



Division of Agriculture

House Natural Resources Sub-Finance Committee

Presentation by David W. Schade, MPA
Director



February 7, 2022



FY2023 GOVERNOR BUDGET CHANGES

Sponsorship of Future Farmers of America - \$180.0 (UGF)

- This sponsorship opportunity is aligned with the Governor's agricultural initiatives.
- The Division of Agriculture would provide administrative support, leased space and coordination with the FFA State Board.
- Future Farmers of America was previously sponsored by the University of Alaska.
- Future Farmers of America is the premier youth organization preparing members for leadership and careers in the science, business, and technology of agriculture.



ALASKA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE



Alaska Division of Agriculture's programs support food and fiber production (food security) and protect Alaska's natural resources.

- Division Support Services
- Agriculture Inspection & Market Services
- Plant Production and Environmental Services (Northern Latitude Plant Materials Center).

Division Support Services

	PCNs	UGF	Total
Administration & Support – Provides direction and oversight of division policy, operations and budgeting	4	315.6	510.6
Board of Agriculture and Conservation / Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund – Administers the Alaska Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF) and makes recommendations regarding agricultural land sales and management	1	0.0	107.6
Natural Resources Conservation Development Board: Supervises the Soil and Water Districts, recommends policies regarding Natural Resources to Administration			
Future Farmers of America – FFA: Sponsorship of the FFA National Program by providing administrative support to the Alaska State FFA Board of Directors	?	180.0	180.0



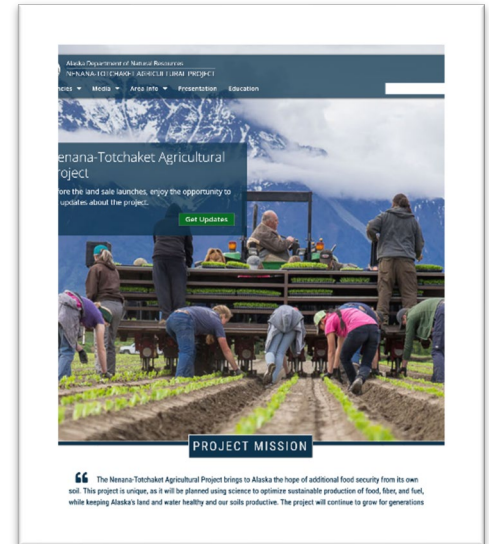
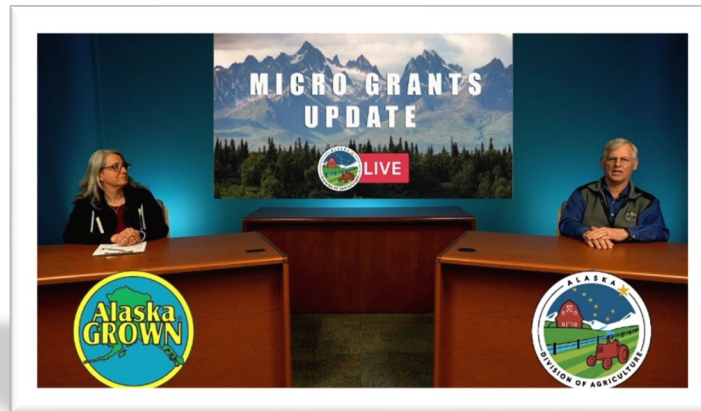
Division Support Services: Admin

Social Media

facebook.com/dnr.alaskagrown
facebook.com/alaskaindustrialhemp
facebook.com/alaskadivisionofagriculture
Instagram: @buyalaskagrown
Twitter: @DNRAAlaskaGrown

Division produces a weekly Alaska Grown Facebook Live event which supports the Division's activities

Public Outreach



Updated Websites

dnr.alaska.gov/ag
buyalaskagrown.com
dnr.alaska.gov/ag/nentot

Long Term Agriculture Plan

has been operating without a current long-term plan since 2019. The Division of Agriculture has been working towards the establishment of a working group to develop a new long-term plan. However, while this is a priority, the realignment of Division functions and a focus on food security, including the establishment of the Nenana-Totchaket Agriculture project has taken precedence in these challenging times.

Division Support Services: BAC/ARLF

Critical Function: Provides short and long-term loans to support the state's agriculture industries.

