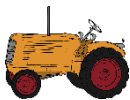
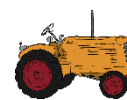


Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 12: 19 - 23 Mar 2018



TODAY is National Ag Day (learn something new)!
22 March is National Water Day (drink all you are supposed to)!!
23 March is National Chip and Dip Day (you can make this healthy)!



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

Grants & Funding Opportunities

1. USDA Announces Support Available for Specialty Crops, the Local Food Sector, and Agricultural Marketing

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced nearly \$89 million in available funding to support specialty crop growers, strengthen local and regional food systems, and explore new market opportunities for farmers and ranchers. USDA helps fund projects that bolster rural economies across the country. Learn more [here](#).

2. 2018 United Fresh Start Foundation Community Grants Program

The program supports organizations that provide children with access to fresh fruit and vegetables after school, on weekends, and during summer, extending the impact of our Foundation beyond the school day. We are offering Community Grants of up to \$2,500 to eligible non-profit organizations. Applications must be submitted through the online portal. You can learn more about the grant and access the online portal [here](#). Applications are due by Friday, **March 30, 2018**.

3. 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**.

4. 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](#).

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. 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

Celebrate School Lunch Hero Day

School Lunch Hero Day, May 4, is only two short months away! Have you started planning your celebration? This event is the perfect opportunity to showcase the many ways that school nutrition professionals, at every level, make a difference in the lives of their student customers. For ideas and resources, visit www.schoolnutrition.org/SLHD.

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

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

Celebrate National Ag Day!

Agriculture is everywhere! From the food we eat to the clothes we wear; the purpose of National Ag Day is to appreciate and celebrate the abundance of American agriculture. Agriculture impacts our daily lives and it is important to understand the value it brings to our local and national economies. Celebrate National Ag Day by

increasing your knowledge about agriculture and nutrition or by recognizing the endless career opportunities available in this industry. Farm production, food science, education, and urban planning, are all excellent career opportunities waiting for you! Join in the celebration today and cheer for American agriculture! Learn more about this great day [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**