

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 11: 12 - 16 Mar 2018



March is National Nutrition Month (learn something new)!
14 March is Pi Day (3.14159 – get it, March 14?)!!
17 March – Happy St. Patrick’s Day (don’t forget your green)!



It’s National CACFP Week 11-17 March – The USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) serves over **4 MILLION** children nutritious meals and snacks!!!

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

Grants & Funding Opportunities

1. Action for Healthy Kids Grants

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. 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](#).

3. 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.

4. 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

Anchorage Mayor’s Office Local Food Mini-Grant Awardee Reception – * NEW *****

Please join Mayor Berkowitz, his staff, and the Alaska Food Policy Council for a small celebration honoring the first ever Mayor’s Office Local Food Mini-Grant awardees! See below for details, and feel free to pass along the invitation.

Mayor's Office Local Food Mini-Grant Awardee Reception

Date: Monday, March 19th

Time: 5:30-6:30pm

Location: Mayor's Conference Room, 8th Floor, City Hall (632 W. 6th Ave)

Dress: Casual

RSVP by March 15th

Mayor Berkowitz and members of the Alaska Food Policy Council will give remarks, and we will hear from the eight mini-grant recipients about their projects. Please contact Catherine to RSVP or if you have any questions (KempCJ@muni.org or 907-312-9127).

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. Learn more at www.farmtocafeteriaconference.org.

Growing/Gardening/Farming News

Local Farm and Food Chats are Beginning to Happen – *** NEW ***

There are a few communities that have started informal gatherings bringing farmers and local food producers and consumers together to share ideas, information, and to build partnerships.

Farm & Food Friday (aka, Kenai Farm Coffee Klatch) – March 16, 8-9am at Everything Bagels, 35251 Kenai Spur, Soldotna

Friday Food Chat – Friday mornings from 8-9am at Vagabond Blues, 642 South Alaska St., Palmer

Does your community have a similar gathering? Let me know so we can share!! If your community is interested in starting a group, please contact me, Jodie Anderson (jodie.anderson@alaska.gov) and I'll help you get started!

Kenai Local Food Directory

March 16 is the deadline for farmers, fishers, local food business and sponsors to sign up to be included in the 2018 Kenai Loves Local Food Directory. Kenai Local Food Connection and Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District have published and distributed the directory annually since 2011. For more information, go to www.kenaisoilandwater.org or call Heidi Chay at 283-8732 x 5.

2019 USDA Farm to School Census

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.

Success Stories

BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT WINS THE USDA WESTERN REGION CHAMPIONS OF BREAKFAST!!

Here is the whole article I promised I'd get to you last week. Many thanks to Avery Lill and KDLG for getting this news out – we are very proud of Bristol Bay Borough School District and their Food Service Director, Tanya Dube!! For a chance to read the entire article, please follow the link [here](#).



Starvin' Marvin is a HUGE Hit in Haines!!

Many thanks to Jolanta Ryan with Takshanuk Watershed Council for sharing this fantastic presentation about the Haines Composting and Gardening program at the recent Southeast Alaska Garden Conference.

The presentation was given by Jolanta, the 4th grade teacher along with some of the 2nd, 6th, and 7th grade students (see the picture to the left). They have a composting program that started as a parent/community project in 2009 that takes school organic waste and makes compost to put in their school gardens that allow their Garden Club a place to work and an opportunity to grow food for the school meals!! The DNR Forest Service has helped with planting a Food Forest, too! So many great things growing on in Haines where the Community Garden has areas for family, community, preschool, and Haines Science Camp garden beds (look at all the happiness in the photo to the right). This is a fantastic example of how a school can start a project that goes viral all through the community!! Thank you so much for sharing, Jolanta – you guys keep up all the great work!!



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