

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 15: 9 - 13 Apr 2018



11th April is National Cheese Fondue Day (warm gooey cheese)!
12th April is Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day (there is a theme here)!!
13th April is National Peach Cobbler Day (wait, no cheese?)!



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

Grants & Funding Opportunities

1. Spring 2018 Carton 2 Garden Contest – *** NEW ***

Evergreen Packaging and KidsGardening.org are proud to present our fourth annual national [Carton 2 Garden Contest](#)! Open to public and private schools, contest winners will be selected based on their implementation of an innovative garden creation featuring creative and sustainable uses for repurposed milk and juice cartons. Your school can get started by collecting at least 100 empty cartons from your home, community, or cafeteria. After gathering cartons, it's time to design and construct purposeful garden items and structures using them. Looking for ideas? Check out [last year's winners](#) for inspiration and visit us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Pinterest](#) for tips, activities, and lessons.

2. Walmart Foundation – *** NEW ***

The Walmart Foundation's Community Grant Program is offering grants to nonprofit organizations and agencies that work in one of the following areas: hunger relief and healthy eating, health and human service, quality of life, education, community and economic development, diversity and inclusion, public safety, or environmental sustainability. Awards range from \$250 to \$5,000. Deadline: applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Learn more [here](#).

3. Home Depot Foundation – *** NEW ***

The Home Depot Foundation provides funding for nonprofit organizations and public agencies in the United States that are using the power of volunteers to improve communities through its Community Impact Grants program. Priority is given to projects that benefit veterans and/or diverse and underserved communities. Projects should be volunteer-friendly, engage people at all skill levels, and be expected to have a strong and lasting impact. Awards of up to \$5,000 will be given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services. Deadline: awards are made on a rolling basis. Learn more [here](#).

4. Alaska Farm Bureau Agriculture Education Mini-Grant

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**.

5. NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Funds

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](#).

6. 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**.

7. 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](#).

8. 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](#).

9. 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](#).

10. HealthierUS School Challenge Qualification

To all **NSLP and SBP** sponsors: you have a limited time left to get HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSC) qualified. The HUSC is a voluntary initiative established in 2004 to recognize schools participating in the **NSLP** and **SBP** that have created healthier school environments through promotion of nutrition and physical activity. USDA is working towards decreasing the childhood obesity epidemic through new **NSLP** and **SBP** meal patterns, increased Wellness Policy Requirements, and by heavily promoting initiatives such as HUSC. For more information, please follow the [link](#) here. This grant will be ending **July 1, 2018**.

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? **Would you like to win a great Alaska Grown prize for participating in Ag Day? If you participate/organize/run any celebrations of Ag Day during the first week of May, please complete the survey at this [link](#) and you will be entered to win an Alaska Grown prize! You cannot win if you do not play!!**

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.

Growing/Gardening/Farming News

Farmers Market Meet-Up – *** NEW ***

April 13, 2018 9 am - 1 pm, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, 40610 K-Beach Road. Thinking about becoming a farmers market vendor? At this free event you'll learn about Kenai Peninsula farmers markets, booth design and signage, food safety, Alaska's Cottage Food Law and more. RSVP to Heidi Chay: 283-8732 x5 or kenaiswcd@gmail.com.

FMNP and SFMNP Open Enrollment for farmers and markets ends May 15

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.

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.

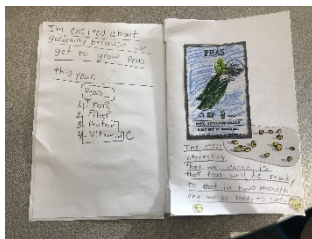
Job Posting for APU Spring Creek Farm – Assistant Production Manager

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

Williwaw Elementary School Garden Project Success

Many thanks to Chantel Welch of NeighborWorks in Anchorage for this great success story and update!



I'm attaching some photos from our school garden project at Williwaw, we're creating monthly lessons and teaching them to the 3-5 grade classes. Our goal is to spread this project out through the other grades and Title 1 schools (and beyond!) as there is demand. It's a joint project between Williwaw Elementary, NeighborWorks Alaska, and UAA's Civic Eats Initiative. Spring semester lessons will culminate with the planting of the community garden, and Fall lessons will start up in that same garden. We should have the kids trying radishes by the end of the month – and they're excited about it!!



Keep up the fantastic work, Williwaw!! I hope you enjoy those tasty radishes!!

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. Everything is starting now – planning, seeds, transplants, dreams of warmer days – let me know what you are up to and how you are celebrating springtime!!

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