



Year One Report Review **Recommendations** From Research to Implementation

Alaska Senate and House
• **Resources Committee Hearings** •
February 14, 2024

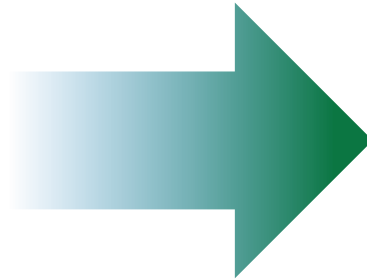


Today's Agenda

1. Report/recommendations
2. Items for legislative action
3. Invited testimony: from boots on the ground

Task Force Report Overview:

Operationalizing & Expanding Recommendations from the 2023 Governor's Food Security & Independence Task Force





"The AFSTF seeks to continue the good work of the previous Task Force and further clarify recommendations by examining and recommending **tangible solutions** which include suggested action steps and also identify responsible entities, potential timelines, legislative or regulatory changes required, funding needs, and data metrics. "

-AFSTF, 2023 Report

Task Force Report Overview



Legislative Intent (2023-2025)

- 1) Improve food security statewide
- 2) develop comprehensive food strategy
- 3) strengthen diverse food systems
- 4) grow local food economies across state



Task Force Report Overview



2023 Focus:

- 1) Sustainably growing agriculture industry
- 2) Sustainably growing markets for local products (grown, harvested & processed
- 3) Improving transportation and infrastructure to transfer and deliver food

2024 Focus:

- 4) Enhancing climate for food & beverage processing/distribution businesses
- 5) Minimizing food waste & diverting from waste stream
- 6) Improving connectivity, efficiencies, & outcomes in state-run programs
- 7) Ensuring food security in all communities on & off main road system



Task Force Members: EXECUTIVE BOARD



SHELLEY HUGHES - Chair

Alaska Senate

JESSE BJORKMAN

Alaska Senate

GEORGE RAUSCHER - Vice-Chair

Alaska House of Representatives

DONNA MEARS

Alaska House of Representatives

KELLI FOREMAN

Alaska Farm Bureau

TIKAAN GALBRAITH

Alaska Food Policy Council

MICHAEL JONES

UAA Institute of Social & Economic Research

EVIE WITTEN

Alaska Food Policy Council

BRANDON BREFCZYNSKI

Alaska Industrial Development & Export Authority

Task Force Members:



NICK MANGINI	<i>Kodiak Is. Sustainable Seaweed, SW AK Municipal Conference</i>	DAVID McCARTHY	<i>49th State Brewery/Northern Hospitality Group</i>
SCOTT MUGRAGE	<i>Alaska Farm Bureau</i>	NATALIE JANICKA	<i>Twisted Spruce Kitchen</i>
ERICA MOELLER	<i>The Roaming Root Cellar</i>	JQ DAVIS	<i>4-H</i>
CARA DURR	<i>Food Bank of Alaska</i>	KATIE CUEVA	<i>University of Alaska Anchorage</i>
ALYSSA RODRIGUES	<i>Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership</i>	JODIE ANDERSON	<i>UAF Inst. of Agriculture, Nat. Resources, & Extension</i>
KYLE HILL	<i>Alaska Commercial Company</i>	KITTY LaBOUNTY	<i>University of Alaska Southeast</i>
ANTHONY LINDOFF	<i>Central Council Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska</i>	JEN SCHMIDT	<i>University of Alaska Anchorage</i>
ARTHUR KEYES	<i>Glacier Valley Farm</i>	AMY PETIT	<i>Farm Services Agency</i>
BRYCE WRIGLEY	<i>Alaska Flour Company</i>	MELISSA HEUER	<i>Spork Consulting</i>

Task Force Members:



BRYAN SCORESBY	<i>Director of Division of Agriculture</i>
RICK GREEN	<i>Special Assistant, Dept. of Fish & Game</i>
HEIDI HEDBERG	<i>Commissioner, Dept. of Health</i>
GAVIN NORTHEY	<i>Child Nutrition Progs., Dept. of Ed. & Early Dev.</i>
KATHERINE KEITH	<i>Dep. Commissioner, Dept. of Transp. & Pub. Facilities</i>
GREG SMITH	<i>Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, Dept. of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development</i>

Task Force Support:



AMY SEITZ	<i>Alaska Farm Bureau</i>
ROBBI MIXON	<i>Alaska Food Policy Council</i>
LUNIA ORIOL	<i>Alaska Food Policy Council Grad Intern U of Mich</i>
VANESSA COLLIER	<i>UAA Institute of Social & Economic Research</i>
ANNELIESE ROBERTS	<i>Senator Hughes</i>
STEPHEN KNOUSE	<i>Senator Hughes</i>
LAURA ACHEE	<i>Senator Bjorkman</i>

