

## Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 30: 24 - 28 Jul 2017



July 25<sup>th</sup> is National Hot Fudge Sundae Day (YES!!)  
July 28<sup>st</sup> National Milk Chocolate Day (so much chocolate!!!)



### **Grants & Funding Opportunities (money!)**

#### **1. Whole Kids Foundation Grants**

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

- 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!!](#)**

### **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.](#)

### **Trending Topics in Farm to School: Farm to School in Native Communities – \*\*\* NEW \*\*\***

*August 3 // 2-3pm ET*

In partnership with numerous community leaders, the National Farm to School Network has been exploring opportunities to expand farm to school activities in Native communities. We've learned from our partners that with a community-based and multi-generational framework, farm to school can be a nexus of economic development, food sovereignty, health and nutrition, and cultural revitalization. On this webinar, learn about unique opportunities and challenges of farm to school in Native communities, and hear several examples of success from Native community leaders. This webinar is open to all so please share widely. [Register here.](#)

**Teaching Nutrition, Health, or Science this Year? How about wanting cool posters for the lunch line?**

Printed Team Nutrition materials are available, as supplies last, to schools, child care providers, summer meal sites, State agencies, and sponsors that participate in the USDA Child Nutrition programs via an online [order form](#). All others are welcome to download materials from our [website](#). To inquire about bulk orders, please send an email to [teamnutrition@fns.usda.gov](mailto:teamnutrition@fns.usda.gov).

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

**Farming in Southeast Alaska – yes, this is happening everywhere!!**

Here is a great article from about a month ago, highlighting some of the fantastic farming frontiers (see what I did there?) in SE Alaska. Check out these great farms [here](#).

## **Success Stories**

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

Do you all remember the Soldotna Montessori Charter School and their gardens we featured a while ago? Well, they are doing some more AMAZING things. . . They have started a Mini Food Pantry (like the free mini libraries around in neighborhoods, but this one has free food) to help fight hunger in their community – YES!!!

Stop by and take what you need or leave what you can. It's open to all. You'll find it between Soldotna Elementary playground fence and the Borough building next to the Risk Assessment Building. Every little bit helps as this school works to improve their community!! They have a great Facebook page – let their good work encourage new Mini Food Pantries all around the state as all of our communities have people who need a hand!!



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