

## Alaska Farm to School listserv – Week 28: 9 - 13 Jul 2018



**National Picnic Month (take your lunch outside to celebrate)!!**  
**National Watermelon Month (good luck with this one)!**



**11<sup>th</sup> July is National Muffin Day (are they ready yet?)!!**  
**11<sup>th</sup> July is Cheer Up the Lonely Day (go on a picnic)!!**  
**14<sup>th</sup> July is Bastille Day (have a French-themed picnic)!**

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

## Grants & Funding Opportunities

### 1. GreenWorks! Grants

Project Learning Tree offers GreenWorks! grants of up to \$1,000 to schools and youth organizations for environmental service-learning projects that link classroom learning to the real world. Students implement an action project they help design to green their school or to improve an aspect of their neighborhood's environment. Applications are due **Sept. 30**. [Learn more here](#).

### 2. Eco Garden Systems Offering Discounted Elevated Gardens

Eco Gardens Systems is offering discounted elevated gardens to schools through its 501c3 program. [Learn more here](#). For questions or signup, contact Craig Espelien, President of Eco Garden Systems, at (612) 845-0064 or [cespelien@gmail.com](mailto:cespelien@gmail.com).

### 3. Request for Technical Assistance Proposals: Approaches to Reducing Consumption of Sugar

The Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC), with support from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, is launching a new initiative to identify locally-supported policies that will reduce sugar consumption and build capacity for policy change. FLPC is offering pro bono technical assistance to community organizations, food policy councils, and local and state government entities across the United States interested in implementing innovative sugar-reduction policies. A request for proposals application is open until **July 31, 2018**. [Learn more here](#).

### 4. Farm to ECE Funding Opportunity – Act Now to Leverage Funds in Your State

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](mailto:lacy@farmtoschool.org) or Soumya Bhat, Director of Early Childhood Equity Initiatives at the Policy Equity Group, [soumyab@policyequity.com](mailto:soumyab@policyequity.com).

### 5. CDC Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health Funding

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](#).

## **6. 2018 CACFP Meal Service Training Grants**

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](#).

## **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. 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](#).

## **9. 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](#).

## **10. 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](#).

## **11. 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](#).

## **12. 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**

## **New Farm to School Research Indicates Increase in Fruit & Vegetable Consumption – \*\*\* NEW \*\*\***

A new article in the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior, “A Plate Waste Evaluation of a *Farm to School Program*,” indicates that participation in a farm to school program increases students’ fruit and vegetable consumption. Students at participating schools consumed, on average, 0.061 (P = .002) more servings of vegetables and 0.055 (P = .05) more servings of fruit after implementation of the farm to school program. [Read more here.](#)

## **Helping Preschool Teachers and Child Care Providers Keep Children Active throughout the Day**

To address disparities in its obesity rates, the California Department of Public Health created the Early Care and Education Physical Activity Toolkit for Preschool-Aged Children. The toolkit provides practical tools for integrating physical activity throughout the day for young children ages 3 to 5 years old. Please follow this [link](#) to the entire article.

## **USDA Food and Nutrition Service Provides Tools to Support Safe Summer Meals**

Summer meal programs, including the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option within the NSLP, present the opportunity to help alleviate summertime food insecurity and positively impact children’s growth and development by offering nutritious meals and encouraging children to develop healthy habits at a young age. USDA, the Center for Food Safety in Child Nutrition Programs, and the Institute of Child Nutrition, will provide the [Summer Meals Food Safety Kit](#) to site operators as an essential tool to help ensure the safety of summer meals.

## **Alaska Farm to Summer Week Celebration!!**

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!!

## **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!!

## Growing/Gardening/Farming News

### **Interested in New Certificate Programs from Iowa State University?**

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is looking to Alaska for a potential location to host two certificate programs: Local Food Leader and Community Food Systems. There will be a two-day face-to-face/distance learning opportunity in early September as well as online learning modules. If you are interested, have questions, or would like more information, please contact Melissa Clampitt, UAF Cooperative Extension Service Program Assistant at 907.745.3551 or email her at [mrclampitt@alaska.edu](mailto:mrclampitt@alaska.edu)

### **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.

### **Alaska Farmers Markets are Up and Running!! – \*\*\* NEW \*\*\***

Alaska is filled with Farmers Markets across the state. Some run seasonally in the summertime, while others are featured year-round. Farmers markets are family-friendly, community-building events that bring neighbors together, attract retail activity to surrounding businesses, create forums for civic education and involvement and provide direct access to Alaska's agricultural bounty. There are two great resources available to you online to find a market closest to you or maybe in a location you are heading for a little vacation or for work: the Alaska Farmers Market Association Market Directory page <http://www.alaskafarmersmarkets.org/market-directory/> and the Alaska Division of Agriculture Farmers Market List <http://buyalaskagrown.com/buy/farmermarkets/>

### **Sitka Farmers Market Announces Market Dates**

From 10:00am – 1:00pm at the Alaska Native Brotherhood Founders Hall in Sitka on the following Saturdays: July 7, 21, August 4, 11, 25, September 1, and 15

The Sitka Farmers Market accepts Alaska Quest Cards (SNAP EBT benefits) and WIC vouchers; ask about matching dollars from White E grant. For more information call 738.9301 – or you can look up their website at [www.sitkalocalfoodsnetwork.org](http://www.sitkalocalfoodsnetwork.org)

## Success Stories

### **Knik Youth Helping Alaska Pacific University's Farm**

Over the past three weeks, Alaska Pacific University's Spring Creek Farm crew has grown from a mere three to a whopping nine people, and we couldn't be more grateful! The Knik Tribal Youth Training Program brought out tribal youth and their program manager to help us weed fields and harvest for our CSA, Tilth, and market customers. We especially appreciate their help cleaning scallions, picking radishes, and weeding pesky hemp nettle. Thank you so much!!!



Thanks for the great photos and article, Gavia!! It is great to see youth farming with APU!!

### **Gardens are happening!!!**

There are formal gardens, community gardens, school gardens, backyard/personal gardens, raised beds gardens, in-ground gardens, container gardens, high tunnel gardens, low tunnel gardens, greenhouse gardens, volunteer plants popping up from last year's garden gardens, carefully planned gardens, and YOUR GARDENS!! Let me know what you are up to this summer – send us fotos of your growing gardens!!

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 growing now let me know what you are up to and how you are celebrating summertime!!

**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**