



Alaska Agriculture

Presentation by Director Arthur Keyes
Division of Agriculture

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
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What is on the Agenda

1. Developing Alaska's Livestock Industry
2. Alaska's Food Security
3. How you can help support Alaska's Agriculture Industry



From the Farmer





Alaska's Livestock Industry

- USDA estimate's Alaskans consume nearly 156 million pounds of beef, pork, and chicken annually (2017, Economic Research Service, USDA).
- In Alaska, it is estimated that we annually produce roughly 2.5 million pounds of meat.

Poultry

(2012 Ag Census Data)



- 2,044 Broilers Sold (meat-chickens)
- 425 Turkeys Sold

Beef

(2016 USDA Ag Statistics)



1.75 million pounds sold in 2016

Pork

(2016 USDA Ag Statistics)



744,000 pounds sold in 2016

Dairy

(2016 USDA Ag Statistics)

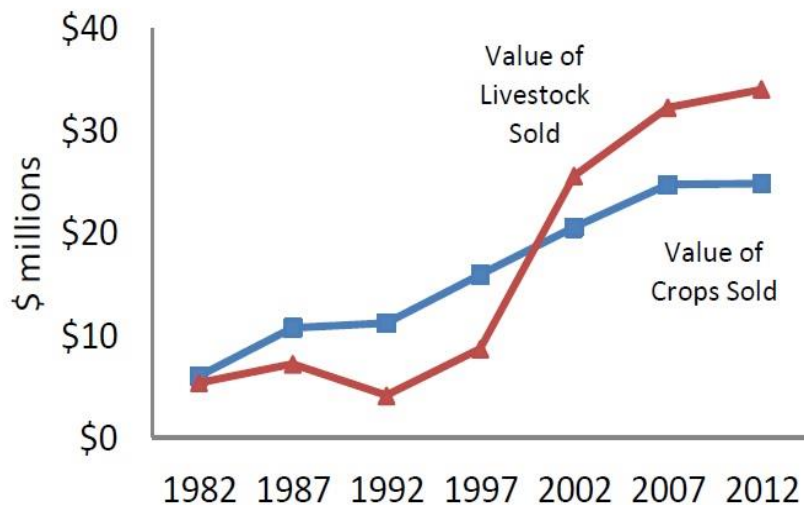


- As of 2017, only 1 licensed dairy in the State of Alaska.
- 3.5 million pounds of milk production in 2016

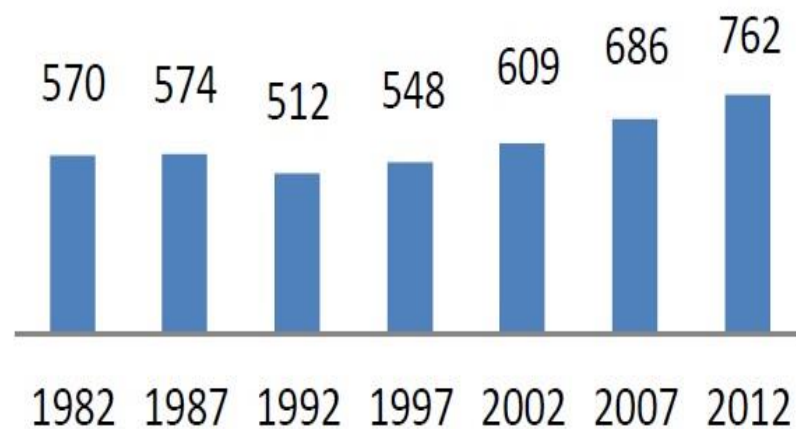


Agriculture Trends In Alaska

**Value of Alaska Crop & Livestock Sales,
1982 - 2012**



**Number of Alaska Farms,
1982 - 2012**





Development of Livestock Industry



- Since 1981, there have been no positions in the Alaska Division of Agriculture with the expertise necessary and solely committed to developing the livestock.
- Existing programs that serve various aspects of the agriculture industry include:
 - Land sales,
 - Loan and grant programs,
 - Farmer's Market,
 - Retail Access,
 - Farm to School,
 - Applied Sciences and Research,
 - Export and Trade Development,
 - Alaska Grown Program, and more...



