**Farming**

1. **Dairy and Livestock Classes (Red Gate Farm)** *Purpose:* These workshops will teach participants about various topics related to raising livestock. **Date:** June 10 (Raising Pork Naturally). June 20 (Chicken Processing). June 24 (Dairy and Cheese). July 1 (Farm Chicken Raising). **Location:** Petersburg, IL.

2. **Beginning Farmer Tours and Workshops (Purdue Extension)** *Purpose:* Farm tours will help beginning farmers learn best farm practices. **Date:** May 23 (Grazing systems). June 3 (Artisanal cheese). June 15 (Intensive growing, CSA and other distribution). June 24 (Organic practices). August 26 (Goat dairy and value-added products). September 11 (Small acreage farms). September 27 (High tunnels for vegetable production). October 2 (Organic produce and Farm to School). October 14 (Organic poultry production and organic certification). **Location:** Various.


4. **Write a 200-Word Essay to Win an Organic Farm** *Purpose:* Norma Burns, owner of Bluebird Hill Farm in North Carolina, is holding an essay contest to determine the farm’s next owner. **Date:** Submit a 200-word essay by June 1, 2017. **Location:** Bennett, North Carolina.

5. **Workshops on Raising Goats (Antiquity Oaks)** *Purpose:* As part of the organization’s work to teach farmers about homesteading topics, this workshop will cover various topics related to raising goats. **Date:** June 3 (Goats 101 and Goats Breeding and Birth). **Location:** Cornell, IL.

6. **New! Common Ground Gathering (Liberty Prairie Foundation)** *Purpose:* This farm tour event will provide opportunities to network as well as highlight best practices for attendees who are interested in owning land in McHenry County, IL. **Date:** June 8, 2017. **Location:** Woodstock, IL.

7. **New! Webinar—Improving Soil Health on Urban Farms (USDA NRCS)** *Purpose:* This webinar will illustrate how the principles of a Soil Health Management System are implemented on a 3.5 acre urban farm growing mixed vegetables, and will emphasize practices that enhance the microbial life in the soil. **Date:** June 13, 2017.

8. **New! Farmer Training Workshops (FamilyFarmed)** *Purpose:* These workshops include Direct Market Success training, On-Farm Food Safety training resources, and Wholesale Success. To schedule a training or for more information, contact james@familyfarmed.org and chelsea@familyfarmed.org or call 312-874-7360. **Deadline:** June 16, 2017.


10. **New! Urban Agriculture Farm Tours and Workshops (Central State University, Ohio)** *Purpose:* These workshops will cover topics related to urban farming and tour urban agriculture projects that are reclaiming vacant properties. **Date:** June 24 (Urban CSA Farm Tour). July 28 (Diversified Urban Development Farm Tour). Aug. 12 (Personal Food Security Workshop). Sep. 2 (Urban
Livestock Farm Tour). Sep. 20 (Farm the City on Solid Legal Ground Workshop). **Location:** See website.

11. **New! 2017 Ohio Farm Workshops and Special Events (Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association)**  
**Purpose:** These workshops will help attendees develop their production skills, plan their farms, and network with other beginning farmers. **Date:** Aug. 8 (Young and Beginning Farmers Q&A and Networking Session). Aug. 20 (The Farmers’ Table). Sep. 10 (Poultry Processing). **Location:** See website.

12. **2017 Green Lands Blue Waters Conference**  
**Purpose:** This year’s annual conference will cover topics related to perennial grains, pasture/forage systems, cover crops, and agroforestry. Program details will be available in July. **Date:** November 28-29, 2017. **Location:** Madison, WI.

13. **Inaugural Organic Grower Summit (California Certified Organic Farmers and Organic Produce Network)**  
**Purpose:** This summit will bring together organic farmers and other stakeholders in the organic supply chain to learn and share information about a variety of issues and opportunities in the organic sector. Registration for conference attendees and exhibitors is now open. **Date:** December 13-14, 2017. **Location:** Monterey, CA.

