



Delay of the 2020 Carton 2 Garden Contest Deadline

Dear Carton 2 Garden Participants,

During these ever changing times, we have received many emails and phone calls from those of you who have dedicated time and resources to the Carton 2 Garden Contest this year. We have heard from educators who have completed their projects and are anxiously waiting for a decision, educators who are working hard to try and finish up projects from a distance, and also from educators who cannot access their almost completed projects at this time and have no way to finish them up.

Additionally, we have heard from our generous sponsor, Evergreen Packaging, who is playing a key role right now in helping to keep our grocery stores stocked with milk, juice, and other products during this pandemic. Without their packaging, our beverage processors do not have a way to distribute their products. They are currently committing all resources to making sure the supply of their products can keep up with the demand, and also making sure to provide a safe work environment for their employees.

Considering this information, it is with a heavy heart that **we announce the need to delay the end date of the 2020 Carton 2 Garden Contest.** We realize this will be very disappointing to those of you who have completed your projects already, but we want to be fair to those who are not able to access their projects, and we also fully recognize the important responsibility of our sponsor Evergreen Packaging to keeping their focus and resources committed to the stability of our food system at this time. It is important to remember the many producers that take part in the journey of our food from field to table.

We wish we could provide a specific revised due date, but we realize that any date we pick could potentially be moved again since this is a situation beyond anyone's control. Our current plan is to monitor the re-opening of schools across the country, and then **once the state-wide school closings due to COVID-19 have ended, announce a date that is 2 months from that time** to give everyone a chance to complete their projects, then prepare and submit their entries.

We will send a new email as soon as a due date can be determined, however you can feel free to submit your project at any time that you are able to complete it. If you have already submitted your entry but feel like you were rushed, you are welcome to submit a second entry to replace the first one.

We appreciate your understanding and we thank you for your patience.

Your Carton 2 Garden Team

