



Interfaith Sustainable
Food Collaborative

February Newsletter

2023

**Early Bird Discount
Expiring soon!**



**LAST 2 DAYS FOR EARLY BIRD
DISCOUNT TO THE 9TH ANNUAL
FAITH, FOOD, AND FARMS
CONFERENCE**

**Join Secular and Faith-Based Leaders Advancing Food Security and
Sustainable Agriculture at the Faith, Food, & Farms Conference**

Niles Hall at Preservation Park in Oakland, CA

3:00 - 7:30 with dinner included

Workshops: Gardens and Farms on Faith Community Land; Congregational Kitchens to Support Local Food Business; Sustainable Food Policy Advocacy; and Reducing Food Waste.

Networking: Collaborative dialogue and World Café

Pre-Conference Tours: Farms and Gardens on Faith Community Lands & Faith Community Commercial Kitchens Support Local Entrepreneurs and Food Access. (Lunch included)

\$45 Registration Fee ends February 9!

Scholarships available for all ages!

Register Here!

Learn More from this Short Video!

Watch the Faith, Food, & Farms Trailer

Vegetable Tastings with Nutrition Education Come to Your Community

During the coming month Interfaith Food is organizing winter vegetable tastings combined with nutrition education at senior living facilities in Santa Rosa and San Rafael. The small events will feature tastings of delicious, often unappreciated, highly nutritional winter vegetables prepared by a chef on-site. Participants will learn about the nutritional highlights of each vegetable, have a taste, and receive a copy of the recipe.

The events serve also to bring the community together. Here's how organizer Paula Downing describes the planned events: "The company is excellent, and everyone leaves feeling satisfied and happy." If you would like to host a tasting at your congregation's site please email Paula at info@interfaithfood.org for assistance in planning and organizing. Costs are covered by a grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Interfaith Food Lobbies for Senior Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture in 2023 Farm Bill

The 'season' to influence the next federal Farm Bill has arrived. The Farm Bill spells out guidelines and expenditures for all of the nation's food and agriculture programs, and is typically authorized every 5 years. The current Farm Bill set to expire later this year, defines over \$1 trillion in expenditures.

Interfaith Food's Outreach and Advocacy Associate Keegan Horton traveled to our nation's Capitol at the end of January to lobby for sustainable agriculture practices and senior nutrition in the 2023 Farm Bill. He spoke to Rep. Lofgren (Santa Clara County) and staff for Rep. Mike Thompson (Sonoma & Napa Counties). Keegan stressed the importance of increased funding and a streamlined process for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. This reflects Interfaith Food's more than 5 years of ground level experience helping low-income seniors access the program. Keegan also pushed the representatives to support small and medium sized farms, equitable financial structures for BIPOC and beginning farmers, and reminded the representatives to not forget the critical role faith-groups play in supporting this United States' food system.



To show your support for the sustainable agriculture movement within the 2023 Farm Bill sign on the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition's Platform with this endorsement [link](#).

If your congregation would like to have a speaker present about the Farm Bill or other advocacy opportunities please contact Keegan or Steve at the Interfaith Food office.

Upcoming Events:

Freedom Farmers Market Tour 2/11:

Who: Anyone interested in learning more about the Farmers Market

What: Freedom Farmers Market is the only black farmers market in the Bay Area and this week they are featuring a tribute to George Washington Carver and the 8th Annual Sweet Potato Pie Eating Contest

Where: 4521 Telegraph Ave, Oakland, CA

When: Saturday 2/11/23 10am-Noon

Farms and Gardens on Faith Community Land Focus Group 2/15

Who: Sonoma/Marin County faith communities with land

What: Tour of farm on Christ Church United Methodist owned land. Walkthrough of program details. Discussion of success and challenges faced by farmer and faith-community representatives. **LUNCH INCLUDED.**

Where: Christ Church United Methodist, Santa Rosa

When: Wednesday 2/15 10am -12:00

Sonoma County Congregations Can Receive Free Citrus

Interfaith Foods's Healdsburg based partner, Farm to Pantry, is running a citrus box program. As part of their gleaning program, they are seeking partners for citrus box delivery in Sonoma County. The boxes are free and will include fresh fruit gleaned from local fruit trees in the Sonoma County community. The target beneficiaries of the program are individuals with limited income and seniors. Currently, the boxes included citrus, grapefruit, oranges, tangerines, and, for a limited time, pineapple and kiwi. Farm to Pantry is a nonprofit whose mission is to provide continuous fresh and healthy produce to Sonoma County's most vulnerable neighbors. The program runs year round, but the current citrus offerings are seasonal so reach out soon! For more information on how to enroll your congregation or family please contact Keegan Horton at keegan@interfaithfood.org.

Farm to Pantry
Cultivating Community through Healthy Food



Hit Hard by the Storms? Tell Your Community to Apply Now for \$500+ in Food Benefits

We need your help getting the word out about an important government food benefit for people affected by the recent storms in many counties! The State has been authorized to distribute \$1,750,000 in Disaster CalFresh (D-CalFresh) benefits! The sign-up window is open from February 6-10 and February 14-15, 2023! The program provides EBT cards to be used on food items from the grocery store and other authorized retailers. Below is a table of the participating counties and their service office phone numbers. Eligible individuals include undocumented families (this is not the case for regular CalFresh). An eligible family of four can receive up to \$939, and individuals can receive up to \$516. Please share with your community. Eligible individuals who apply by the deadline will get one-time payment benefits. Participating Counties include: Calaveras, Merced, Monterey, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz. Follow [this link](#) to learn more.

Register for the Faith, Food, and Farms Conference!

Donate to Interfaith Food

Contact Us

info@interfaithfood.com | 707-634-4672

Share This



Follow Us



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your web browser](#)

Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative

101 Morris St. Suite 212 | Sebastopol, California 95472

707-634-4672 | info@interfaithfood.com

Follow Us



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your web browser](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) or [Manage Your Preferences](#)