

Alaska State Legislature

House Resources Committee

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Planning Outline: House Resources 2018 Food Security Subcommittee

The House Resources Committee addressed several issues relating to food security during the 2nd session of the 30th Alaska Legislature. Additionally, the State's new Economic Strategy has several priorities related to these topics. Alaskans spend \$1.9 billion each year buying food produced outside the state, and supply disruptions threaten our food security, so even small changes can reap huge rewards.

The goal of this 2018 interim subcommittee is to create priorities for what the State of Alaska can do to build a stronger food system and encourage a vibrant entrepreneurial food economy.

Proposed meeting topics and related tours for 2018:

- **Workforce Development and Farming on State Lands**
 - Look at state land availability for education and training
 - Opportunity for entrepreneurs and owners of unique businesses
 - Build partnerships with the university/cooperative extension/FFA
- **Local Food Storage and Infrastructure Development**
 - Who is going to build it, where do we get the money, federal farm storage program?
 - Longer shelf life for fresh foods – shared flash freeze facility
 - Traditional Food Store(age) Outside Your Door: A surprising outcome could be
 - Rural farm tours or trips to villages to build systems and have local food experience
- **Procurement for Alaska Grown Products**
 - Getting more farmers/producers on preferred vendors list
 - Finding new markets – prisons, pioneer homes, hospitals? Healthy, local
- **Food Freedom and Removing Regulatory Barriers**
 - Rebuilding the dairy industry in Alaska
 - Raw milk sales at farmers markets
 - Increase direct producer to consumer sales
 - Tourism around farm and village food experiences
 - New opportunities with Air BnB Experiences Tours
 - Sharing and incentivizing commercial kitchens – schools in the summer?

2018 House Resources Meetings addressing food security:

- March 5: Alaska Food Policy Council [Presentation: How do we use AK's rich resources to create jobs, promote health & healthy communities & keep our food traditions & cultures alive?](#)
 - Dr. Gary Ferguson, creator of Store Outside Your Door, AK Native Subsistence Foods
 - Danny Consenstein, Alaska Food Policy Council
 - Ken Meter, Economist, Crossroads Resource Center
- February 14 and February 16, 2018: HB 217: Raw Milk Sales; Food Exempt from Regulations
- February 14, 2018: [Presentation: Growing Alaska's Agriculture Economy](#)
 - Arthur Keyes, Director, Division of Agriculture, DNR
 - Amy Seitz & Bryce Wrigley, Alaska Farm Bureau
 - Suzy Crosby, Cottonwood Creek Farm
 - Brad St. Pierre and Robbi Mixon, Alaska Farmers Market Association

State Initiatives Related to the Subcommittee's Work:

Building Food Security in Alaska

- Executive Summary and Recommended Actions, by Ken Meter and Megan Phillips Goldenberg July 28, 2014
- Commissioned by AK Department of Health and Social Services, with collaboration from the Alaska Food Policy Council, proposed 2018 Update

Alaska: North to Opportunity Phase I Priorities for Alaska's Economic Strategy

- Create stronger alignment between workforce development and economic development programs and services
 - Develop industry-specific strategies for workforce development
 - Ensure skills development matches workforce needs by strengthening linkages between career/technical training and employers
 - Expand college credit for registered apprenticeships
- Visitor Industry
 - Grow the impact of Alaska's visitor industry in existing regions/market segments, and strengthen the benefits of the industry to Alaska communities
 - Increase growth in emerging visitor industry segments, including rural and cultural tourism
 - Increase off-season capacity an infrastructure by promoting Alaska products, icons and events