

Executive Order 136

Establishing the Department of Agriculture

Senate Finance Committee



Presented by:
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Alaska Department of Natural Resources
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Alaska Agriculture: Status Report



- Robust Alaska agriculture is a long-held vision
- Hardy Alaskans are farming
 - 2022 national census: 1,173 Alaska farms and ranches produced about \$39.7 million in crop value and \$51.2 million in animal production
- So much more potential – with dedicated, focused, expert support
- Why grow agriculture?
 - Greater food security and independence for Alaskans
 - Further develop an important economic sector (jobs, value chain benefits)



Executive Order 136



- Establishes the Alaska Department of Agriculture
- Transitions in full the Division of Agriculture from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the new department
 - Statutory responsibilities, functions, do not change
- Provides transitionary measures for seamless reorganization
- Effective July 1, 2025



Vision



- Governor's overarching goal: increase focus on agriculture and food security with a dedicated department and leadership
- Focus will help develop a robust, durable state agricultural policy, including a strategic plan with an implementation roadmap
- Continuation of the Governor's budget and legislative policy actions following the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance food security in Alaska
- Aligns with top recommendations of task forces and stakeholders
- New department is first step to provide solid foundation for future growth

Improved results for Alaskans



- Robust, durable agriculture policy with implementation plan
- Stronger strategic alignment with stakeholder groups, Alaska agriculture entities
- More consistent, proactive interaction with federal partners
- Cabinet-level agriculture advocacy
- Opportunity for greater legislative focus and attention



Today's Department of Natural Resources

(\$ in thousands)



- 1,054 employees (767 PFT, 215 PPT, 72 NP) across seven divisions, two offices
- Led by commissioner supported by two deputies
- Statewide offices, programs and sites
- FY2025 Management Plan budget (all funds): \$173,399.3
- DNR returns \$21 to the state treasury for every UGF dollar appropriated

PFT: Permanent full-time NP: Non-permanent
PPT: Permanent part-time UGF: Unrestricted general fund



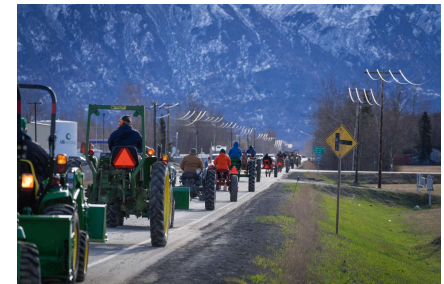
Today's Division of Agriculture



(\$ in thousands)

- Division director
- Programs separated into Agriculture Development and Plant Materials Center sections
- Employees: 37 total (32 PFT and 5 PPT)
- FY2025 Management Plan: \$7,176.2 all funds
- Headquarters in Palmer

PFT: Permanent full-time NP: Non-permanent
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Today's Division of Agriculture



- Inspections, certifications
- Farm, production loans through Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund
- Alaska Grown and other promotion (state, national, international)
- Agricultural land sales / leases support
- Administers federal grants to Alaskans
- Future Farmers of America
- Seed storage and production, varietal trials
- Seed cleaning services rendered
- Revegetation and erosion control consulting
- Industrial hemp regulation
- Invasive plant, pest management