Loans: fixed-interest rates; may not exceed \$1 million per borrower; may not exceed 75 percent of the value of the collateral

(BAC) made changes to regulations regarding the Agriculture Revolving Loan Fund (11 AAC 39.071 - 39.900, Loan Modifications, Applications)

(BAC) made changes to regulations regarding the Agriculture Revolving Loan Fund (11 AAC 39.511, Interest Rate Credits)

ARLF Balance \$21.3 million

2021 13 loans totaling \$3,666,250.00.

Interest Rate lowered to 3.5% long term, 3.0% for short term and chattel (equip/livestock)loans

Division Support Services: ARLF

Loan Type – Current 2021	Number	Authorized Loan Amount
Land Sale Loans	2	510,600.00
Chattel Loans	2	65,000.00
Farm Development Loans	34	9,731,140.40
Product Processing Loans	3	470,000.00
Short Term Loans	5	306,071.32
Grand Total	46	11,082,811.72



Division Support Services: NRCDB

The Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board (NRCDB) serves as an advisory board to the DNR Commissioner and supervises Alaska's Soil and Water Conservation Districts on matters relating to conservation and development of the state's non-game natural resources.

Soil & Water Conservation Districts

- [Anchorage](#)
- [Fairbanks](#)
- [Homer](#)
- [Kenai](#)
- Kenny Lake
- [Kodiak](#)
- [Mid Yukon-Kuskokwim](#)
- [Palmer](#)
- [Salcha-Delta](#)
- [Southeast](#)
- [Upper Susitna](#)
- [Wasilla](#)



Plant Production and Environmental Services (Northern Latitude Plant Materials Center)

	PCNs	UGF	Total
<u>Plant Production and Environmental Services (Plant Materials Center)</u> Plant Production Services – Maintains and stores 231 potato, 51 forb, 16 grain and 95 native grass seed varieties; produces foundational-level grass and grain seed, seed potato stock, and other seed for commercial production in Alaska	12	1,151.0	1217.3
Reclamation & Revegetation Services – Provides expert consulting services and plants (seeds) to government agencies and private companies for reclamation of disturbance of plant regimes for Alaska's natural resource development	2	238.9	238.9
Industrial Hemp Program – Implementing an Industrial Hemp (IH) Program to regulate the growing, manufacturing and sales of IH	4	0.0	362.9
Invasive Plant and Pest Management Program – Coordinates the eradication of invasive plants and pests in cooperation with state and federal partners	1	129.0	129.0



Plant Production and Environmental Services (Northern Latitude Plant Materials Center)

PMC Staff : evaluate, maintain and produce high-quality native seed needed for commercial production.

- : Develop plant materials and crop production methods suitable for agriculture and revegetation and reclamation projects in Alaska's unique environment.
- : Provide expert services to agricultural producers to maximize successful farm and reclamation activities.



Plant Production and Environmental Services (Northern Latitude Plant Materials Center)

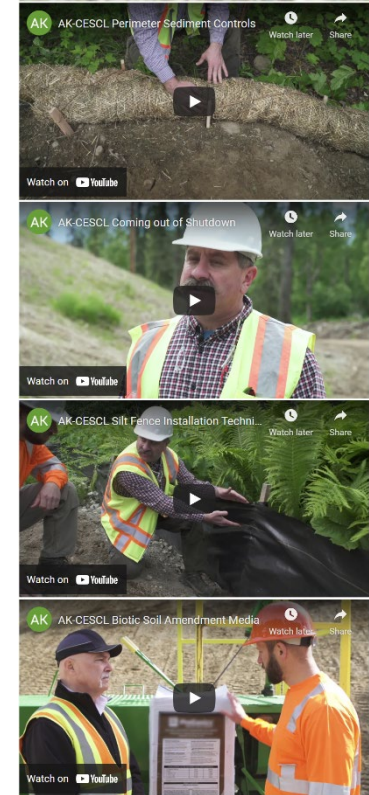
2021 Production

- Raised 40 acres of foundational seed
- Produced generation zero seed stock for 29 farms, of 108 varieties totaling 1300 lbs and 600 plantlets of generation zero stock.
- Cleaned and conditioned 440,000.00 lbs of commercial grass, grain and forb seed



Plant Production and Environmental Services (Northern Latitude Plant Materials Center)

Revegetation and Erosion Control develops plant materials and crop production methods suitable for revegetation and reclamation projects in Alaska's unique environment. Provides expert services to natural resource industries to maximize reclamation and revegetation activities.



