



# AFSTF

**ALASKA FOOD STRATEGY TASK FORCE**

*presenting a white paper on a topic of importance to Alaskans*

**The Lack of Food Security in Alaska: Tackling It Head-on**

## **WHY A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE MAKES SENSE FOR ALASKA**



# INTRODUCTION

Alaska relies heavily on imported goods, especially agricultural products. This leaves Alaskans vulnerable to any disruptions in the supply chain and weather events impacting production in the Lower 48 and around the world. In addition, per capita annual spending of \$4805<sup>1</sup> in Alaska for food and beverages consumed at home points to \$3 billion of Alaskans' dollars each year supporting agriculture production and food processing outside our state. Presently, only a small portion of the food Alaskans purchase and consume is produced in the state<sup>2</sup>.

According to the USDA NASS 2017 Census of Agriculture, Alaska's agriculture industry is indeed growing in both the number of farms and the market value of products sold, but it is still a relatively small industry that lacks infrastructure and support compared to that of other states. Alaska, at 365 million acres, has the potential for more farmable acres than any other state.<sup>3</sup> Many of these acres are untouched, off-grid and/or off the road system and will require infrastructure and investment to get them into production. The creation of an Alaska Department of Agriculture would provide essential support necessary for expanding acreage for crops and livestock to build a stronger and more significant agriculture industry over time.

The cold climate and short growing season in Alaska are limiting but with the help of a Department of Agriculture opening up more acreage, we can increase the amount of locally grown food. In addition, increasing production will be possible due to the gradual lengthening of our growing season along with slightly rising temperatures. In the long-term, changes in soil development will also occur due to permafrost thaw which will result in more available acreage and agricultural yield.

With these changes and the guidance and resources of a Department of Agriculture, Alaskan farmers will be able to expand their production of crops such as soybeans, corn, cucumbers, and tomatoes, alongside more cold-hardy crops. The state's vulnerability to supply chain breakdowns could be decreased by a larger yield of fresh, locally grown, nutritious food paired with a more localized food system.

If we wish to truly prioritize local food production and processing, increase food security for Alaskans, and diversify and strengthen our economy via a more robust agriculture sector as well as mariculture and forestry sectors, establishing a department focused on these endeavors is a necessary and important next step.

This paper will make the case that a Department of Agriculture (DOAg), as opposed to a Division of Agriculture under the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), will better allow an increase in the private sector agriculture industry, the growth of food production, and the reduction of food dependence on the Lower 48 and other countries.

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1 US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Consumer Spending by State, Category: food and beverages for off-premises consumption* <https://www.bea.gov/data/consumer-spending/state>. July 2022 data adjusted for December 2023 using CPI Inflation Calculator at US Bureau of Labor Statistics [https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation\\_calculator.htm](https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm).

2 Estimates of 3-5% have been used in speeches and by the media but there is no known back-up data or source for these estimates.

3 Alaska Department of Natural Resources, *Division of Forestry Land Ownership Map*



# WHY A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS NEXT STEP TO INCREASE FOOD SECURITY

## REASON #1: CONSOLIDATION OF EFFICIENCIES TO BETTER SERVE INDUSTRY

Currently, the Division of Agriculture falls under the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, (DNR) but authorities that govern aspects of food and farming are spread over multiple departments, making the route to increase food production more difficult for Alaskans and the private sector to navigate. At present, in addition to the Division of Agriculture at DNR, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game all have pieces relating to food production and agriculture. Housing food and agriculture-related agencies under one department, a new Department of Agriculture (DOAg), will better coordinate and streamline government (more bang for the public's buck), eliminate duplicity of effort and any inadvertent, opposing efforts, and result in more efficient and appropriately designed services and increased access to those services by farmers, ranchers, and others in the food industry.

## REASON #2: CONSISTENT CABINET-LEVEL AND LEGISLATIVE FOCUS

Although various DNR Commissioners, Governors, and the Alaska State Legislature have voiced support over the years for Alaska's food producers, government efforts in past decades to advance agriculture have been fleeting and impeded by bureaucrats' lack of reliance on input by those on the ground (food producers, farmers, ranchers ) and by inadequate research, resources, and follow-through due to, very importantly, lack of consistent cabinet-level and legislative focus and prioritization. As a result, programs like the Delta Barley Project are seen as failures with the blame placed either on food producers' performance or on predisposed and inaccurate assumptions such as "agriculture can't ever be a viable industry in Alaska".

Due to the limited, short-term, and sporadic state prioritization placed on developing Alaska's agriculture industry, there has been unacceptably slow growth in local production and simultaneously unacceptably high growth in dependence on imported foods.

Future agriculture industry growth will occur, however, if we have a department assigned to and working with the industry, devoted to it day in and day out for the long term: a department with vision and clarity of purpose directed by the legislature and led by a commissioner at the governor's cabinet table. This structure will ensure services are tailored to Alaska's unique characteristics and mechanisms are in place to regularly incorporate recommendations from industry to grow agriculture and food production in Alaska.

### *Executive Branch*

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Currently, the Alaska Division of Agriculture is part of the DNR. The Commissioner is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor upon confirmation of the legislature. The Commissioner selects the Alaska Division of Agriculture Director from a list of two or more candidates submitted by the Board of Agriculture and Conservation.

Each Commissioner of each Department has a seat at the Governor’s cabinet table where they pitch and determine Alaska’s priorities and strategies to bring them to fruition. Creating a DOAg would give the DOAg Commissioner a seat at that table which would elevate agriculture and food security issues, consequently elevating potential policies that would remove barriers and grow the agriculture and food production industry.

Since agricultural issues are housed within DNR, they compete with other resources under DNR’s umbrella that are larger and provide significant revenue to the state, namely oil, gas, and mining resources. Although DNR Commissioners have occasionally brought farm-related issues to the cabinet table, their primary focus has been on those revenue-producing industries. A DOAg Commissioner would eliminate this competition between agriculture and oil and gas.

A DOAg Commissioner would be advantageous when it comes to funding priorities related to agriculture and food production. Department Commissioners participate more directly in the legislative budget process than the Division Director and staff. A Department Commissioner is more likely to secure funding for department priorities than a Director of a Division is for division priorities.

### ***Legislative Branch***

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Each Department within the executive branch is associated with a specific legislative committee. Alaska’s agriculture and many food security issues are assigned to the Resources Committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate due to their oversight and jurisdiction of DNR, DEC, and DF&G<sup>4</sup>. However, the primary focus of each Department (with few exceptions) receives the most attention from the designated legislative committee.

As mentioned in the previous section, oil, gas, and mining resources provide substantial revenue to the State and are managed by DNR. Therefore, the Resources Committees spend a larger portion of their time and focus on those industries in a typical year, while agriculture and food security issues receive less attention and prioritization.

If Alaska formed a DOAg, the oversight of that department would be assigned to a specific committee’s jurisdiction; that committee, in turn, would be responsible to hold hearings on issues and bills relating to that department. This would increase the focus of the legislature and time spent addressing and resolving agriculture and food security issues.

In the legislative budgeting process, each department is assigned to a fiscal subcommittee of the House and Senate Finance Committees. Decisions regarding the budget for agriculture are made by the fiscal subcommittee assigned to the DNR. However, most subcommittee hearing time, attention and work are dedicated to the divisions within the DNR that pertain to the revenue-producing resources (oil, gas, and mining), leaving little focus on agriculture and food production. The establishment of a DOAg would likely result in a fiscal subcommittee dedicated to a budget for the DOAg, which in turn would result in a budget specific to the funding needs to meet the goals and achieve the priorities of the DOAg.

