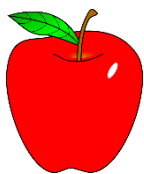


## Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 19: 7 - 11 May 2018



**Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday to USDA CACFP (feeding so many so well)!  
NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION EMPLOYEE WEEK – THANK YOU!!  
NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!!!**



**8<sup>th</sup> May is National Empanada Day (tasty pillows of yummy)!!  
11<sup>th</sup> May is Eat What You Want Day (make good choices)!  
11<sup>th</sup> May National Public Gardens Day (plan and plant one)!!**

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

### **Grants & Funding Opportunities**

#### **1. USDA Community Connect Grant Program Supports Broadband Internet**

The Community Connect Grant Program supports efforts to provide broadband access in rural, economically challenged communities where it does not yet exist. To be eligible for a Community Connect competitive grant, the Project must:

- (a) Serve a PFSA in which Broadband Service does not currently exist;
- (b) Offer service at the Broadband Grant Speed to all residential and business customers within the PFSA ;
- (c) Offer free service at the Broadband Grant Speed to all Critical Community Facilities located within the PFSA for at least 2 years starting from the time service becomes available to each Critical Community Facility;
- (d) Provide a Community Center with at least two (2) Computer Access Points and wireless access at the Broadband Grant Speed, free of all charges to all users for at least 2 years; and
- (e) Not overlap with the service areas of current RUS borrowers and grantees.

For more information, view the recorded Webinar Presentation slides and recording link, [click here](#). USDA has a [mapping tool](#) to draw your proposed service area. If you experience technical difficulties, please contact the Rural Development Help Desk at 1(800) 457-3642. For other questions, email [community.connect@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:community.connect@wdc.usda.gov) Deadline: **May 14, 2018**.

#### **2. Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Sustainable Agricultural Systems**

Applications to the FY 2018 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Sustainable Agricultural Systems (SAS) Request for Applications (RFA) must focus on approaches that promote transformational changes in the U.S. food and agriculture system within the next 25 years. NIFA seeks creative and visionary applications that take a systems approach, and that will significantly improve the supply of abundant, affordable, safe, nutritious, and accessible food, while providing sustainable opportunities for expansion of the bioeconomy through novel animal, crop, and forest products and supporting technologies. These approaches must demonstrate current and future social, behavioral, economic, health, and environmental impacts. Additionally, the outcomes of the work being proposed must result in societal benefits, including promotion of rural prosperity and enhancement of quality of life for those involved in food and agricultural value chains from production to utilization and consumption. See AFRI SAS RFA for details. Letter of Intent due **June 27, 2018**. Application due **October 10, 2018** [Learn more here](#).

#### **3. New CDC Funding Opportunity: State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) Program**

CDC has announced the availability of FY 2018 funds to implement [CDC-RFA-DP18-1807: State Physical Activity and Nutrition \(SPAN\) Program](#). The funds will support state investments to improve nutrition and to increase safe and accessible physical activity that benefits the whole state and can be shared with local governmental entities. Application due date: **June 14, 2018**. [Learn more here](#).

#### **4. Updated SARE State Summaries and Grants Lists Now Available**

Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program has been a go-to USDA grants and outreach program for farmers, ranchers, researchers and educators who develop innovations that improve farm profitability, protect water and land, and revitalize communities. SARE has awarded over \$251 million to more than 6,300 projects. [Learn more](#) about funded grants, project highlights and a breakdown of funding in your state using our newly updated portfolio summaries and grant lists.

#### **5. Spring 2018 Carton 2 Garden Contest**

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.

#### **6. Walmart Foundation**

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](#).

#### **7. Home Depot Foundation**

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](#).

#### **8. 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**.

#### **9. 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](#).

#### **10. 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**.

#### **11. 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](#).

#### **12. 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](#).

#### **13. 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](#).

#### **14. HealthierUS School Challenge Qualification**

To all **NSLP and SBP** sponsors: you have a limited time left to get HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) qualified. The HUSSC 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 HUSSC. For more information, please follow the [link](#) here. This grant will be ending **July 1, 2018**.

## **Cool Resources, Reports, Opportunities**

### **Happy 50th Birthday, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)! – \*\*\* NEW \*\*\***

May 8th, 2018 is the 50th anniversary of CACFP's inception. Alaska Farm to School would like to take CACFP's 50th birthday as a moment to thank and show appreciation for our stakeholders such as sponsoring organizations, child and adult centers, day care homes, and national partners. Alaska Farm to School would like to recognize the outstanding institutions across the state who work hard to offer high-quality meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious throughout the year. Thank you for all the amazing work you do!! Here's to 50 more years!!

### **Celebrate School Nutrition Employee Week!! – \*\*\* NEW \*\*\***

We have SO MUCH to be thankful for and are celebrating many of those important people this week!! Please take a moment to thank your School Nutrition Employees this week – do something nice for them. Look at all the AWESOME things they do for you. Really, this week is the time to recognize and celebrate the hardworking professionals in school cafeterias across the state – they are the ones working so hard to fuel our emerging future leaders with the healthy meals that make a difference in their success!! For me, I'd like to thank Mrs. Sheila from my elementary school!!

