

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 52: 25 – 29 Dec 2017



27th December is National Fruit Cake Day (there ARE good ones)!!
31st December is National Champagne Day (Happy New Year)!



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

Grants & Funding Opportunities

1. Get Out and Grow: School Garden Sweepstakes – * NEW *****

Your school could win \$15,000 toward a garden—plus a visit from a Team USA Athlete! Smucker Away From Home wants to help schools across the country develop gardens that help cultivate hard work and healthy eating habits. The Get Out and Grow School Garden Sweepstakes is open to School Administrators or Foodservice Directors of K-12 schools. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

2. America's Promise Grant – * NEW *****

As many as five two-year grants of up to \$300,000 are available for school districts and organizations working toward creating healthier school environments. This exciting new funding opportunity is brought to you by America's Promise Alliance in partnership with FoodCorps and four other core partners. Deadline to apply is **January 22, 2018**. Watch the informational webinar and [learn more here.](#)

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. 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.](#)

5. 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

Release of the 2017 Annual Report for America's Health Rankings from the United Health Foundation

America's Health Rankings® was built upon the World Health Organization definition of health: "Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." The model reflects that determinants of health directly influence health outcomes. A health outcomes category and four categories of health determinants are included in the model: behaviors, community & environment, policy and clinical care. Read about Alaska and how we rank against all other states and the territories [here](#). Spoiler alert: WE IMPROVED a bit!!

U.S. House Agriculture Committee Launches Farm Bill Website

U.S. House Agriculture Committee Chairman, Michael Conaway (R-TX) announced the launch of the 2018 Farm Bill Landing Page. The Farm Bill is a massive, far-reaching piece of legislation passed by Congress every five years and contains funding for school lunch commodities. For more information and to check out the website, follow the link [here](#).

Student Food Waste Audits

The USDA in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the University of Arkansas, released Guide to Conducting Student Food Waste Audits: A Resource for Schools. This guide will help schools audit their food waste and implement practical steps to reduce food waste by students. Learn how to plan your audit, collect data, and discover new prevention ideas. Check out #9, implementing a Farm to School Program helps reduce food waste! Read more about this great resource [here](#).

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](#).

Success Stories

Western Regional Office Sheds Sunshine on Summer Meal Sponsors – PETERSBURG!!!

It's the holiday season, and while the summer months may seem far away, it is always a good time to shed sunshine upon sponsors bringing local foods to the national Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). In November, the Western Regional Office announced 14 winners of the Summer Sunshine Award, a regional recognition program that brings attention to SFSP best practices in the Western states. Last summer, Petersburg School District in Alaska and Del Norte Unified School District in California, amped up local foods, gardening, and nutrition education.

You may not think of Alaska as a farm-friendly climate until you remember that it is nicknamed "Land of the Midnight Sun" for the long, sunny days the State experiences in the summer months. Petersburg Borough School District, located on an island in Southeastern Alaska, brought the farm to summer meals in 2017. Not only was the garden's produce incorporated into summer meals, Petersburg was able to utilize the school garden for enrichment activities that allowed students to "touch, learn, and embrace the garden". The school district supported staff in tending to the school garden during the summer months, and the US Forest Service even hosted a pollinator event! School gardens are a fresh method to introduce children to agriculture and incorporate produce into summer fun! Management can help by designating staff time to tend and care for the garden.

Del Norte Unified School District is in a small county in the northernmost corner of California. Last year, the school district partnered with the Del Norte and Adjacent Tribal Land community food council and added 4 new sites in the tribal lands of Yurok tribe and Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation. The partnership has been instrumental in providing healthy, no-cost meals to children in need. Del Norte Unified School District has already begun planning for summer 2018 by soliciting program feedback, delivering thank you packages, and working with local farmers to prepare to source food for the summer. Del Norte Unified School District is an excellent example of a sponsor establishing a network of community resources by partnering with a diverse array of organizations to expand the summer meals program to children in need.

State agencies and sponsors can take small, impactful steps to add farm-fresh food and learning into their summer meals program. Don't forget that there is always a creative solution to a problem when you leverage the resources and people around you. Challenge yourself to reach out to two new organizations or people that can help bring the farm to your summer meals program today!

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