



# Division of Agriculture

*Senate Finance DNR Subcommittee*

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Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
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# STRUCTURE & FUNCTIONS

***The Division of Agriculture (DoAg) supports all of Alaska's Natural Resource Industries.***

The Division's activities are grouped into four service components:

1. Administration and Support (Director's Office)
2. Land Sales and Management
3. Agricultural Inspection and Market Services
4. Plant Production and Environmental Services  
(Plant Materials Center)

# AGRICULTURE LAND SALES AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

## Land Sales:

Since 1978, 180,00 acres sold

Since 2014 10,000 acres sold



Nenana Tolchaket development of 50,000 acres of agricultural land in pre-planning phase.

Farm conservation plans: 20 plans approved or updated.





# INSPECTION SERVICES

- Food Safety Audits: Programs referred to as: Good Handling Practices (GHP) and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audit inspections.
- Export Certification Plant Health Inspections
- USDA Grade Inspection and Certification
- Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)



- Potato Seed Certification
- Plant Quarantine Enforcement
- Shell Egg Inspections
- Elk Farm Inspections
- Organic Certification Assistance

# MARKET SERVICES



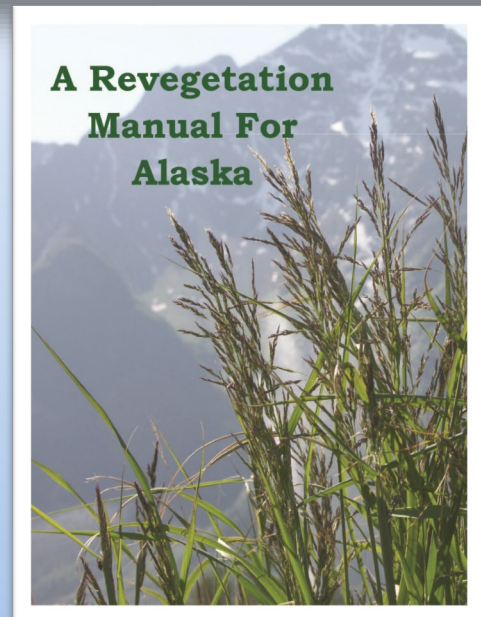
- Domestic and International Market Development
- Retail, Direct to Consumer, and Institutional Market Specialist
- Farm Food Safety Education and Outreach
- State Branded Agricultural Market Program (Alaska Grown)
- Federal Grant Administration



# PLANT PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (PLANT MATERIALS CENTER)

## Services:

- Foundation Seed
  - Grass / Grains / Potatoes / Native Plant
- Certified Seed Laboratory
- Conservation Plant Technology
- Horticulture
- Native Plant Evaluation / High Latitude Germplasm
- Plant Pathology
- Revegetation / Reclamation
  - Manuals
  - Research and consultations
  - Soil Conservation and Enhancement





# INVASIVE PLANT AND PEST PROGRAM

## Pest Detection - Functions of C.A.P.S

- Confirm the presence or absence of plant pests impacting the domestic and international movement of plants and plant products.
- Early detection & rapid response to exotic pest infestations.
- Provide a distribution profile of plant pests in the U.S. deemed to be of concern to International trade.
- Maintain a pest information database to support U.S. Agricultural trade.
- Enhance national communication and education on pests, their life cycles, pathways of transport, and control.



### Alaska

### C.A.P.S. Cooperators:



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

# INDUSTRIAL HEMP PILOT PROGRAM

SB 6 (Ch 5, SLA 2018: 1) Create an Industrial Hemp Pilot Program to research the growth, cultivation, and marketing of industrial hemp.

## **Status:**

- 1) The Division has promulgated regulations for a pilot program which should be enrolled by the Lt. Governor shortly.
- 2) The Division will start enrolling applicants upon the effective date of the regulations. There are three types of applications: Grower, Processor and Retailer.
- 3) Statutory changes will be necessary for the program to become permanent under the 2018 farm bill. This must be done by October 28, 2020.



# DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE STAFFING

FY19: the Division had 33 positions.

FY20 2 unfilled Ag Vet positions were eliminated & 1 Land Sales position was transferred to DMLW.

First:

- 8 deleted positions were vacant
- 8 deleted positions were filled and incumbents were laid off

Second:

14 positions were added back, but 2 ARLF positions were vetoed. 2 Industrial Hemp positions were added. Thereafter the Division was **authorized 30 positions**.

- 8 positions are still vacant. Of that, 1 is in current recruitment, 3 are having updates to the position descriptions, and 4 are being re-classed. All are expected to be filled in the next 3 months.

# DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE CHALLENGES -DIVISION

## Rebuilding

FY21:

- Continue core services
- Increase focus on:

-International

Markets

-Invasives

- Establish Industrial Hemp Program



The St. Pierre family of Goosefoot Farm  
2019 Farm Family of the Year



Palmer Fred Meyer 2019 Alaska Grown \$5 Challenge Winner

# QUESTIONS?



**Thank you on behalf of  
the Division of Agriculture!**