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<sup>2</sup> Acronyms: DNR - Department of Natural Resources; DEC - Department of Environmental Conservation; DF&G - Department of Fish and Game.

## REASON #3: UNTAPPED BUT DEFINITIVE ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Approximately \$3 billion from Alaskans' pockets is spent on food purchased outside our state, strengthening economies elsewhere. The most recently available USDA Census of Agriculture data shows distinctions in trends between Alaskan and broader US agriculture. From 2007 - 2017, the number of Alaskan farms increased by 44.3% and total farmland decreased slightly by 3.6%. As the average farm size in Alaska has declined by 33.2%, this indicates the vast majority of these new farms are smaller operations. Of significance is the fact that over the same time period, the number of US farms decreased by 7.4% (in sharp contrast to Alaska's number which grew by 44.3%) and total farmland decreased slightly by 2.4% (similar to Alaska's decrease of 3.6%). Alaska needs expertise and added capacity to assist Alaska's new and existing farms, both the larger scale operations as well as these smaller acreage farms. A DOAg would build that capacity and provide that expertise to help grow and strengthen Alaska's agriculture industry and food systems; greater investment and new jobs in this sector would translate into a more diversified Alaska's economy<sup>5</sup>.

Unlike some sectors that rely on economic ups and downs, the availability of discretionary dollars, trends, needs, wants - in other words - the demand for their products or services by segments of the total sum of consumers at particular points in time, the agriculture industry has a distinct advantage. *All* consumers need agricultural products *every* day their *entire* lives. A department supporting an industry that has a sure market year in and year out would have a solid foundation of steady demand.

### *In Alaska*

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A DOAg supporting the growth of agriculture and food production across all areas of the State, both on the road and ferry systems and in remote regions, would extend to associated industries. A DOAg, hand-in-hand with more ag production, would give reason and justification for the expansion and improvement of infrastructure, whether for transport, energy, processing and manufacturing, construction, marketing or finance. Not only would food security in Alaska increase, but in-state job opportunities, direct and indirect, would increase. Households would experience new income resulting in a better standard of living and fewer Alaskans who are under the poverty level relying on government subsidies.

### *Beyond Alaska*

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A DOAg would not only expand food security and locally grown food consumption in Alaska but it would also create opportunities for domestic and international exports that would benefit Alaskans. With an established transportation network, farmers, ranchers, and food producers could connect with the demand for their goods beyond Alaska, whether in the United States or in other countries. Non-Alaskan dollars used to purchase Alaska-produced products (in addition to in-state purchases) would further bolster Alaska's economy and diversify state revenue. The scaling up of production by a farmer or rancher to meet the market needs of Alaskans and additional populations outside Alaska will mean more investment within our state boundaries, even more jobs in our state, and better economic opportunities for more Alaskan households. Along with providing programs and resources to expand production, a DOAg could build connections and assist in developing markets beyond Alaska's borders. It is important to note that it is not existing dollars circulating in a state but new dollars coming into a state that grow and strengthen its economy.

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<sup>5</sup> Alaska also has the opportunity to bring in new money with growth in the floriculture industry; there is worldwide interest in Alaska grown peonies due to their seasonality pattern that differs from other locales.

## REASON #4: HEALTH AND VITALITY OF ALASKA COMMUNITIES

Not only will communities experience economic health and vitality due to a DOAg's focus on building a strong agriculture industry, but they will also experience improved health outcomes with fresher foods. The shorter the duration from harvest to table, the higher the nutritional value of fruits and vegetables<sup>6</sup>. The more nutritious food a person eats, the healthier that person is. These concepts translate to an important point that should not be overlooked: the more locally grown food Alaskans consume, the healthier Alaska's population will be. The establishment of a DOAg will help ensure more locally grown food for Alaskans by reducing the transport time of the foods consumed while increasing their nutritional value.

Lower birth weights and rates<sup>7</sup>, improved fitness, less heart disease and diabetes, improved mental health, and lower health care costs<sup>8</sup> are some direct benefits Alaskans could reap with improved access to fresh, local foods. A myriad of positive indirect outcomes are also related to the consumption of more locally grown foods, such as improved student learning, better job performance, and increased safety alertness.<sup>9</sup>

While access issues to local foods may always persist to some degree, a DOAg would help provide solutions to decrease access issues, whether due to household income levels, lack of transportation infrastructure, or purchasing hurdles by institutions, wholesalers, or retailers.

## REASON #5: PROVEN SUCCESS IN OTHER STATES

Each of the fifty states has an entity to oversee and support the agriculture industry. The differences between the entities relate to composition, powers, and duties, while the functions among the various states are similar (Appendix A).

Alaska's size and agricultural funding are very lopsided. Alaska's land mass is 62 times larger than Massachusetts and 425 times larger than Rhode Island, and our total agricultural acres are 13 times and 93 times larger than these small states, respectively. However, Alaska's state budget for agriculture is just \$6.9 million for FY2024. This is comparable to the budget of the Department of Agriculture in

6 Barrett, D, *Maximizing the Nutritional Value of Fruits & Vegetables*. University of California Davis

7 Azevedo, F; Morais, N; Silva, D; Candido, A; Morais, D; Priore, S; Franceschini, S (2023) *Food Insecurity and its Socioeconomic and Health Determinants in Pregnant Women and Mothers of Children Under 2 Years of Age, During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis*, *Frontiers Public Health*

8 12 Health And Nutritional Benefits of Eating Fresh Food. *The .fit Way*, July, 11, 2022

9 USDA Dietary Guidelines for America, [https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/sites/default/files/2021-03/Dietary\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_Americans-2020-2025.pdf](https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/sites/default/files/2021-03/Dietary_Guidelines_for_Americans-2020-2025.pdf)

*Healthy People 2030 – Nutrition and Healthy Eating*, <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/nutrition-and-healthy-eating>

*Benefits of Healthy Eating*, <https://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/resources-publications/benefits-of-healthy-eating.html>

*Helping Young Kids Thrive*, <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/downloads/ECE-infographic.pdf>

*Healthy Eating*, <https://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/about-nutrition/pdfs/Nutrition-Fact-Sheet-H.pdf>

*About Nutrition*, <https://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/about-nutrition/index.html>

*Nutrition & Injury*, <https://medicine.uiowa.edu/orthopedics/content/iowa-orthopedics-researchers-study-link-between-nutrition-and-injury-recovery>



Massachusetts with a budget of \$6.7 million for FY2023 and that of the Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment in Rhode Island with a budget of \$5.3M for FY2023<sup>10</sup>.

It is even more illuminating to note how the funding for each of the entities that support the agriculture-related sector in each of these three states compares by dollars per farmland acre. Alaska spends roughly \$8.16 per farmland acre while Massachusetts spends \$13.63 and Rhode Island spends \$93.07. And while Massachusetts and Rhode Island both face declining farmland acreage (and farmer counts), Alaska is on a growth trajectory<sup>11</sup>. Failing to sufficiently fund our investment needs for the present and guide the future expansion of the state's agricultural industry makes it even more difficult to shorten food supply chains and strengthen our state's independence..

