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## **October is Farm to School month**

(Palmer, AK) – The Division of Agriculture Farm to School program is partnering with child nutrition programs to promote Farm to School activities and Local Lunch Day at schools across the state during the month of October.

The Farm to School program goals are improving child nutrition, educate children about the origins of food, and support local economies. Students gain access to healthy, local foods, participate in school gardening, receive cooking lessons and participate in farm field trips. Community relationships are enriched when schools purchase products from local and regional farmers. Farm to School programs have reached millions of students and expanded into all 50 states and Washington, D.C. during the last decade.

If you are a food service professional, food producer, teacher or a food-loving family, there are many ways to celebrate and get involved!

- Host an event that features a food producer, local chef or expert in the community and discuss with students and faculty about the importance of local food and the food system.
- Assign a class project to search the media for Farm to School related programs.
- Conduct a taste test with local products and see what is the most popular.
- Participate in Local Lunch Day at the school if one is offered.

To submit your community or school activities and a chance to win an Alaska Grown t-shirt, visit [https://www.research.net/s/LLDay\\_FTSmonth2014](https://www.research.net/s/LLDay_FTSmonth2014) or contact Johanna Herron using her contact information listed below.

**CONTACT:** Johanna Herron, 907-761-3870, [johanna.herron@alaska.gov](mailto:johanna.herron@alaska.gov).

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