

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 4: 22 - 26 Jan 2018



23 January is Nation Pie Day (have a slice)!!
24 January is National Peanut Butter Day (creamy or chunky?)!
27 January is National Chocolate Cake Day (yes, please)!!



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

Grants & Funding Opportunities

1. Native American Language Grants – *** NEW ***

First Nations Development Institute ([First Nations](#)) today launched a request for proposals (RFP) process for its newest effort, the **Native Language Immersion Initiative** (NLII). First Nations will award about 12 grants of up to \$90,000 each to build the capacity of and directly support Native language-immersion and culture-retention programs. The full RFP can be found [here](#). It contains information on eligibility, the application process, grant requirements, selection criteria, allowable activities and more. The application deadline is **March 23, 2018**. Eligibility is limited to U.S.-based tribal government programs, tribal 7871 entities, Native-controlled nonprofit organizations, and Native-controlled community organizations with a fiscal sponsor.

2. 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.

3. 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](#).

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.](#)

7. Scholarships Open for 9th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference – * NEW *****

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 [here](#) now until the deadline of **Feb. 12 at 8pm ET.**

8. 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.

9. Division of Agriculture Opens the Specialty Crop Block Grant Funding Opportunity – * NEW *****

The Division of Agriculture announces its Specialty Crop Block Grant funding opportunity open now. The purpose of the grant is to fund projects that will benefit and promote the specialty crop industry in the state of Alaska. We encourage projects that demonstrate innovative partnerships and benefit a variety of specialty crop industry members. Projects are expected to produce a measurable result that impacts the industry in the state of Alaska. Projects that enhance the knowledge or benefit residents are also encouraged. Past project examples include: market access studies, vegetable variety trials, increasing local foods in university meals, connecting farmers and restaurants owners, and increasing peony harvesting. To read the RFP and see who to contact if you have questions please go [here](#). The Letter of Intent is due by 5:00pm (AST) on **February 9, 2018**.

10. Center for Disease Control (CDC) Grant – * NEW *****

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced the availability of fiscal year 2018 funds to implement initiatives to improve student health and academic achievement through nutrition, physical activity, and the management of chronic conditions in schools. [This grant](#) is available to state education agencies (SEAs). Deadline: March 5, 2018.

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 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.

February 1: "Farmers for America" Film, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Kenai Peninsula College Commons, Soldotna

Free film followed by a panel discussion with local farmers sponsored by KPC, [Kenai Local Food Connection](#) and Kenai Soil & Water. Trailer: <https://youtu.be/K--AyICRAuY>

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

Next month we are celebrating SALAD GREENS for our cultivated harvest and BEACH ASPARAGUS for our indigenous harvest!! We will have single-page posters of each harvest item this month for you as well as the three-page information and activities publications.

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!

Growing/Gardening/Farming News

Start Planning for National School Breakfast Week (March 5–9)

Have you started planning for National School Breakfast Week (NSBW)? Students, parents, food service staff, educators, public officials, and advocates from across the country will be celebrating school breakfast during NSBW — March 5–9, 2018. [Learn more here](#).

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.

Success Stories

Promotional Video for Minnesota Farm to Early Child Education Program

I know, Minnesota is NOT in Alaska, but we like to celebrate all Farm to School successes when we find them!! This is a great example of collaboration and success. This is from Erin McKee, the Minnesota Farm to Institution Program Director.

“We are SO excited to share with you the newly released video promoting Minnesota’s Farm to ECE/School efforts. This video was produced by the MN Blue Cross Blue Shield Center for Prevention and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy in partnership with the MN Farm to School Leadership team.

Please share widely! <https://youtu.be/CL0eKtZZah0> “ - this is so great!! Thank you, Erin, and keep up the great work!

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**