

1/18/12
OVERVIEW:
DNR -
DIVISION
OF AGRICULTURE

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DIVISION OF
AGRICULTURE</SUBJECT><COMM>HRES27</COMM></TARGET>

The Division of Agriculture



Agriculture in Alaska



- Alaska Agriculture Statistics reported 680 farms in Alaska in 2010.
- Alaska's agriculture is diverse and located throughout the state
- Generates over 30.7 million dollars in cash receipts



Average age of Alaskan farmer is 56.2 years

Alaskan Agriculture

Greenhouse/Nursery/Specialty Crops

- Ranks #1
- 42.3% of cash receipts
- Examples include vegetables, berries, sod, flowers
- Production found throughout the state



Hay Production

- Ranks #2
- 13.2% of cash receipts
- Production found throughout the state



Alaskan Agriculture

Calves & Cattle

- Ranks #3
- 7.9% of cash receipts
- Production found throughout the state



Potatoes

- Ranks #4
- 7.7% of cash receipts
- Production found throughout the state



Alaskan Agriculture

Dairy Products

- Ranks #5
- 5.2% of cash receipts
- Production found throughout the state



Barley

- Ranks #6
- 7.7% of cash receipts
- Production found throughout the state



Division Overview



- Three locations
 - Central office is located in Palmer
 - North Latitude Plant Materials Center (PMC) located in the Butte
 - Northern Region Office located in Fairbanks
- 47 Employees
 - 33 full-time positions
 - 11 seasonal
 - 3 Non-Perm
- Total budget - \$7,189,000.00



The Division's mission and priority is to promote and encourage the development of an agriculture industry in the state.

- **Core Division Services**

- Land Sales/Management
- Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund
- Plant Materials Center
- Marketing Assistance
- Inspection Services



Land Sales/ Management

- Land Sales

 - 202 acres sold in 2011

 - 1300 acres to be offered in 2013

- Grazing Leases

 - 8 active grazing leases,
covering 179,785 acres

- Agriculture Leases

 - 6 active Ag leases covering 800
acres



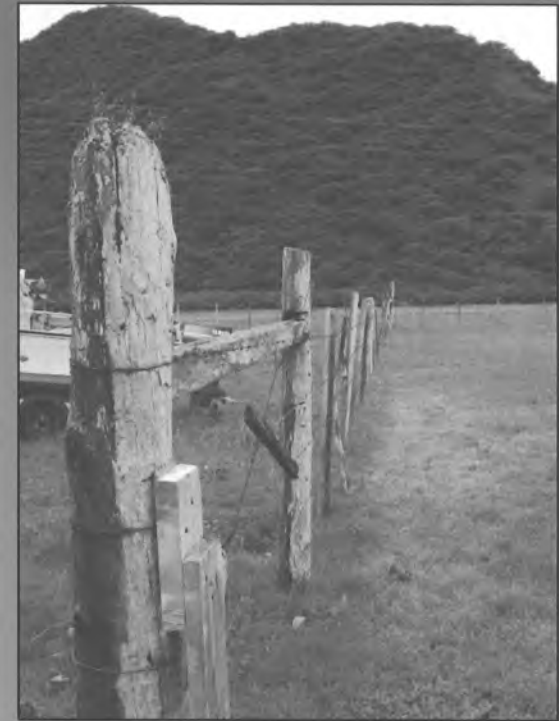
Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF)

- **Statutorily established in AS 03.10.010**

- Promote the more rapid development of agriculture as an industry throughout the State by means of long-term, low-interest loans
- 58 years of continuous operation

