

# Session Descriptions

## What's happening in farm to school in Nevada?

Farm to school efforts continue to grow around the state. Nevada farm to school staff will share the state program's successes and challenges. They will also look at priorities for the coming year and resources available to create and enhance existing programs.

## Successes and challenges of Oregon's Farm to School program

Join Rick Sherman, Oregon Farm to School lead and school garden champion, as he shares the successes of school gardens in Oregon and challenges his state has overcome to create a thriving program. Rick will emphasize how these experiences can be used to enhance Nevada programs!

## Fundraisers / funding for school garden materials

Securing funds to support school garden activities is essential to establish and continue school garden efforts. Learn from northern Nevada experts how to support your school garden through fundraising, state / federal grants, foundation grants and donations.

## Food safety practices

Ensuring that harvested produce has been grown and handled using food safety practices is critical to any school garden or farm. Mountain View Montessori and Desert Farming Initiative will share their experiences creating a food safety program and the impact it had on their programs.

## Local champions

Join local school garden champions as they highlight their key successes. Learn how to ensure school garden longevity, establish a composting and recycling program, maximize teacher engagement and incorporate diverse volunteer groups.

## Beginner session: Growing for kids in northern Nevada

Ray Johnson, Custom Gardens Organic Farm, will share his wealth of knowledge regarding growing in northern Nevada to provide an introduction on best practices for producing a school garden. Ray will highlight crop selection, best times to begin planting, season extension practices and more!

## Advanced session: Curriculum integration

Having difficulty incorporating activities into the school garden that also meet education requirements? Urban Roots will present curriculum resources created specifically for school gardens and ways these resources have been used as training tools for teachers. In addition, Douglas High School will share their experience with incorporating curriculum into their school farm program.

## Beginner session: Harvest time - what to do with harvested produce

Now that it's harvest time, what to do? Join two schools garden experts as they discuss how they have implemented a CSA and farm stand program. Also hear from NDA as they plant additional food for thought with harvest of the month suggestions.

## Advanced session: Maximizing garden space / companion planting

Join Jana Vandarhaar, landscape expert and school garden project collaborator, as she discusses best practices for maximizing school garden space through companion planting.

## What's next - enhancing your farm to school efforts

This closing presentation will discuss how Oregon has overcome challenges and what lessons Nevada can glean to continue to enhance school garden efforts throughout the state.

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# NEVADA SCHOOL GARDEN CONFERENCE



## APRIL 9, 2016

### Bartley Ranch Regional Park

### RENO, NEVADA

Sponsored by the USDA Farm to School Grant

# Agenda

<b>8:30 - 9:30 A.M.</b>	<b>Registration</b> <i>Light breakfast items provided by Rainshadow Charter School</i>	<b>Wic Building</b>
<b>9 - 9:30 A.M.</b>	<b>What's happening in farm to school in Nevada?</b> <i>Catrina Peters, Nevada Department of Agriculture</i> <i>Ashley Jeppson, Nevada Department of Agriculture</i>	<b>Wic Building</b>
<b>9:30 - 10 A.M.</b>	<b>Successes and challenges of Oregon's Farm to School program</b> <i>Rick Sherman, Oregon Farm to School Program</i>	<b>Wic Building</b>
<b>10 - 10:15 A.M.</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Wic Building</b>
<b>10:15 - 11:15 A.M.</b>	<b>Fundraisers / funding for school garden materials</b> <i>Kim Daniel, Urban Roots</i> <i>Tammy Freeman, Caughlin Ranch Elementary School</i> <i>Amber Yoder, Mount Rose Elementary School</i> <i>Cory King, Carson City Greenhouse Project</i>	<b>Wic Building</b>
<b>11:15 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.</b>	<b>Food safety practices</b> <i>Jennifer Ott, Desert Farming Initiative</i> <i>Megan Gilman, Mountain View Montessori</i>	<b>Wic Building</b>
<b>12:15 - 1:15 P.M.</b>	<b>Lunch / awards ceremony</b> <i>Melissa Gilbert will share her experiences feeding children at Rainshadow Charter School</i> <i>Lunch catered by Rainshadow Charter School</i>	<b>Wic Building</b>
<b>1:15 - 2:45 P.M.</b>	<b>Local champions</b> <i>Rachel Leach, Silver Stage Elementary School</i> <i>Amber Yoder, Mount Rose Elementary School</i> <i>Cory King, Carson City Greenhouse Project</i> <i>Wendy Madson, Healthy Communities Coalition</i>	<b>Wic Building</b>
<b>2:45 - 3 P.M.</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Wic Building</b>
<b>3 - 4 P.M.</b>	<b>Beginner session: Growing for kids in northern Nevada</b> <i>Ray Johnson, Custom Gardens</i>	<b>Brick House</b>
	<b>Advanced session: Curriculum integration</b> <i>Kim Daniel, Urban Roots</i> <i>Robin Futch, Douglas High School</i>	<b>Wic Building</b>
<b>4 - 5 P.M.</b>	<b>Beginner session: Harvest time - what to do with harvested produce</b> <i>Cory King, Carson City Greenhouse Project</i> <i>Robin Futch, Douglas High School</i> <i>Catrina Peters, Nevada Department of Agriculture</i> <i>Ashley Jeppson, Nevada Department of Agriculture</i>	<b>Brick House</b>
	<b>Advanced session: Maximizing garden space / companion planting</b> <i>Jana Vanderhaar, Verdant Connections Landscape Architecture</i>	<b>Wic Building</b>
<b>5 - 5:30 P.M.</b>	<b>What's next - enhancing your farm to school efforts</b> <i>Rick Sherman, Oregon Farm to School Program</i>	<b>Wic Building</b>
<b>6 - 8 P.M.</b>	<b>Conference mixer / tour of Urban Roots</b> <i>Tour of garden classroom / engagement methods using agriculture activities</i> <i>Snacks and beverages provided by Farm Fresh NV catering</i>	<b>Urban Roots, 3001 West 4th Street in Reno</b>