14. **New! Minnesota Organic Conference (Minnesota Department of Agriculture)**  
**Purpose:** This farmer-focused conference offers learning and networking opportunities for young and experienced organic farmers. The educational program is complemented by a vendor trade show. The conference is now accepting proposals for speakers and topics. **Date:** Jan. 11-12, 2018. Deadline for proposals: May 31, 2017. **Location:** St. Cloud, MN.

15. **Mentorship Program (The Land Connection)**  
**Purpose:** One-year mentorship for beginner small, diversified farm operators, organic transition, and everything in between. **Date:** Rolling. **Location:** Illinois and Indiana.

16. **Chicago and Illinois Young Farmers Coalition (CINYFC)**  
**Purpose:** CINYFC is the local chapter of the National Young Farmers Coalition, whose mission is to connect the growing community of young farmers emerging in Illinois. Members receive invitations to events, special discounts, and networking opportunities. **Date:** Ongoing. **Location:** Illinois.

17. **USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**  
**Purpose:** Provides financial and technical assistance to address agriculture conservation practices related to: drinking water protection, reducing soil erosion, preserving wildlife habitats, preserving/restoring forests/wetlands, and aiding farmers whose farms are damaged by natural disasters. New CRP programs were recently announced for organic farmers and dairy farmers with 100 or fewer head of grazing dairy cows. For more information, visit local FSA office. **Date:** CRP is ongoing. **Location:** Nationwide.

18. **Homegrown By Heroes**  
**Purpose:** Promotes farmer veterans’ point-of-sale visibility, greater awareness of farmer veterans, business planning and food safety support from the Farmer Veteran Coalition. The program is a marketing initiative started by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and expanded nationally by the Veteran Farmer Coalition. **Dates:** Annually renewable. **Location:** Nationwide.

19. **Whole-Farm Revenue Protection**  
**Purpose:** Provides risk management safety net for all commodities on the farm under one insurance policy. This insurance policy is available to farms with less than $8.5 million in total revenue. The policy is also available to specialty and/or organic commodity farms or local or regional producers. **Dates:** See website. **Location:** Nationwide.

20. **Bridges to Opportunity (USDA FSA)**  
**Purpose:** Connects agricultural producers, information and resources, and non-USDA partner organizations. **Location:** See link for counties serviced.

**Purpose:** This listserv provides information about events, best practices, resources and, equipment for grain farmers.
22. **Share Your Story on Growing Young Farmers (FamilyFarmed)** *Purpose:* The average age of U.S. farmers is around 60. FamilyFarmed is receiving submissions for young farmer stories to highlight this demographic.

23. **Beginning Farmer Incubator Program (Pushing the Envelope Farm)** *Purpose:* Provides young growers training in small-scale farm operation. Program provides organically managed land and farm infrastructure with on-site housing, access to ongoing education, and the opportunity to live with other young sustainably-minded farmers. *Date:* Ongoing. *Location:* Geneva, IL.

24. **Farmer Field School Scholarship (MSU Student Organic Farm)** *Purpose:* Scholarships for MSU Farmer Field School workshops.

25. **20-Minute Certified Organic Grower Survey (New York University)** *Purpose:* This 20-minute survey will gather basic information about respondents’ organic farm, production, markets, and technical assistance and training. Survey results will help to provide information about biodiversity in organic farming across the United States.

26. **2017 Agriculture Census (USDA)** *Purpose:* Conducted every five years, the Census of Agriculture surveys farmers in every county in the U.S. for information about various topics, including land use, production, and marketing practices.

27. **Vendors Wanted (Original Farmers Market)** *Purpose:* Be a vendor at the Original Farmers Market in Owosso, Michigan. This is an established market with excellent exposure on State Highway M-21 and lots of available parking. Contact Bob Collard at 517-256-6425 or lookg@tds.net for more information Owosso, MI.