- **Types of Available Loans**

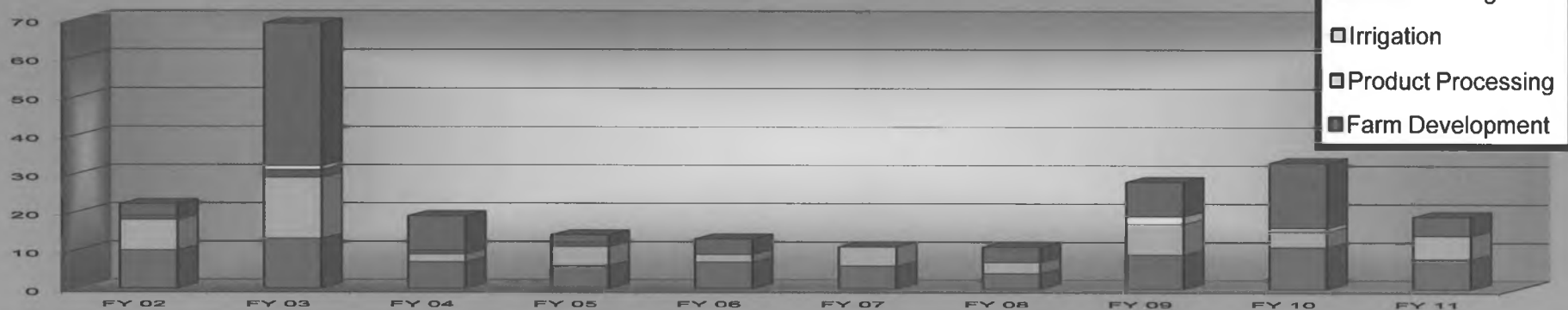
- Short Term** – *for annual operating expenses (fertilizer, etc.)*
- Chattel** – *for purchase of equipment or livestock*
- Farm Development** – *purchase of real property for agricultural use*
- Irrigation** – *system purchase and installation*
- Product Processing** – *to build and equip facilities for the processing of Alaskan agricultural products*
- Clearing** – *for agriculture land clearing*



- Fund equity at end of FY11 was \$22,726,980.00 compared to \$22,563,097.00 in FY2010
- Available cash balance on June 30, 2011 of \$4,588,620.00 compared to \$4,653,390.00 in FY10
- Averaged over the past nine year period
 - 2.4 million in loans annually
 - \$2.8 million repaid each year
- Majority of loan requests for this time frame have been short term notes – with a one to three year payback
- ARLF continues to meet the current need of industry

Comparative Loan Activity – FY 02 – FY11

by Number of Loans



*3% short
5% long term*

North Latitude Plant Materials Center



Mission:

To promote the use of Alaskan-produced agricultural crops for revegetation and seed production

Primary activities of the PMC:



- Foundation Seed Program
- Certified Potato Seed Program
- Certified Seed Laboratory
- Native Plant Evaluation
- High Latitude Germplasm Research
- Invasive Species Management
- Revegetation Technology / Design
- Conservation Plant Technology
- Seed Cleaning and Conditioning
- Ethnobotany Teaching Garden
- Rural Village Seed Production
- Training, Outreach, Publications
- Web Conference Hosting Facility

*Native
plant
seed*

(C) (S) (P)

Marketing



Market Development

- Alaska Grown Program
- Farm to School Program
- Industry Support
- Education & Outreach
- Conference Hosting
- Farmers Market Directory

Grants

- Specialty Crop Block Grants
- Federal-State Marketing improvement program



Alaska Grown Program

- Launched in 1985, designed to highlight Alaska Grown farm products in the marketplace
- Over 400 farms are signed up and participate in the program
- One of the most recognized brands in the state of Alaska
- Statewide advertising reminds customers to *“Look for, Ask for, and Buy Alaska Grown”*



