

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 13: 26 - 30 Mar 2018



26th March was Make Up Your Own Holiday Day (hmmm)!
28th March is Something On A Stick Day (skewer some fruits)!!
31st March is Tater Day (keep the skins on for all the nutrition)!



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

Grants & Funding Opportunities

1. National Education Association Foundation Grants – *** NEW ***

Offered by the National Education Association Foundation, [Student Achievement Grants](#) are for projects that help students learn how to think critically and solve problems in order to improve student learning. [Learning & Leadership Grants](#) are for professional development opportunities for individuals or groups. Grants are available to current members of the National Education Association who are educators in public schools or public institutions of higher education. Preference is given to proposals that incorporate STEM and/or global learning into projects, which can include farm to school activities. Two levels of funding are available: \$2,000 and \$5,000. The next deadline for applications is **June 1**.

2. Aetna 2018 Cultivating Healthy Communities Grant Program – *** NEW ***

Aetna Foundation is inviting projects that address issues in the following domains to apply for the 2018 Cultivating Healthy Communities Grant: Built Environment, Community Safety, Environmental Exposures, Healthy Behaviors, and Social/Economic Factors. These grants are expected to award up to \$2 million to organizations in the contiguous United States through this program. This will be a highly competitive funding opportunity with a two-stage application process. All Stage 1 applications must be received by **April 18, 2018 at 3PM ET**. [Learn more here](#).

3. 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](#).

4. 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**.

5. 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**.

6. 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.](#)

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.](#)

Cool Resources, Reports, Opportunities

Alaska Ag Day Celebration!! – * NEW *****

Mark your calendars now for the first Tuesday in May (happens to be May 1st this year!) as that is the day we celebrate Alaska Ag Day!! How are you going to celebrate? Let us know so we can share your creativity!! Also, the day before Alaska Ag Day is DRIVE YOUR TRACTOR TO WORK DAY!! I'll be driving a tractor to work on April 30, how about you?

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](#).

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

Food System Survey – Closes 1 April 2018 – * NEW *****

An APU student, Cayley Eller, is working on a project relating to food security research in Alaska. The survey (link is included below) is one component of the research project, which is aiming to identify the feasibility of creating a GIS-based food system map for Alaska. A food system map would provide a comprehensive visual analysis of statewide food system infrastructure to identify gaps in transportation methods, production and processing, nutrition assistance, or food and agriculture-related education, among other factors. Thanks in advance if you have the time participate or share! Let me know if you have any questions Cayley Eller, celler@alaskapacific.edu

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GPMVMN9>

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.

Job Posting for APU Spring Creek Farm – Assistant Production Manager – *** NEW ***

Alaska Pacific University's Spring Creek Farm is looking to fulfill its Assistant Production Manager position. Located in Palmer on the beautiful 900-acre Kellogg Campus, Spring Creek Farm supports food security in Alaska by growing ecologically responsible produce, training new farmers, and creating a space for co-curricular programs that are both ecologically and economically sustainable. This seasonal position is responsible for assisting the Production Manager in all aspects of crop production. The priority of this position is to ensure the operation of the vegetable production for a CSA, farmers' markets, dining services sales, and Alaska Tilth. To apply send cover letter and resume to pautry@alaskapacific.edu.
<https://www.goodfoodjobs.com/jobs/108957/assistant-production-manager.html>

Success Stories

Michigan Students Use Old Food, Recycled Supplies to Grow Veggies for Lunch

"It's better hands-on because you'll learn how to do it. When you're working with other people in a class it teaches you how to work as a group together. Also teaches you how to produce food and enough, because some of the seeds don't always give you something, so you have to learn how to adapt to that," student Emma Nelson said. Follow this [link](#) to see the detailed article.

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