

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 48: 27 Nov – 1 Dec 2017



28th November is National French Toast Day (live it up)!
29th November is Chocolates Day (celebrate)!!
30th November is National Mousse Day (not MOOSE day)!



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

Grants & Funding Opportunities (money!)

1. Voices for Healthy Kids (VFHK) Grant – *** NEW ***

Voices for Healthy Kids (VFHK) has opened a [new round of funding](#) to specifically support school health at the state and local level. Applications are due **December 8, 2017** and must be focused in passing policy related to these specific issue areas: Physical Education, School Marketing, Wellness Policies, School Food – Meals & Smart Snacks standards, Water Access. [Watch this webinar](#) for more information.

2. Fertile Ground Grant Program

Seeds of Native Health helps launch a new grant program for health-focused advocacy. The new Fertile Ground Grant Program funds tribes, Native advocates, Native youth, and Native-led organizations to create sustainable community health improvements through nutrition and food sovereignty efforts. The grants of up to \$35,000 will provide support for:

- Native-led convenings to identify community health priorities
- Advocacy and policy strategies that address improving health outcomes
- Access to healthy food
- Food sovereignty work rooted in tradition, culture, and Indigenous knowledge

The program is funded by \$100,000 from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community through its Seeds of Native Health philanthropic campaign and \$100,000 from the AHA through its Voices for Healthy Kids campaign. AICAF will serve as the intermediary partner and administer the program. Applications for grants are due December 19, 2017. [Learn more and apply.](#)

3. KidsGardening 2018 Youth Garden Grants

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.](#)

4. 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.

5. 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!!

6. 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](#).

7. 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](#).

8. 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](#).

Cool Resources, Reports, Opportunities

College Internships Offered at the Division of Agriculture

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/>

Natural Resources Conservation Service EQIP Grant Information

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 are due **November 30, 2017**. www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov

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!!

Scholarships Available for National Child Nutrition Conference

Need help getting to San Antonio, TX for the National Child Nutrition Conference in April, 2018? The [scholarship application](#) for the 2018 National Child Nutrition Conference is open now through Wednesday January 24, 2018 for the event in April. Fifteen winners will receive complimentary conference registration, lodging and \$300 towards travel. The recipients will be selected by the conference committee and notified by February 9, 2018. Scholarships are available in all the following categories: CACFP Sponsoring Agency, Head Start, School District, Food Bank, Tribal Nation, At-Risk/Afterschool, Summer Food, Child Care Center/Home Provider

Growing/Gardening/Farming News

Upcoming Webinar: Youth Engagement in Farm to School

Dec. 7, 2-3pm ET - Farm to school initiatives across the country are changing the way young people view and consume fresh, local foods and interact with their community. This webinar will highlight unique approaches and initiatives to engage youth in their communities and food systems and empower youth to be leaders and active voices in the farm to school movement. [Register here](#).

Food from Farms: Toolkit for Direct Purchasing of Local Food – * NEW *****

[The Food from Farms: Toolkit for Direct Purchasing of Local Food](#) provides examples and templates to start community-based local food procurement directly from farmers. The toolkit was originally developed for a small school district in northern Minnesota, and was designed to comply with USDA guidelines. The toolkit is adaptable and has been used for local food procurement by a hospital and a non-profit organization.

Success Stories

Anchorage School District is Really Living the Farm to School Dream

What do you get when you combine a former Minnesotan who grew up on a farm, a farmer in the Matanuska Valley who has many potatoes too small to sell, and 30,000+ Thanksgiving meal lunches for students in Anchorage schools? You get an excited Student Nutrition Department Executive Director, a happy farmer, and students thrilled about the fresh, nutritious, local mashed potatoes in their lunch!! Check out the article and the video clip [here](#). Great work is happening!!!

It is now time to be extra thankful for all you and your families have! Time to celebrate each other by sharing foods. I am thankful for your hard work and I would love to highlight the magic you do! 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 harvests are something for which to be thankful!!

Tell me 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