Priorities: include the use of dormant seedlings to extend planting seasons

- : cost-effective methods of willow planting and wetland ecosystem restoration.
- : continue 275+ plot-years of information from sites around the state,
- : developing (now 11) new cultivars and (now 33) natural "Selected Class" germplasms for release.

Plant Production and Environmental Services (Northern Latitude Plant Materials Center)

The Industrial Hemp Program allows Alaska farmers, manufacturers, and retailers to grow industrial hemp and to manufacture and sell products derived from legally grown industrial hemp.

- SB27 Established Permanent Program
 - Authorized submittal of USDA Industrial Hemp Grow Program.
 - Plan Approved 12-28-2021 Effective 1-1-2022
- Product Endorsements: 1658
- Grow Registrants: 11
 - Every harvest lot below legal limit of 0.03%
- Processor Registrants: 3
- Retail Registrants: 184



Agriculture Inspection and Market Services (AIMS)

Invasive Plant and Pest Management Program programs are *to safeguard Alaska's agricultural and environmental resources* by ensuring that new introductions of harmful exotic pests are *detected before they cause significant damage to our agriculture and natural resources.....*

Surveillance Activities in Alaska include :

Phytoplasma in Potatoes - surveillance of a specific phytoplasma.

Snail and Slug Surveys - monitoring for exotic snails and slugs in Alaska

Nursey Survey - target pests of concern on imported nursery stock

Honeybee Pests and Diseases - monitoring for exotic pests in diseases in apiaries.

Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) Detection and Surveillance Program: in cooperation with CBP.



Agriculture Inspection and Market Services (AIMS)

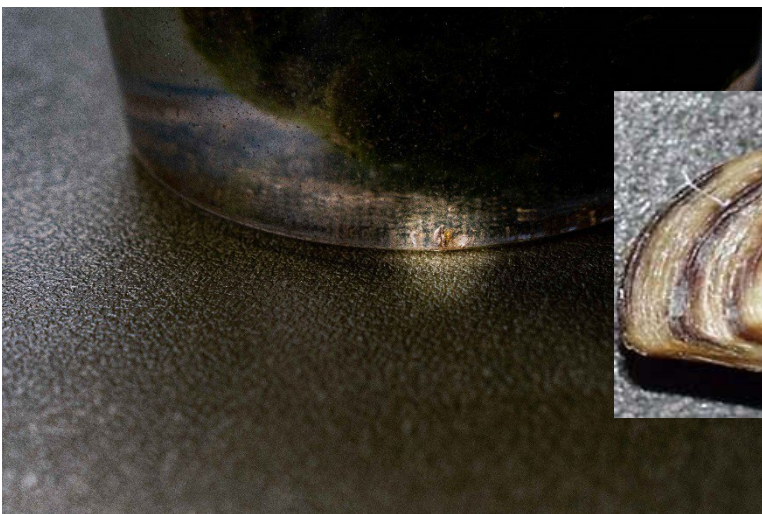
Invasive Plant and Pest Management Program 2021 Issues:

Ralstonia Race 3 biovar 2 (R3B2) is a serious bacterial pathogen, hosts include 200 plant species in 33 different plant families; agricultural i.e, potatoes and tomatoes, ornamentals; i.e., geraniums.

Box Tree Moth (BTM) USDA received notification from Canadian Food Inspection Service (CFIA) of *Cydalima perspectalis*, box tree moth (BTM) detection. Trace forward included 6 nurseries in Alaska.

Zebra Muscles: Marimo Balls A type of green algae (*Aegagropila* Linnael), commonly referred to as Marimo balls, *Claadophora* ball, moss balls, or lake balls was recently discovered to be infested with zebra mussels.

Elodea: 8 new lakes in Fairbanks found infested. 1 lake on Kenai Peninsula.....