CRAIG VALDEZ	<i>Representative Rauscher</i>
RYAN McKEE	<i>Representative Raucher</i>
COREY ALT	<i>Representative Mears</i>
ELLEN MALONEY	<i>David McCarthy</i>
KIM GRIFFITH	<i>Department of Transportation</i>
COURTNEY ENRIGHT	<i>Department of Health</i>
RACHEL LORD	<i>Alaska Food Policy Council</i>

Task Force Report Overview



Growing the Agriculture Industry

- 1) Establish an Alaska Department of Agriculture
- 2) Expand Leases on State-Owned Land
- 3) Increase State Research Capacity
- 4) Improve Producers' Access to Capital
- 5) Expand Tax Exemptions for Farmland



Task Force Report Overview

Growing Markets for Local Products

- 1) Establish an Alaska Grown Marketing Institute
- 2) Re-establish Alaska Meat Inspection Service
- 3) Add Technical Assistance Officer Position
- 4) Request grocery stores track Alaska Grown products
- 5) Expand Agriculture Revolving Loan Fund



Task Force Report Overview



Improving Transportation and Infrastructure

- 1) Improve Maritime and Aviation Infrastructure
- 2) Decrease Rural Hub Food Loss: Climate-Controlled Storage
- 3) Increase Bypass Mail Operations
- 4) Improve Data Collection and Analysis
- 5) Invest in Research and Innovative Technologies
- 6) Create Supply Chain Coordination Council
- 7) Increase Storage: Food Banks and Disaster Preparedness
- 8) Extend Rail: Northern, Pt. MacKenzie, A2A



Task Force Report Overview



Data and Measuring Impact

- Demystifying the “95%” Statistic
- Need for Robust Food Systems Data
- Approaching Food Security using a Systems-Based Approach





Time to cultivate and plant...

**Seed choices
for the Legislature!**



Within Legislature's Domain



Growing the Agriculture Industry

- 1) Establish an Alaska Department of Agriculture ✓
- 2) Expand Leases on State-Owned Land ✓
- 3) Increase State Research Capacity ✓
- 4) Improve Producers' Access to Capital ✓
- 5) Expand Tax Exemptions for Farmland ✓



Within Legislature's Domain

Growing Markets for Local Products

- 1) Establish an Alaska Grown Marketing Institute ✓
- 2) Re-establish Alaska Meat Inspection Service
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Within Legislature's Domain



Improving Transportation and Infrastructure

- 1) Improve Maritime and Aviation Infrastructure ✓
- 2) Decrease Rural Hub Food Loss: Climate-Controlled Storage ✓
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Proposals on the Docket

SB 161 Farm Structures Tax Rate



Lowers farm structure tax rate to farmland rate.

Eligibility: IRS Schedule F.

- ✓ Improve producers' access to capital
- ✓ Expand tax exemptions
- ✓ Increase storage capacity
- Opens doors for new entrants to Ag industry
 - Extends season Ag products available
 - More Ag production = more local food products



Proposals on the Docket

SB 251 Cottage Food Industry/Meat Shares



**Raises cap for and expands cottage food industry.
Allows purchase of meat shares.**

- ✓ Improve producers' access to capital
- ✓ Increase storage capacity
- Opens doors for new entrants to Ag industry
 - Extends season Ag products available
 - More Ag production = more local food products



Proposals on the Docket

HB 282/SB 199 State Lands



Allows non-Ag uses (e.g., a B&B) to support Ag development on Ag land

- ✓ Expand leases on State Land
- ✓ Improve producers' access to capital
- Opens doors for new entrants to Ag industry
More Ag production = more local food products



Proposals on the Docket

HB 296/SB 211 CROP Act



- Reduces Board of Ag quorum
- Raises ARLF caps
- Adds shipping to ARLF
- Allows ARLF refinancing
- Staggers crop insurance payments
- Suspends public entities' Ag and fisheries procurement caps 5 years.



Proposals on the Docket

HB 296/SB 211 CROP Act – CONT.



- ✓ Improve producers' access to capital
- ✓ Expand Agriculture Revolving Loan Fund
- ✓ Grow Ag Industry
 - Expand leases on state land
- ✓ Grow Markets
 - Increase meat inspection/processing capacity
 - Invest in innovative technology
- ✓ Improve transportation/Infrastructure
 - Increase storage capacity
 - Invest in logistics research



Proposals on the Docket

HB 296/SB 211 CROP Act – CONT.



