

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 38: 18 – 22 Sep 2017



Sep 18th is National Cheeseburger Day (Celebrate!!!)
Sep 22nd is National Ice Cream Cone Day (no matter what kind!)



HUGE NEWS THAT I AM OBVIOUSLY YELLING AT YOU – NEW WEBSITE!!!

Go here: <https://www.farmentoschoolalaska.org/> – *** NEW ***

Tell me what you think about it and know we will be adding lots more resources and good stuff as time goes on!

Grants & Funding Opportunities (money!)

1. NIFA Announcement – * NEW *****

The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has announced \$945,400 in available funding to help foster the next generation of multicultural scholars in agricultural sciences. Funding is made through NIFA's Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program (MSP). The deadline for applications is October 31, 2017. See the [request for applications](#) for details.

2. Seeds for Education Grant Program

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

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

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

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!!

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

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

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. Please let me know if I can send you some goodies!!

Here is a link to an interest survey to see who is planning to participate in October 24th Local Lunch Day activities to qualify to win prizes!! Please go to the survey here:

<https://www.research.net/r/LocalLunchDayPlans>

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

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](#).

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

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

[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

Gardening is a Cycle – A Never Ending Cycle!!

Author Jeff Lowenfels wrote a great article about how gardening is a process that has no real beginning or end – it is a continuous cycle!! Great news for those who are now sad as they put their gardens to sleep. Check out this great article [here](#).

Success Stories

Winterberry Charter School Third Graders Visit Farms and Gardens



Winterberry Charter School's third grade studies farming as part of their year-long study of self-sufficiency. We're learning what kinds of crops grow in Alaska and how to harvest and preserve food. We visited Moonstone Farm in Palmer, Don Berberich's Ag students at Palmer High School, and Pyrah's You-Pick Farm in Butte. We also picked berries in Arctic Valley and are looking forward to guest speakers on fishing and Alaska Native subsistence foods.

Here, Ms. Becker's class got to visit Moonstone Farm last week. Michelle Church was so awesome. It was a great day!

Soldotna Montessori Garden Farmers Market – UPDATE!!

Remember the Soldotna Montessori Garden Farmers Market story last week? Not only did they sell all their produce, not only did they reach their goal, they PASSED their financial goals and are now moving toward a sustainable garden for their school and community!! Way to kick in, Central Kenai Peninsula!!!

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 several 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. Push until the end as winter is coming!!

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