

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 20: 14 - 18 May 2018



International Pickle Week is THIS week (dill, sweet, sour, garlic?)!!



15th May is National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day (my favorite)!!
17th May is National Cherry Cobbler Day (with sour cherries, yes)!
19th May World Baking Day (make something new just because)!!

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

Grants & Funding Opportunities

1. 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](#).

2. 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](#).

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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](#).

6. 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](#).

7. 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**.

8. 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**.

9. 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](#).

10. 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](#).

11. 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](#).

12. HealthierUS School Challenge Qualification

To all **NSLP and SBP** sponsors: you have a limited time left to get HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSCC) qualified. The HUSCC 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

Summer Meal Site Location Help – * NEW *****

It is that time of year and you may be looking for summer meal site locations for your children or you are helping a friend look for a meal site location near them. I have a great resource for you!! This is the Alaska 211 site and will help you connect with so many amazing service providers in your community. The site is great and very user friendly just follow these steps to find the summer meal site locations near you:

Start by going to the Alaska 211 site [here](#)

On that screen, enter your ZIP code or select your community

Select the “Browse Service Category” on the left side of the three “Choose a Search” Options

Now you have a great comprehensive list with contact information

These summer meal providers are incredible and they are located all around our great state!! Please check out a site close to you!

Alaska Harvest of the Month Materials – * NEW *****

Just a quick reminder that you can find all our Alaska Indigenous and Cultivated Harvest of the Month materials on our website up through this month!! Enjoy learning about fiddle head ferns and rhubarb – things are growing out there!! Please visit our website for more information [here](#). Many thanks to Sue Lampert with Alaska Child Nutrition Programs for all her help!!

In the news. . . Lawmaker Pushing Frozen Foods for Fresh Produce Program – * NEW *****

A Maine congressman says he plans to go forward with a proposal to include frozen and canned foods in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program despite criticism from the program’s founder. The proposal by Republican U.S. Rep. Bruce Poliquin, who has used Maine blueberries as an example of a frozen food that could help the program, is part of the federal Farm Bill that’s wending its way through approvals. Poliquin’s proposal also would open up the program to dried and pureed foods. [Read more here](#).

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 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.

2018 Native Nutrition Conference – Registration Now Open

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

Friday, May 18: The Alaska Food Hub's season opener for Soldotna area customers. Formerly known as the Kenai Peninsula Food Hub, the Alaska Food Hub is the on-line market featuring Alaska farmers, fishers and makers. Order any time between Friday at noon and Monday at 10 pm, then pick up your order Wednesday, 3:30 to 6:30 pm at Christ Lutheran Church in Soldotna. Info: www.alaskafoodhub.org.

Saturday, May 19: May Workshops There's still space available in these workshops offered by Central Peninsula Garden Club.

9-10:15 AM - The Wonderful World of Worm Poo

10 AM-12 PM - Yard Art from Salvaged Items

10:30AM-12:30PM - Demystifying Bees, Bees as Pollinators

1-2:30 PM - Brewing Tea for Your Farm & Garden

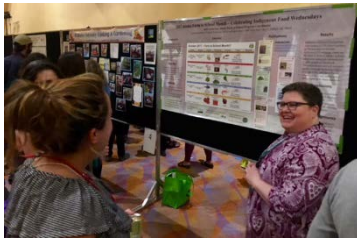
3-4 PM - Raising Chickens for Eggs, Meat and Pest Control

Register [HERE](#). While you're there, check out the offerings for May 24! (come see me on the 24th!!)

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 or (907) 306-4610.

Success Stories

What has Jodie been up to this springtime? Silly question because, well, dirt . . .



Soldotna Montessori Charter School is with Molly Bailey, Noyes and 5 others.
May 10 at 6:44am · 🌐

Soil science with Jodie Anderson from Alaska Farm to School is fascinating!



Life is indeed GREAT!! Even though things aren't growing super strong yet and the sun seems to be playing hide-and-seek and winning, I have had some great opportunities to learn so much! I was lucky enough to be able to present a poster to share the great things happening in the Alaska Farm to School Program with national colleagues at the Farm to Cafeteria Conference in Cincinnati (picture on the left). Then, for Alaska Ag Day I was invited to Birchtree Elementary School to work with the 3rd grade classes on their compost piles and helped them plan for more active composting in the future (middle two photos). Last week I was lucky enough to have been invited down for a two-day "workshop" with Soldotna Montessori Charter School students in Ms. Carter's, Ms. Moore's, and Mr. Faris' classes where we talked about soils and composting. By the time I left on Thursday afternoon, the students were already collecting "greens" from their lunch to start a compost pile before the end of school (last photo set)!! I am so lucky and impressed with all the great things going on all over this amazing state. So, share your successes – the only reason I shared today is because I don't have any stories from any of you. . . help me out!!!

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