

Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 22: 28 May – 1 Jun 2018



National Fishing Week is THIS week (get out there and fish)!!



29th May is Learn About Composting Day (YES!!!)

1st June is National Flip a Coin Day (wow – yay?!)

1st June National Doughnut Day (cake or glazed)!!

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

Grants & Funding Opportunities

1. Farm to ECE Funding Opportunity – Act Now to Leverage Funds in Your State – *** NEW ***

The federal budget passed in March 2018 included historic increases for key federal early care and education programs, notably the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), which funds the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program, was increased by \$2.37 billion. Some of this new influx of funding will be used for quality improvements to early care and education that can include farm to ECE initiatives. Review [this new memo](#) from the National Farm to School Network and the Policy Equity Group for more information and ways to take action in your state. For more information, contact Lacy Stephens, Program Manager at the National Farm to School Network, at lacy@farmtoschool.org or Soumya Bhat, Director of Early Childhood Equity Initiatives at the Policy Equity Group, soumyab@policyequity.com.

2. CDC Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health Funding – *** NEW ***

CDC announces the availability of FY 2018 funds to implement [CDC-RFA-DP18-1813: Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health \(REACH\)](#). This five-year program will provide funding to communities to improve health, prevent chronic diseases, and reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic populations with the highest risk, or burden, of chronic disease. Approximately 32 projects will be supported by this funding, with average yearly funding level expected to be approximately \$781,250. Applications are due **July 16, 2018**. [Learn more here](#).

3. Jump Start Healthy Changes Grant – *** NEW ***

Fuel Up to Play 60: Jump Start Healthy Changes Grants offer funding for schools to improve opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity. Funds are awarded for schools to implement at least one Healthy Eating Play and one Physical Activity Play from the Fuel Up to Play 60 Playbook. K-12 schools that are enrolled in the Fuel Up to Play 60 program for the school year and participate in the National School Lunch Program are eligible to apply. Applications are due **June 13, 2018**. [Learn more here](#).

4. 2018 CACFP Meal Service Training Grants – *** NEW ***

To assist States and CACFP operators with implementation of the updated CACFP meal patterns, Congress appropriated funds for the provision of noncompetitive grants for States to provide hands-on training and technical assistance. These meal service training grants will assist State agencies in providing job skills training for CACFP operators on ways to plan and prepare and serve nutritious foods. Learn more about specific training focus areas and how to apply [here](#).

5. 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](#).

6. 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](#).

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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](#).

10. 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](#).

11. 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**.

12. 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](#).

13. 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](#).

14. 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](#).

15. 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 HUSCC. For more information, please follow the [link](#) here. This grant will be ending **July 1, 2018**.

Cool Resources, Reports, Opportunities

Alaska Farm to Summer Week Celebration!! – * NEW *****

What are you doing July 23-28, 2018? How about celebrating Alaska Farm to Summer Week? Let's all celebrate Farm to Summer Week by serving local foods at meals and snacks or by participating in activities that support Alaska agriculture and then share all the great things you have done with your communities. Have questions? GREAT!! We will have more information to follow as July comes our way. This is just a little tease to let you know we don't have to wait until October to celebrate together!!

Healthy Eating in Practice Conference

Healthy Eating in Practice is a hands-on conference for practitioners, researchers, and influencers, focused on changing the culture of healthcare to better support healthy eating behaviors, particularly in children and families, and prevent chronic diet-related diseases. This will take place in Asheville, NC **August 26-29, 2018**. Registration is now open for the Healthy Eating in Practice Conference – register by **June 1, 2018** to take advantage of early-bird pricing. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

Summer Meal Site Location Help – * Updated *****

- So, I didn't give you a good, complete list of steps a couple of weeks ago – I have fixed it this week and now you can follow!!

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

Select “Food/Meals” Category

On the right side of the screen, select the “+” next to Food

Scroll to the bottom of the list to “Summer Food Service Programs” and select that

Now you have a great comprehensive list with contact information of summer meal providers near you!

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

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!!

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

Join the #GirlsAre Movement – * NEW *****

In honor of National Physical Fitness and Sports month, the National Farm to School Network has joined the Alliance for a Healthier Generation for #GirlsAre, a nationwide campaign to empower girls to celebrate their athleticism and get moving. Sign the #GirlsAre pledge today at girlsare.org and follow along on social media using the hashtag #GirlsAre through Friday, **June 1**.

NEW CDC Infant and Toddler Nutrition Website – * NEW *****

CDC Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity has released a website that brings together existing information and practical strategies on feeding infants and toddlers from birth to 24 months of age. Topics include breastfeeding, formula feeding, feeding from a bottle, essential vitamins and minerals, introduction of solid foods and beyond (including what foods and drinks to encourage and what to limit or avoid), knowing when your child is hungry, mealtime tips and routines. [View the website here](#).

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

Tuesday, June 5: Farmers Fresh Market's season opener, 3 - 6 pm at Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, K-Beach Road at Community College Drive, Soldotna.

Wednesday, June 6: Soldotna Wednesday Market's season opener, 11 am - 5 pm at Soldotna Creek Park.

Saturday, June 9: Soldotna Saturday Market's season opener, 10 am - 2 pm at Kenai Spur Highway and E. Corral St.

Saturday, June 9: Central Peninsula Garden Club Plant Sale, 10am - 2pm (or until sold out), at Peninsula Grace Church, 44175 Kalifornsky Beach Road, Soldotna.

Success Stories

Planting in Anchorage Schools for Donation During the Last Week of School



Planting is an exciting time of year and it happened to fall on the last week of school for both Huffman Elementary and West High School students. For the 15th consecutive year, Gail Hoefler has lead the potato planting at Huffman Elementary School – every student plants a potato in the springtime and then harvests them in the falltime to donate to Bean's Café (a location for food resources for homeless in Anchorage) where last year 1500lbs were harvested and donated!! Fourth grade students also got an opportunity to chat with the Alaska Director of the Division of Agriculture, Arthur Keyes about farming, education, and amazing Alaska Grown

carrots!! Thanks to Ms. Hoefler and all the volunteers at Huffman Elementary School provide such a great opportunity for the students!

West High School also planted last Thursday morning in the bright sunshine!! These 12 raised beds are planted and tended to by the IB (International Bachelorette) community service program. In years past the harvest was donated to Bean's Café but this year is going to the Food Bank of Alaska. The Food Bank had a lucky representative helping plant on Thursday and all the beds are now full and growing! Ms. Jenny Kimball is the West High teacher who coordinates all the gardening and is doing such an awesome job!! The students also planted tomato plants to live inside their greenhouse for use by the West High Life Skills class to help them learn how to harvest and cook with tomatoes once school starts back up in the falltime. Great work Ms. Kimball and all the garden tenders – I hope the weeding and watering go well!!

I was so happy to hang out with all these amazing people last week – thank you all for the invitations!! Keep up all the amazing things you do!!

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**