

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 28: 10 - 14 Jul 2017



July 12th is National Pecan Pie Day (Mom's was SO good!!)
July 14th is Bastille Day (en Français!!!)



Grants & Funding Opportunities (money!)

1. ALDI Smart Kids Program

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

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

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

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

[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 Food Hub Expands to Anchorage

Growing opportunities for Alaskans to buy and sell local food products

ANCHORAGE - The Kenai Peninsula Food Hub, already operating in Seldovia, Homer and Soldotna, is growing to include Anchorage beginning July 8th, offering an online market for Alaska Grown produce, seafood, shellfish, flowers, crafts, and more, direct from local producers to a weekly pick-up location in Spenard.

"Purchasing local products, increases our region's food security," says Operations Manager,

Robbi Mixon. “Food hubs open up a new opportunity for producers, at any scale, to sell directly to buyers and institutions who seek local products, but may not typically shop at farmers markets or farm stands.”

The 2-year old online marketplace, with over 650 active customers on the Kenai Peninsula, opens to Anchorage on July 8th with a weekly pick-up location at the Church of Love on Thursdays, 4-8pm in Spenard. Another local business, Arctic Harvest Deliveries, has partnered with the food hub to operate the Anchorage branch.

“Our shared marketing and infrastructure for local farms can increase sales, reduce waste, and decrease the environmental costs of importing from outside of Alaska,” says Mixon. “If we want food security, we’ll need to encourage strong local production. 95% of Alaska’s food is currently imported.”

To begin shopping or building your digital storefront, simply visit AnchorageFoodHub.org, and sign-up for an account under “Shop the Marketplace.”

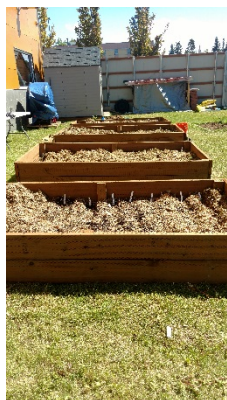


For more information or to just touch base with an awesome human being, call or email Robbi Mixon at 907.235.4068 or robbi@inletkeeper.org!

Success Stories

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

The Farm to Summer Meal Program is going strong! We have visited some of the sites in the program and see the amazing work that they are doing. We will be highlighting a few of them at a time throughout the summer, as we visit more sites, gather photos, and hear further about their projects.



Covenant House Alaska in Anchorage is impacting the youth at their program through their gardening initiatives. They built 6 raised garden beds and planted a lot of great vegetables and edible flowers within them. Their produce will be used in the foodservice production and cooking classes at their site!

In Wasilla, Rock of Ages Day Care is making great use of their space through indoor gardening by the windows and raised garden beds next to the play area. Their window plants are rocking, and parents are even able to take home some of what is grow!



Ray's Child Care Center started composting this year and is doing great at it. Seeing all the types of plants being grown there, they are going to have a tasty harvest throughout the summer. When asking some of the kids what they liked best from the garden, several excitedly said kohlrabi!



Petersburg School District has a booming garden area at the elementary school with a high tunnel, greenhouse, raised garden beds, and a native berry plot. Their cafeteria was popping with plants along the window ledges, two small aquaponic tanks, and a salad bar with vibrant kale straight from the garden. The preschool summer program even goes on nature walks to learn about the edible plants available in Petersburg.



There are many other Farm to Summer Meal Programs across Alaska doing great gardening or local food projects, so stay tuned to hear about more of the sites! Keep up all the great work, David Robinson!!

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