Turning to consider population versus budgets, by comparison, South Dakota has a population close to Alaska with a Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources encompassing Agriculture and Environmental Services, Resources Conservation and Forestry, Office of Water, Financial and Technical Assistance, and the State Fair. South Dakota's Department of Agriculture has a budget of \$24.4M (FY 23), nearly 4x higher than Alaska's Division of Agriculture<sup>12</sup>.

North Dakota also has a population similar to Alaska. North Dakota's Department of Agriculture has a budget of roughly \$26.6 (FY2024); more than 4x's Alaska's budget for its Division of Agriculture. North Dakota's department consists of Administrative Services, Animal Health, Business, Marketing and Information, Grain and Livestock Licensing, Livestock Industries, Pesticide and Fertilizer, and Plant Industries<sup>13</sup>.

Alabama's Department of Agriculture consists of 18 divisions including an Executive Division, Agriculture Compliance, Animal Industries, and Emergency Programs, among others, and has a FY2024 budget of \$17M (2.5 times that of Alaska's) with 300 employees. The agriculture sector percentage of GDP is 1.8% (more than 3 times that of Alaska's)<sup>14</sup>.

Currently, Alaska's Division of Agriculture under the Department of Natural Resources oversees Division Support Services, Agriculture Inspection and Market Services, and Plant Production and Environmental Services. The division, however, compared to departments of agriculture in these other states (whether by land mass, farm acreage, or population) does not have the capacity or state focus to adequately support and grow the agriculture industry in Alaska. The creation of a department structured as, or similarly to, the proposal herein would provide the needed capacity and focus to achieve these goals.

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<sup>10</sup> See Appendix A.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*



# CONCLUSION AND MESSAGE FROM AFSTF CHAIR

The creation of a Department of Agriculture would not only centralize processes to allow for greater efficiencies, but it would also improve coordination and access to services for industry stakeholders. A dedicated department would ensure that agricultural, mariculture and forestry issues receive consistent and focused attention within the legislature and at the cabinet-level of the executive branch which would result in more effective policymaking, the building of necessary transportation infrastructure, and the growth of these industries. These improvements in turn would translate to greater economic diversification, a stronger economy, and more jobs in our state, as well as healthier communities across Alaska. Last but not least, and of key importance to Alaskans, the establishment of a Department of Agriculture will lead to increased food security, access to fresher and more nutritious locally grown options, and less vulnerability to external supply chain disruptions.

This initiative is poised to address long-standing barriers to opportunities and the growth of the agricultural sector as well as of the forestry and mariculture sectors. The Alaska Food Strategy Task Force recommends the legislature, the executive branch, stakeholders, and other members of the public first engage in a robust conversation about the reasons, advantages, and benefits of standing up a Department of Agriculture followed by a deliberative planning period to map out its specific aspects. With these two steps complete, we recommend action steps be taken to launch the new and necessary department without delay. The 36-member Alaska Food Strategy Task Force hopes this paper serves as a guide in the process; please know that we stand ready to assist.

Although not noted elsewhere in this publication, in closing and as Chair, I believe it is significant and important for you to know that establishing a Department of Agriculture was ranked the number one recommendation by the Alaska Food Strategy Task Force out of our eighteen priorities in our 2023 report. We understand the creation of a Department of Agriculture is pivotal to progress on all the other recommendations and imperative if we are to truly address food security in our great state.



Senator Shelley Hughes  
Chair, Alaska Food Strategy Task Force

February 14, 2024



# THE HOW-TO'S: ESTABLISHING AN ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

There are two options for Alaska to form a Department of Agriculture.

## **OPTION #1: By Executive Order Issued by Governor**

According to the Alaska Constitution Article III, Section 23, the governor has the authority to reorganize departments:

*The governor may make changes in the organization of the executive branch or in the assignment of functions among its units which he considers necessary for efficient administration. Where these changes require the force of law, they shall be set forth in executive orders. The legislature shall have sixty days of a regular session, or a full session if of shorter duration, to disapprove these executive orders. Unless disapproved by resolution concurred in by a majority of the members in joint session, these orders become effective at a date thereafter to be designated by the governor.*

This method was utilized most recently on July 1, 2022, when the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services was officially bifurcated into the Department of Health and the Department of Family and Community Services, based on Executive Order 121.

Based on the constitutional provision, the governor could choose to issue an executive order to establish a Department of Agriculture, and if a majority of the legislature did not disapprove of this action via resolution in a joint session in the prescribed sixty days or less, the establishment of the DOAg would occur.

## **OPTION #2: By Bill Passed by Legislature**

Also, according to the Alaska Constitution, a second method to establish a new Department of Agriculture is provided in Article III, Section 22:

*All executive and administrative offices, departments, and agencies of the state government and their respective functions, powers, and duties shall be allocated by law among and within not more than twenty principal departments, so as to group them as far as practicable according to major purposes. Regulatory, quasi-judicial, and temporary agencies may be established by law and need not be allocated within a principal department.*

This section grants authority for the legislature to allocate by law no more than twenty principal departments (there are currently fifteen). AS 44.17.005 codifies the departments with the various chapters detailing the structure, power, and duties of each. A bill amending this statute to add a Department of Agriculture could be filed by a legislator or a committee, and if the bill were passed by both the House and the Senate and signed by the governor, the new department would be established.



# PROPOSED STRUCTURE

## ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The remainder of this document recommends a structure for a new Alaska Department of Agriculture. A majority of the DOAg will incorporate existing divisions and offices from the current Division of Agriculture and other divisions within DNR, DEC, and DF&G<sup>1</sup>. Along with organizational structure, staffing, existing building space, and funding, the Office of the State Veterinarian (OSV) will need access to a laboratory.

### 1. ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT

With the creation of a new Department of Agriculture, this division is necessary to manage the administration of the department to ensure its constitutional and statutory authorities are carried out for the benefit of Alaskans.

#### Structure and Staffing Needs:

Administration and support for the Alaska Department of Agriculture would include the Office of the Commissioner and the Division of Administrative Services. Both entities would be structured similarly to their counterparts in other departments.

The Office of the Commissioner would have the following staff:

- Commissioner
- Deputy Commissioner
- Executive Secretary III
- Special Assistant to the Commissioner II

The Division of Administrative Services would have

the following staff:

- Accounting Tech I
- Accounting Tech II x 2
- Accounting Tech III
- Accountant IV
- Administrative Assistant II
- Budget Analyst III
- Administrative Assistant
- Division Director
- Micro/Network Spec I
- Micro/Network Spec II
- Micro/Network Tech II
- Procurement Specialist III
- Supply Technician II

#### Funding Needs and Sources:

According to a 2011 fiscal note, the Office of the Commissioner is estimated to have a budget of \$630,000 and the Division of Administrative Services is estimated at \$1,161,700. The funding source for positions is expected to be state general funds but availability of federal funds should be explored annually.

#### Policy and Legislative Needs:

Statutes will need to be written creating a Department of Agriculture and granting necessary authorities to the Department of Agriculture Commissioner. Most of the statutory authorities will be moved from

<sup>1</sup> Acronyms: DNR - Department of Natural Resources; DEC - Department of Environmental Conservation; DF&G - Department of Fish and Game.

other departments. Coordination and communication with Tribal Organizations is necessary within the DOAg. A position within the Administration office will act as Tribal Liaison to ensure strong coordination and communication.

