



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

With a donation, you can support the work of
RVFSN in building our local food system.

Donate Now!

RVFSN ELSEWHERE



Black Lives Matter

Food is Political

Food culture is political. Food production is political. Food access is political. Food systems are political. Food is, and always has been, inherently political.

The Rogue Valley Food System Network stands in solidarity with the Black communities in Minneapolis, in Glynn County, in Louisville, Tallahassee, and across the country. We will not stand by silently while Black Americans continue to suffer under the weight of violence, discrimination and injustice.

We encourage our white partners, supporters, and readers to [learn more](#) about dismantling racism, to listen to Black people, to vote for candidates that actively support racial justice, to support Black-owned businesses, and to donate to organizations supporting racial justice like [Black Lives Matter](#), [Black Visions Collective](#), and the [ACLU](#).

We have work to do. Food justice is racial justice. Food has always been political. Now is the time to talk about it.



Farm to School and Fry Family Farm Team Up to Feed Families

Rogue Valley Farm to School and Fry Family Farm have teamed up to distribute 2,000 boxes of fresh, organic fruits and vegetables to families in need via the school lunch programs of Central Point School District, Ashland School District and Kids Unlimited in Medford. The program is part of the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program and is

set to run through the end of June, but the hope is to continue it throughout the summer and possibly even into the fall.

Together, **Rogue Valley Farm to School** and **Fry Family Farm** expect to distribute nearly one million dollars in food to families and 24,000 boxes by the end of the summer.

With schools closed, but families needing food more than ever, school lunch programs have become a nexus point for meeting the needs of the community, providing thousands of meals every day. Distributing boxes of fresh vegetables for families to use over the weekend was a way in which to provide direct support to families, as well as helping the schools working to feed so many. More than 300 cars lined up at Jewett Elementary School on Wednesday when Rogue Valley Farm to School staff and volunteers distributed boxes. Hundreds of families responded to Fry Family Farm's post with pictures of the recipes they made with their box.

“The response to the program has been tremendous. Mothers have cried as they were handed boxes filled with organic fruits and veggies,” Rogue Valley Farm to School Executive Director Sheila Foster said. “Access to fresh, healthy, and particularly organic food, has been something out of reach for many families in the Rogue Valley for years. That has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crises. Most of the producers in the Rogue Valley are organic, and Rogue Valley Farm to School began working with schools to improve meals nearly a decade ago because we saw it as a way in which to improve access to good nutrition for the many children that rely on school meals as a key source of food during the year.”

Anyone interested in helping to distribute boxes to families should contact Sheila Foster at sheila@rvfarm2school.org or text at 541-778-7356. Boxes are distributed on Wednesdays and Thursdays, generally from 10:30-12:30 at most schools. Everyone is asked to wear masks and gloves and to maintain 6 feet from each other if possible.

For more information, contact:
Rogue Valley Farm to School Executive Director, Sheila Foster, sheila@rvfarm2school.org or 541-778-7356 or Amber Fry at Fry Family Farm, 541-301-0843 amber@fryfamilyfarm.org.



Brews, Bluegrass & BBQ Update

Dear Fans of BBB,

The Rogue Valley Food System Network is concerned with the safety, health and security of you, musicians, vendors, volunteers and staff. We have struggled, just like all events in this difficult time, to figure out a way to have BBB 2020, however, we have decided to

cancel BBB 2020. But, we want to let you know that we are planning BBB 2021 to happen on Saturday, June 5th, 2021 at RoxyAnn Winery. We are working to ensure the safety of everyone and to have an amazing celebration with great regional brews, food and some amazing Bluegrass music too!

If you have already purchased a ticket for BBB 2020, you can choose to rollover your ticket to next year, or to donate the ticket to help RVFSN in our mission for a sustained and strong local food system. Please e-mail Rhianna at rvfoodsystem1@gmail.com to let us know what you'd like to do with your ticket.

Check our Facebook page or rvfoodsystem.org for updates on other events.

We appreciate your support of BBB and RVFSN and look forward to celebrating with you next year.

Sincerely,

Rogue Valley Food System Network and Brews Bluegrass & BBQ Teams



The RV Food System team has compiled a list of food and farm resources available in the Rogue Valley and across the state to support our communities as we work to identify and address some of the unforeseen challenges that have arisen at this time. Take care and support your local food system!

Please [contact us](#) with any questions or suggestions. We welcome your additions.



Grants Pass Growers Market

9:00am to 1:00pm
4th & F Street, Grants Pass

Rogue Valley Growers Markets

Tuesdays 8:30am-1:30pm through November
[Ashland Armory](#), 208 Oak St, Ashland

Thursdays 8:30am-1:30pm through November
[Hawthorne Park](#), [501 E Main Street](#), Medford

Saturdays, 8:30am-1:00pm through October
Oak Street, Downtown Ashland

Cave Junction Farmers Market

Fridays 4:00-7:00pm
Jubilee Park, [307 S. Junction Avenue](#), Cave Junction



Community News & Upcoming Events

While in-person events have been canceled for the foreseeable future, there is an abundance of virtual events happening, including content that has been newly been made freely available! Stay tuned to the Rogue Valley Food System Network Instagram and Facebook pages for more upcoming events.

Understanding Oregon Farm Employment Law During COVID-19: A Free Webinar

Thursday, June 4 at 12:00pm PT
Presented by Oregon Tilth with Farm Commons

Lawyers with Farm Commons, a nonprofit legal education organization, will explain Oregon's employment law and provide practical, actionable steps to reduce risk on your farm.

Farmers had enough trouble trying to figure out employment law before the global pandemic. With the coronavirus added to the mix, now farm business owners are more confused and concerned than ever. In this webinar, lawyers with the non-profit legal education organization Farm Commons will explain Oregon employment law in a way that makes sense to farmers, and provides practical, actionable steps to reduce risk on the farm. Farmers will learn all about the employment laws that were with us in pre-COVID times including minimum wage, overtime and workers compensation obligations, as well as the new COVID-related OSHA requirements and obligations to provide paid sick and family leave.

You'll learn about the employment laws that were with us pre-coronavirus, including minimum wage, overtime, and workers' compensation obligations. Farm Commons will also cover the new coronavirus-related OSHA requirements and obligations to provide paid sick and family leave. **Register here.**



Links from Around the Web

LISTEN: Josh Cohen from Barking Moon Farm and Stu O'Neill from Rogue Farm Corps spoke on JPR's Jefferson Exchange about local farms adapting during COVID-19 and the power of internet-based marketing for small farmers. **Listen at the link.**

LISTEN: Addie Candib, Pacific Northwest Director for American Farmland Trust and Greg Holmes, Director / Southern Oregon Advocate of Food Systems Program speaking about the loss of farmland in the US and in Oregon on Jefferson Public Radio.

WATCH: Rogue Valley Farm to School and Fry Family Farm Hand Out Thousands of Boxes of Fresh Produce on KDRV

READ: This current article from Civil Eats lists organizations to support who are working for food and land justice for Black Americans.



Rogue Flavor Guide 2020 Available Now!

It is more important than ever to support our local food purveyors: the restaurants, farmers, ranchers and artisanal food folks who keep us well fed. [Check out our 2020 Rogue Flavor Guide](#) online or grab one for free at lots of local locations to find out who in your area is providing nutritious local food.



Copyright © 2020 Rogue Valley Food System Network, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you indicated interest in the Rogue Valley Food System Network or were a previous supporter of The Rogue Initiative for a Vital Economy.

Our mailing address is:

Rogue Valley Food System Network

PO Box 1255

Medford, OR 97501

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.