

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 44: 30 Oct – 3 November 2017



TODAY is HALLOWEEN (yes, silly)!
31st October is National Candy Apple Day (how creative)!
3rd November is National Sandwich Day (enjoy all day)!!
November is Good Nutrition Month



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

Grants & Funding Opportunities (money!)

1. KidsGardening 2018 Youth Garden Grants – * NEW *****

The 2018 Youth Garden Grant is an award designed to support school and youth educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life for students and their communities. Any nonprofit organization, public or private school, or youth program in the United States planning a new garden program or expanding an established one that serves at least 15 youth between the ages of 3 and 18 is eligible to apply. Applications are due December 8, 2017. [Learn more and apply.](#)

2. Healthy Snacking Grant Program

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 12th 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 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.

3. 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!!

ADDED BONUS – Help with your USDA Farm to School Grant Application is HERE!!! – * NEW *****

The National Farm to School Network advocated for the establishment of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program and is committed to ensuring it reaches the communities that need this funding most. We are available on a consultation basis to provide assistance to potential applicants in the areas of:

- Planning and preparing the application
- Customized support for Native communities
- Evaluation
- Focus on early care and education / pre-K

ACT NOW! For more information about National Farm to School Network consultation - including contact details, pricing, and a form to express interest - [please visit our website](#). **The deadline to express interest in receiving assistance from the National Farm to School Network on a consultation basis is November 8, 2017.**

4. 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](#).

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, still, and it is officially National Farm to School Month until the end of this week!! 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/>

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 two people have entered their survey!! <https://www.research.net/r/LocalLunchDayPlans>

Also, I have attached the Tuesday information for Strawberry Day pdf (this will also be posted to the website along with Salmonberry and Apple 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 any of the weeks 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, and into November, too!!!

Cool Resources, Reports, Opportunities

College Internships Offered at the Division of Agriculture – * NEW *****

Know a college student looking for a paid internship? The Division of Agriculture is hiring two paid interns for 2018. One internship is focused on development of the agricultural product export program, and the other internship is focused on development and marketing of the Alaska Grown program. Applicants must be in college and willing to work out of the Palmer based office. Applications are due by December 4th, 2017. For more information and to download an application please visit: <http://buyalaskagrown.com/division-of-agriculture-internships/>

Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District Board Opening – * NEW *****

The Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District is seeking applicants for its lively governing board. We're devoted to nurturing healthy soil, water and agricultural practices. Please join us! For more information, contact Heidi at kenaiswcd@gmail.com.

Natural Resources Conservation Service EQIP Grant Information – * NEW *****

Natural Resources Conservation Service will soon announce its 2018 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) that funds conservation practices associated with soil health, manure management, high tunnels and more. All applications for FY18 funding will be due 30 days after the announcement, so stay tuned! www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov

Alaska Food Festival and Conference

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.

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 Farm to School Month Receives National Attention

In support of both [Farm to School Month](#) and [Native American Heritage Month](#), this week, *The Dirt*, the USDA FNS's Office of Community Food Systems newsletter shared stories about how farm to school supports the use of indigenous foods in Indian tribal communities and how partnerships are vital for farm to school success. Happy Farm to School Month! Would you like to read the article and sign up for the newsletter? Please head to this [link](#) for more information.

Success Stories

Potato Soup with NeighborWorks Alaska in Anchorage

Over the summer, youth at one of NeighborWorks Alaska's multi-family properties in Anchorage grew vegetables in four raised beds. Before the freeze, potatoes were harvested and used in a delicious and easy to make crock pot soup, thanks to the help of Kat Anderson of UAF's Cooperative Extension Services. Kat helped the youth gather ingredients, prep the veggies, and make an awesome potato soup. The kids had a good time with the whole activity, and of course had even more fun eating it!





Division of Agriculture Visits Local Classroom for Farm to School Month

On October 25, 2017, the Division of Agriculture visited Ms. Johnson’s classroom at Sherrod Elementary School in Palmer. Director Arthur Keyes and David Robinson, an AmeriCorps VISTA, talked about Alaska Grown foods in the classroom and the unique farming environment in which they live amongst. The long hours of daylight in summer, the benefits of glacier silt in the soils, the Mat-

Su Valley climate, and the freshness of locally sourced foods were discussed with the children. To exemplify what they were being taught, a blind taste test comparing Alaska Grown carrots and carrots from the lower 48 was conducted. To little surprise, the students overwhelming voted for the Alaska Grown carrot as the better carrot before even knowing which was which. The kids were very engaged, as they have learned about the Alaska Grown program previously and about the variety of Alaskan foods through the Alaska Farm to School Month initiative.



Homer Methodist Church’s People’s Garden Success

Our Homer Methodist Church’s People’s Garden (The Martindell People’s Garden) was established through a NIFA grant awarded through the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, 6 + years ago. 22 People’s gardens were established on the lower Kenai Peninsula, and this is one of them, going strong. Over that last 6 years the kids at the Methodist Church have grown, tended, and harvested over 1,700 pounds of potatoes, broccoli, kale, and snap peas which has been given to the Homer Community Food Pantry for distribution.

Picture is from this year’s potato harvest.

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 – THE LAST DAY!! What are you doing today to support local producers? Take the \$5 Challenge and spend \$5 this last day 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 today on Alaska Grown.

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**