## 2. ANIMAL INDUSTRY

The consolidation of services related to the animal industry not only ensures a more cohesive and efficient approach but also enhances the overall effectiveness of veterinary support for the agricultural sector. By bringing together these complementary functions, we can optimize resource allocations, streamline processes, and foster stronger collaboration, thereby maximizing the positive impact on livestock health and welfare.

### ***Structure and Staffing Needs:***

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It is recommended that the Office of the State Veterinarian (OSV) authority, staff, and responsibilities be transferred from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to the DOAg. The state veterinarians will need access to a laboratory which could be accomplished via a memorandum of understanding for access to the DEC environmental health laboratory.

OSV Staffing :

- 2 State Veterinarians
- Environmental Health Officers

It is also recommended to add 1–2 staff for Animal Feed and Pet Food inspection and testing capabilities. Animal feed and pet food inspectors would sample feeds produced and manufactured in-state as well as all imported animal feeds and pet food to confirm content is accurate with labeled products. The inspectors would work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for costs to be covered by the USDA to eliminate or minimize fees paid by farmers, ranchers, and other livestock producers.

### ***Funding Needs and Sources:***

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Funds would be transferred from the DEC to DOAg for the Office of the State Veterinarian.

### ***Policy and Legislative Needs:***

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Move existing statutes and regulations from DEC to DOAg with consideration for veterinarian access to laboratory such as suggested above.

## 3. BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

The Board of Agriculture situated within the Department of Agriculture represents a strategic move toward reinforcing cooperation and synergy among key stakeholders in the agricultural sector. It will foster enhanced collaboration, streamline operations, and promote the development of a robust agricultural sector. This integration will facilitate knowledge sharing, resource optimization, and the collective pursuit of agricultural excellence.

### ***Structure and Staffing Needs:***

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The board would maintain its current structure, although it is suggested that 1 administrative assistant



position be added for a total of 2 administrative assistants. Increased activity in the agriculture sector will be paired with an increased workload on behalf of the board.

#### ***Funding Needs and Sources:***

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An additional \$125,000 would be required to cover the salary/benefits (\$105,000) and travel (\$20,000) for the additional administrative assistant position. Funds could come from the Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF) or the general fund. The availability of federal funds for this purpose should be explored annually.

#### ***Policy and Legislative Needs:***

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Move existing statutes and regulations from DNR to the DOAg. Review and amend current ARLF statutes and regulations to expand eligibility and access to capital for agricultural producers.

## **4. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Environmental Services is currently housed within DNR/Division of Agriculture. Housing these activities within the Department of Agriculture would maintain continuity in the important relationship between agriculture and these existing services. Environmental Services would also add funding and staff to support the Soil & Water Conservation Districts, moving this responsibility from DNR to DOAg and expanding their ability to assist farmers and ranchers.

#### ***Structure and Staffing Needs:***

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Director of Environmental Services

Current staffing and structure for:

- Invasive Plants
- Agricultural Pests
- Native Plant Commercialization, Revegetation & Reclamation - multiple staff
- Additional support staff for Soil & Water Conservation Districts

#### ***Funding Needs and Sources:***

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Current funding levels in the Division of Agriculture, with the addition of staff/programs for Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

#### ***Policy and Legislative Needs:***

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Move statutes and regulations from DNR to DOAg.

## **5. FORESTRY**

Forestry is paired with agriculture in many other states under their departments of agriculture; the forestry industry also has the same pairing federally: it falls under the US Department of Agriculture. This coupling has proven to be appropriate and reasonable and for good reason, as the similarities between the forestry industry and farming industry are multiple (for example, the cultivation of land, management of acreage, weather impacts, renewable crops, and transportation infrastructure challenges). Certain

inspections related to forestry are already under the Division of Agriculture. The placement of forestry with agriculture under the DOAg would allow streamlined services due to the overlapping needs and goals of the two industries.

### ***Structure and Staffing Needs:***

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Similar to the current structure, below are the recommended staff:

- Accountant III
- Administrative Officer I
- Administrative Assistant II
- Administrative OPS Manager I
- Architect I
- Division Director - Px
- Division Operations Manager
- Engineer
- Equipment Operator
- Journey II
- Forester I
- Forester II
- Forester III
- Forester IV
- Forester V
- GIS Analyst II
- GIS Analyst III
- Natural Resource Manager I
- Natural Resource Specialist V
- Natural Resource Technician II
- Natural Resource Technician III
- Office Assistant II

### ***Funding Needs and Sources:***

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\$9.5 million is recommended to fund staffing needs and services.

### ***Policy and Legislative Needs:***

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Authorities that are currently in DNR will be moved to the DOAg.

## **6. INSPECTIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS**

Moving dairy and meat inspections currently under DEC to a new DOAg not only ensures a more cohesive and efficient approach but also enhances the overall effectiveness of inspection and certification services and the ease of access to these services by those in the private sector animal production industry. By consolidating inspection and certification services in one department and bringing these complementary functions together, we can optimize resource allocation, streamline processes, and foster stronger collaboration, maximizing the positive impact on the food and farming industry.

### ***Structure and Staffing Needs:***

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- Director of Inspections
- Phytosanitary x 2
- GHP/GAP Audits x2
- Dairy Inspections (move from DEC)
- FSMA (move from DEC)
- Meat Inspections (move from DEC)
- Certified Seed Potato x 1
- Organic Certification x 1
- Fertilizer Inspector x 1
- Animal Feed & Pet Food Inspector x 2\*

Animal feed and pet food inspectors would sample feeds produced and manufactured in-state as well as all imported animal feeds and pet food to confirm content is accurate with labeled products.

*\*Same new positions mentioned under "Animal Industry" section on page 12.*

### ***Funding Needs and Sources:***

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Current inspection and certification funds in the Division of Agriculture plus the meat and dairy inspection funds now directed to DEC would support this part of the new DOAg. Additional general funds would be necessary for the Fertilizer Inspector, but the availability of federal funds or funds derived from fee for service should be explored annually for this and other positions.

### ***Policy and Legislative Needs:***

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Statutory authority will need to be moved from DNR to DOAg for programs within the current Division of Agriculture and from DEC for programs currently housed there. Authority to create the animal feed and pet food inspection and testing service and the fertilizer inspection and testing service will need to be granted by statute.

## **7. MARICULTURE**

Mariculture is included with agriculture in many states as well as at the federal level as it is closely aligned to active management of raising and tending to animals and crops. Placing mariculture/aquaculture under a Department of Agriculture ensures comprehensive management, leverages existing expertise and resources, promotes coordination with other agricultural sectors, facilitates policy development and regulation, enhances market access and promotion, supports research and development, and provides education and outreach opportunities. These benefits will contribute to sustainable development, responsible practices, and economic success of the mariculture industry.

### ***Structure and Staffing Needs:***

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- Director of Mariculture
- 1 manager
- 2 program staff
- 1 permitting

### ***Funding Needs and Sources:***

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\$638,754.00 general funds plus funds for a director-level position (current staffing is 4 positions) and \$1 million in program funds is recommended for consideration.

### ***Policy and Legislative Needs:***

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Transfer statutory authority from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to the new DOAg.

## **8. AGRICULTURE, MARICULTURE AND FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT**

The Alaska Grown Program, export programs, various grants, and land sales and management are currently under the Division of Agriculture and would move to the new DOAg. To significantly impact the growth and development of not only agriculture but also mariculture and forestry production, additional staff and funding would be necessary. Increasing capacity will bolster programs to build markets, improve outreach, increase access to grants, and better manage lands devoted to these endeavors.