### **Alaska Indoor Gardening Curriculum Released**

Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom is pleased to announce the release of their newest set of lessons, Alaska Indoor Gardening Curriculum, on their website <http://www.fairbankssoilwater.org/akaitcindoorgardening.htm> . This work is supported in part by the Agriculture in the Classroom Grant no. 2017-38858 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. It is also supported by a grant from the Alaska Farm Bureau. This curriculum is a compilation of lessons developed by the Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom program, the National Agriculture in the Classroom (NAITC) organization, and educators throughout Alaska who have developed, reviewed, and piloted many these activities.

## **Growing/Gardening/Farming News**

### **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 15<sup>th</sup>**. 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](mailto: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.

### **2018 Native Nutrition Conference – Registration Now Open – \*\*\* NEW \*\*\***

Join us for this annual conference from October 2-5, 2018 at the Mystic Lake Center in Prior Lake, Minnesota that brings together tribal officials, researchers, practitioners, and others to discuss the current state of Indigenous and academic scientific knowledge about Native nutrition and food science, and identify new areas of work. Sessions at this year's conference will explore nutrition across the lifecycle, intergenerational learning about food, linking agriculture to nutrition, recovering from historical trauma, and more. Please follow the link [here](#) for more information about the conference and scholarship opportunities.

### **Job Posting for SE Alaska Watershed Coalition – Local Foods Director**

Attention local foods lovers: The Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition is seeking a motivated, energetic, organized leader for our Local Foods Program! We are currently accepting applications for the position of Local Foods Director. The successful candidate will work with partners of the [Sustainable Southeast Partnership](#) and other community groups to promote stewardship of edible natural resources, forge resilient food systems that decrease dependence on outside food sources, and spark food-based business startups.

Through the Local Foods Program, we are working towards a regional food system that includes a reliable, well-stewarded supply of wild foods, thriving sustainable agricultural and local food enterprises, and improved access to fresh and nutritious foods for all residents across Southeast Alaska.

For all the details & application information follow the link below:

<http://www.alaskawatershedcoalition.org/2018/04/job-opening-local-foods-director/>

Application open until filled.

### **Happenings on the Kenai Peninsula**

**Saturday, May 12: 4-H Tree Sale**, 10 am, Soldotna Creek Park. Support Kenai Peninsula 4-H at their one annual fundraiser. All trees and shrubs are sold bareroot, first come first serve, no presales. For details and order form, go to <http://www.alaska4h.org/kenai-peninsula.html>.

**Saturday, May 19: Kenai Soil & Water Plant Sale**, 10 am, Three Bears, Kenai. To reserve booth space for this annual fundraiser supporting Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District, contact Abraham and Jessica England: [eaglescout41@gmail.com](mailto:eaglescout41@gmail.com) or (907) 306-4610.

## **Success Stories**

### **A GREAT Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Success Story from Outside**

Way to go New Jersey's Farm to School Program for this great success story highlighting wonderful Farm to ECE work happening! We all win when successes like this happen! Check out the story here:

<https://www.njtvonline.org/news/video/farm-school-program-educates-healthy-eating-habits/>



### **Some Seed Potato Love!!**

Last week I dropped off 60lbs of seed potatoes to a school volunteer with Huffman Elementary School in Anchorage. She will be planting all these potatoes at both Huffman and Rabbit Creek Elementary Schools at the end of May with the students in their potato beds. When the students return in the falltime, they will harvest the potatoes for Bean's Café, an organization feeding warm breakfasts and lunches to anyone in need in Anchorage 365 days a year. Way to go, Huffman and Rabbit Creek!!!

### **Mayor's Office in Anchorage Announces Local Food Mini-Grant Awardees**

Mayor Ethan Berkowitz announced the recipients of the 2018 Mayor's Office Local Food Mini-Grants. The Mini-Grant Program supports community projects that increase access to fresh, locally grown food for Anchorage residents. A selection committee from the Alaska Food Policy Council and Mayor's Office chose volunteer projects that will educate Anchorage residents about how to improve food security in their neighborhoods. Funds are provided by national nonprofit Cities of Service.

"These projects help us grow community and local food," stated Mayor Berkowitz. 17 mini-grants have been awarded with many thanks to Alaska Health and Social Services for providing additional funding. Congratulations to the Airport Heights Gardeners, Alaska Mental Health Consumer Web, Anchorage Library Foundation, Chester Valley Elementary, Gan Yeladim Early Learning Center, Government Hill Commons, Harvest of Hope Memorial Garden, Mountain View Boys and Girls Club, and The Children's Lunchbox.

For information about the first round of mini-grant recipients, click the link [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. Everything is starting now – planning, seeds, transplants, dreams (just dreams since we seem to be cooling off and not warming up) 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**