

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 9: 26 Feb - 2 Mar 2018



27 February is National Strawberry Day (in a salad - yum)!
28 February is National Chili Day (beans or no beans?)
1 March is National Peanut Butter Lover's Day (crunchy?)!!



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

Grants & Funding Opportunities

1. Action for Healthy Kids Grants – *** NEW ***

Action for Healthy Kids is now accepting applications for school grants for the 2018-2019 school year. Schools may apply for School Breakfast grants to pilot or expand their school breakfast programs or Game On grants to fund physical activity and nutrition initiatives. Parents and parent groups can apply for Parents for Healthy Kids grants to bring health programs to their children's schools through parent engagement. Visit ActionforHealthyKids.org/Grants for more information. The application deadline is **April 6**.

2. Wallace Center Mini-Grants and Scholarships – *** NEW ***

The Food Systems Leadership Network, an initiative of the Wallace Center, is currently accepting application for [Organizational Capacity Building Mini-Grants](#) (up to \$1,000 per organization) and [Professional Development Scholarships](#) (up to \$500 per individual). The deadline to apply is Thursday, **March 1**. [Learn more here](#).

3. Slow Food's Plant a Seed Campaign

Slow Food is excited to launch their Plant a Seed campaign for Spring 2018. This year, they are focusing on the Three Sisters — bean, corn and squash. They are able to offer free kits to the first 300 schools in need. Use promo code *plantschoolfree* if you would like a kit but cannot afford to pay. Once those run out, or if you have the budget to pay, you can use *plantschoolhalf* for a 50% discount. If you're not using this for a school garden, they ask that you pay full price. [Order your school garden kit here](#).

4. 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**.

5. 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.

6. 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**.

7. 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](#).

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

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](#).

Native Youth in Food and Agriculture Leadership Summit

The 2018 Native Youth in Food and Agriculture Leadership Summit is seeking applications from American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian youth entering grades 9-12 during the 2017-18 school year. Participants will be chosen to attend the event held June 7-14 by the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law. Go to the [online application](#).

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](#).

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**. Learn more at www.farmtocafeteriaconference.org.

Growing/Gardening/Farming News

2019 USDA Farm to School Census – * NEW *****

The time is finally here to prepare for the next [USDA Farm to School Census](#)! The Census will be distributed in the winter of 2019, but school districts and partners should begin tracking activities that are happening right now. Need help tracking local food purchases and farm to school activities? Check out these [evaluation resources](#) and connect with your [USDA Regional Farm to School Lead](#). A copy of the Census questionnaire will be made available to the public as soon as it is finalized.

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) – there are opportunities for educational discounts.

Success Stories

Conservation Groups Preserve Palmer Farmland Parcel

74 acres of Alaska Pacific University's Spring Creek Farm are now PERMENANTLY PROTECTED for agricultural use – no subdivisions there!! This has taken eight years to arrive at this agricultural covenant and hard work from both Great Land Trust and Alaska Farmland Trust. A reason to celebrate, indeed!! Great work all!! Check out the article from KTVA [here](#).

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