The establishment of an Alaska Grown Marketing Institute (AGMI) is recommended as a key strategy to advance the development of the three industries supported by the new DOAg, although the staffing, funding, and policy for this endeavor is not included in the sections below. Similar to the Alaska Seafood

Marketing Institute, the AGMI, if established, would be tasked to market Alaska grown products inside and outside the state to include food items as well as forestry, mariculture and non-edible agricultural crops such as floral and hemp products.

### ***Structure and Staffing Needs:***

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Structured as a Division of Agriculture, Mariculture, and Forestry Development that includes marketing, grants, export, and lands sections.

- Agriculture Development Director - range 20
- Grants Team: responsible for seeking/managing/dispersing federal grants. Managing state grant programs (forgivable loans, cooperative/creative grant agreements, etc.).
  - 1 grants lead - range 18
  - 2 grants specialists (1 federal grant specialist, 1 state grant specialist) - range 16
  - 1 grants intern
- Marketing Team: responsible for market development programs and outreach.
- Maintaining statewide farmer/rancher database. Educational programs for farmers/ranchers. Assisting industry start-up (ie. peonies). Promoting Alaska Grown purchasing. Maintaining relationship with the Western United States Agricultural Trade Association and other export opportunities.
  - 1 marketing lead - range 18
  - 2 marketing employees (1 publication specialist, 1 outreach specialist) - range 16
  - 1 marketing intern
  - 1 export team - range 18
- Lands Team
  - Manager I
  - Natural Resource Specialist III
  - Natural Resource Specialist I/II
  - Natural Resource Tech II/III (0.5 time position)

### ***Funding Needs and Sources:***

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\$1 million in general funds for programs, outreach, and publications, including cooperative/creative agreement grants. \$3 million general funds for forgivable loans. Federal funds for grants section. Current funding level for Lands with the addition of a half-time position for Natural Resource Tech II/III and transfer of funds from DNR/Division of Mining, Land, and Water to new DOAg for Natural Resource Specialist I/II. Availability of federal funds for operations and forgivable loan program to be explored annually. If an AGMI is established, state funding would cover full costs initially with the gradual replacement of state funds by fees collected from industry entities benefiting from statewide, nationwide, and worldwide marketing.

### ***Policy and Legislative Needs:***

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Authorities transferred from DNR to the new DOAg.

## 9. PLANT PRODUCTION

The Plant Materials Center (PMC) is currently housed in the DNR/Division of Agriculture and would be moved under the new DOAg. Pesticides and herbicide testing currently under DEC is used extensively in agriculture. By bringing together these complementary functions under the new DOAg, we can optimize resource allocation, streamline processes, and foster stronger collaboration, thereby maximizing the positive impact on plant production.

### ***Structure and Staffing Needs:***

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- Director of Plant Production
- Current PMC staffing and structure
- 4 Pesticide program staff

### ***Funding Needs and Sources:***

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Current DNR/Division of Agriculture/Plant Material Center funds plus DEC pesticide and herbicide program funding would be transferred to the new DOAg.

### ***Policy and Legislative Needs:***

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Plant Material Center statutes and regulations would need to be moved from DNR, and the pesticide/herbicide authorities would need to be moved from DEC to the new DOAg. Additional funds for floriculture staff.

## 10. ALASKA FFA ASSOCIATION

By aligning Alaska Future Farmers of America (FFA) under a unified Department of Agriculture, we can foster enhanced collaboration, streamline operations, and promote the development of a robust agricultural sector. This integration will facilitate knowledge sharing, resource optimization, and the collective pursuit of agricultural excellence. The integration of FFA within the Department of Agriculture represents a strategic move towards reinforcing cooperation and synergy among key stakeholders in the agricultural sector.

### ***Structure and Staffing Needs:***

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Similar structure as current, but make temporary assistant full-time, permanent.

- Project Coordinator
- Project Assistant

### ***Funding Needs and Sources:***

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Transfer current funds at DNR/Division of Agriculture to the new DOAg for this purpose and appropriate additional funds for salary/benefits for project assistant: \$105,000 plus \$20,000 travel.

### ***Policy and Legislative Needs:***

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Transfer existing authorities from DNR to the new DOAg.



# **APPENDICES**





Table A: Agriculture: State Departments and Gross Domestic Product

State	Name	No. of Areas/ Divisions	Budget (millions)	Workforce	Agriculture Related GDP, 2022 (millions)	Sector as % of total GDP
South Dakota	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources</a>	5	\$24.4 (FY 23)	223	\$6,824.7	10.1
Nebraska	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture</a>	3	\$22.2 (FY 25)	125	\$13,690.1	8.5
North Dakota	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture</a>	7	\$79.9 (FY 23-25)	80	\$5,800.7	7.9
Wisconsin	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection</a>	6	\$129.6 (FY 24)	630	\$9,661.3	2.4
Alabama	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture and Industries</a>	18	\$17.0 (FY 24)	300	\$5,117.1	1.8
Vermont	<a href="#">Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets</a>	5	\$51.8 (FY 24)	147	\$643.6	1.6
Illinois	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture</a>	5	\$204.0 (FY 24)	300	\$13,708.5	1.3
Maine	<a href="#">Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources - Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry</a>	6	\$249.7 (FY 23)	775	\$980.8	1.2
Oklahoma	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry</a>	10	\$45.5 (FY 23)	152	\$2,886.3	1.2
South Carolina	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture</a>	3	\$32.7 (FY 24)	132	\$2,207.0	0.75
Alaska	<a href="#">Division of Agriculture - Dept. of Natural Resources</a>	3	\$6.9 (FY 24)	24	\$353.4	0.56
Tennessee	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture</a>	4	\$188.3 (FY 24)	66	\$2,151.6	0.45
Virginia	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services</a>	4	\$85.8 (FY 24)	115	\$2,460.6	0.38
Rhode Island	<a href="#">Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment - Dept. of Environmental Management</a>	6	\$5.3 (FY 23)	19	\$128.8	0.18
Massachusetts	<a href="#">Department of Agricultural Resources - Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs</a>	4	\$6.7 (FY 23)	105	\$1,019.6	0.15

**Notes:** Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting. Workforce is based on directory counts or self-reporting and may be outdated, or exclude vacancies, part-time and seasonal employees. Divisions do not include those dedicated to the commissioner or secretary.

**Source:** GDP by State, Annual 2022, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, <https://apps.bea.gov/regional/histdata/releases/0323gdpstate/index.cfm>.

