

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 27: 3 - 7 Jul 2017



July is National Culinary Arts Month (Thanks for all you do!!)
July is National Grilling Month (get out and celebrate!!)
July 6th is National Fried Chicken Day (G-ma's was SO good!!)



Grants & Funding Opportunities (money!)

1. ALDI Smart Kids Program – * NEW *****

This program makes \$100-\$5K grants to organizations that promote kids being healthy and active in the geographical areas where ALDI stores are located. Applications are open Feb. 1 - Dec. 15 of each year on a rolling basis. [Learn more and apply.](#)

2. Rural Seed Grant – * NEW *****

Food Coop Initiative's Rural Seed Grant program is designed to provide financial support during a new food co-op's early development, backed by the advice and guidance of their development specialists, with the goal of helping co-ops move through the startup process effectively and efficiently. [Learn more and apply.](#)

3. Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Grant Program

Applications are being solicited through the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Grant Program (also known as the "2501 Program") from community-based and non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, and Tribal entities to provide outreach and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers. The deadline for applications is August 7, 2017. [Learn more.](#)

4. Farm to School Grant Opportunities from USDA

Key Dates

- June 2017 - Award Announcement for FY 2017 Farm to School Grant
- September/October 2017 - Release of FY 2018 Farm to School Grant RFA
- December 2017 - Applications Due for FY 2018 RFA
- May/June 2018 - Award Announcement for FY 2018 Farm to School Grant

If you are interested in applying for a Farm to School Grant, the FY 2018 Request for Applications (RFA) will be released in the fall of 2017. There are additional funding opportunities for farm to school activities, take a look at the [USDA Grants and Loans that Support Farm to School Activities](#) for more details. For more information about the Farm to School Grant program, visit the [grant program](#) page for an overview of past grantees, program summary reports, and more.

Cool Resources, Reports, Opportunities

School Garden Support Organization Leadership Institute – Santa Cruz, CA

GREAT OPPORTUNITY for school garden teams!!! January 21-26, 2018 Lodging expenses for each team will be covered. Travel scholarships available. Join over 20 School Garden Support Organization teams from across the nation to strengthen your organization's goal of enhancing professional development and ongoing support for school garden programs in your region.

Apply by July 20th at www.lifelab.org/sgso

The Good Food Awards for Producers from the Good Food Merchants Guild

The [Good Food Awards](#) will launch its eighth year of honoring producers who make food that is delicious, tied to communities and cultural traditions, and respectful of the environment. We are reaching out in case you know of member producers who deserve to be honored.

This year's entry period runs from July 5 through July 31. Entries are judged at a blind tasting in September with over 200 food leaders from around the country. All winners will be honored at a gala awards ceremony with food movement pioneers like Mark Bittman and Alice Waters, sell their wares at the 10,000-person Good Food Awards Marketplace, and proudly display the Good Food Awards Seal all year long. Beginning July 5, our entry form will appear [here](#). (There is a \$70 fee per entry to cover cost of processing entries and storing, sorting and transporting the products for tasting. New and renewing members of the [Good Food Merchants Guild](#) receive one free entry.)

You can find more information about [the Awards](#) on our website, including our new [FAQ page](#)!

Why We Can't Talk About Race in Food – * NEW *****

In this [CivilEats article](#) five food writers of color share their experiences and perspectives on race as it relates to the food system. Dakota Kim, writer and food editor for Paste magazine explains, "Food is not your separate, happy, safe sphere, away from politics. Food is politics. Food is culture." [Read more](#).

New Farm to ECE Video – * NEW *****

The Vermont Farm to School Network just completed a new [Farm to ECE video](#). This three minute short is a great audio-visual summary of what Farm to ECE can look like!

Food eTALK – * NEW *****

[Food eTalk](#) is helping parents and guardians make good choices on the spot. Food eTalk is an online nutrition education eLearning program which features 10-minute interactive lessons, cooking videos, and just-in-time learning videos.

Growing/Gardening/Farming News

Kenai Peninsula Growers Work to Meet Produce Demands – a fantastic problem to have!

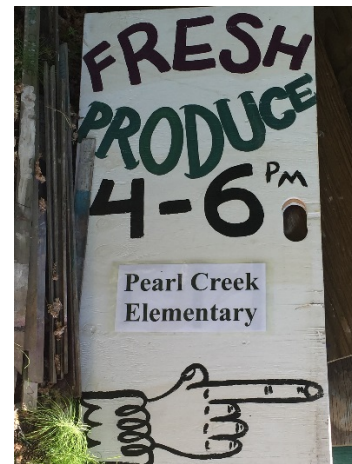
The demand for fresh, local produce on the Kenai Peninsula is pushing the farmer/grower/gardener/producer to get more food into the market. Keep up all the great work, Kenai!! [Great article here!](#)

Success Stories

So many amazing things happening all around the state. . . lemme hit ya' with some awesome work happening out and around!!!

A quick trip up to Fairbanks reveals so many great things to see and do!! First, there was SUNSHINE!!! Being stuck in Palmer this summer feels like I am living in SE without all the fun beaches to wander down, but Fairbanks gave us a nice break from ick and clouds!! Had a GREAT TIME with Susan and Tom and their Farmer Training Program participants on Friday morning out at Calypso Farm & Ecology Center to talk about Farm to School programs and things – you must go visit if you’ve never been and even if you have, new things are always happening!!

Later, Friday, we stopped by one of the sites of the three summer school garden programs Calypso runs. Check out this lush garden (great job, Josh – and thanks for the chat!). You want some of those beautiful veggies, don’t you? All three school gardens, Pearl Creek, Woodriver, and Hunter Elementary Schools have farm stands where you can purchase these yummy veggies (on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays respectively) In Fairbanks for work or a vacation this summertime, don’t miss the chance to support local school gardens and stop by!!



Here is some future success to celebrate!! IF every Alaskan played along in this challenge, we would eat all the food our local producers grow. Do you know what that means? That means money stays in Alaskan and not sent outside to growers there! That means our local producers see the demand and grow more food next year for us to buy and eat!! That means you and your family will be eating Alaska Grown – Closer. Fresher. Better.!!! Join the Division of Agriculture in our summer \$5 for 5 Challenge!!



Take the \$5 Challenge and spend \$5 every week on Alaska Grown at your local retailers. It’s prime season for Alaska Grown produce, meat and flowers so take the challenge and support our local economy by spending \$5 a week on Alaska Grown.

Now, get outside and get your hands dirty!! Plant something that will bring you joy as it grows and you eventually eat it!! Send me YOUR success – no matter what size or from where!! Happy local foods and your farm to school successes!! Let me know if you have some great photos or success at your schools – I’ll post everything I get!!! **It isn’t bragging if it is true!!**

I'm keeping this here because it is AWESOME!! A great foto from the Alaska Gateway School District's greenhouse – get outside!!! (YES, this is the same thing I have had up for several weeks but it doesn't bother me a bit because I love it!!!!)



Be well,
Jodie