28. **Seeking local producers for Fresh Thyme Farmers Market** *Purpose:* Those interested should call Ben Bush at 331-253-3225 or send an email to bbush@freshthyme.com Interested farmers will fill out a questionnaire about volumes of produce, food safety/GAP/organic certifications, and other information. *Location:* Midwest.

29. **Seeking farmers for Milwaukee Smart Grocery Network (Milwaukee Professionals Association (MPA) LLC)** *Purpose:* The MPA is seeking farmers, particularly black, women, young, and/or Hispanic. Those interested should call or text 414-610-1044 or email mpapublicpolicyreview@gmail.com *Date:* Ongoing. *Location:* Milwaukee, WI.

**School and Farm to School**

1. **New! Farm to School Training Program (Purdue Extension)** *Purpose:* This training will educate, train, and develop action committees from stakeholders interested in developing or sustaining farm to school activities. Five action committees from throughout Indiana will be selected to participate in the training. *Date:* Aug. 29, 2017. *Deadline:* June 15, 2017. *Location:* Indiana

2. **Salad Bars in Schools** *Purpose:* Provides technical and financial support to install salad bars in schools. The initiative is jointly sponsored by United Fresh, the Center for Disease Control, and others. Dates: rolling application. *Location:* Nationwide.

3. FNS Farm to School E-letter. **Sign up at farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov**

**Food Systems**

1. **Produce Inspection Training Program (United Fresh and USDA-AMS)** *Purpose:* Five-day program that trains anyone who receives, handles, buys, ships, or sells produce, on how to implement quality standards, inspection grading, and USDA produce procedures. *Date:* May 22 – 26, 2017. *Location:* Fredericksburg, VA.
2. **New! Gleaning 2.0: Reducing Food Waste for a Food Insecure Planet Program (Global Midwest Alliance)** Purpose: This program includes speaking sessions and panel discussions to discuss solutions to food waste challenges. **Date:** May 24, 2017. **Register:** May 22, 2017. **Location:** Chicago, IL.

3. **New! How to Create a Successful Community Garden for Residents (NYC Foodscape)** Purpose: This webinar will provide basic information community gardens and steps to start and manage a community garden in multifamily rental properties and affordable housing sites. Please register at the website. **Date:** May 23, 2017.

4. **New! USDA Food Funding Mechanisms—SNAP-related Grants in the Southeast (Southeastern Health Equity Council)** Purpose: This webinar series will highlight USDA grantees’ projects in southeast states, successes and challenges of implementing a successful SNAP farmers market, and project evaluations. **Date:** May 24, 2017.

5. **New! FSMA Training Course (Ohio State University)** Purpose: This course is one way to satisfy the FMA Produce Safety Rule. The training course will cover produce safety best practices and key parts of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements. After attending the course, participants will be eligible to receive a certificate from the Association of Food and Drug Officials. **Date:** May 31, 2017. **Location:** Wooster, OH.

6. **Roots to Raizes Gardening Series Spring Workshops (Plant Chicago)** Purpose: Workshops that cover various gardening topics, including soil bed preparation and postharvest processing. **Date:** June 3 (Harvest and Post-Harvest Handling). June 17 (Native Edible Plant Foraging). July 1 (Canning, Pickling, and Fermentation). **Location:** Chicago, IL.

7. **Farmers Market Webinars (Illinois Farmers Market Association)** Purpose: Webinars cover various topics related to farmers markets and are available to anyone interested. The Market Metrics webinar is available for ILFMA members only. **Date:** June 6 (Introduction to Farmers Market Metrics: Evaluation for Markets).

8. **Grand Opening of Park at Wrigley Farmers Market (Green City Market)** Purpose: Green City Market will open its third farmers market in Chicago at Wrigley Field. **Date:** June 15, 2017. **Location:** Chicago, IL.