State - Division/Section	Oversight Responsibilities	
<b>South Dakota</b> The department secretary is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor, with the consent of the senate.	<b>Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources</b>	<b>Organizational Chart</b>
<a href="#">Agriculture and Environmental Services</a>	Livestock services; inspection compliance and remediation; air quality; minerals, mining and superfund; waste management; and local food purchase assistance.	
<a href="#">Resource Conservation and Forestry</a>	Conservation; forestry; watershed protection; specialty crop block grant; plant industry; and apiary.	
<a href="#">Office of Water</a>	Drinking water; water quality; water rights; and operator certification.	
<a href="#">Financial and Technical Assistance</a>	Agricultural mediation; checkoff remittance; environmental funding; and geological survey.	
<a href="#">State Fair</a>	State fair, state fairgrounds, and the DEX.	
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>Department of Agriculture</b>	
The department director is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor, upon confirmation by the senate. The Animal and Plant Health Protection and Food Safety and Consumer Protection sections have focus area administrators.		
<a href="#">Ag Promotion and Development</a>	Livestock; bulk commodities; value-added foods and meats; and diversified agriculture.	
<a href="#">Animal and Plant Health Protection</a>	Animal imports; veterinarian resources; Livestock Emergency Disease Response System (LEDRS); Animal Disease Traceability (ADT); animal diseases; entomology; pesticide; fertilizer; seed; hemp; and noxious weed.	
<a href="#">Food Safety and Consumer Protection</a>	Dairy, foods, and weights and measures.	
<b>North Dakota</b>	<b>Department of Agriculture</b>	
A department commissioner is elected. Each of the seven divisions has a director.		
<a href="#">Administrative Services</a>	Consists of fiscal management, policy development, emergency management, and human resources. The division also administers the Pipeline Reclamation and Restoration Oversight Program, Wind Energy Reclamation and Restoration Oversight Program; and the Royalty Oversight Program.	
<a href="#">Animal Health</a>	Protects the health of domestic animals and non-traditional livestock, and administers all rules and orders of the State Board of Animal Health.	

State - Division/Section	Oversight Responsibilities
<b>North Dakota</b> (continued)	<b><a href="#">Department of Agriculture</a></b>
<a href="#">Business, Marketing &amp; Information</a>	Monitors and analyzes federal and state regulatory activities that affect North Dakota agriculture producers and consumers, and maintains relationships with federal, state, local and foreign governments to address agricultural issues.
<a href="#">Grain &amp; Livestock Licensing</a>	Age and source verification; feed program; grain licensing; livestock licensing; livestock pollution prevention program; and pet food program.
<a href="#">Livestock Industries</a>	Dairy and poultry, and, meat and poultry inspection.
<a href="#">Pesticide &amp; Fertilizer</a>	Regulates pesticides, fertilizers and anhydrous ammonia to protect human health and the environment.
<a href="#">Plant Industries</a>	Oversees noxious weeds, plant protection, apiary, waterbank, and industrial hemp programs.

<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b><a href="#">Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection</a></b> <b><a href="#">Organizational Chart</a></b>
Agricultural Resource Management	The secretary of the department is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor, upon confirmation by the Senate. Each of the six divisions has an administrator and individual bureaus.
Animal Health	Pesticides; groundwater and surface water protection; agricultural spills and cleanup; animal feed; fertilizer and related products; land and water resource management; livestock facility siting; farmland preservation; drainage districts; plant protection; ag and environmental impact assessments; and weather modification controls. Monitors disease threats; animal imports and movement; animal identification; disease testing, reporting and certification; disease vaccination; disease investigations; emergency disease response; quarantine and condemnation; disease indemnities; licensing and registration; animal welfare and rabies control; livestock brands; and compliance monitoring enforcement.
Food and Recreational Safety	Milk and dairy products; food processing and distribution; retail food establishments; meat and poultry inspection; food emergencies; food advertising and labeling; food monitoring and hazard control; laboratory certification; food grading; lodging establishments; pools and water attractions; campgrounds and recreational / educational camps; complaints and investigations; enforcement; and coordination.
Agricultural Development	Farm Center; Agriculture and Food Center; International Agribusiness Center; and communications, outreach, operations.
Trade and Consumer Protection	Unfair and deceptive business practices; identity theft and privacy protection; consumer product safety; weights and measures; hazardous liquid storage tanks and motor fuel quality; environmental regulation of consumer products; agricultural producer security; and commodity grading.
Management Services	Finance, Information technology services, Administration, and Laboratory services.

State - Division/Section	Oversight Responsibilities
<b>Alabama</b>	<b><a href="#">Department of Agriculture and Industries</a></b>
A department commissioner is elected.	
<a href="#">Executive Division</a>	Legal; Accounting; Personnel; General Services; Information Technology; News; Farmers Bulletin; Alternative Fuels; International Trade; and various grant and permitting programs.
<a href="#">Agriculture Compliance</a>	Responsible for stockyards and brands registration and licensing/permitting of bonded livestock markets, livestock dealers, issuing livestock hauler trailer tags and livestock brands.
<a href="#">Animal Industries</a>	Responsible for the administration of programs to prevent, eradicate, and control diseases among livestock and poultry with support from the Alabama Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System to ensure quality of commercial meats.
<a href="#">Audits and Reports</a>	Responsible for registering and licensing/permitting companies that manufacture or distribute commercial feed, commercial fertilizer, and agricultural liming materials; wheat & grain dealers; soybean dealers; and cooperative marketing associations.
<a href="#">Emergency Programs</a>	Responsible for reducing the vulnerability to and the impact from disaster, disease, or terrorist attack on agriculture.
<a href="#">Farmers Market Authority</a>	Established to assist in the marketing of agricultural products by providing information, leadership, and modern facilities.
<a href="#">Food Safety</a>	Wholesale and retail food and milk establishment permitting and inspections.
<a href="#">Federal State Inspection Svcs.</a>	Provides shipping point inspection services.
<a href="#">Gins and Warehouses</a>	Issues permits and conducts audits for public warehouses, grain dealers, cotton merchants and cotton gins.
<a href="#">Legal</a>	Represents the commissioner and ADAI in any legal matters, and regulatory, legislative affairs, economic development, and alternative energy functions; and oversees the Alabama Agricultural Mediation Program (AAMP).
<a href="#">Livestock Market News</a>	Compiles and disseminates information that aids in the sale and purchase of agricultural products.
<a href="#">Mediation Program</a>	USDA-state program that offers mediation services to farmers, creditors, and USDA Agencies including the inspection and enforcement of laws pertaining to feed, seed, fertilizer and agricultural lime; conducts feed manufacturing inspections.
<a href="#">Pesticide Management</a>	Regulates individuals or companies that sell, use, or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides; engage in the commercial application of pesticides, and structural pest control or horticultural activities.
<a href="#">Petroleum Commodities</a>	Focuses on specific commodity testing to ensure safety and compliance for both producers and consumers.
<a href="#">Plant Protection</a>	Protects native and commercially grown plants, and the apiairy industry, from harmful pests and diseases.
<a href="#">Seed Laboratory</a>	Inspects seed samples from retail and wholesale establishments for the presence of weeds, inert material, and other quality factors. Inspects seeds that are grown by farmers to enforce "Truth in Labeling."
<a href="#">Veterinary Diagnostic Labs</a>	Provides diagnostic services for livestock and poultry producers, veterinarians, animal owners, and apiairy owners.
<a href="#">Weights and Measures</a>	Inspects and regulates weighing and measuring devices used in agricultural commerce.