Accomplishments in FY11

- Our marketing department works closely with retailers to encourage increased support of Alaska grown through direct contact, Alaska Grown signage and promotional items
- We continue to provide support and promotion to the 33 Farmers Markets located throughout the state
 - An Alaskan Farmer's Market Manual was created through multi-agency cooperation as well as a brochure listing statewide markets
 - These markets located throughout the state provide producers of all size a market for the product
- The Division partnered with the local Mat-Su Farm Chapter and the Palmer soil and water chapter and funded an 8 week marketing campaign with Chef Al who each Wednesday morning showcased the preparation of a dish featuring Alaskan Grown Product
- **We now use social media, creating an Alaska Grown face book account. We are pleased with the amount of activity and discussion on this site**
- **We continue to explore new marketing venues to educate the public on Alaska grown**
 - Bench adds at Carrs /Safeway
 - Full page add in Alaska edition of the Travel Guide
 - Alaska Wellness Magazine
 - Anchorage Daily News twice weekly ads
 - 61 degrees North
 - Coordinated with ASMI on Alaska Magazine advertisement
- **We continue to work with local chefs to move in season fresh product into restaurants**
 - This past season we launched the Chef at the Market
 - Through a grant proposal, we awarded funding for 16 farmers market events where chef's showcased Alaska Grown products available at the market that day

Farm to School Program

Priorities:

- Enhance communication, awareness & knowledge transfer between Alaska Grown producers & Alaskan schools
- Identify and disseminate curriculums that will lead students to greater awareness of Alaska agriculture
- Work with appropriate officials to develop guidelines and standards for proper and safe food production in school gardens
- Promote, encourage and coordinate farm visits for students



Accomplishments in FY11

- The Farm to School Program has done a number of projects engaging schools, food producers, and community members:
 - - developed a 'School Garden Food Safety Guideline'
 - started a mini-grant for funding projects on a local level
 - launched a FTS challenge during the National FTS month of October
 - done a product feasibility study and local product recipe development
 - mentored, outreached, and contributed to the national movement
- Through all of the efforts in the past year the FTS program has worked with:
 - 29/53 (55%) of the school districts
 - which includes approximately 20% of the schools (~100)
 - getting exposure with approximately 20% of the K-12 student enrollment (over 27,000)

Education & Outreach



- FY 11
 - Division hosted 5 conferences
 - Spoke at 19 events
 - Administered 28 grants
 - Produced 25 newsletters
 - Participated in 356 public marketing outreach activities
 - Funded 6 marketing campaigns
- The Division partners with educators, agencies, and the private sector, to promote knowledge transfer within the industry
- Support youth agriculture education programs:
 - Agriculture in the Classroom
 - FFA
 - 4-H
 - Teacher Education
 - Youth education events

Inspection Services

- USDA Grade Inspection and Certification
- Food Safety Audits:
 - Good Handling Practices (GHP)
 - Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
- Export Certification
- Plant Health Inspections
- Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)
- Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS)

FY2011 :

- 90 Commercial produce inspections
- 250 Military & institutional produce inspections
- 2 GHP/GHP Inspections
- 70 Federal Phytosanitary Certificated were written
- 12 Country Of Origin & Labeling audits performed
- 12 USDA Egg inspections
- 3 Elk Farm Inspections
- 185 Farm & Retail Inspections
- 2 brand inspections were performed.

Other Accomplishments in FY11

- Bi-monthly teleconferences have been set up between DEC, Division of Agriculture and Industry providing direct access for industry to address areas of concern and request help or information
- Discussions are currently taking place between Mining, Land & Water management and Division of Agriculture looking for ways to steam line and facilitate the leasing process
- We continue to work closely with DOC regarding the purchase of Alaska Grown Products and have seen increased movement into the correctional facilities
- Agriculture Advisory Panel has been created to provide industry direct input into the long range plan
- Division of Agriculture continues to be responsive in providing both information and services requested by industry.
- Staff completed (with the exception of a few Mile Posts) a mile by mile, vegetation, erosion and invasive weed survey on the Trans Alaska Pipeline. This project was in cooperation with Alyeska Service Co., State Pipeline Coordinators Office and the Bureau of Land management
- A comprehensive field guide for the identification of Alaska grasses is nearing publication
- A new Alaska Forage Manual is in its final stages prior to printing
- The second edition of the Alaska Coastal Revegetation and Erosion Control Guide was published
- Over 600 seed lots were tested by the PMC certified seed lab
- Over 800 tests were performed for individuals by PMC certified seed lab
- Over 95,000 lbs of raw seed were cleaned by the PMC, producing over 66,000 lbs of clean seed
- The Rural Seed Production Project is moving forward with six villages (Aniak, Chignik Bay, Hooper Bay, Manley Hot Springs, Metlakatla, and Pedro Bay.) signing on as partners in developing small scale seed production. This seed produced in the villages will be marketed to local mining, road and airport projects
- The PMC has acquired the plant materials from the ARS research group and has placed them in winter storage. None of the research material has been lost. however establishment of this program in the PMC is critical to the ongoing support of the existing material and these industries



How does
Alaska become
more food
secure?

