

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 41: 9 – 13 October 2017



National School Lunch Week!
11th October is National Sausage Pizza Day (a tasty treat)!
14th October is National Chocolate-Covered Insects Day (YAY?!)



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

Grants & Funding Opportunities (money!)

1. 2018 USDA Farm to School Grant Application – * NEW *****

The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. On an annual basis, USDA awards up to \$5 million in competitive grants for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm to school programs. The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 tasked USDA with supporting farm to school efforts through grants, training, technical assistance, and research. For FY 2018, we offer the following grants:

- Implementation grants are intended to help schools, school districts, state and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, small- and medium-sized agricultural producers or groups of small- and medium-sized agricultural producers, and non-profit entities working with schools or school districts to scale or further develop existing farm to school initiatives. Implementation awards range from \$50,000 - \$100,000.
- Planning grants are for schools or school districts, state and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, small- and medium-sized agricultural producers or groups of small- and medium-sized agricultural producers, and non-profit entities working with schools or school districts that are just getting started on farm to school activities. These funds are intended to help these entities organize and structure their efforts for maximum impact by embedding known best practices into early design considerations. Planning awards range from \$20,000 - \$50,000.
- Training grants are intended for state and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, small- and medium-sized agricultural producers or groups of small- and medium-sized agricultural producers, and non-profit entities to support trainings that strengthen farm to school supply chains, or trainings that provide technical assistance in the area of local procurement, food safety, culinary education, and/or integration of agriculture-based curriculum. Training awards range from \$20,000 - \$50,000.

Interested in applying? Complete applications must be submitted on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by 11:59pm ET on December 8, 2017. Check out our resources for applicants and see a list of awardees since the release of our first RFA in 2013! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the application. Start early and establish your [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) account!!

2. 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.

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.](#)

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!! All information is available on the new website and follow the Alaska Grown Facebook page for fun videos and other social media activities celebrating this great 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 24th Local Lunch Day activities to qualify to win prizes!! Please go to the survey here: So far only one person has entered their survey – we have a winner if nobody else wants to play!!

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

Also, I have attached the Tuesday information for Pork Day pdf (this will also be posted to the website along with Caribou and Reindeer day information guides)!! Have fun with this information: play pin the tail on the pig, do a writing project, read a book together, research nutrition of different meats, 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 to start planning.

9th Farm to Cafeteria Conference: Call for Workshop & Poster Proposals

The 9th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference is coming to Cincinnati, OH, April 25-27, 2017! Hosted by the National Farm to School Network, this biennial event will convene more than 1,000 diverse stakeholders working to source local food for institutional cafeterias and foster a culture of food and agricultural literacy across America. Conference organizers are seeking workshop and poster proposals from individuals and organizations working to improve our food system, strengthen community health, empower youth, advance equity and increase opportunities for farmers. [Learn more information about proposal submissions here.](#) Proposals are due no later than 8 pm ET on November 14, 2017. All questions should be sent to conference@farmtoschool.org.

New Report: Economic Impacts of Farm to School

Farm to school strives to strengthen the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education settings. While farm to school offers benefits for children, farmers and communities, there is limited data available to truly understand the economic impacts of farm to school procurement.

With a survey and case study approach, [Economic Impacts of Farm to School: Case Studies and Assessment Tools](#), a collaborative effort between the National Farm to School Network and Colorado State University, offers insight into the potential for farm to school procurement to positively impact local economies.

Dig into the report [here](#) and join us for a free webinar ([register by completing this form](#)) on Wednesday, October 11, at 12 PM ET to hear from report authors and learn more about farm to school economic impacts.



Growing/Gardening/Farming News

19 International Farm to School Initiatives Making an Impact

October is national Farm-to-School Month in the United States. It's a time to celebrate the connections between schools, farmers, and locally and regionally produced foods.

While millions of students, farmers, and communities across North America celebrate the farm-to-school movement this month, governments, nonprofits, and passionate individuals all over the world are strengthening school meal programs through local food purchasing. Across the globe, farm-to-school

programs are fostering connections between students, teachers, parents, farmers, and policymakers in activities that support health, nutrition, agriculture, and local economies. Read the article [here](#).

Success Stories

Anchorage School Garden Roundtable Meeting was a Success!

You have seen the information listed here in the newsletter and the meeting was fantastic! Last Thursday night had 30 participants discussing school gardens for 2 and a half hours in the Mayor's Conference Room in Anchorage City Hall. We started with supportive words from Mayor Berkowitz on this roundtable discussion. There were agency representatives, Master Gardeners, classroom teachers from all over the Anchorage School District

as well as one from the Mat-Su School District, students, and interested community members all there to talk about the potential of developing a network and moving forward together. If you have any questions or would like to be included in the emails about this group, please contact Catherine Kemp at KempCJ@muni.org.



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**