State - Division/Section	Oversight Responsibilities
<p><b>Vermont</b></p> <p><b><a href="#">Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets</a></b></p>	<p>An agency secretary is appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. Each of the five divisions has a director.</p>
<p><a href="#">Water Quality</a></p>	<p>Responsible for administering the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, including farm water quality inspections and enforcement; education and outreach to the agricultural community about regulations and requirements; and technical and financial assistance to achieve state water quality goals.</p>
<p><a href="#">Agriculture Development</a></p>	<p>Cultivates agriculture and food system through grantmaking, marketing, strategic collaboration, and connecting businesses and communities to vital resources.</p>
<p><a href="#">Public Health and Agricultural Resource Management</a></p>	<p>Works to protect human, animal, and plant health, the environment, and consumers by providing fair regulatory programs, exceptional customer service, and in-depth technical assistance in a wide variety of agricultural topics.</p>
<p><a href="#">Agricultural and Environmental Laboratory</a></p>	<p>Mastitis diagnostic and bulk milk quality; milk testing laboratory evaluation and licensing; pet food product guarantee analysis; water bacteriology; environmental and consumer protection; dairy products; animal health; and chemistry.</p>
<p><a href="#">Food Safety</a></p>	<p>Works to protect the health and welfare of people and their livestock. Daily efforts revolve around advancing a safe and secure food supply within a marketplace that provides fair and equal access to consumers and processors while enhancing the working landscape, rural character and local economies.</p>
<p><b>Illinois</b></p> <p><b><a href="#">Department of Agriculture</a></b></p>	<p>The governor appoints a Director of Agriculture with consent of the senate. Any nomination not acted upon within sixty session days is deemed approved.</p>
<p><a href="#">Consumer Services</a></p>	<p>Egg Inspection; Meat &amp; Poultry Inspection; Weights and Measurements Certification; and Motor Fuel Quality Testing.</p>
<p><a href="#">Marketing and Promotion</a></p>	<p>Agricultural Statistics, Market News, and Marketing; State and County Fair Promotion; and Horse Racing Administration.</p>
<p><a href="#">Animal Industries</a></p>	<p>Animal Health and Welfare; and Bees and Apiaries.</p>
<p><a href="#">Natural Resources</a></p>	<p>Environmental Programs, and Land and Water Resources.</p>
<p><a href="#">Agricultural Industry Regulation</a></p>	<p>Agricultural Products Inspection; Grain Dealer and Warehouse Inspection and Licensure; Fertilizer Program; and Medical Cannabis Pilot Program.</p>

State - Division/Section	Oversight Responsibilities
<p><b>Maine</b></p> <p>A department commissioner, who is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor, appoints a bureau director. The commissioner shall give preference to an existing director.</p>	<p><b>Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources</b> - within Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry</p>
<p><a href="#">Agricultural Resource Development</a></p>	<p>Responsible for developing and implementing programs and policies to ensure that agricultural businesses remain profitable and sustainable. Programs focus on business development, market promotion, education and regulation to assure that agricultural practices are economically and environmentally sound.</p>
<p><a href="#">Animal and Plant Health</a></p>	<p>Animal health; animal welfare; Help Fix ME; apiary; arborist; ginseng; horticulture; hemp; seed potato certification; agricultural compliance; compost; nutrient management program; Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS); Integrated Pest Management (IPM); and Board of Pesticides Control (BPC).</p>
<p><a href="#">Harness Racing Commission</a></p>	<p>Provides oversight and support of the harness racing industry with a goal of promoting fairness and integrity of the sport.</p>
<p><a href="#">Maine Milk Commission</a></p>	<p>A five-member consumer board to oversee the milk industry and support the viability of farms and the milk industry.</p>
<p><a href="#">Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Response</a></p>	<p>Dedicated to assisting farms impacted by PFAS contamination.</p>
<p><a href="#">Quality Assurance and Regulations</a></p>	<p>Provides marketing assistance and consumer protection for agriculture, industry, and citizens.</p>
<p><b>Oklahoma</b></p>	<p><b>Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry</b></p>
<p>The department is governed by the State Board of Agriculture, which is comprised of five members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. A member, designated by the governor, serves as president of the board and Commissioner of Agriculture. Eight directors oversee specific divisions.</p>	
<p><a href="#">Agricultural Environmental Management</a></p>	<p>Develops, coordinates and oversees environmental policies and programs including licensing, registration and inspection of poultry, beef and swine growing and feeding facilities.</p>
<p><a href="#">Animal Industry/State Veterinarian</a></p>	<p>Responsible for protecting livestock from disease and assisting in livestock productivity; enforces restrictions to ensure the health of animals industries and the public; and administers rules and orders of the State Board of Agriculture.</p>
<p><a href="#">Agricultural Investigative Services Unit</a></p>	<p>Investigates crime victimizing agriculture. Special Agents specialize in crimes of livestock theft, agriculture equipment theft, timber theft and wild land fire arson along with other criminal offenses.</p>
<p><a href="#">Consumer Protection</a></p>	<p>Enforces quality standards for agricultural products, regulates pesticide use, and provides information and technical assistance to consumers.</p>

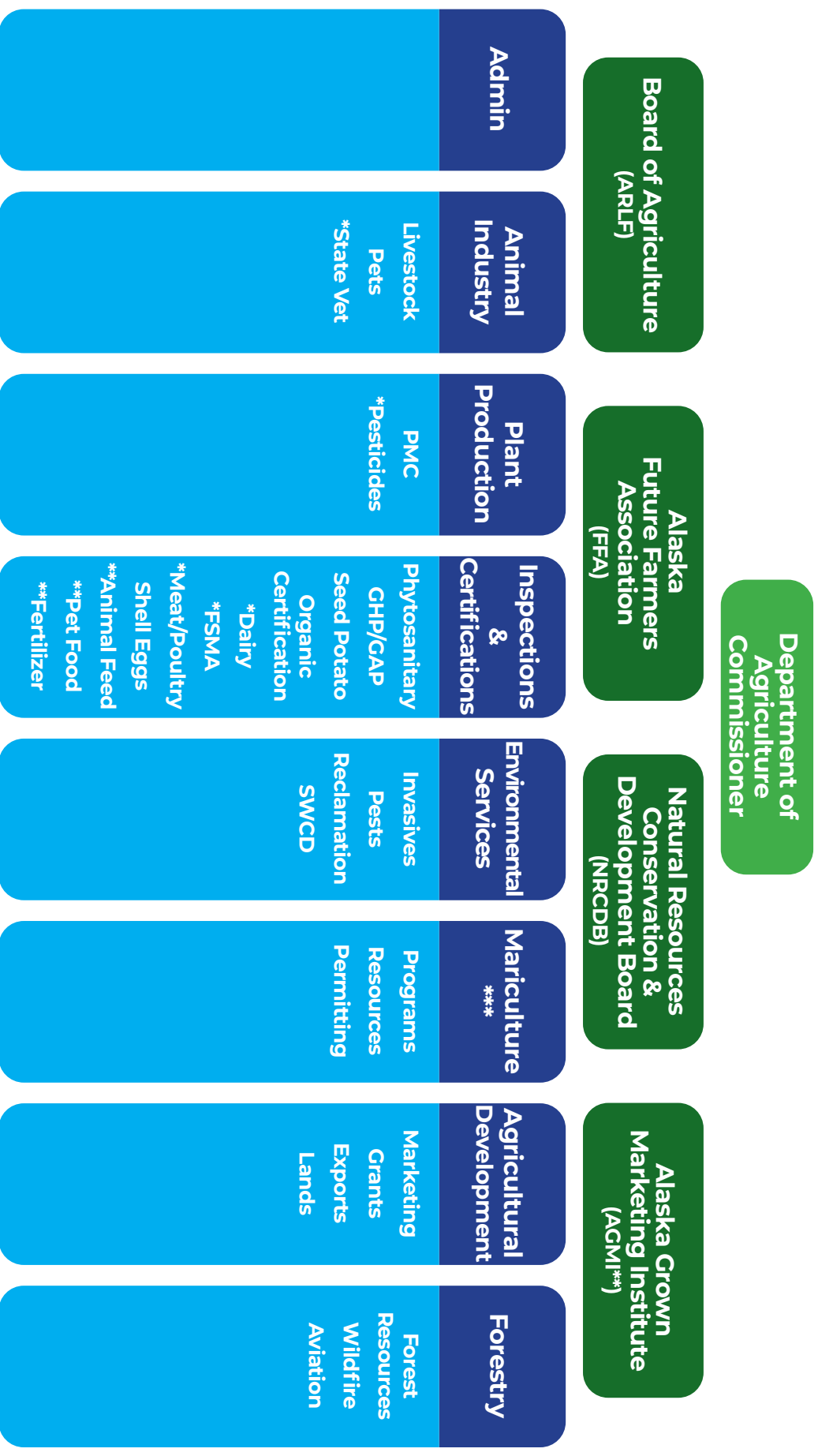
State - Division/Section	Oversight Responsibilities
<b>Oklahoma</b> (continued)	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry</a>
<a href="#">Forestry Services</a>	Provides technical assistance to individuals and communities to increase active conservation management, and responsible for wildland fire detection, suppression, prevention, and investigation.
<a href="#">Food Safety</a>	Enforces federal and state laws and rules relating to the production of food and food products derived from animals.
<a href="#">Laboratory</a>	Tests samples to assure the quality of agricultural products sold, to protect the environment, to diagnose animal diseases and to assure the correctness of weights and measures.
<a href="#">Market Development</a>	Works to increase agricultural literacy, increase consumer awareness of agriculture products, stimulate rural economic development and develop opportunities for producers, processors, wholesalers and retailers of products in domestic and international markets.
<a href="#">Statistical Services</a>	Provides timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture; one of 46 Field Offices of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).
<a href="#">Wildlife Services</a>	Helps citizens, organizations, industries, and government agencies resolve conflicts with wildlife to protect agriculture, other property, and natural resources, and to safeguard human health and safety; part of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).
<b>South Carolina</b>	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture</a>
A commissioner is elected. Each division has an assistant commissioner.	
<a href="#">Agency Operations</a>	Consists of the Office of the Commissioner; Administration; Human Resources; Information Technology; State Farmers Markets; and Grants Administration.
<a href="#">Consumer Protection</a>	Sections overseen include Produce Safety, Laboratory Services, Consumer Services (Metrology), Feed Safety & Compliance, Food Safety & Compliance, Federal-State Inspection Services, and the Hemp Farming Program.
<a href="#">External Affairs and Economic Development</a>	Promotes and advocates for the growth of existing and new agribusiness opportunities throughout the state.

