

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 32: 7 - 11 Aug 2017



Aug 6-12 is National Farmers Market Week (support your growers!!)

Aug 8th is National Zucchini Day (how many ways can you use it?!!!)

Aug 10th is National Banana Split Day (of course it is!!)



Grants & Funding Opportunities (money!)

1. Target Field Trip Grants

The Target Field Trip Grants program provides funds for K-12 field trips to give students throughout the country the opportunity to explore more of the world outside the classroom. Online applications will be accepted between August 1 and October 1, 2017. [Learn more and apply.](#)

2. Project Produce: Fruit and Veggie Grants for Schools

The Chef Ann Foundation presents Project Produce: Fruit and Veggie Grants for Schools. This grant is designed to help increase kids' access to fresh fruits and vegetables and create experiential nutrition education when and where students make their food choices: in the cafeteria. The \$2,500 one-year grants support food costs to incorporate school-wide fruit and vegetable tastings into the school's nutrition program. Grants will be determined on an ongoing basis depending on available funding. [Learn more and apply.](#)

3. 2017 Alaska Equipment Grant

Elizabeth Seitz, the Alaska National School Lunch Program Coordinator, sent out the new 2017 Equipment Grant Application last week. For qualifications and information, please head [here](#).

4. 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 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 with any questions.

5. 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](#).

6. 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

Bake For Good Kids – *** NEW ***

King Arthur Flour presents the [Bake For Good Kids](#) program which encourages students to use "math + science + reading + baking know how = something delicious". This program will provide students the ingredients they need to make homemade bread while also teaching them how to do it. [Read more](#).

Five Ways Schools Can Boost the Local Food Economy – *** NEW ***

Getting local food into a public school system's meal program seems pretty much like a no brainer. The practice would boost local economies and support smaller-scale farms. It would likewise reduce the environmental impacts related to wide-range distribution. Perhaps most importantly, offering locally sourced lunches would provide the potential for connecting students to agriculture and providing nutrition education, paving the way for future shifts to our food system. [Read more](#).

Alaska Biomass Greenhouse Handbook Now Available

The link to this new resource available from the Alaska Energy Authority website is here: <http://www.akenergyauthority.org/Programs/AEEE/Biomass> This handbook is free to download and has some great info in there for those who are interested in greenhouses and/or biomass. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Colleen: Colleen Fisk, Energy Education Director, Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP), colleenfisk@gmail.com, office: (907) 929-7770 ext 6

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.

Growing/Gardening/Farming News

New York families care for school districts' gardens throughout the summer

Want to know how school gardens work in New York? Maybe they have a system you could use next summertime!! "Families in the community are also involved in the garden upkeep. Each week, a different family volunteers on a first-come, first-served basis. Each family commits to care for the garden every other day or up to five days a week. Custodians help volunteers access the garden on weekdays." ([article here](#))

Success Stories

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

Luckily, David Robinson has had some more site visits and we get an update on those projects this week!! We got to visit more programs enrolled in the Farm to Summer Meal Program and saw many awesome projects!



In Fairbanks, Open Arms Child Development Center has a high tunnel that was made from scratch and is full of flourishing plants. By reusing containers for planters and pallets for support and shelves, they are doing a great job at recycling, while being able to plant a whole lot more.

The School Age Program at Joel's Place is also doing great work at connecting their students to the local food in Fairbanks. As well as their garden area, they take a small group of students every other week (weather permitting) to the local farmer's market, where they get to talk to the local farmers and bring back produce that will be used in their foodservice.



Thanks, David – great work everywhere!! We will have the final installment of David's Farm to Summer Meal Program updates next week!!

***** UPDATE/CORRECTION ***** Heading to the Alaska State Fair at the end of the month? Do I have a deal for you and your family. . . Be sure to check out the agricultural exhibits at the 2017 Alaska State Fair which runs from August 24th through September 4th. If you wear your Alaska Grown Apparel on 31 August "Alaska Grown Day" (BIG veggie weigh-in day), you'll get a \$2.00 discount on your admission price at the Fair gates. Thank you for supporting our Alaskan Farmers and Alaska Grown!

What are you doing to support local producers? I know my family has spent LOTS more than \$5/week, but it is so worth it knowing we are keeping all our money here!! 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 this entire summertime but it doesn't bother me a bit because I love it and it is true!!!!)



**Be well,
Jodie**