Positions and Funding

The Livestock Program will be comprised of two positions and \$243.0 in funding (127.0 UGF, 75.0 ARLF, 41.0 FED).

The Governor's FY2019 proposed budget funds the positions entirely from existing money within the division.



- Reclassify existing vacant position to the Agriculture Veterinarian position.
- Transfer \$40.7 FED and \$61.1 UGF, and one permanent full-time position from the North Latitude Plant Material Center component.
- Transfer \$75.0 Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF) from the ARLF component.



Position Details

Division of Agriculture Veterinarian

- Help farmers develop herd health, and biosecurity.
- Provide education to farmers on breeding and caring for livestock in Alaska.
- Train individuals and organizations in the development of poultry raising, breeding, and processing operations, in addition to pork, beef, and lamb.
- Evaluate nutrition composition of livestock feed sources grown in Alaska and address issues of access to feed, availability and quality.

Development Specialist

- Assist Agriculture Veterinarian with creation of training materials and coordinating outreach and education opportunities.
- Assist livestock industry with evaluation of cost production and resource development, track market prices and trends, identify distribution and retail sources.
- Collaborate with livestock agricultural agents such as 4-H, cooperative extensions, and universities to support livestock producers in Alaska through research and science-based activities.



Livestock Industry Production Goals

- Increase in-state livestock production from less than 2% to 5% by 2020.
- Increase in-state livestock production to 10% by 2023
- Increase in-state livestock production to 18% by 2028





Food Security – 3 Areas of Focus



1) **Food Availability** – production, distribution and exchange.

2) **Food Access** – affordability, allocation and preference.



3) **Food Utilization** – nutritional, social and safety value of food. Does the food provide consumers with necessary nutrients?



Food Security – Availability



- Only an estimated 5 to 10% of Alaska's food comes from in-state agriculture (2015, Alaska Food Policy Council).
- Use of hydroponic systems has increased to provide year-round fresh greens in places like Anchorage, Juneau, Dillingham, St. Paul and Kotzebue.
- Communities all around the state are adding high tunnels which extends our short growing season.
- Currently more than 40 Farmer's Markets statewide including rural areas of Alaska (up from 13 Farmer's Markets in 2005).



Food Security – Access

- Estimated that 14% of family income is spent on food in Alaska compared to national average of 10%.
- Meals in Alaska for a family of four can cost 2.5 times as much compared to Lower 48.
- Alaskans spend an estimated \$2.5 billion on food each year at grocery stores and restaurants.
- Division of Agriculture focuses on retail relationships to enhance market access and promotion of Alaska Grown Foods.





Food Security – Utilization



- Number of adults and high school students in Alaska meeting recommended consumption of Fruits and Vegetables is roughly 10%.
- Alaska adult obesity rate 31.4% and 18% of students are overweight.
 - Alaska Farm to School Program – connects schools/districts with local food sources.
 - 2017 Anchorage SD added Alaska Grown potatoes to school menu, found local grown potatoes to be cheaper than dehydrated potato flakes.
 - Southwest grant project to develop farm to school opportunities in Bristol Bay Region.
 - 2013 Fairbanks SD began using local cabbage and barley flour.
 - Mat-Su SD has served local fish and barley products in meals for several years.



How You Can Get Involved?



Alaska Grown \$5 Challenge

- Retailer driven challenge to get Alaskans to spend \$5 weekly on Alaska Grown products at their local grocery retailers.
- Partnership with retailers to promote Alaska Grown products in their stores with unique displays.
- Had more than 40 stores participate in first year.
- Great success, some producers expanding production by up to 20% to meet grocery store demand this year.