



Division of Agriculture

Senate Resources Sub Finance Committee

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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



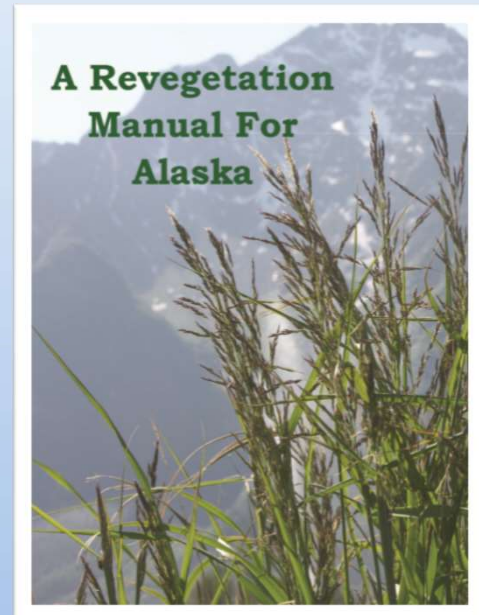
- Domestic and International Market Development
- Retail, Direct to Consumer, and Institutional Market Specialist
- Farm Food Safety Education and Outreach
- State Branded Agricultural Market Program (Alaska Grown)
- Federal Grant Administration



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!**

