

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 37: 11 – 15 Sep 2017



Sep 13th is National Peanut Day (mush into a sandwich with bananas!!!)
Sep 15th is National Thank You Day (always say “thank you”!)



Grants & Funding Opportunities (money!)

1. Health Impact Project Funding

The Health Impact Project offers up to \$100,000 funding to communities and organizations seeking to promote the consideration of health in policy and decision-making. Eligibility varies based on the specific [call for proposals](#) (CFP). Deadline: **Sept. 15**.

2. Seeds for Education Grant Program – * NEW *****

Cash grants under \$500 are available for plants and seeds, and in-kind donations from Nursery Partners can help stretch these dollars. [Learn more and apply here](#).

3. Samull Classroom Herb Garden Grant – * NEW *****

The Herb Society of America will select ten (10) schools/classrooms to receive \$200 "Seed Money" to establish an indoor or outdoor herb garden. The funds may be used for supplies such as soil, plant trays, containers, child or youth sized tools, etc. Apply by Oct. 1. [Learn more and apply here](#).

4. GreenWorks Grant – * NEW *****

Project Learning Tree offers GreenWorks! grants up to \$1,000 to schools and youth organizations for environmental service-learning projects that link classroom learning to the real world. Students implement an action project they help design to green their school or to improve an aspect of their neighborhood's environment. Apply by Sept. 30. [Learn more and apply here](#).

5. Lowe's Toolbox for Education® Grants – * NEW *****

Each year, the Lowe's Toolbox for Education grants program contributes more than \$5 million to fund improvements at public schools in the United States. Projects should fall into one of the following categories: technology upgrades, tools for STEM programs, facility renovations and safety improvements. Toolbox grant requests can range from \$2,000 to \$100,000. The Fall Grant Cycle is open through September 29, 2017. [Learn more here](#).

6. 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](#).

7. 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](#).

8. Whole Kids Foundation's School Garden Grant

Created in partnership with FoodCorps, the Garden Grant program provides a \$2,000 monetary grant to support a new or existing edible garden at either a K-12 school, 501(c)(3) Non-profit working in partnership with a K-12 school, or 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The application period is open September 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017. [Learn more here.](#)

9. 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.

NEW SECTION – National Farm to School Month is October

October is National Farm to School Month!! I have been planning and thinking and collecting and laughing and playing with tons of ideas and it all comes down to just one thing: I want you to CELEBRATE local food in October!! Did you grow it? Buy it? Cook it? Eat it? Think about it? Plan for it? If you do anything in October I want you to CELEBRATE!!!

You may be thinking, Jodie, we don't have a school garden or even grow anything at our house – PERFECT!! You are still in!! CELEBRATE local food – that is the theme I'm pushing forward!! I will have announcements and information about Farm to School Month every Tuesday in this section of the newsletter so stay tuned! We will also be releasing the new Farm to School website soon and all this will be front and center there as well 😊

Here is the calendar for your use (please check out this link for a pdf version):

<https://www.farmtoschoolalaska.org/home/nationalfarmtoschoolmonth/>

October 2017 – Farm to School Month!!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Tubers and Roots of Alaska Week	2 All about tubers and roots we eat in Alaska	3 Potatoes	4 Indigenous Tubers and Roots We Eat: Eskimo potatoes	5 Carrots	6 Tubers and Roots of Alaska Celebration Day	7
8	9 Meats of Alaska Week	10 Pork	11 Indigenous Meats We Eat: Caribou	12 Reindeer	13 Meats of Alaska Celebration Day	14
15 Leaves of Alaska Week	16 All about leaves we eat in Alaska	17 Cabbage	18 Indigenous Leaves We Eat: Fiddlehead Ferns	19 Greens Many Ways: Cooked & Salad	20 Leaves of Alaska Celebration Day	21
22 Fish of Alaska Week	23 All about fish we eat in Alaska	24 Halibut LOCAL FOOD LUNCH DAY!!	25 Indigenous Fish We Eat: Salmon	26 Shellfish	27 Fish of Alaska Celebration Day	28
29 Fruits of Alaska Week	30 All about fruits we eat in Alaska	31 Strawberries	Indigenous Fruits We Eat: Salmonberries	Apples	Fruits of Alaska Celebration Day	

I just got a HUGE box delivered in the mail and I have lots of goodies for National Farm to School Month from the National Farm to School Network. Here is what I have: stickers, ideas information card, and posters on card stock! Please let me know if I can send you some goodies!!

Now I'll let you know about some of our "prizes" for those who participate in Farm to School Month activities including Local Lunch Day on October 24!!!



Curriculum resources



Fun things for the kitchen

Next week I'll send a link to an interest survey to see who is planning to participate in Farm to School Month activities to qualify to win prizes!!