9. **National Nutrition Network (Wholesome Wave)** Purpose: Connect with those involved in nutrition incentive programs, access tools to build and sustain nutrition incentive programs, and work one-on-one with Wholesome Wave’s technical assistance providers to expand programs. **Dates:** Rolling.

10. **Farm to Freezer Job Training Program (Goodwill Northern Michigan)** Purpose: Assists unemployed individuals to develop skills in flash freezing from local farms in Northern Michigan. Contact markc@goodwillnmi.org for more information. **Date:** Rolling. **Location:** Traverse City, MI.

11. **Farmers Market Facebook Forum (Ohio Farmers Market Managers Network (FMMN))** This forum is available to farmers markets that are 2017 FMMN members.

12. **Farmers Market Survey (Vermont Law School, Farmers Market Coalition, NOFA-VT)** Purpose: Fill out this brief, 5-question survey to help FMC and other partners produce a Farmers Market Legal Toolkit.

13. **Farmers Market Partners**. USDA facilitates a collaboration with Midwest farmer’s market coordinators to discuss challenges, successes, news, and events. Together we can learn ways to improve and increase markets. Conference calls are held every 3-4 months and info is shared via emails. Please email Penny Weaver at penny.weaver@fns.usda.gov if interested.

14. **Interested in authorizing your Farmers Market/direct retail to receive SNAP?** Contact USDA-FNS EBT/Farmers Market coordinator Scott.Keller@fns.usda.gov
Events/Opportunities
May 23rd, 2017

Health

1. **Health Care Partners.** FNS Public Affairs facilitates a collaboration with primarily health care partners (eg: Mayo Clinic, Blue Cross Blue Shield) and related organizations and agencies who view hunger as a health issue. FNS holds conference calls every four months and sends monthly email blasts with news, resources, grants focused on FNS nutrition assistance programs, healthy food access, and work being done by health care companies and hospitals. Please email Alan Shannon at alan.shannon@fns.usda.gov if interested.

Food

1. **The Hatchery Food Business Workshops (ICNC) Purpose:** Workshops that help new and developing food businesses to grow their food business. **Dates:** May 23 (Balancing the Books: Organizing Cash Flow, Payables & Receivables). June 12 (Starting a Food Business). June 20 (E-Commerce: Legal tips to running a successful food businesses online). **Location:** Chicago, IL.
2. **Food Finance Institute Events (University of Wisconsin) Purpose:** Trainings for consultants and others working with Food and Beverage clients. Trainings are free, but registration is required. **Dates:** June 22, 2017: Packaging Fundraising Requests and Understanding the Legal/Financial Implications of Raising Equity (registration deadline: June 2). **Location:** Madison, WI.
3. **Ohio Signature Food Contest (Center for Innovative Food Technology and Ohio Farm Bureau) Purpose:** This contest will showcase products from across the state ready for food manufacturing. Products do not need to be fully designed or ready for market, but contestants should communicate a specific vision. Winners will receive assistance with advancing the product to market. **Deadline:** June 22. **Location:** Ohio.
4. **Detroit Kitchen Connect (DKC) Purpose:** Networks Detroit’s shared-use community kitchen partners. **Location:** Detroit, MI.

Community

1. **City Innovator Connect (Living Cities and Bloomberg Philanthropies) Purpose:** Are you an innovator working in city government? Do you know others who are innovators in city government? Fill out this survey by Living Cities and Bloomberg Philanthropies to help them tailor their new funding opportunities. **Dates:** Available until survey closes.

Tribal

1. **Food Sovereignty Summit (First Nations Development Institute and Oneida Nation of Wisconsin) Purpose:** The three day Summit will feature innovative tribal and community-based programs aimed at increasing local food system control, experiential learning field sessions focused on aquaponics, environmental restoration, grazing and apply harvesting and distribution. Register now by visiting the link. **Location:** Green Bay, WI. **Dates:** Oct. 2-5, 2017.