

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 50: 11 – 15 Dec 2017



12th December is National Cocoa Day (drink up - yummy)!!
15th December is National Cupcake Day (little baby cakes - enjoy)!



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

Grants & Funding Opportunities (lots due this week!)

1. 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.](#)

2. 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](#).

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.](#)

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 and nutritional information. – 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!

Please feel free to go to this link to our website and download the full versions of the posters, and we will add content when it is released. See the site [here](#).

Anchorage School District School Garden Survey (ASD Only)

Does your school have a garden or any other sort of growing system in the Anchorage School District? Are you interested in starting such a program? Please take [this brief survey](#) to help us understand how many schools are engaged in growing food, what barriers are faced when starting garden programs, and what resources are needed by teachers. The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete and will be incredibly helpful as we create an inventory of all the great gardening initiatives in ASD. Questions? Contact Catherine Kemp (KempCJ@muni.org).

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

Plate Waste Study Shows Farm to School Works!

Researchers at the University of Florida found that students who attend a school with a farm to school program eat 11% more fruits and 37% more vegetables! [A Plate Waste Evaluation of the Farm to School Program](#) featured in the [Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior](#) tracked students' consumption of fruits and vegetables during meal time. Researchers evaluated fruit and vegetable consumption before and after a farm to school program was implemented at six schools in Alachua County, Florida, a FY 2016 Farm to School Grantee. Over 11,000 meals were observed by students who participate in the National School Lunch Program in grades first through fifth. More research needs to be conducted to fully understand the factors that are responsible for those results, but this is a good step in the right direction! Read the full article [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

Port Heiden's Meshik Farm and Their Successes

I found this great article that summarizes and updates us on Port Heiden's Meshik Farm success. Economic development, re-establishment of a local food source, and support of the community's food network is all happening down on the Alaska Peninsula. To learn more about this great work, [here](#) is a link to the article by Avery Lill.

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**