Plant Production and Environmental Services

Invasive Plant and Pest Management Program *provides a direct response for containment, eradication and management of pests and pathogens.*

- **Elodea Eradication:**

- **Interior:**

- Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District under DiofAg Direction
 - Chena Slough
 - Harding, Chisolm, and Birch Lakes

- **SouthCentral:**

- Div of Ag
 - Alexander & Sucker Lake
 - Big Lake
 - Jewel Lake
 - Potter Marsh
 - USFWS
 - Sand Piper Lake (Kenai)



Agriculture Inspection and Market Services (AIMS)

	PCNs	UGF	Total
Inspection and Certification – Provides audits, inspections and phytosanitary certifications necessary to assure USDA standards and Good Handling Practices	5	190.5	537.5
Market Services Section – Supports economic diversification and promotion of Alaska production to state, regional, national and international markets	3	202.7	350.3
Agricultural Land Program – Agricultural Land Program – Manages state agricultural lands, include agricultural covenants. In cooperation with DMLW, sells state Ag land into private ownership.	2	93.1	249.1
Grant Administration and Management – Provides administrative management to federal pass-through programs provided through the 2018 Farm Bill, including the Micro Grants for Food Security Program.	1	0.0	100.5
Invasive Plant and Pest Detection Program – Coordinates prevention, outreach and the management of harmful invasive plants and agricultural pests	1	25.1	100.4



Agriculture Inspection and Market Services (AIMS)

Inspection Services provides awareness, inspections and audits of domestic agricultural products; provides inspection and certification services necessary to export agricultural products; surveys, tracks, and provides outreach on invasive pest species.

The following programs are managed through this section:

- Potato seed certification
- Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices
- Inspections of elk, eggshells, fruits and vegetables
- Grade inspections
- Registration of brands, bees
- Timber and phytosanitary export program



Agriculture Inspection and Market Services (AIMS)

Market Services Section helps provide economic diversification and promotion of Alaska production to state, regional, national and international food and farm security.

- Maintains integrity and use of the federal and state registered “Alaska Grown” trademark, as well as administering annual promotional merchandise license agreements for eligible businesses ; which has served Alaska farmers for 35 years and is the second-longest state brand agricultural program in the nation
- Manages and develops state-wide and national campaigns designed to boost state-branded agricultural recognition and increased member product demand. As a member of the Western United States Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA), partner to host international trade activities to link foreign markets with Alaska businesses that utilize Alaska’s fish, farmed, and/or harvested products.



Agriculture Inspection and Market Services (AIMS)



**Golden Carrot Award
Winner
Roaming Root Cellar**

**1st Annual
Tundra Chef
Cook-Off**



Agriculture Inspection and Market Services (AIMS)

Agricultural Land Program fosters food security and economic development by selling state agricultural land to individuals and businesses engaged in agriculture, and managing the agriculture covenants which help provide long term production practices.

As of 2020, 1050 farms were operating in Alaska, with annual production of approximately \$40 million worth of food and fiber.

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service identified 850,000 acres of Alaska farm and ranchland in 2017.

The Division (*with the support of DMLW*) has set up the 100,000+ Acre Nenana-Totchaket Agriculture Project.