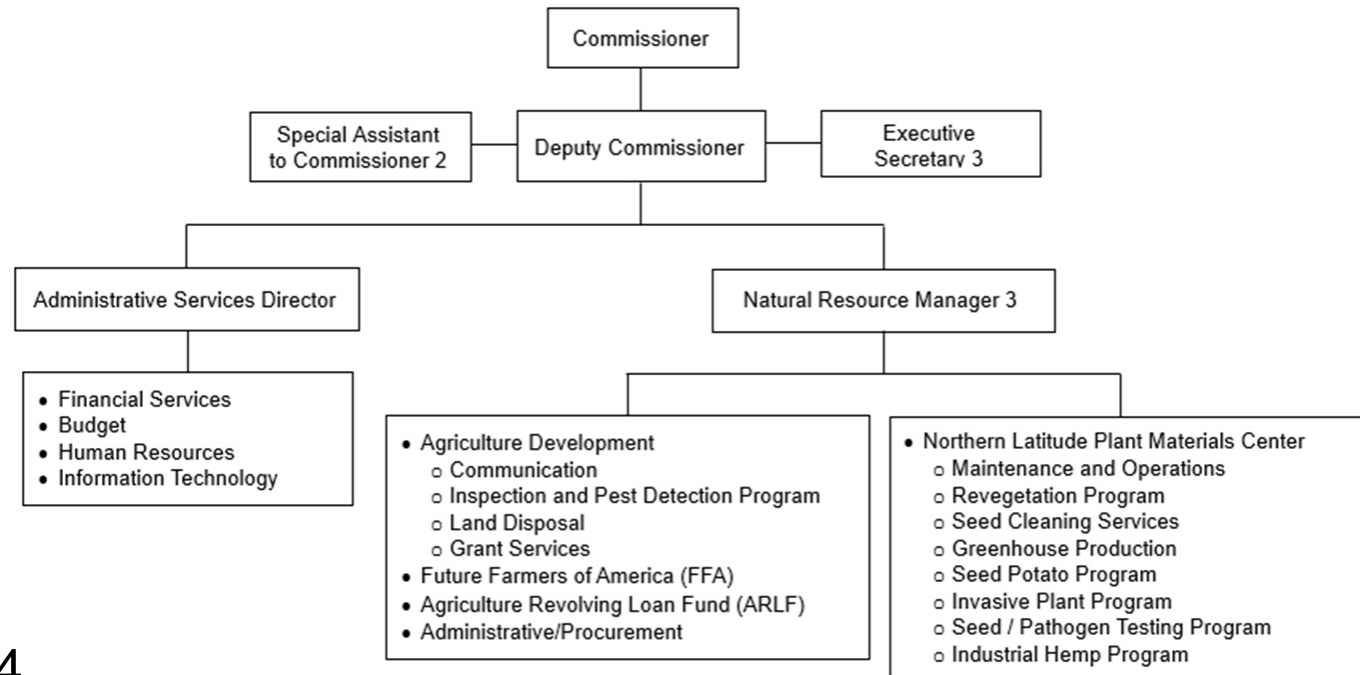


Tomorrow's Department of Agriculture

(\$ in thousands)



- Responsible but simple leadership, organizational structure
- Primed for build-out over time with increased programming, responsibilities
- Employees: 50 total (45 permanent full-time and five permanent part-time)
- FY2026 increment: \$2,734.4 unrestricted general fund
- Headquarters in Palmer or Anchorage



Department Structure



(\$ in thousands)

Department Structure – Total: \$2,103.5 unrestricted general fund

Allocation	Position	Range	Total Cost (Salary/Benefits)	Bargaining Unit
Commissioner's Office	Commissioner	0	\$286.1	XE
Commissioner's Office	Special Assistant to the Commissioner 2	23	\$180.2	XE
Commissioner's Office	Executive Secretary	16	\$121.7	XE
Administrative Services	Director	27	\$216.1	XE
Administrative Services	Accountant 5	22	\$179.1	SS
Administrative Services	Accountant 3	18	\$124.7	GP
Administrative Services	Accounting Technician 2	14	\$99.0	GP
Administrative Services	Administrative Operations Manager 1	22	\$179.1	SS
Administrative Services	Budget Analyst 2	19	\$132.2	GP
Administrative Services	Human Resource Consultant 3	19	\$144.3	KK
Information Technology Services	Data Processing Manager 2	23	\$189.9	SS
Information Technology Services	Analyst/Programmer 4	20	\$140.1	GP
Information Technology Services	Microcomputer/Network Technician 2	16	\$111.0	GP

Reclassifications



(\$ in thousands)

Three Reclassified Full-Time Positions – Total: \$54.2 unrestricted general fund

Allocation	Current Position	Current Position Cost (Salary/Benefits)	New Position	Total Cost (Salary/Benefits)	Difference	Bargaining Unit
Commissioner's Office	Director	\$237.2	Deputy Commissioner	\$244.6	\$7.4	XE
Agriculture	Administrative Officer 1	\$132.1	Administrative Officer 2	\$147.6	\$15.5	SS
Agriculture	Natural Resource Manager 2	\$199.5	Natural Resource Manager 3	\$230.8	\$31.3	SS