How do we increase production?

Discussion points of 1st Agriculture Advisory Teleconference

Industry Comments:

- Need more agriculture land
- Incentives to produce?
- Assistance with input costs?
 - Input costs on the rise
 - Product value not keeping up
- Need more young farmers
- Industry interested in agriculture land sales of less than 40 acres
- Need to connect agriculture land owners not currently in production with those that are looking for agriculture land
- Interest in localized or mobile processing units
- Homer is putting together a “local food house”

Thank you

Franci Havemeister, Director
Division of Agriculture



ALASKA PEONY GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

APGA Data

- We have 98 members as of Dec 2011. Of those, 17 have marketable quantities of peonies (over 500 plants in the ground).
- Member farms are located from Homer to North Pole
- Peonies bloom in Alaska in July, August, and September and nowhere else in the world during this time.
- In 2011, approximately 10,000 cut stems were sold for an average price of \$4.00 per stem.
- Peony stems were shipped to Oregon, Rhode Island, Florida, California, Texas, Iowa, Colorado, New York, Pennsylvania, Hawaii, Canada, & Japan and numerous other locations
- In the US, cut flowers are a multi-million dollar industry. In 2009, The United States wholesale cut flower and foliage production was a \$433 million business. No data was available for US peony cut flower production. In 2008, 50 million stems of fresh cut peonies were sold through Dutch floral auctions, and the number is expected to exceed 100 million stems by 2012.
- There are over 50,000 peony roots in the ground on peony farms in Alaska and farmers are continuing to add roots at over 10,000 roots per year.
- Standard production figures are for 10 cuts per plant. With 50,000 roots, 500,000 cuts per year are expected by 2015. This equates to between 1 and 2 million dollars a year in sales at a conservative estimate of \$2-\$4 per stem.
- Value per acre: 2500-5000 plants per acre x 10 cuts per stem x \$2 to \$4 per stem equals \$50,000 to \$100,000 production value per acre
- Worldwide, buyers have indicated strong interest including a buyer in London who has a standing order for 100,000 stems per week as soon as we can start providing them.

Results of USDA Agricultural Research Service loss to Alaska

- Alaska is losing \$5.4 million of agriculture and fish research
- 10 scientists and 32.5 FTE (full-time equivalent) positions including
 - A geneticist and support technician
 - A horticulturist and support technician
 - A research plant pathologist and support technicians (2)
- Impacted agricultural research includes potato, peony, currants, raspberry, rhubarb, and blueberry.

- As a result, Alaska will no longer have any horticultural entomologist, weed scientists, geneticists, or virologists in the entire state.

Results of UAF School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences internal restructuring

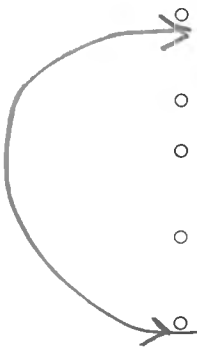
- Two faculty members are currently working on peonies in SNRAS. Both positions have been cut to $\frac{3}{4}$ time. All peony research conducted by these faculty members will be impacted, delayed, or eliminated except for the USDA funded phenology study.

