

Vivian Stiver

From: DNR, Public Information Center Webmaster (DNR sponsored)
<dnr.media.pic@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 10:46 AM
Subject: DNR MEDIA RELEASE-DNR seeks applicants for Farm to School mini-grants
Attachments: 2012 Farm to School Mini-Grants.doc



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 29, 2012

CONTACT:
Division of Agriculture
Johanna Herron, Farm to School Program, 907-374-3714

DNR seeks applicants for Farm to School mini-grants

(Fairbanks, AK) - The Division of Agriculture is seeking applications for its annual Farm to School mini-grants starting on March 1.

The goal of the division's Farm to School (FTS) program is to encourage healthy eating and boost local agriculture sales by bringing Alaska Grown vegetables, fruit and other products into local schools. Mini-grants are available for school-based FTS projects that connect students, teachers, and school food service staff with products grown and produced in Alaska. The maximum grant per project is \$1,000.

To apply for a mini-grant, go to www.dnr.alaska.gov/ag and click on the "Grants" tab under the "Programs" header. Applications can also be e-mailed to johanna.herron@alaska.gov, or they can be mailed or faxed to the Division of Agriculture's Central or Northern Region office:

Central Region Office
1800 Glenn Hwy., Suite 12
Palmer, AK 99701
Fax: 907-745-7112

Northern Region Office
1648 S. Cushman St., Suite 201
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Fax: 907-328-1951

Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 23. If you have any questions, please contact Johanna Herron at 907-374-3714, or her e-mail address listed above, or Kristi Krueger at 907-761-3858 or kristi.krueger@alaska.gov. For more information about the Alaska Farm to School Program, go to http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_FTS.htm. Find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/AlaskaFarmToSchool

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STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

■ **CENTRAL OFFICE**

1800 GLENN HIGHWAY, SUITE 12
PALMER, ALASKA 99645-6736

PHONE: (907) 745-7200

FAX: (907) 745-7112

□ **NORTHERN REGION OFFICE**

1648 S. CUSHMAN ST., # 201
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-6206

PHONE: (907) 328-1950

FAX: (907) 328-1951

□ **PLANT MATERIALS CENTER**

5310 S. BODENBURG SPUR
PALMER, ALASKA 99645-9706

PHONE: (907) 745-4469

FAX: (907) 746-1568

2012 Alaska Farm to School Program Request for Proposals ~ Application Deadline April 23, 2012

To: Interested Alaska Farm to School Supporters

The Division of Agriculture is soliciting proposals for Farm to School (FTS) projects promoting activities that connect students, teachers, community, and the school food service with product grown or produced in Alaska.

The Division of Agriculture intends to award multiple contracts from this solicitation. Maximum state funds to be allocated per project are \$1,000.

The purpose of the FTS project is:

- To increase Alaska youth understanding about how food gets from its original form to the plate;
- To promote healthy food choices, and
- To encourage a preference for food grown and harvested in Alaska.

Requirements of the contract will include:

- Promotion of a Farm to School project or activity, not an individual business;
- Inclusion of a school food service professional (can be at the district level or school level). **At a minimum a letter of support from the food service professional is required, projects that demonstrate a coordinated effort with food service will be given priority;**
- Inclusion of an expert, specialist, or mentor in the community (i.e. cooperative extension services, FFA, 4-H, master gardener, Farmer, Chef, or other);
- A final report (simple reporting form will be provided), including required documentation and receipts.

Applicants should submit proposals using the proposal requirements listed in the application. The entire application package can be found on our web site www.dnr.alaska.gov/ag under the "Grants" tab.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the:

- Relative need for the proposed activity;
- Importance of the problem to be addressed;
- Benefits likely to be derived from the project in relation to the funds requested;
- Demonstrated support and collaboration of required expertise;
- Project evaluation methods and media plan; and
- Previous project performance

Proposals must be received at either the Central or Northern Region Division of Agriculture offices (see above addresses) by 5:00 pm on Monday, April 23, 2012.

"To responsibly develop Alaska's resources by making them available for maximum use and benefit consistent with the public interest."

Selected proposals will be announced and awarded no later than May 15, 2012. Project documentation and final report forms must be complete and submitted to the Northern Regional office of the Division by 5:00 pm on December 21, 2012. Projects received *after that time and date* will be considered late and influence evaluation points given on future proposals.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Johanna Herron at Johanna.herron@alaska.gov, 907-374-3714 or Kristi Krueger at Kristi.krueger@alaska.gov, 907-761-3858

Sincerely,

Johanna Herron
Farm to School Program Coordinator