

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 3: 15 - 19 Jan 2018



16 January is International Hot & Spicy Food Day (warm up)!!
19 January is National Popcorn Day (celebrate)!



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

Grants & Funding Opportunities

1. Project Orange Thumb Grant

The Fiskars Project Orange Thumb Grant Program will grant 30 recipients \$3,500 in gift cards and tools to help support their goals of neighborhood beautification and horticulture education. The garden initiative must be for a not-for-profit or 501(c)(3) organization within North America that has not received a Project Orange Thumb grant in the past. The Project Orange Thumb team looks for organizations committed to the long-term success of gardens that will promote healthy and sustainable food sources, community collaboration and neighborhood beautification. Applications are due by 11:59pm CST on February 2, 2018. Please review the [terms and conditions](#) before proceeding.

2. 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.](#)

3. 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](#).

4. 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](#).

5. 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.](#)

6. 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

Very Cool Opportunities on the Kenai Peninsula!!

Do you live on the Kenai Peninsula and want to get out of the house for a bit this month? Are you already planning your seed orders and designing your new gardens on paper? Here are some great events to help you with all your gardening dreams. . .

January 18: Building and Maintaining Root Cellars, 6:30 pm, Kachemak City Community Center, Homer

Kenai Peninsula Farm Bureau program by Janice Chumley, plus potluck and annual election. Info: Rita Jo at (907) 283-8116.

January 20: Improving Profitability for Your Kenai Farm Business, 9 am - 5 pm, Kenai River Center, Soldotna

Start 2018 off right with this workshop on record-keeping, taxes and cash flow. Fee: \$50, includes lunch. Registration: <https://www.akfarmland.com/farmlink/workshops/> or (907) 745-3336.

January 20: Friendraiser for Alaska Farmland Trust / Kenai Soil & Water, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, Froso's, Soldotna

Get to know these organizations and their work to support farmers on the Kenai. One free drink per guest courtesy of Alaska Farmland Trust. RSVP to amypettit@akfarmland.com.

January 23: Farmers and Chefs, 6:30 pm - whenever, Odie's Deli, Soldotna

Talk crop and menu planning at this networking event for farmers, chefs and anyone interested to get more local farm products on restaurant tables. Contact: kenaiswcd@gmail.com, 283-8732 x 5.

January 25: Specialty Crop Block Grant info session, 3 - 5 pm, Kenai Soil & Water, 110 Trading Bay Suite 140, Kenai

Alaska Division of Agriculture staff will be in town to explain how farmers and agriculture support organizations can apply for funding for projects related to fruit, vegetables and other specialty crops. Contact: lyssa.frohling@alaska.gov, 907-761-3853.

Alaska's Harvest of the Month – Four New Publications in January

This month we are celebrating POTATOES for our cultivated harvest and SEAWEED and KELP for our indigenous harvest!! We have added single-page posters of each harvest item this month for you.

Please feel free to go to this link to our website and download the full versions of the publications, download and/or print them to use in the classroom, in the cafeteria, or at home, and we will add content when it is released. See the site [here](#). 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 Open for 9th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference

The National Farm to School Network is now accepting applications for scholarships to the 9th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference, which will take place in Cincinnati, Ohio, April 25-27, 2018. This event is the top national training and networking event for farm to cafeteria professionals working to improve community health, build economic opportunities for farmers and producers, and ensure long-term sustainability for local food efforts nationwide. To ensure the conference reflects the full diversity of the movement, scholarships are prioritized for farmers and farm support organizations, farm to college / hospital practitioners, early care and education providers, food service professionals, persons of color, and youth (through age 22). Learn more and submit your application at farmtocafeteriaconference.org now until the deadline of Feb. 12 at 8pm ET.

Growing/Gardening/Farming News

Study Links Gardening to Eating More Fruits, Vegetables

Researchers reported in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics that young gardeners eat more greens during their first year of college. A recent study that included more than 1,100 freshmen at eight US universities found those with recent or childhood gardening experience ate 20 percent more servings of fruits and vegetables, compared with those who had never gardened. Among the more than 5,000 students considered for participation in the study, 85 percent did not get the recommended daily servings for fruits and vegetables. To read the study, please find the article [here](#).

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 (every second Monday of the month), find us on Facebook [here](#) where you can sign up for our newsletter and connect with us directly.

Attention Alaska's Livestock Industry!

The Division of Agriculture and Alaska Farm Bureau will host a meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Division of Agriculture, 1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 12, Palmer, Alaska. The Division of Agriculture invites all livestock producers and interested industry members to attend a discussion about the needs of the livestock industry. The livestock industry is growing with positive signs in both market demand and herd growth. In the 2019 FY Governor's budget there has

been an addition of a veterinarian section to the Division of Agriculture and we are eager to hear what you think that could look like.

Some questions we hope to get feedback on are:

- What services is the livestock industry in need of?
- How can the Division of Agriculture help support the changing needs of this growing industry?
- What expertise should the Division of Agriculture be working toward?

If you would like to attend this meeting telephonically, dial 1-800-315-6338 and at the prompt enter the code 12211#. Further information is available from the Division of Agriculture, 1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 12, Palmer, Alaska 99645; by phone, 907-761-3851. Alternative communication accommodations may be made with the ADA Coordinator (TDD No. 907-269-8411).

Success Stories

Prince of Wales Island Schools Started Growing Food. Now 1st Graders are Binging on Broccoli!!

One Southeast school district has been raising fruits and vegetables in greenhouses, because it's easier to get kids to eat their greens if those children have grown those vegetables themselves. Please go to this great article [here](#)! WAY TO GO!!!

Happy New Year – you made it!! Relax!! 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!! Reflect on all the great work you did (because you DID!) . . . now, send me a little about your success.

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**