How can you, the public official, support this growing industry

- Provide funding and support for focused research and marketing
 1. Marketing
 - Include information about the Alaskan peony industry in all state marketing efforts
 - Small business development planning assistance
 2. Research
 - Crop Improvement
 - Season extension and season uncertainty, ie, winter survival
 - Plant breeding, ie, cultivar identification, diversity determination, winter hardiness
 - Soils & nutrition, ie, soils nutrient deficiencies, symptoms in plants, fertilizer recommendations, nutrient uptake.
 - Disease management, ie, Botrytis and viruses
 - Pest management, ie pest identification, pest control determinations, and pesticide certifications
 - Weed control, ie, weed surveys with control recommendations and herbicide certifications
 - Plant phenology, ie, plant and bud development, bud maturity to accurately predict product availability
 - Post harvest
 - Post harvest storage guidelines
 - Storage life extension

There is no need for additional facilities as they are already available

5 yr.
annual
\$500,000



75 part time planters/cutters
150 within 5 yrs.



Horticulture in Alaska – an Emerging Market in Specialty Cut Flowers

Patricia S. Holloway

School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences

History: Most Alaskans and visitors know that this northern climate produces stunning flowers. The huge blooms and vibrant colors are certainly the talk of summer visitors, gardeners and landscapers. In 1998, the UAF Cooperative Extension Service held a greenhouse conference in Fairbanks, Alaska. One of the invited speakers was a cut flower grower from Oregon who shipped flowers worldwide. This grower learned from research at UAF that the popular cut flower, the peony, blooms in July and August in Alaska, and he mentioned that this late season was unique in the world of cut flowers. Peonies as cut flowers are available from New Zealand and Australia in Oct/Nov; Chile and Argentina in Dec/Feb; the Middle East, China and central Europe in Mar/May; and the “lower 48” and coastal Europe in May/June. Fresh cut peonies have not been available anywhere in the world in July/Sept – until now. Our season is so late because of our northern latitude, they bloom during the time when no one else has them. Combine this unique opportunity with access to world markets through the third largest air cargo system in the world (Anchorage and Fairbanks airports combined), and we speculated that Alaska might be in a good position to enter the multi-billion dollar world of cut flowers.

In 2001, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (AFES), received a grant from the US Department of Agriculture (federal grant) to study the potential for developing an export industry in specialty cut flowers. We planted peony roots, enlisted the help of undergraduate senior thesis and graduate master’s students in analyzing the feasibility of growing peonies as cut flowers in Alaska. At the same time, we contacted growers, flower distributors, florists, marketing specialists in the “lower 48” and New Zealand to learn the potential of this fledgling idea. In a nutshell, every single person we contacted, said in one manner or another, “You’re sitting on a gold mine!”

We were encouraged even further when, in 2004 we were contacted by the largest cut flower distributor in London who insisted on purchasing at least 1 million stems to be transported (at his expense) on jets loaded with fresh Alaska salmon headed for London restaurants. Through efforts of the UAF Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension, a small group of Alaskans began growing peonies, and in 2007 the first ever commercial export of peonies from Homer was sent to florists in the “lower 48”. The first delivery was fewer than 1,000 stems, but it was highly successful.

Today, there are 90 peony growers; 17 growers have commercial quantities (>500 plants) of peonies in the ground; the rest are starting small, entering this market with a healthy dose of caution. The largest grower in Soldotna has more than 10,000 plants in the ground. There are peony growers in Fairbanks, North Pole, Delta Junction, Nenana, Central, Trapper Creek, Palmer, Wasilla, Kenai, Soldotna, Homer and a few places in between. Through a combined effort of

researchers, extension personnel and growers, the world is waking up to the fact that Alaska has high quality peonies for sale. In 2011, Alaska peonies were shipped to Japan, many locations in the Lower 48, and even Hawaii with demand far exceeding supply. Every grower with peonies to sell was inundated with phone calls from all over the world this past summer. This business also has attracted outside investors; two Alaska farms are now custom growing peonies for the largest Midwest flower distributor in Chicago.

