

## Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 40: 2 – 6 October 2017



**October is National Farm to School Month!**  
**October is National Apple Month and National Pork Month!**  
**4<sup>th</sup> October is National Taco Day!!**



Link to the new website: <https://www.farmtoschoolalaska.org/>

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

#### **1. NIFA Announcement**

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. School Garden Grant from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Alaska Organic Fertilizer Company**

**\*\*\*NEW\*\*\***

This grant opportunity supports school gardens in the United States, excluding its territories. BirdSleuth, Cornell Lab's K-12 education program, will distribute \$25,000 in grants to 20 schools that create or revitalize a garden that supports local wildlife, healthy living, environmental education, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) learning. Grants range from \$500 to \$2,000. The deadline for submitting grant applications is **October 8**. [Read more and apply](#).

#### **3. 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](#).

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

#### **5. 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](#).

#### **6. Farm to School Grant Opportunities from USDA**

Key Dates

- October 2017 - Release of FY 2018 Farm to School Grant RFA **\*\*Coming Soon\*\***
- 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 here and it is officially National Farm to School Month!! We 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 we want you to CELEBRATE!!! You may be thinking 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 this month!!

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

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

If you need or would like posters or stickers for National Farm to School Month from the National Farm to School Network, please let me know so I can send them to you!!

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

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

Also, I have attached the Monday material for the first week of National Farm to School Month the Alaska Tubers and Roots Week Information pdf (this will also be posted to the website along with Potato, Eskimo Potatoes, and Carrot day information guides)!! I have also attached the Tuesday Potato Day information guide. Have fun with this information: play Hot Potato, do a writing project, read a book together, research nutrition of different tubers and roots, sing a song, create an art project, cook one of the recipes together, and send these home with the students so they can get their families involved – the more the merrier!!

Send me a few sentences about how you and your students/classroom/grade/cafeteria/school/district participated in Tubers and Roots week and include a few photos (with appropriate photo releases) and you will be entered into a drawing for Farm to School stuff including gardening curriculum, edible ink markers, and other fun things!!

Have questions? Please let me know and I'll try to help out where I can. Most importantly, have fun with this and celebrate Farm to School Month all October long!!!

## **Cool Resources, Reports, Opportunities**

### **October is National Farm to School Month**

National Farm to School month is right around the corner! The National Farm to School Network has free resources, planning materials, activity ideas and a new calendar of events for ways you can get involved in October. Visit [farmtoschool.org/month](http://farmtoschool.org/month) to start planning.

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30pm!** It will take place at City Hall (632 W. 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:KempCJ@muni.org).

### **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](#).

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

### **To Bee or not to Bee? Unique Bumblebee in Arctic is Identified as New Species**

Endemic to the remote island of Novaya Zemlya, it survived the Ice Age here, scientists believe, the only creature known to have done so. It was first recorded in 1902 but conclusive DNA evidence has now established that honey-making *Bombus glacialis* - or glacier bumblebee - is a separate species. The findings - to be the subject of a major scientific paper - end a long running academic debate on this remarkable bee's status. Here is the article link to the [Siberian Times](#).

## **Success Stories**

### **Newhalen and Iliamna are working together for local foods**

This is the third successful year of Newhalen's community garden. This year a pop-up produce market was a welcome addition to this local food project. Newhalen students raised the starts and transplanted to the greenhouse where they grew until the community moved them all outside to the garden. Kale, rutabagas, squashes, and radishes went to school lunches. Check out the article [here](#).

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!!



**THIS IS THE LAST MONTH!!** 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!!

It is time to enjoy what you have harvested!! 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