

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 14: 2 - 6 Apr 2018



April is National BLT Sandwich Month (I love those things)!
April is National Garlic Month (so versatile)!!
April is National Grilled Cheese Month (perfect on whole grain bread)!
4th April is Ramen Noodle Day (great with added veggies)!!



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

Grants & Funding Opportunities

1. Alaska Farm Bureau Agriculture Education Mini-Grant – ***** NEW *****

The Alaska Farm Bureau is accepting applications for small agriculture education projects to increase awareness, knowledge and appreciation of Alaska agriculture in our youth. The Alaska Farm Bureau intends to award up to \$20,000.00 in grants to individuals or organizations across the state. Learn more [here](#). Applications are due by **May 15, 2018**.

2. NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Funds – ***** NEW *****

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is taking a second round of applications for the 2018 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) that funds conservation practices associated with soil health, manure management, high tunnels and more. Complete applications must be submitted by **May 11**. Learn more [here](#).

3. National Education Association Foundation Grants

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**.

4. 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](#).

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!!

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.

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. **Registration closes April 9, 2018!!**

Growing/Gardening/Farming News

FMNP and SFMNP Open Enrollment for farmers and markets ends May 15 – *** NEW ***

The Senior and WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs Open Enrollment period for the 2018 season is open until May 15th. These programs provide coupons to low-income women, infants, children and seniors in areas with authorized FMNP and SFMNP farmers, farmstands and farmers' markets. The process to apply is easy and those authorized will be able to accept and receive reimbursement of coupons or fresh, Alaska grown fruits, vegetables and herbs. SFMNP coupons are good for honey too. For more information, please visit: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/nutri/fmnp/default.aspx> or email erin.fahsholtz@alaska.gov.

\$5 Million for Farm to School included in Funding Bill – *** NEW ***

Last week, Senate and House leaders worked on an appropriations bill to fund the federal government through Sept. 30, and through this process, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS) championed a huge win for farm to school! The final bill, which was signed by the President on Friday, includes \$5 million in discretionary funding for the USDA Farm to School Grant Program, which *doubles* the current available funding for this highly impactful program for one year. This is great news and a big victory for the farm to school movement! [Read more on the National Farm to School Network blog.](#)

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

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

South Carolina Shakes Up School Lunch

Four school districts in South Carolina are shaking up the lunchroom and transforming school meals by using innovative techniques. From developing a unique distribution process, to running the cafeteria like a restaurant, creating "worm food", and harvesting rooftop garden produce, South Carolina is putting farm to school on the map. Read this great article [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