

## Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 29: 17 - 21 Jul 2017



July 20<sup>th</sup> is National Lollipop Day (Fun times, but don't run!!)  
July 21<sup>st</sup> National Junk Food Day (or dinner at my house!!!)  
July 22<sup>nd</sup> is Ted Steven's Day (get outside and celebrate Alaska!)



### Grants & Funding Opportunities (money!)

#### 1. Whole Kids Foundation Grants - \*\*\* NEW \*\*\*

Yes, it is early, but start getting your creative juices flowing with these two grants from Whole Kids Foundation.

##### **US School Gardens Grant**

Created in partnership with FoodCorps, the School Garden Grant program provides a \$2,000 monetary grant to a K-12 school, or a non-profit working in partnership with a K-12 school, to support a new or existing edible garden on school grounds. The application period is from September 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017. Stay tuned for a copy of the grant application. Email [grants@wholekidsfoundation.org](mailto:grants@wholekidsfoundation.org) with any questions.

##### **Extended Learning Garden Grants – Honey Bees**

In partnership with the Bee Cause Project, the Honey Bee Grant program allows for a K-12 school or non-profit organization to receive support for an educational honey bee hive. We offer three grant options:

**Monetary grant of \$1,500** to support the success of a honey bee hive educational program.

**Observation hive:** equipment grant of a custom made indoor observation hive from The Bee Cause Project

**Traditional hive:** equipment grant of an outdoor top bar hive with Starter Kit from Bee Thinking \*All equipment grants include a small monetary grant, covering the first year of expenses. Grant recipients also receive remote consultation and assistance with Beekeeper partnership from The Bee Cause Project.

For more information on each grant option, please read the [Honey Bee Grant application](#). The Letter of Intent period is from September 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017 and the full application closes on November 15, 2017. Email [grants@wholekidsfoundation.org](mailto:grants@wholekidsfoundation.org) with any questions.

#### 2. 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.](#)

#### 3. 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.](#)

#### **4. 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](#).

#### **5. 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**

Join over 20 School Garden Support Organization teams from across the nation to strengthen professional development and support for school garden programs in your region.

*When: January 21 - 26, 2018*

*Where: Santa Cruz, CA*

[Apply by July 31, 2017!!](#)

### **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 their website, including their new [FAQ page](#)!

### **Secretary Perdue Praises Farm to School at SNA Conference**

USDA Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue gave a speech at last week's School Nutrition Association annual national conference in Atlanta. In his remarks, Perdue praised farm to school efforts saying, "I want to encourage each of you, if you're not doing that already, to work with your state departments of agriculture on growing your farm to school partnerships. Locally grown food and hands-on gardening experiences in schools can only be good for our children." [Watch a video of Perdue's address here](#) (farm to school remarks start at 16:00).

### **Six Reasons Local Food Systems Will Replace Our Industrial Model**

"The local food movement is so decentralized and dispersed that it is impossible to accurately estimate the size or importance of the movement. The USDA estimated the value of local food sales by farmers at \$9 billion in 2015. This figure does not reflect the "retail value" of food sold by farmers to local restaurants or retailers. Virtually everywhere I go, I discover new local foods initiatives." [Read more.](#)

## **Growing/Gardening/Farming News**

### **Our Southern Neighbors Continue to Rock Out Loud!!**

Congratulations to University of Washington College of Education, [Tilth Alliance](#) and [Seattle Public Schools](#) on launching a National Science Foundation grant to build more school gardens and educational models! From the press release below [and online](#), the project "will build outdoor learning gardens and draw upon local communities and green spaces at several Seattle schools while developing a robust curriculum for K-3 garden educators to engage students in complex ecological reasoning and decision-making".

The curriculum and learning units developed through the project for garden education, based on Next Generation Science standards, is something other school garden educators in Washington will be able to access in some way in the future. A website will share updates over the four-year grant project, so you can follow along too.

## **Success Stories**

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



Emily Becker, teacher at Airport Heights Elementary School in Anchorage, sent me this beautiful potato shot:

Here's a picture of some potato crops at Airport Heights Elementary, planted by students with the assistance of teacher Katie Croft and some helpful community volunteers! (apple tree in background :)

Way to go, Airport Heights!!!

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!! Tell me about your amazing gardens and what is happening with you!! 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