

## Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 49: 4 – 8 Dec 2017



**December is National Fruit Cake Month (some are really good)!**  
**4<sup>th</sup> December was National Cookie Day (celebrate today)!!**  
**6<sup>th</sup> December is Microwave Oven Day (have some popcorn)!**



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

### **Grants & Funding Opportunities (lots due this week!)**

#### **1. Voices for Healthy Kids (VFHK) Grant**

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. 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](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 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!!

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

#### **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](#).

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

### **Alaska's Harvest of the Month- Coming in January**

From Sue Lampert's USDA Foods Program December Bulletin, the Alaska Farm to School Program is creating an Alaskan Harvest of the Month newsletter that will be sent along with the USDA Foods Program bulletin each month beginning in January. The newsletter will focus on a specific indigenous and cultivated fruit or vegetable that is harvested in Alaska. The newsletter will include fun facts to share with students along with recipes. Please see the attached Harvest of the Month mini posters that you can display in your school. Jodie is a wealth of information and she is excited to share her knowledge with the children of Alaska. – Thank you, Sue! We will post these Harvest of the Month materials on our website as well as distribute to the USDA Foods Program Bulletin!! Stay tuned!

## ALASKA HARVEST OF THE MONTH

*Indigenous Foods of the Last Frontier*



## ALASKA HARVEST OF THE MONTH

*Cultivated Foods of the Last Frontier*



### 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

**December 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

[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**

### **Petersburg School District is Getting the Recognition They Have Earned!!!**

This was forwarded to me and I want to make sure we cheer for all those who deserve it!! This is the Rae C. Stedman Elementary School's Facebook page post from November 21, 2017:

Exciting news from our cafeteria staff today! Petersburg School District has been awarded the grand prize for participating in the National School Lunch Program "Local Lunch Day" by serving locally grown or harvested food during the month of October. In addition, we were also the recipient of the 2017 Western Region Summer Sunshine Award for "Bringing the Farm to Summer." The Summer Sunshine Awards recognize sponsors who operate exemplary summer meal programs, by incorporating local, fresh produce from our school garden and providing gardening enrichment activities throughout the summer. We love feeding our students healthy, delicious meals!

Way to go, Petersburg School District!!!!

**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**