



Alaska Agriculture

Presentation by Director Arthur Keyes
Division of Agriculture

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
February 14, 2018





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

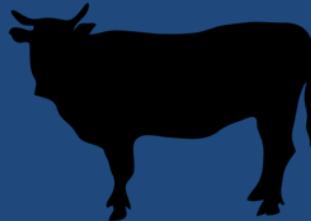
- USDA estimate's Alaskans consume nearly 156 million pounds of beef, pork, and chicken annually (2017, Economic Research Service, USDA).
- In Alaska, it is estimated that we annually produce roughly 2.5 million pounds of meat.

Poultry (2012 Ag Census Data)



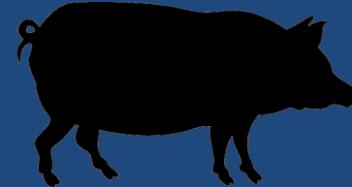
- 2,044 Broilers Sold (meat-chickens)
- 425 Turkeys Sold

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)

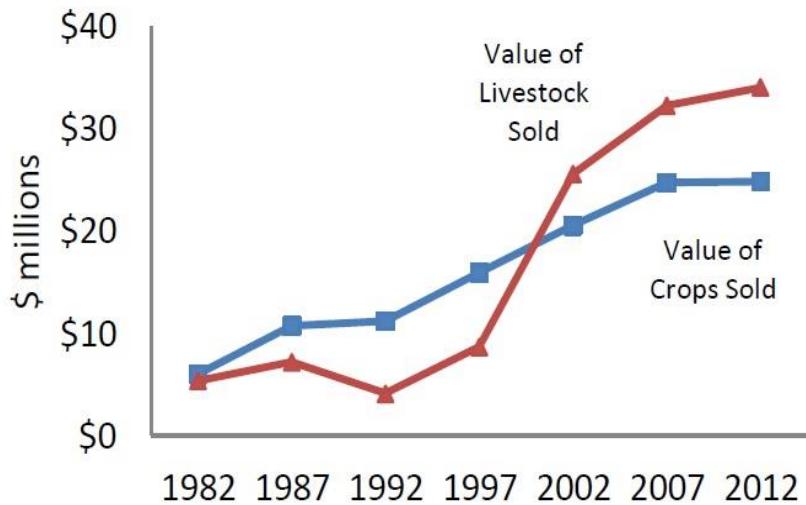


- As of 2017, only 1 licensed dairy in the State of Alaska.
- 3.5 million pounds of milk production in 2016

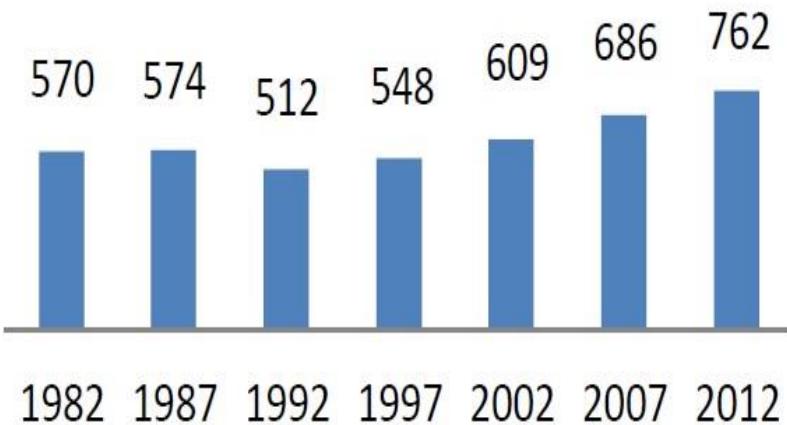


Agriculture Trends In Alaska

**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.

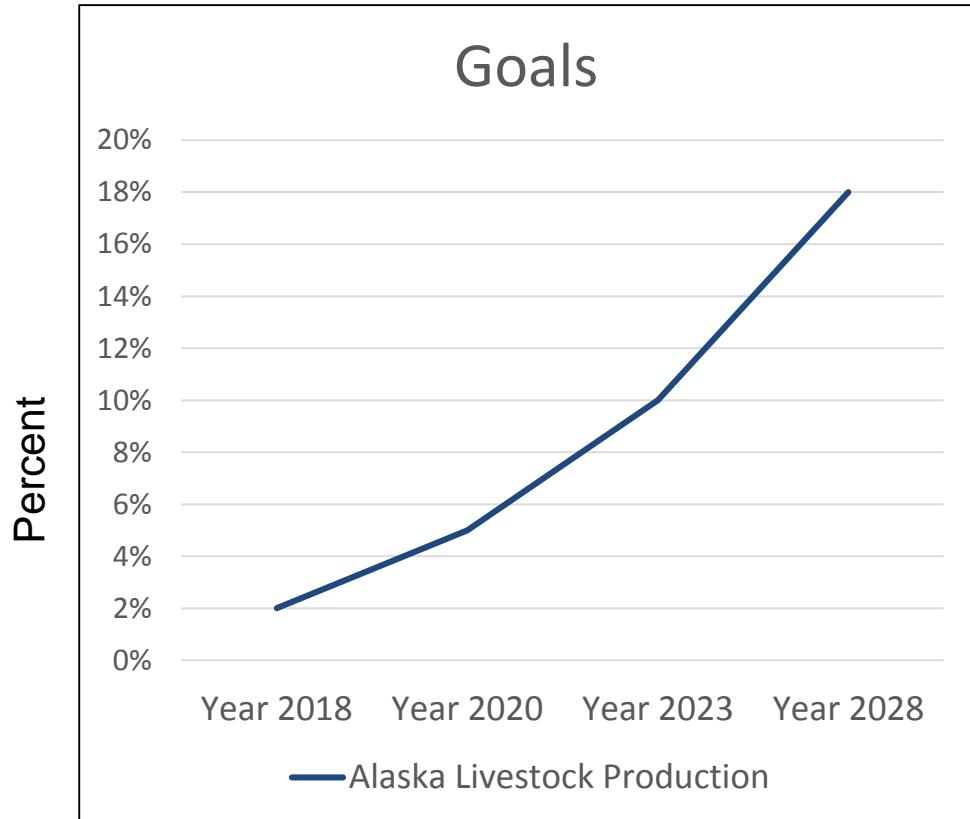
Development Specialist

- 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.