to Alaskan adults and children, and give you the opportunity to ask questions and get answers. If you can't make it to the live event, a recording will be available on our Facebook page afterwards. [More info and FB live video link here.](#)

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.](#)

September 30

Put your Garden to Rest taught by the Matanuska Experiment Farm & Extension Center's Steve Brown from Noon to 1:00 PM. He'll be sharing how a few hours spent in the garden this Fall can save you many hours of work in the spring. [More info & registration here.](#)

October 7

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

October 23

Alaska VegFest – Save the date for the AK VegFest on October 23. More Details to come.

November 15

The Story of the Seven Federal Agricultural Experiment Stations in the Territory of Alaska
presented by Dr. Talis Colberg at the monthly AMG meeting at 7 pm. [More info.](#)

****September 22 - November 3**

New Virtual Series: In the Virtual Pantry. Grab your lunch and join us for a FREE bi-weekly series hosted by the UAF CES Anchorage Outreach Center. This introductory series on food preservation is designed for people interested in learning how to preserve their harvest and will cover the basics of canning, dehydrating and freezing food for extended storage. We will cover what equipment is needed, safety considerations and the advantages and limitations of each technique. Schedule of classes ([register here](#)):

Sept. 22 - noon to 12:30 p.m. - Creating shelf-stable jams, jellies and fruit preserves.

Oct. 6 - noon to 12:30 p.m. - Pickles, fermented foods and flavored vinegars.

Oct. 20 - noon to 12:30 p.m. - Dehydrating fruits, vegetables and herbs for long term storage.

Nov. 3 - noon to 12:30 p.m. - Freezing food for extended storage.

****October 5 – Nov 23**

Winter is Coming...Food Preservation Workshops. Extension Kitchen classes are taught by UAF Cooperative Extension Agent Sarah Lewis, from her home kitchen in Juneau to your home kitchen anywhere in Alaska (or the world). Sarah will offer an online resource site where participants can find publications and information for each class, but the real fun will happen at the Zoom, Tuesdays from 5:30-7:00 PM AK time! You can join Sarah on Zoom, and watch or cook along, or you can watch the video of the class at your own pace. [Register here.](#)

Oct 5: Create a Food Secure Pantry

Oct 12: Canning Fruit & Berries

Oct 19: Preserving Herbs

Oct 26: Dehydrating Vegetables

Nov 2: Cooking Mixes and Sourdough Starter

Nov 9: Making and Canning Pickles

Nov 16: Canning Meat & Vegetables

Nov 23: Making Jerky

Nov 30: Bonus class! Pressure Canning Spaghetti Sauce. One participant in each previous class will win one free registration to this final class.

PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

****RurAL CAP** is looking for a **Gardening Program Specialist** to help support a year-long project to build the capacity of rural AK community gardens. [Read more about the position here.](#)

****Alaska Seeds of Change** has many volunteer opportunities this winter. Many of their summer interns and employees head back to school in the fall/winter, so it's a good time to step up to help this great organization. Sign up for a shift using [Seeds Sign Up Genius](#) here, or if it's your first-time volunteering, email volunteer@akseedsofchange.com for an orientation.

Organic Gardening – The Comprehensive Growers Course taught by Ellen Vandevisse at the Mat-Su College runs from February 4 – March 11 at 4:00 PM and 8:30 PM. [More details](#)

Alaska Food Festival and Conference – Save the date! March 18-19 2022. [More info at the AK Food Policy Council's Website.](#)

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.](#)

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

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.](#)

Anchor Gardens continues to recruit **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 - [anchorgardensanc@gmail.com.](mailto:anchorgardensanc@gmail.com)

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 3-6:30 PM and ANTHC from 3:30-7:00 PM on Wednesdays.

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

Midtown Anchorage Farmers Market: Saturday 9:00 to 2:00 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.

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