

## Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 6: 5 – 9 Feb 2018



February is National Heart Healthy Month (celebrate smart)!!  
February is National Grapefruit Month (tart vitamin C)!  
February is Potato Lover's Month (Alaska Grown is best)!!  
6 February is National Chopsticks Day (I use them all the time)!



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

### Grants & Funding Opportunities

#### 1. Get Schools Cooking

Chef Ann Foundation has opened applications for Get Schools Cooking, a comprehensive three-year program that includes on-site assessment, strategic planning, and continued technical support for school districts transitioning to scratch-cooked operations. [Learn more and apply here](#). Deadline for this grant is **March 1, 2018**.

#### 2. Native American Language Grants

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.

#### 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](#). Deadline for this application is 11:59:59 p.m. CST on **March 11, 2018**.

#### 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](#). Deadline for this application is **January 31, 2018**.

#### 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.](#)

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

#### **7. Division of Agriculture Opens the Specialty Crop Block Grant Funding Opportunity**

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.**

#### **8. Center for Disease Control (CDC) Grant**

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**

### **Alaska Division of Agriculture's Livestock Industry Discussion Meeting – \*\*\*NEW\*\*\***

The Division will be holding a follow up Livestock Industry Discussion Meeting today **Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Division's conference room. You can join in-person or telephonically by calling 1-800-315-6338 and at the prompt enter the code: 12211#

Additional information on the meeting is available in a public notice here:

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=188647>

### **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. . .

**February 7-10: Farm Business Workshop Series, various locations, Homer**

Workshop topics include permaculture for farmers, farmland and leasing, improving profitability, and business models/marketing options. Register at <http://www.homerfolkschool.org/new-classes/farm-business-workshop-series>

### **Alaska's Harvest of the Month – Four New Publications Available Now**

This 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!

### **Second Annual Conference on Native American Nutrition 2017 Report Released**

Last fall, more than 500 people – tribal officials, elders, youth, researchers, and practitioners from 37 states, four countries, and more than 50 different tribes – attended the Second Annual Conference on Native American Nutrition in Prior Lake, Minnesota.

To share the lessons learned, a report was created [Second Annual Conference on Native American Nutrition Conference Report](#). Inside you'll find speaker information, key takeaways from presentations and panels, and testimonials from attendees. You can also find videos and presentations from speakers at the 2017 conference on the website Seeds of Native Health website [here](#).

### **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](#).

### **Registration Open for 9th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference**

***April 25-27, 2018 // Cincinnati, OH***

Early Bird registration is now open for the 9th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference, which will take place in Cincinnati, Ohio, April 25-27, 2018. This biennial event, hosted by the National Farm to School Network, 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. Get the best rates on all ticket options by registering before March 9. Scholarship applications to cover the cost of registration fees and/or selected short courses continue to be accepted until **Feb. 12 at 8pm ET**. Learn more at [www.farmtocafeteriaconference.org](http://www.farmtocafeteriaconference.org).

## **Growing/Gardening/Farming News**

### **Ester's Calypso Farm & Ecology Center Announces Two-Week Farming Intensive**

I am sharing this announcement for my friends up at Calypso!

We are reaching out to let you know about Calypso's **Two Week Farming Intensive**, offering production and business planning skills to aspiring farmers and homesteaders. The Intensive is a great fit for those

wanting to start their own food project, who can't afford months off work or the cost of a longer Farmer Training Program.

We are focusing our outreach to Alaskans, and ask that you might help spread the word within your Alaskan Ag and Ag Education network. I have attached a flyer, and the links to the program below. Please let me know if you would like further information or resources!

**Full Program Details & Application:** <http://www.calypsofarm.org/education/farmer-training-program/farmingintensive/>

**Farming Intensive on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/808771582641050/>

### **Division of Agriculture Plant Material Center Surplus Potato Seed**

The Plant Material Center (PMC) has surplus certified, virus-free seed potatoes available to the public for purchase. If you would like a variety that may be difficult to find in May to plant in your garden or your school is interested in getting some great seed potatoes please go to this site [here](#) to get all the details you need. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Rob Carter ([robert.carter@alaska.gov](mailto:robert.carter@alaska.gov)) – there are opportunities for educational discounts.

### **Meat Quality Assurance Education Training in Fairbanks this Week – \*\*\*NEW\*\*\***

Information is attached for an upcoming Meat Quality Assurance Education training in Fairbanks on **Feb. 9th and Feb. 10th** for adults and youth. A training outline and event contact information are provided in the attached flyer for those that are interested. This is a great opportunity to learn a ton about meat quality assurance that will dictate the amount of money buyers will pay for cuts of meat. Please share this information with all who may be interested.

## **Success Stories**

### **USDA Releases 2017 Alaska Agriculture Statistics – Lots to Celebrate!!**

Have you always wondered how many head of beef are raised in Alaska? Well, you are in luck!! Attached to this email is the most recent Agricultural Statistics for Alaska from the USDA. Now you can use these numbers for your own research, for a classroom project, or just some interesting bits of trivia to stump your friends at your next gathering!! Please see the attached USDA 2017 AK Ag Stats document.

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**