# Speakers

## Kim Daniel

Kim Daniel joined the Urban Roots team in April 2013 as a volunteer, and in October 2013, she became the education director. She has led students in hands-on garden-based educational camps, field trips and in-class lessons and has overseen the development of much of the curriculum currently in use at Urban Roots.

## Robin Futch

Robin Futch is the Douglas High School agricultural instructor and Carson Valley FFA advisor. She acquired an animal science and agricultural business industry degree at Cal Poly University and an agricultural education master's degree at North Carolina State University.

## Megan Gilman

Megan Gilman is the culinary specialist at Mountain View Montessori School (MVM). She helps facilitate the cottage industry lunch program as well as the use of harvest foods from their edible schoolyard. She graduated from the Truckee Meadows Community College Culinary Arts program and has worked in restaurants and as a personal chef.

## Ashley Jeppson

Ashley has a degree in rangeland management and animal sciences and has worked with the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) since 2010. Ashley coordinates several NDA programs including the Farm to School Food Safety program, Specialty Crop Grant program and the Good Agriculture Practices program.

## Ray Johnson

Ray Johnson established Custom Gardens, an organic produce farm in Silver Springs in 1988. Custom Gardens produces a wide variety of organically-grown vegetables and fruits, sold through their CSA program and to retailers and restaurants. They have supported school garden projects by sharing their wisdom to assist gardens in becoming established and by encouraging next generation growers!

## Cory King

Cory King is the site manager and garden educator at the Carson City Greenhouse Project. He has his master's degree in library science from Indiana University and a bachelor's degree in English from the State University of New York at Fredonia.

## Rachel Leach

Rachel Leach was born, raised and educated in rural Nevada and has shared her love for learning with students in Silver Springs for the past 17 years. Her Silver Stage Elementary School G.R.E.E.N. Team is a partnership between a school district that supports school gardens as outdoor STEM labs and teachers who embrace student-driven, project-based learning.

## Wendy Madson

Wendy Madson is the school garden coordinator for Healthy Communities Coalition, working closely with teachers, administrators and farmers to create school and community gardens, hoop houses, farmers markets, elective school garden clubs and fresh, locally-procured salad bar offerings with a focus on food insecurities in the region.

## Jennifer Ott

Jennifer Ott received a degree in chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin and her master's degree in business from the University of Nevada, Reno. After working in the California wine industry for 10 years, she participated in the planning for the university's Desert Farming Initiative (DFI) and now manages the program. DFI is a USDA Good Agriculture Practices certified farm and has supplied produce for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program in Washoe County School District.

## Catrina Peters

Catrina Peters has a degree in nutrition from the University of Nevada, Reno, a master's degree from Purdue University in foods and nutrition and is also a registered dietitian. She is the School Nutrition Services manager for the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the Nevada lead for the National Farm to School Network.

## Rick Sherman

Rick Sherman has a degree in education and was hired in 2012 by the Oregon Department of Education as the Farm to School / School Garden coordinator. Previously, Rick worked 32 years for a food service management company; 20 of those years were spent as director of Nutrition Services in Eugene, Albany and Dallas, Ore.

## Jana Vanderhaar

Jana Vanderhaar is a landscape architect and owner of Verdant Connections Landscape Architecture, a landscape design, garden consultation company in Reno. Her focus is on designing ecologically-friendly landscapes and providing advice on organic gardening practices. She also teaches workshops that focus on backyard food production and sustainable living.

## Amber Yoder

Amber Yoder has served as garden coordinator at Mount Rose Elementary School since 2013. She grew up on a small 2-acre farm in Oregon where her family had goats, pigs, chickens, rabbits and a great big vegetable garden. Amber works at the University of Nevada, Reno in grants and finance, and translated this experience into school garden fundraising.