A new industry has begun in Alaska, and all indications are, it will grow just as fast as Alaskans plant peonies. Growers have formed the Alaska Peony Growers Association with a website of cut flower availability (<http://alaskapeonies.org/>). Growers projected they would not meet world demand for at least 10 years, and the dollar return is 10 times or more greater than sales during the glut season in May. Growers routinely receive from \$3.00 to \$9.00 per stem with up to 100,000 stems per acre. The question from distributors is, "What else do you have for sale?" Everything from yellow-stemmed wild willow branches to cut lilies has been requested.

The foundation: This industry was started as a direct research project at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (AFES), and only because the UAF Cooperative Extension Service (CES) held a conference, invited people to attend and exchange ideas. This project is the perfect example of how the system should work – public dollars being used to explore opportunities that promote economic development and well being of Alaskans. Our goal since Gold Rush days at AFES has been to explore new crops, new opportunities, conduct appropriate research both from the plant growing end as well as the business end, and then present our findings to the public so they can act on it (georgesonbg.org/research/peonies/index.html).

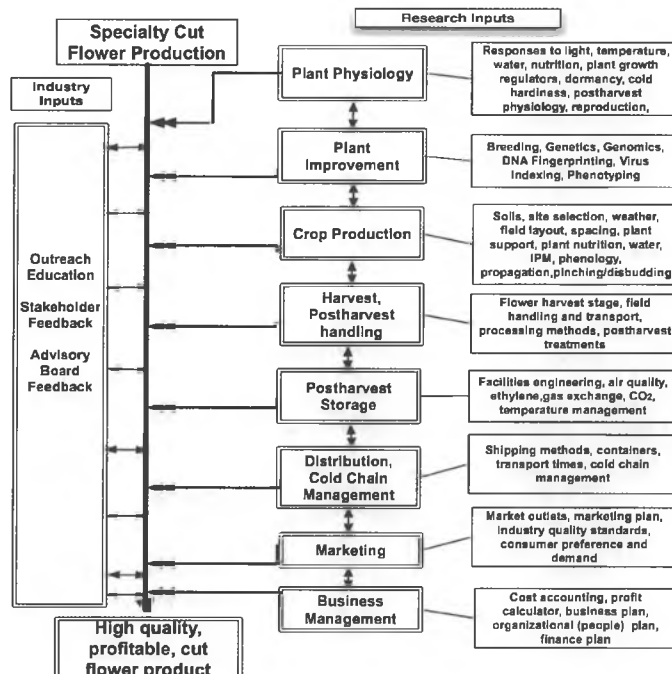
Most industries rely on research and development to maintain a competitive edge and ultimately increase profitability. They often have their own research programs, and information is proprietary. Historically, agriculture does not fit this mold. A country founded on small family farms recognized early on that agricultural research was lagging far behind other industries because farmers could not afford to fund their own research. In 1887, the federal government passed the Hatch Act that provided dollars to each land grant university to form an agricultural experiment station. Funds must be matched by each state. On average, Hatch Act funds constitute about 10 percent of total funding for each experiment station, the remainder coming from additional state funds and grants.

In addition, in 1914 the federal government established the Cooperative Extension Service in each state using the similar matching funding formula. The purpose of CES is to be the "person on the ground" visiting farm fields, working one-on-one with growers to transfer research information to where it is needed most. The third leg of the agriculture research stool is the USDA Agricultural Research Service whose scientists conduct broad-based research with national interests. Alaska currently hosts five federal scientists who have worked primarily on pest management – insects, plant viruses, weeds as well as testing new plants (especially blueberries) for Alaska.

Many people have gardens in Alaska, and it is often believed that anybody can make money at farming. Palmer grower Arthur Keys stated it well, however: "Farming is rocket science. It really is!" It is one thing to grow plants for home use, but to make money at it requires a greater level of knowledge. To further compete on world markets requires precision agriculture; attention to every single detail of production from knowing how plants grow to marketing and business management. With a crop such as peonies, there are so many unknowns, it requires an enormous amount of research and education to develop a competitive, profitable crop as illustrated in the attached diagram (Fig 1). No peony grower in Alaska can afford to fund this kind of research alone. It

requires a concentrated, long term effort from a variety of specialists – plant and soil researchers, disease and insect specialists, engineers, marketing specialists and extension educators to put it all together.