Cool Resources, Reports, Opportunities

Anchorage School Garden Roundtable Discussion

The Mayor's Office Resilience AmeriCorps VISTA, Catherine Kemp, is hosting a roundtable discussion about Anchorage School Gardens. The discussion has been scheduled for **Thursday, October 5th from 4:30-6:30pm!** It will take place at City Hall (632 W. 6th Ave) in the Mayor's Conference Room, Suite 830, and food will be provided. Catherine let me know that "if you are unable to attend but would still like to receive meeting notes/resources and to be kept in the loop about future meetings, please let me know. Looking forward to meeting you all and discussing how to make our school garden programs stronger." Please contact Catherine if you have any questions: KempCJ@muni.org.

Free resource - Biomass Heated Greenhouse Handbook – * NEW *****

The Biomass Heated Greenhouse Handbook is a starters guide for your own greenhouse project, whether biomass fueled or not. It can also serve as a guide to develop curriculum around a greenhouse and can cover a wide range of disciplines including business, economics, biology, and engineering. Using biomass heated greenhouses in an educational or community focused setting has a wide range of benefits; from food and energy security, to economic vitality, to educational and employment opportunities. To receive a hard copy, please send a request to Devany Plentovich by [email](#) or phone: (907) 771-3068. An electronic version is also available for download [here](#).

Webinar – Dig Deeper: Fostering Happy & Healthy Students through Farm to School – * NEW *****

Are you interested in Farm to School, but not sure what it involves or where to start? Are you interested in promoting life-long healthy habits among your students? Join the USDA Food and Nutrition Services Western Regional Office and Arizona Department of Education for “Fostering Happy & Healthy Students through Farm to School” on Monday, September 18 from 2 – 3 p.m. This one-hour webinar identifies the key components of farm to school and provides real life examples of Arizona districts making it happen. Learn from those on the ground as they discuss how they launched their programs, measuring success, and the benefits of going “local”. The webinar will include a special message from Arizona Governor Doug Ducey’s Office of Education as they share about the important role of farm to school in achieving one of his priorities—happy and healthy citizens. Monday, September 18 from 1:00-2:00pm. Please [register](#) to attend this webinar.

A new pre-K curriculum aims to fight obesity by teaching kids about subsistence – * NEW *****

Preschool students living on Alaska's Aleutian and Pribilof Islands will learn about healthy eating in a new way this year. Instead of looking at pictures of foods often unattainable in the region, such as starfruit, cantaloupe and squash, they will learn how to make the more culturally relevant sea lion meatballs, kelp chips and caribou cabbage, said Julia Sargent, assistant community health services administrator at the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association. The recipes are folded into a [new pre-kindergarten curriculum](#) developed by the association and rooted in teaching children about subsistence. See full story [here](#).

Farm to School Act of 2017 Introduced in Congress – * NEW *****

[The Farm to School Act of 2017](#) has been introduced in Congress with bipartisan support by legislative champions Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Representatives Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) and Marcia Fudge (D-OH). The Farm to School Act of 2017 builds on the success of the farm to school movement by proposing an increase in funding from \$5 million to \$15 million for the USDA Farm to School Grant Program. Tell Congress you support the Farm to School Act of 2017 by signing a letter of support [as an individual](#) or [on behalf of your organization](#). Make sure Congress knows that farm to school is a powerful tool for supporting our kids, our farmers and our communities!

Growing/Gardening/Farming News

From the Alaskan Garden: Kale: The Gateway Vegetable

“Mrs. Mercer, when are we going to make kale chips?” It happens every year without fail. The first week of school students are anxious to get back to the garden, dig in the dirt, and taste what has been growing. Check out the article [here](#).

Success Stories

Soldotna Montessori Garden Farmers Market

Are you in Soldotna or nearby this Friday? Please swing by and support this awesome school garden project!! We are working to make our garden self-sustaining. The experience this garden provides for our students is priceless, and the annual expense to maintain our garden is about \$500.00 a year. Please help this effort by attending our farmers market and purchasing our produce. Join us in the garden where our students will be selling our freshly harvested potatoes and “you pick” kale.

September 15th 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Potatoes: 5 pounds for \$10.00 10 pounds for \$15.00

Kale: 1 pound for \$2.00

Donations welcome!!

Please park in the area near the hockey rink off Binkley across from the post office.

The summer is over. Don't look so sad. . . it is HARVEST TIME!!! Time to reap what you've sown! Time to pull in all those great veggies you have loved since you planted those little seeds back in March! Time to eat and store all your delicious, fresh, local grown, tasty foods!! I know I have two great stories coming in about harvests and local grown, but I NEED yours!! Come on – send me a couple of fotos and a sentence or two – not a dissertation or novel or even novella, but just a couple of strings of words that make sense and tell us how your harvest is going!!



What are you doing to support local producers? 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!! It is time to harvest what you have planted!! 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!!



**Be well,
Jodie**