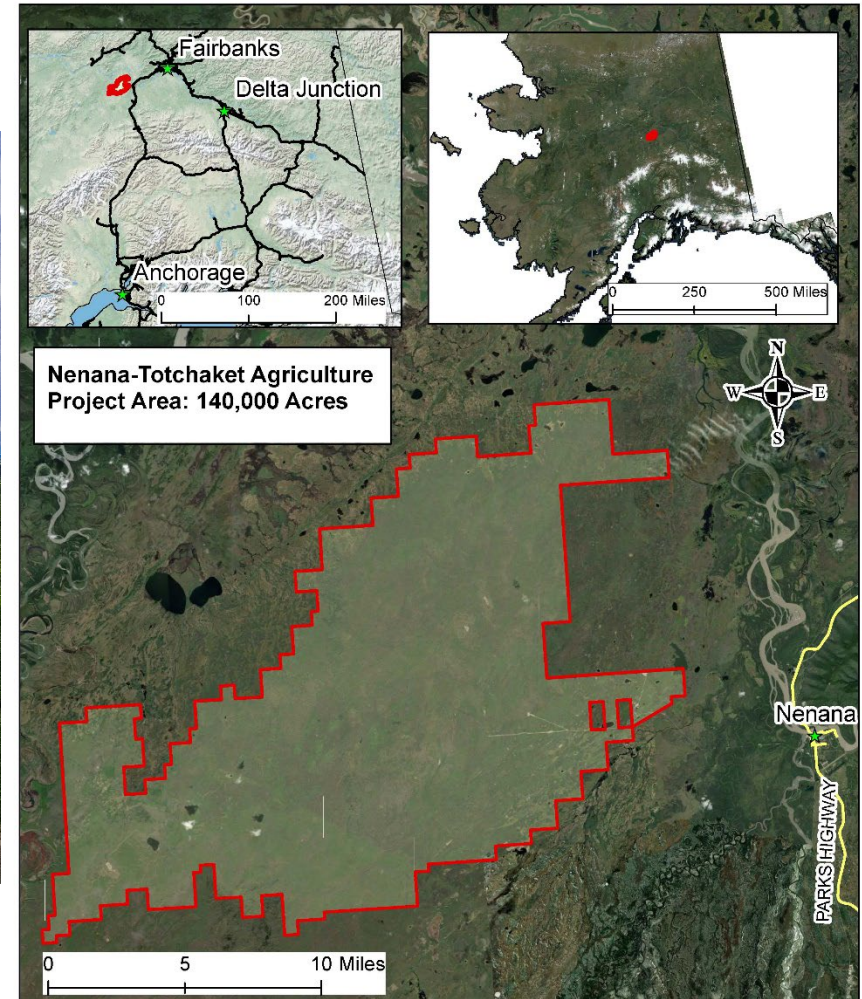


Agriculture Inspection and Market Services (AIMS)

