

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 1: 1 – 5 Jan 2018



January is National Hot Tea Month (warm up with a nice mug!!)
January is also National Soup Month (that seems appropriate!)
January is also National Oatmeal Month (get your day started)!!!



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

Grants & Funding Opportunities

1. Get Out and Grow: School Garden Sweepstakes

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

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 – Two New Publications in January

This month we are celebrating POTATOES for our cultivated harvest and SEAWEED and KELP for our indigenous harvest!!

Please feel free to go to this link to our website and download the full versions of the publications, and we will add content when it is released. See the site [here](#). These are very fun and I have included them on this listserv just because we are starting something new!! Enjoy!

Anchorage Mayor's Office Local Food Mini-Grants (ASD Only)

Looking for a way to start or expand a school garden, indoor growing system, or any other project that empowers students to increase their community's access to fresh, locally-grown produce? The Office of Mayor Ethan Berkowitz is pleased to offer the Local Food Mini-Grant Program in conjunction with Cities of Service and the Alaska Food Policy Council. Anchorage schools, residents, and community groups can apply for mini-grants of up to \$1000 for projects that will improve food security and community resilience. Priority will be given to initiatives that serve low-income neighborhoods. The grant guidelines and online application can be found [here](#). Applications are due **January 31, 2018**. Please contact Catherine Kemp (KempCJ@muni.org or 907-312-9127) if you have questions or need help with your application.

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

What is C.R.A.F.T.?

The Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training known as CRAFT is a program designed to educate the next generation of farmers by making strong mentorship connections, connecting farmers to resources, and creating a community of information exchange.

The goal of the group is to build a solid, multi-generational farm community. We meet monthly to discuss topics important to farming in Alaska. In the warmer months, we visit local farms to discuss systems and learn from experienced producers. The group is open to anyone interested in farming. (CRAFT) successfully launched in Southcentral in 2015. With financial assistance from the USDA Rural Development and The Alaska Farmland Trust in 2017, the program will continue and expand.

To find out more information and when the group meets, find us on Facebook [here](#) where you can sign up for our newsletter and connect with us directly.

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

Another year has successfully gone into the record books – congratulations!! Enjoy!! Relax!! Reflect on all the great work you did (because you DID!) . . . now, send me a little about your success. I am so proud of all the great work you have done that I want you to share it and let others know about your successes!!

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**