

## Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 43: 23 – 27 October 2017



**TODAY is Local Lunch Day (What's on the menu?)!**  
**26<sup>th</sup> October is National Pumpkin and Pretzel Day (a great combo)!**  
**27<sup>th</sup> October is National Potato Day (this is my everyday party)!!**



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

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

#### **1. Healthy Snacking Grant Program – \*\*\* NEW \*\*\***

The U.S. Apple Association in partnership with the School Nutrition Association and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture today announced the call for entries for the 2017 Apples4Ed grant program. The program, with a renewed focus and rebranded [website](#), will award one \$10,000 and two \$5,000 grants to fund a healthy snacking initiative on a school campus.

Schools with students enrolled from Kindergarten and/or up through 12<sup>th</sup> grade will be eligible and considered for the grant. Students, food service directors, PE teachers – anyone connected to the school – are encouraged to submit their healthy snacking idea by completing a short form found on the [www.apples4ed.com](http://www.apples4ed.com) site before November 30, 2017. All initiatives requesting grant funding must fall into one of three categories: hands-on-learning, event or food service. With few program parameters, creative ideas could range from a new school garden to a fitness competition and anything in between.

#### **2. 2018 USDA Farm to School Grant Application**

The USDA Office of Community Food Systems has released the [FY 2018 Farm to School Request for Applications](#) (RFA). 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. Interested in applying? Complete applications must be submitted on [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 the 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 account!!

#### **3. Value Added Producer Resource Grants**

The Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of new products. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income. For more information, follow the link [here](#).

#### **4. Local Foods, Local Places**

[Local Foods, Local Places](#) supports locally led, community-driven efforts to protect air and water quality, preserve open space and farmland, boost economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses, improve access to healthy local food, and promote childhood wellness. Communities are invited to [apply](#)

for a new round of planning assistance from Local Foods, Local Places. The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on **October 25, 2017**.

#### **5. 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.

#### **6. 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](#).

#### **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](#).

## **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 24<sup>th</sup> Local Lunch Day activities to qualify to win prizes!! Please go to the survey here: So far only two people have entered their survey!!** <https://www.research.net/r/LocalLunchDayPlans>

Also, I have attached the Tuesday information for Halibut Day pdf (this will also be posted to the website along with Salmon and Shellfish Day information guides)!! Have fun with this information: follow up with

a science experiment, do a writing project, read a book together, research history of different countries and cabbage, 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 or Meats 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

### Alaska Food Festival and Conference – \*\*\* NEW \*\*\*

Your opportunity to gather with other Alaskans working on and in the world of food at all levels. This conference hosted by the Alaska Food Policy Council is November 3-4, 2017 in Fairbanks at Pikes Waterfront Lodge. Keynote speakers will be Mary Smith, Editor-in-Chief of Edible Alaska, and Mitzi Baum, Managing Director of Food Safety and member of the Feeding American team. [Reserve your spot](#) at the conference by registering here. [View the agenda](#), check out our sponsors, and learn more about the event.

### 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](mailto: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.



### Alaska Crop Variety Trial Survey

The UAF Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center with the UAF Cooperative Extension Service in Fairbanks is looking for your help. Please take a few minutes to fill out this [survey](#) to help Alaska crop research move forward. Have you wanted to know what variety of green beans you should be growing and in what growing conditions? Your input is needed to find out what crops need to be included in the tests in Palmer and Fairbanks. Thank you!!

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

### **Alaska Ag in the Classroom Year Round Indoor Growing Curriculum Workshop**



What do you get when you throw ten gardening/education/producer specialists into a beautiful greenhouse together with some power tools and a hardware store of goodies? You get a beautiful lettuce tower, great fun, and indoor growing curriculum development. The grant written by Alaska Ag in the Classroom (Mel Sikes – thanks, Mel) is to bring many different gardening practitioners together to build an indoor growing curriculum for use by teachers around Alaska for the entire school year and not just when it is warm enough to grow outside!!

Interested in hearing more, please contact me or wait until December/January when I announce the whole thing is available online!!

## **Success Stories**

### **Winterberry Charter School in Anchorage is doing MATH with their Harvest!!!**



Teacher Emily Becker sent me this great picture and some very happy news about how they celebrated THEIR Farm to School Month harvest.

This beet was from our school garden and went right into our beet and potato soup. (Even the leaves... but not the dead ones :) I was a little worried, but the soup got all eaten up. Here's another fun thing we did with our harvest.... students tried to guess "How much is a pound?" They went around to different stations with Alaska-grown produce, mostly from our school garden to estimate how many were in a pound. Apples, potatoes, tomatoes. (Good use for green tomatoes!)

Thanks so much, Emily and the Winterberry Charter 3<sup>rd</sup> graders – keep up the great work!!!

The summer is over. It is now time to reap what you've sown! 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 IT!!** You have ONE MORE WEEK!! What are you doing to support local producers? Take the \$5 Challenge and spend \$5 this last week in October on Alaska Grown at your local retailers. It's still season for Alaska Grown produce, meat, and flowers so take the challenge and support our local economy by spending \$5 this week on Alaska Grown. Push this week 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