Nenana Totchaket Agriculture Project



Nenanana-Totchaket Bridge



Nenana-Totchaket Agriculture Project

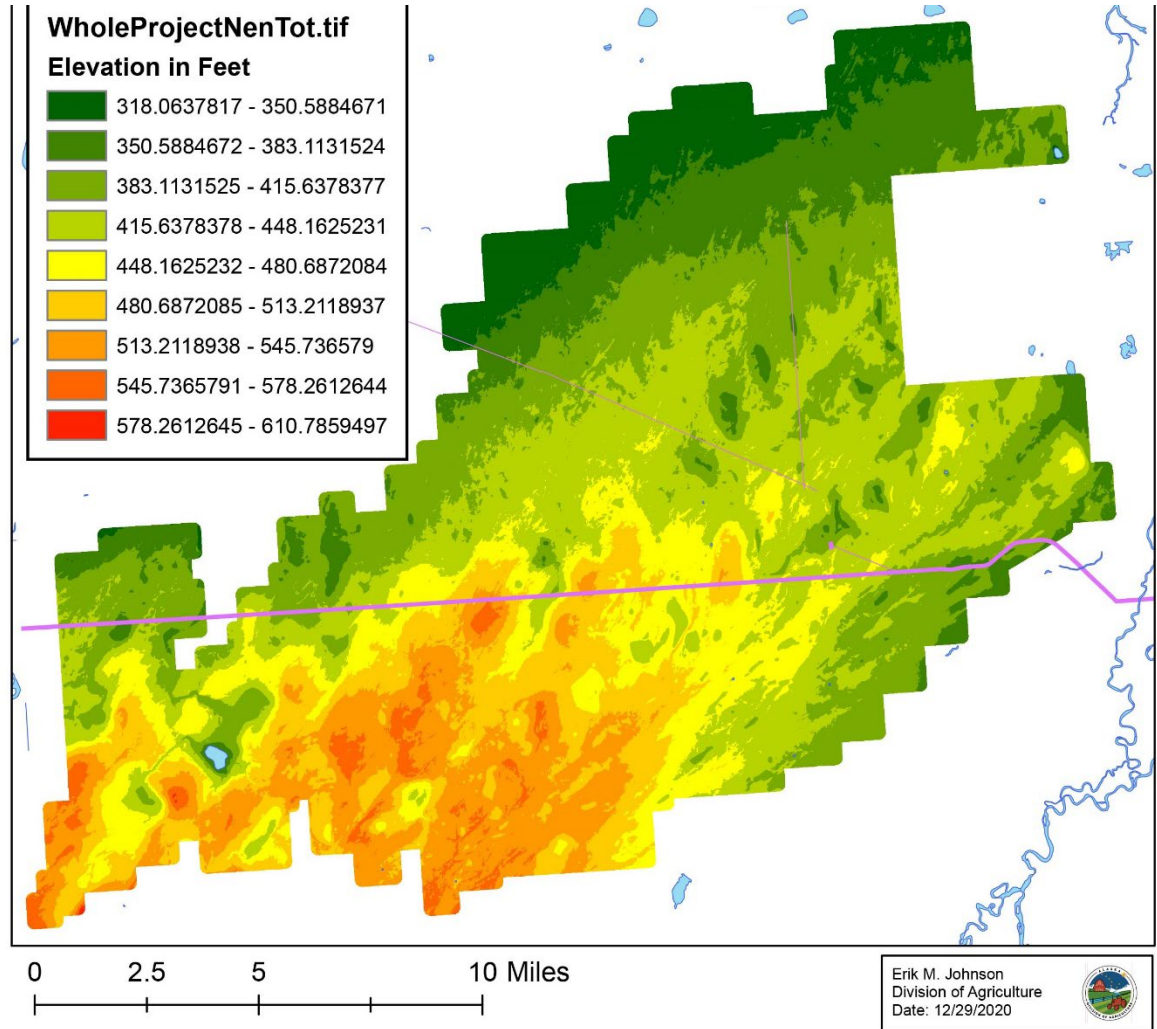
New LiDAR

Points **LAS v 1.4**
All Classified Returns

Rasters **3.0 Foot GeoTiffs**
Hydroflattened Bare Earth Model
Highest Hit Digital Surface Model
>9.0 ft Canopy Model
1.5 Foot Geo Tiffs
Intensity Images

Vectors **Shapefiles (*.shp)**
Area of Interest
LiDAR Tile Index
Water's Edge Breaklines
AutoCAD Drawing Files
Contours (2 ft)

Digital Imagery
1 ft Geo Tiff: RGB & NIR



Agriculture Inspection and Market Services (AIMS)

Nenana Totchaket Agricultural Project Timeline DMLW/DoAg

2020

Bridge open to public use

Imagery data collected

LiDAR and Imagery data delivered to DNR

2021

Preliminary Decision Public notice/public comment

Final Finding and Decision

NRCS soil survey of 33K acres (“phase one” offerings)

Survey Contracting Phase 1A

Lot Line Clearing

Nenena-Totchaket Ag Day

2022

Sale of Phase 1A

Finish NRCS soil survey of 33K acres (“phase one” offerings)

Design Phase 1B

Plant / Invasive / Study and Photo Correlation

Nenana-Totchaket Ag Day **June 11, 2022**

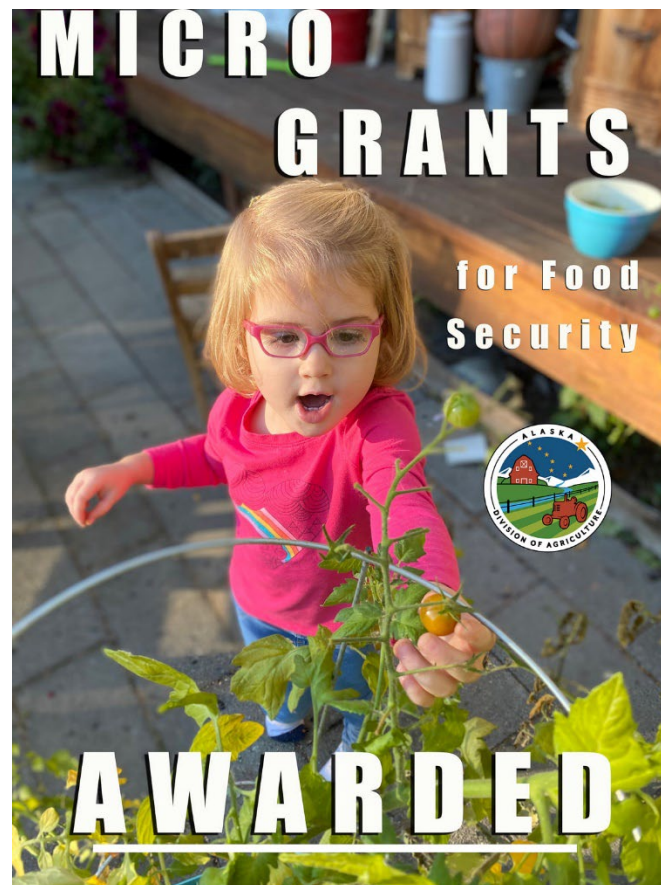


Agriculture Inspection and Market Services (AIMS)

Grants Administration Section provides administration and management of over \$2,000,000 in Federal, State and private direct and pass through funding to promote and develop Alaska's agricultural industry and food security.

