

**HB**

**132**

# Alaska State Legislature

**Interim:**

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Wasilla, AK 99654

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**Session:**

Alaska State Capitol, Rm 108  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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Rep\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us

**Representative Carl Gatto**  
Co-Chair, House Resources Committee  
District 13 - Palmer

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### HB 132

*"An Act designating the first Tuesday of May as Alaska Agriculture Day."*

HB 132 acknowledges the importance of agriculture in Alaska. This bill is in recognition of the farmers and those in related industries who feed our state and add more than \$50,000,000 annually to the economy of the State of Alaska. Agriculture in Alaska has truly great potential particularly in the area of pharmaceutical corn and other highly advanced areas of agriculture. It is crucial that we take every opportunity to take advantage of the strengths of this state and educate our students and our workforce in the value of modern agriculture to our economy and our society.

As a Representative of Palmer, member of the NCSL Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, and the CSG Agriculture and Rural Policy Task Force I know firsthand the need for, and value of, agriculture in Alaska and urge your prompt and favorable action on this bill.



## Classroom

## Alaska Agriculture in the

*Victoria Naegele, director*

*9788 N Waldo Reed Rd. • Palmer, AK 99645*

*907-746-2172; fax 746-2173; [AKAITC@alaskafb.org](mailto:AKAITC@alaskafb.org)*

Representative Carl Gatto  
Room 108 State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

February 16, 2007

Dear Representative Gatto:

I appreciate your introduction of HB 132, Alaska Agriculture Day, in 25th Legislature. This bill is important to help raise the visibility of agriculture in this state, and provide an impetus for greater agricultural literacy among our students and population at large.

In working with the Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom program for the past eight years, I have been alarmed how little about agriculture many Alaskans know. Far too many have no idea what agriculture is. Those who know may not realize this state has any agricultural production, and it is very clear that people in other states largely consider Alaska as a state without agriculture.

Given Alaska's ranking in agricultural production, that is too close to the truth. We live in a state that relies almost entirely on food brought to us from thousands of miles away. In a world of conflict and uncertainty, that is a real security risk. Only through support of our state's agricultural industry can we inch away from that 97-98 percent import figure, and begin helping Alaska farmers feed Alaskans for at least a few days.

Alaska AITC continues to work on many fronts to promote agricultural literacy. Just released is the new "Hopeful Harvest" series of Alaska agricultural history lessons to supplement the state

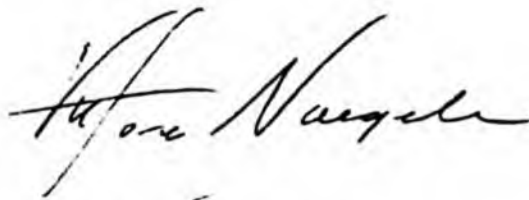
*more*

requirement for Alaska studies. There was no mention of agriculture in the standards, written by the Alaska Department of Education, and no lessons devoted to our important and rich Alaska agricultural history until "Hopeful Harvest."

While the designation of a special Alaska Agriculture Day may seem a superfluous thing to some, it provides a focal point for Alaskans to unite for a moment to consider who grew or raised the food we eat. It gives us a chance to appreciate the rich soil with which some areas of the state are blessed. It gives us a chance to thank those who help provide us with food.

Again, I appreciate your willingness to help with this effort once again. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help make a reality this permanent designation of the first Tuesday in May as Alaska Agriculture Day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victoria Naegele". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Victoria Naegele

**Sandra Wilson**

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**From:** Bryce Wrigley [deltaswcd@wildak.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2007 3:34 PM  
**To:** Sandra Wilson  
**Subject:** Alaska Ag day

Dear Representative Gatto,

I was pleased to read about your bill extending Alaska Ag Day a permanent status in the state. I support the designation with enthusiasm and hope your bill has a good reception among the other lawmakers. To many of us involved in agriculture, every acknowledgement of legitimacy from the state is most welcome. Much is made of the money that was spent on developing agriculture in Alaska, but when looked at in perspective of other efforts to develop industries in the state, it has been a pittance. In the last 50 years, \$71 million has passed through the Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund. So for an average of \$1.4 million per year over 50 years, there is now an agricultural industry that grosses nearly \$50 million per year. That does not look like a failure to me. For some reason though, that is what the state has been led to believe. So, thank you for your bill and good luck.

Bryce Wrigley  
Alaska Farm Bureau President,  
Delta Chapter

2/19/2007

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

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February 22, 2007

The Honorable Carl Gatto  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 422  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Gatto:

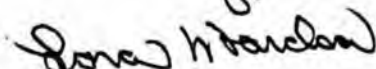
On behalf of the Board of Agriculture and Conservation I would like to express my appreciation for your efforts in introducing House Bill 132, "An Act designating the first Tuesday of May as Alaska Agriculture Day."

Agriculture is an important industry in our State and deserves the public's recognition. I encourage you and other members of the Alaska Legislature to continue to support our farm and ranch families.

Staff at the Division of Agriculture is working closely with Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom's Victoria Naegele in developing events and activities to promote and support Alaska Agriculture Day.

Thank you for your continued support of Alaska agriculture.

Sincerely,

By:  
  
For:

Rhonda Boyles, Chair  
Board of Agriculture and Conservation

CC: Edmund Fogels, DNR, Commissioners Office  
Larry DeVilbiss, Director  
Melanie Lesh, DNR, Legislative Liaison  
Douglas Warner, Development Specialist

*"Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans."*

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: HB 132  
 (H) Publish Date: 3/28/07

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Administration  
 Title Designating the first Tuesday of May as Alaska RDU Centralized Administrative Services  
Agriculture Day Component Administrative Services  
 Sponsor Representatives Gatto, Salmon  
 Requester \_\_\_\_\_ Component No. 46

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0  
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation should have no fiscal impact on the agency.

Prepared by: Rosezella Michalsky, Executive Secretary  
 Division: Administrative Services  
 Approved by: Kevin Brooks  
 Agency: Department of Administration

Phone 465-5655  
 Date/Time 3/27/07 8:00 AM  
 Date 3/27/2007