



Year One Report Review Recommendations

From Research to Implementation

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

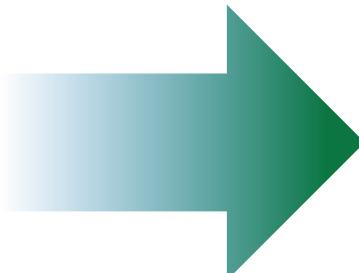


Today's Agenda

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	<i>Alaska Senate</i>
JESSE BJORKMAN	<i>Alaska Senate</i>
GEORGE RAUSCHER - Vice-Chair	<i>Alaska House of Representatives</i>
DONNA MEARS	<i>Alaska House of Representatives</i>
KELLI FOREMAN	<i>Alaska Farm Bureau</i>
TIKAAN GALBRAITH	<i>Alaska Food Policy Council</i>
MICHAEL JONES	<i>UAA Institute of Social & Economic Research</i>
EVIE WITTEN	<i>Alaska Food Policy Council</i>
BRANDON BREFCZYNSKI	<i>Alaska Industrial Development & Export Authority</i>

Task Force Members:



NICK MANGINI	<i>Kodiak Is. Sustainable Seaweed, SWAK 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

Director of Division of Agriculture

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Special Assistant, Dept. of Fish & Game

HEIDI HEDBERG

Commissioner, Dept. of Health

GAVIN NORTHEY

Child Nutrition Progs., Dept. of Ed. & Early Dev.

KATHERINE KEITH

Dep. Commissioner, Dept. of Transp. & Pub. Facilities

GREG SMITH

Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, Dept. of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development

Task Force Support:



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Alaska Farm Bureau

ROBBI MIXON

Alaska Food Policy Council

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Senator Hughes

LAURA ACHEE

Senator Bjorkman

CRAIG VALDEZ

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RYAN McKEE

Representative Raucher

COREY ALT

Representative Mears

ELLEN MALONEY

David McCarthy

KIM GRIFFITH

Department of Transportation

COURTNEY ENRIGHT

Department of Health

RACHEL LORD

Alaska Food Policy Council

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

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- 2) Re-establish Alaska Meat Inspection Service
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- 4) Request grocery stores track Alaska Grown products
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Within Legislature's Domain

Improving Transportation and Infrastructure

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- 2) Decrease Rural Hub Food Loss: Climate-Controlled Storage ✓
- 3) Increase Bypass Mail Operations
- 4) Improve Data Collection and Analysis
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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

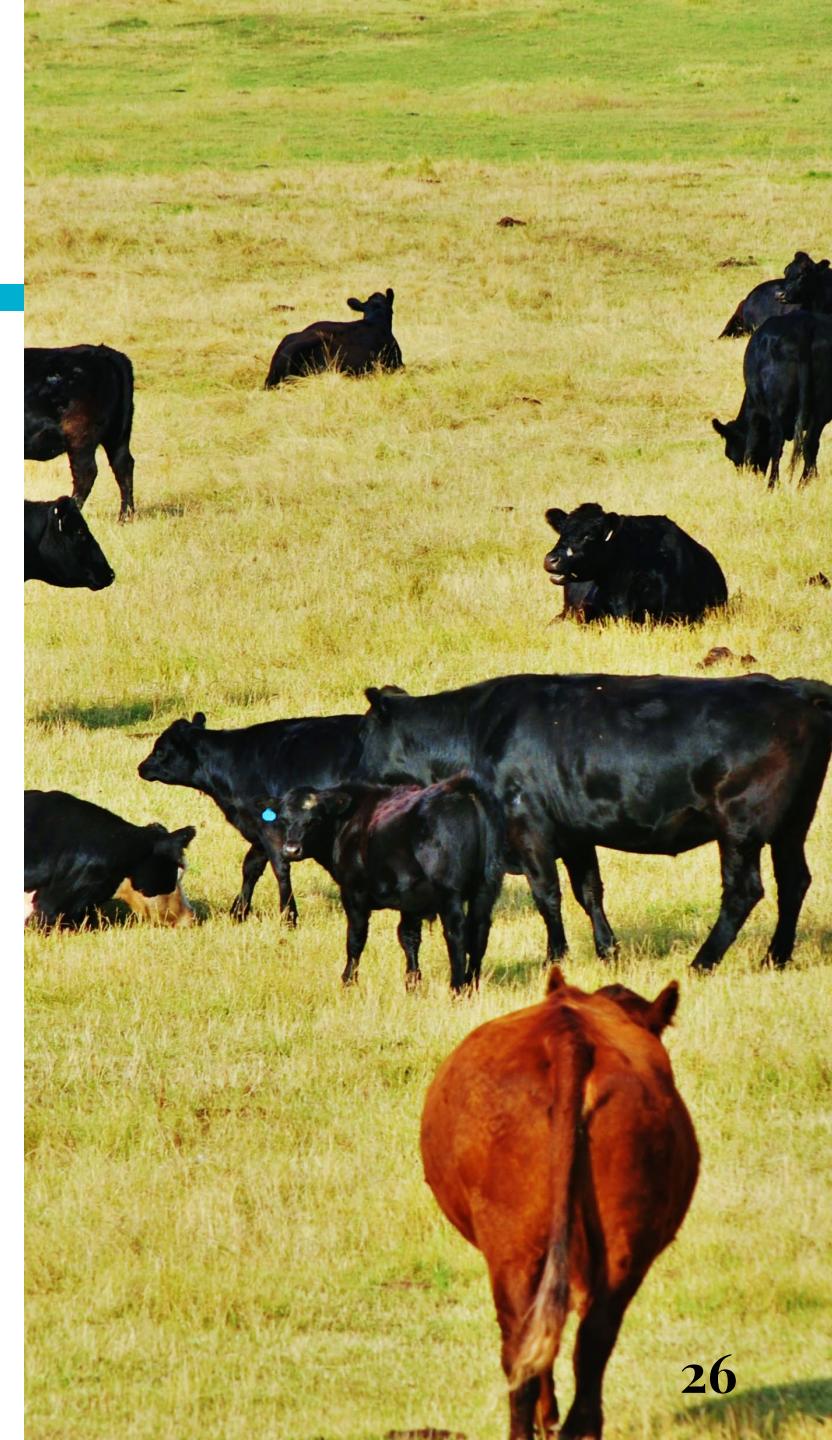
- 5) Improve Maritime & Aviation Infrastructure
- 6) Decrease Rural Hub Food Loss: Climate-Controlled Storage
- 7) Extend Rail: Northern, Pt. MacKenzie, A2A



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