Key duties and functions:

- Administers and federal grant program awards, such as the Specialty Crop Block Grants and Micro Grants for Food Security
- Manages programs for grants for which the Division of Agriculture is the required applicant, often high-profile R&D projects requested by industry, and part of the Plant Materials Center's mission
- Leverages funds and expertise across government agencies, foundations, tribal entities, and non-profit organizations that have like-minded missions but lack agricultural expertise

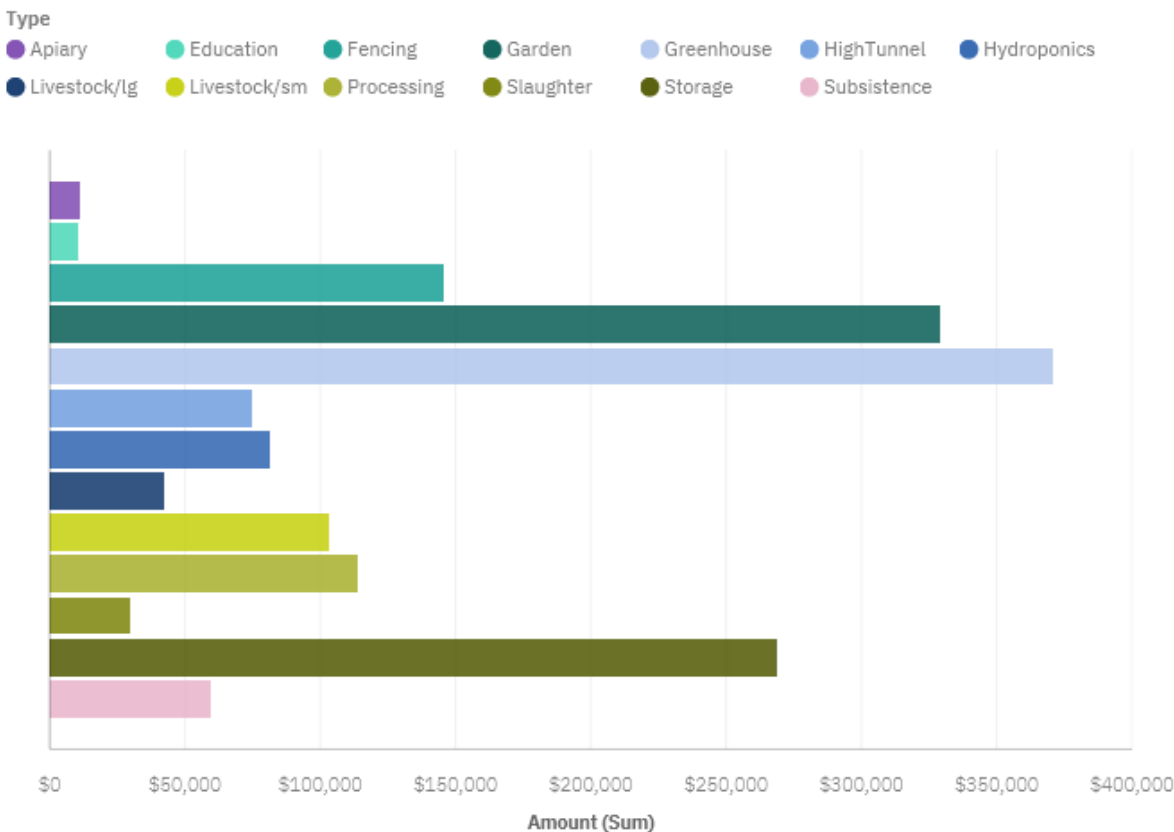


Agriculture Inspection and Market Services (AIMS)

The Division of Agriculture received over 2,300 pre-applications and more than 1,000 proposals for funding in the inaugural year of the program. Of those, 234 were approved for funding by the USDA Agriculture Marketing Service.

The Division focused funding on projects critical for food security, with a priority on Alaska's critical rural supply chain.

Amount, Type



60+ grants \$360,000 for greenhouse projects;
40+ grants \$320,000 for gardening proposals;
30 grants \$260,000 for storage facilities; and
25+ grants \$145,000 for fencing

Questions



Farm Family of the Year
Allie Barker & Jed Workman of Chickaloon
-Chugach Farms-



THANK YOU!