- Incentivizes more investment
- Increases farmable acres
- Opens doors for new entrants to Ag industry
- Opens doors to new markets
- Increases reliable market
- More Ag production = more local food products



7 of 18 Recommendations ~Still Need Champions~



Legislation and/or Operating Budget

- 1) Establish an Alaska Department of Agriculture
- 2) Increase State Research Capacity
- 3) Establish an Alaska Grown Marketing Institute
- 4) Create Supply Chain Coordination Council

Capital Budget

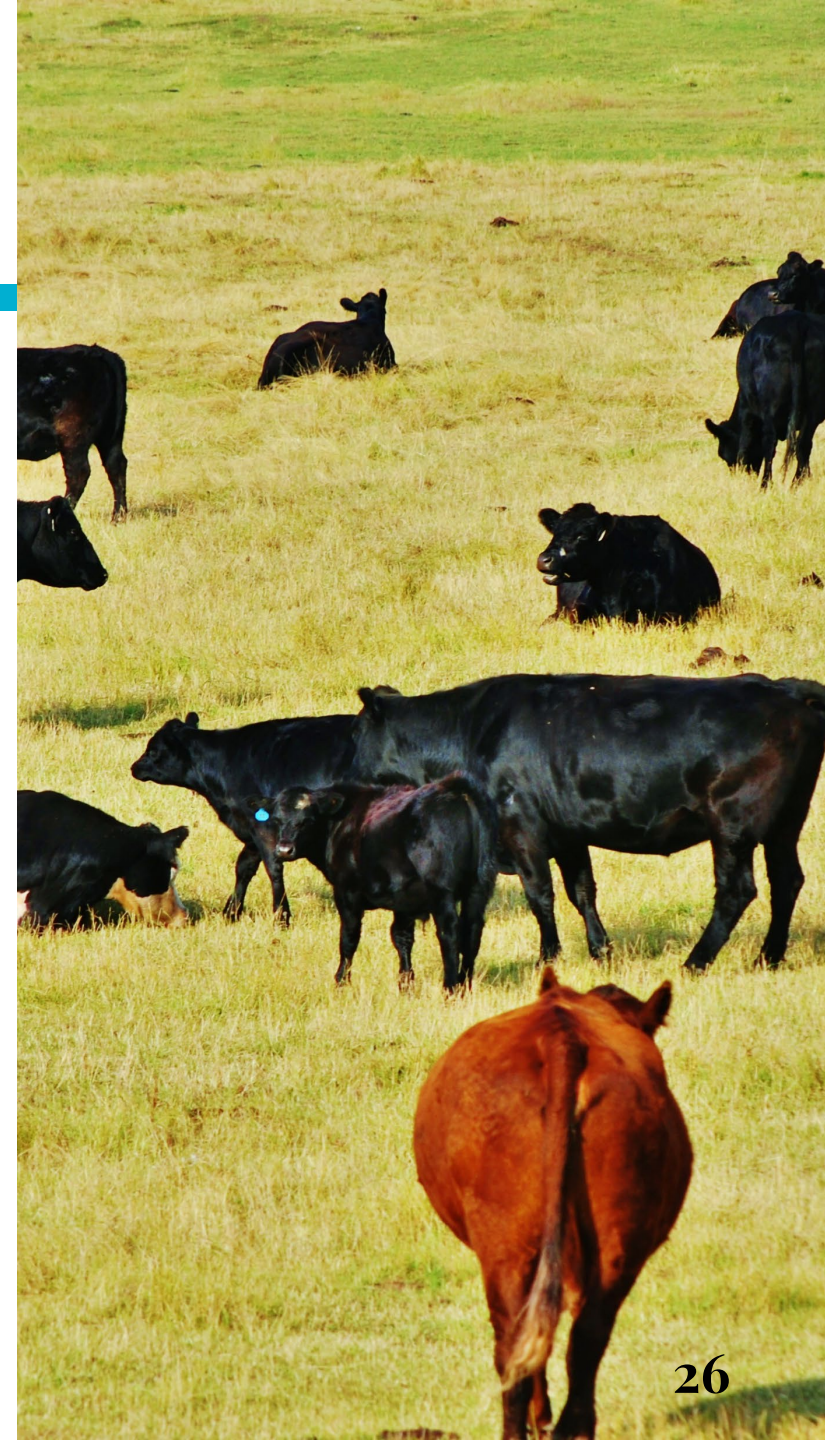
- 5) Improve Maritime & Aviation Infrastructure
- 6) Decrease Rural Hub Food Loss: Climate-Controlled Storage
- 7) Extend Rail: Northern, Pt. MacKenzie, A2A



Other Recommendations Collected Post-Report



- 1) Change workers comp requirement for Ag producers from 11 to 50 workers
- 2) Allow hemp as feed for livestock
- 3) Establish farm vehicle registration at lower cost than commercial vehicle registration



Time to Plant



**The seeds are in your hands...
and the soil is rich and ready!**

Tremendous public support

Task Force (36 members)

Food & Farm Caucus (28 members)

Boots on the ground



Testimony from boots on the ground



& Your Questions

Alaska Food Strategy Task Force

Contact Chair for more information.

Office of Senator Shelley Hughes 907-465-3743



