1. **USDA Invests $17.5 Million for Resilient Rural Communities and a Sustainable Agriculture Economy** *USDA, 05/16/17.* The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture announced 47 grants totaling nearly $17.5 million to improve sustainable agriculture and help rural communities thrive. One of the projects, led by University of Maine, will encourage youth employment and entrepreneurship activities. A University of Arizona project will address food waste through a sharing economy business model among farmers, retailers, restaurants, and consumers.

2. **Urban School Food Alliance Celebrates "Fresh Attitude Week" With French Delegation From May 8-12, 2017** *Crossroads Today, 05/08/17.* The USFA in collaboration with the French Department of Agriculture and Interfel (French Inter-Branch Association of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables recently hosted Fresh Attitude Week to highlight and increase consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables in schools. During the week, fruit and vegetable consumption increased by nearly 46 percent. More than 50 percent of the USFA's food purchases are locally sourced.

3. **Investing in Farm Ingenuity** *NSAC.* This series highlights farmers who used key programs that fund and supported their operations. This third post in the series focuses on Clay Oliver from Georgia, who successfully grew an unrefined cooking oil business by leveraging the USDA Value-Added Producer Program.

4. **Conservation Reserve Program gets the cap** *Politico, 05/05/17.* The Farm Service Agency’s Conservation Reserve Program recently enrolled the maximum number of acres under the 2014 farm bill.

5. **Minnesota bill would help new farmers buy land** *Politico, 05/05/17.* An omnibus tax bill is ready to be signed by Gov. Mark Dayton (MN). The measure supports beginning farmers by giving sellers of land a tax credit if they sell to beginning farmers. Landowners who rent to beginning farmers would get 10 percent of the cash rent fee or 15 percent of the crop share value. According to the Minnesota Young Farmer Coalition, the measure would benefit as many as 370 beginning farmers in its first year.

6. **Grain Farmers Have a problem: too much grain** *Wall Street Journal, 05/03/17.* Record-breaking harvests have caused prices of commodities to decrease. Some company executives suggest that this situation has resulted from farmers reluctant to sell crops at low prices and food processors unwilling to purchase commodities in advance.

7. **Trump Creates Agricultural Task Force** *Growing Produce, 04/27/17.* At a recent White House Farmers Round Table, President Trump signed an Executive Order that establishes an Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity.

8. **The demand for ‘local’ food is growing — here’s why investors should pay attention** *Business Insider, 4/25/17.* Local food sales have grown from $5 billion in 2008 to $12 billion in 2014. The 2013-2014 school year saw nearly $790 million worth of local foods purchased by schools. At the same time, not all rural and urban communities can access healthy, locally grown foods. Organizations like the Fair Food Network work to finance projects that bridge this gap.

9. **Supermarkets! Nutrition Rockin’ the Grocery Store** *Wholesome Wave, 11/10/16.* C-Town supermarket in a largely low-income Latino community in Hartford, CT, recently partnered with Wholesome Wave to implement an incentive program for SNAP shoppers. Shoppers who spent at least $10 in produce received a $5 voucher to buy additional fruits and vegetables. As a result, sales of fruits and vegetables increased eight to nine percent.