State - Division/Section		Oversight Responsibilities
<b>Alaska</b>	<a href="#">Division of Agriculture</a> - within Department of Natural Resources	A division director is selected by the commissioner of DNR from a list of two or more candidates submitted by the Board of Agriculture and Conservation, the members of which are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor. The director administers the board and is responsible for the daily operations of the Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF).
<b>Division Support Services</b>	Administration functions; Board of Agriculture and Conservation; and Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund.	
<b>Agriculture Inspection and Market Services</b>	Inspection and certification; Market Services Section; Agricultural Land Program; grant administration and management; and Invasive Plant and Pest Detection Program.	
<b>Plant Production and Environmental Services (Plant Materials Center)</b>	Plant Production Services; Revegetation and Erosion Control Program; industrial hemp program; and Invasive Plant and Pest Management Program.	
<b>Tennessee</b>	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture</a>	
A department commissioner, who is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor, supervises, directs, and controls seven assistant commissioners.		
<a href="#">Administration and Grants</a>	Provides budgetary, legal, human resources and communications support to achieve agency goals and objectives in an efficient and cost-effective manner.	
<a href="#">Forestry</a>	Provides professional, timely, up-to-date, science-based technical and financial assistance to family forest landowners, communities, non-government organizations, forest industry, and others with an interest in the conservation of forests.	
<a href="#">Consumer and Industry Services</a>	Monitors a diverse range of materials, products, and services to ensure quality, consumer protection, public safety, and a fair marketplace.	
<a href="#">Business Development</a>	Works with farmers, foresters, and agribusinesses to build rural economies and increase operation income.	
<b>Virginia</b>	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services</a>	<a href="#">Organizational Chart</a>
A department commissioner is appointed by the governor and subject to confirmation by the general assembly. Each division has a director.		
<b>Animal and Food Industry Services</b>	Dairy and Foods; Laboratory Services; Meat and Poultry Services; and Veterinary Services.	
<b>Commodity Services</b>	Fruit and Vegetable; Grain; Livestock; Peanut; and Poultry and Egg.	
<b>Consumer Protection</b>	Charitable and Regulatory Programs; Pesticide Services; Plant Industry Services; and Weights and Measures.	
<b>Marketing and Development</b>	Agriculture and Forestry Development; Domestic and International Marketing; Food Distribution; and Market News.	



State - Division/Section	Oversight Responsibilities
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<a href="#">Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment - within Bureau of Natural Resources, Dept. of Environmental Mgmt..</a>
A division chief reports to a department director, who is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor, upon consent of the senate.	
<a href="#">Forest Environment</a>	Stewardship; forest health; forest fires; urban and community forestry; and forest legacy.
<a href="#">Boating Regulations and Licenses</a>	Administers the state's boat registration program as well as the issuance of licenses for commercial and recreational fishing/shell fishing.
<a href="#">Coastal Resources</a>	Responsible for the development, management, and maintenance of the Port of Galilee, State Pier #9 (Newport), State Pier #4 (Jerusalem), and State Pier #5 (Narragansett).
<a href="#">Fish and Wildlife</a>	Ensures that the freshwater and wildlife resources will be conserved and managed for equitable and sustainable use.
<a href="#">Law Enforcement</a>	Protects natural resources and ensures compliance with all environmental conservation laws through law enforcement and education, while maintaining the health and safety of the public.
<a href="#">Marine Fisheries</a>	Manages and enhances marine resources and habitats through sound science, informed decisions, and education.
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<a href="#">Department of Agricultural Resources</a> - within Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
The Secretary of the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor. The department is headed by a commissioner who is appointed by the secretary, upon approval of the governor.	
<b>Crop and Pesticide Services</b>	Farm products and plant industries; pesticides; apiary; hemp program; and invasive pest program.
<b>Animal Health</b>	Prevents the introduction or spread of infectious and contagious diseases of domestic animals.
<b>Agricultural Markets</b>	Develops/supports innovative market venues, business expansion, grant opportunities, consumer, and industry outreach.
<b>Agricultural Conservation and Technical Assistance</b>	Offers agricultural business training courses and workshops to farmers at various stages of business development.

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION CHART



\* Moved from DEC

\*\* New Programs

\*\*\* Moved from Fish & Game





*Thank you to the members of the Alaska Food Strategy Task Force / Department of Agriculture White Paper Special Committee for their time and effort providing points and information used herein. Special gratitude is extended to our dedicated volunteer support staff who conducted additional research, assembled materials, and compiled and wrote this white paper: Amy Seitz, Alaska Farm Bureau; Robbi Mixon, Alaska Food Policy Council; and Lunia Oriol, Research Intern, Alaska Food Policy Council.*