- Reclass existing Director to serve as Deputy Commissioner
- Reclass existing Administrative Officer 1 to Administrative Officer 2 to serve as the administrative lead within the unit
- Reclass existing Natural Resource Manager 2 to Natural Resource Manager 3 to serve as unit lead

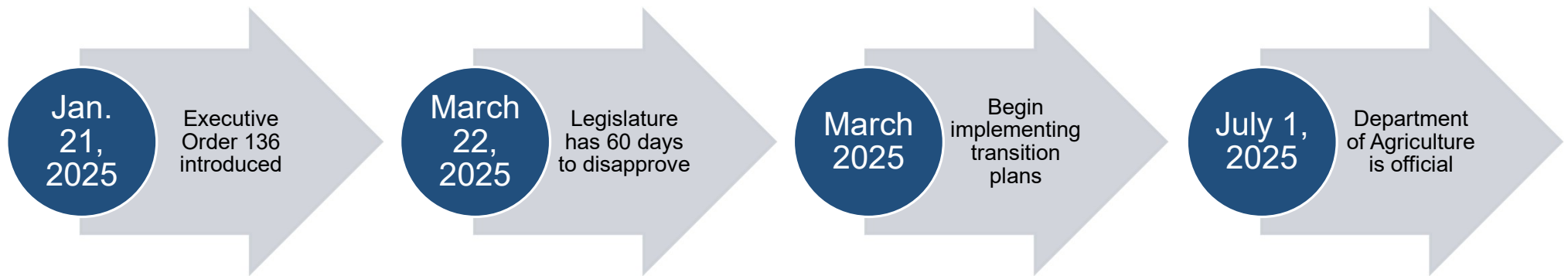
Costs Comparison

(\$ in thousands)



	DNR/Division of Agriculture FY2025 Management Plan	DNR/Division of Agriculture FY2026 Governor's Budget	Department of Agriculture FY2026 EO 136 Estimated Budget	Department of Agriculture FY2026 Total Estimated Budget
UGF	\$3,064.0	\$3,125.5	\$2,734.4	\$5,859.9
DGF	\$1,969.9	\$1,992.2	\$0.0	\$1,992.2
Other	\$329.4	\$330.4	\$0.0	\$330.4
Federal	\$1,812.9	\$1,817.9	\$2,200.0	\$4,017.9
Total	\$7,176.2	\$7,266.0	\$4,934.4	\$12,200.4
Full-Time Positions	32	32	13	45
Part-Time Positions	5	5	0	5
Total	37	37	13	50

Timeline



Transition work includes:



- Stakeholder engagement / education
- Employee town hall
- Prepare and submit documents for position reclassifications
- Post, hire and train new positions
- Governor appoints new commissioner
- Public-facing website updated and launched
- Update signage, public-facing access points on buildings
- Work with the Division of Finance on changes to Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS)
- Information Technology transitions
- Plan inter-departmental coordination with DNR / lands
- July 1, 2025 – Department of Agriculture is legal operating entity

Executive Order 136 – Sectional Analysis



Section	Pg	Provision
1	1	Uncodified law with Governor's findings in support of establishing a new department
2-21	2-8	Amendments to Title 3, Agriculture, Animals, and Food, effectuating the reorganization
22	8	Amendment to Title 9, Code of Civil Procedure, effectuating the reorganization
23	8	Amendment to Title 37, Public Finance, effectuating the reorganization
24-29	8-12	Amendments to Title 38, Public Land, effectuating the reorganization
30-36	13-15	Amendments to Title 41, Public Resources, effectuating the reorganization
37-40	15-17	Amendments to Title 44, State Government, effectuating the reorganization
41	17	Repeal of 3 statutes, effectuating the reorganization
42	17	Revisor's instructions to conform titles and catchlines
43	18	Transition measures to ensure division employees, board members, legal proceedings, contracts, regulations, records, equipment and so forth are carried forward to the new department
44	18	Sets a July 1, 2025, effective date

Thank You



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