Fig 1. A Perennial Field-grown Cut Flower System



The problem: agricultural research in Alaska is not sustainable. The peony project at the University was funded by federal dollars, and that funding ended August 31, 2011. Despite the best efforts of researchers in Alaska, they have been rejected twice for additional federal funding in part because agriculture in Alaska is pretty much a non entity on the national scene. Additionally, during the past two years, the UAF Agricultural Experiment Station experienced a \$1 million shortfall directly impacting all agricultural research programs. There are few opportunities to submit grants to the State for additional funding especially ones that would cover salaries and large scale research projects. What little money that has been available through the Division of Agriculture is pass through federal funds for market research.

The Cooperative Extension Service personnel experienced similar cuts as a result of flat funding, thus hobbling their efforts to work with and educate growers. Additionally, the entire US Department of Agriculture in Alaska is scheduled to close some time this winter. Alaska's only plant virologist, weed specialists, insect pest specialists, and geneticist will be gone. Four of these scientists worked directly with Alaska peony growers. The USDA was successful in getting funding for the national gene bank for peonies in Palmer, Alaska, but it is scheduled to close before it gets off the ground. Alaska has no state researchers who can take up the slack. Growers will have no one to answer questions about pests, diseases or genetics once USDA leaves the state.

The need: This new peony industry is at a critical phase in its development. Not a day passes when scientists and extension personnel don't get queries from a grower or potential grower on varieties to grow, fertilizers, diseases, weed problems, markets, methods of shipping, and cold storage issues. We helped create this industry, and there is no more support. This industry urgently needs and deserves State support so it can leap into this exciting multi billion dollar world industry. Besides peonies, we need to address the other industry crop demands that could be filled by Alaska growers. This industry diversifies Alaska's economy, brings much needed income to rural and urban areas, and breaks through the barriers that have stifled expansion in the past: small population, local markets, limited expansion possibilities. Peonies have brought the agricultural world to Alaska.

Actions: Please consider the following actions to support this emerging export industry.

1. Act quickly to try and reverse the closure of USDA Agricultural Research Service in Alaska. It may be too late, but a critical knowledge base will be lost.
2. Increase state dollars for the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service so scientists can perform their responsibilities of supporting Alaska's diverse agricultural industry.
3. Fund a grant to the Alaska Peony Growers Association for grower-driven research to make this new industry competitive on world markets.
4. Fund a program through the Alaska Division of Agriculture to support competitive scientific research on agricultural issues in Alaska.

*has division
request budget
funds to accomplish*



The Division of Agriculture Activities

January 03, 2012

Find us on the web at:
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag>

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Questions or Comments?
E-Mail or call 907-761-3864.

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Directors Note

Winter solstice has come and gone and a new year is just around the corner. Hopefully you have written down your new year's resolutions and crossed off all those accomplished from this last year's list. The New Year always brings change and this year is no exception. The Division of Agriculture would like to welcome its newest employee, Nate Hamelink. He is now part of the team at Mt. McKinley Meat & Sausage. Next time you stop in, be sure to welcome him.

Just a few points of interest I would like to mention:

- The 2012 Legislative Session starts January 17th, 2012. Legislation that affects the Agriculture industry will be covered in the newsletter. I want to encourage you all to participate and stay abreast of legislation that is of interest to you this session. Remember that your voice is your most powerful tool.
- If you are a Native American and interested in serving on a federal board, the USDA is currently seeking qualified nominees to serve as representatives on the Council for Native American Farming and Ranching. The formal notice can be found at 76 Fed. Reg. 76,120 (Dec 6, 2011).
- If you are producer of any size considering a Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) audit, a useful free tool is available at: <http://onfarmfoodsafety.org/>. You can build a food safety plan right on the site, research information on agricultural chemicals and much more.

The Division is in the process of updating our Long Range plan and is looking for industry input. If you have a few hours available and are interested in participating in a teleconference please contact Lora Haralson at: Lora.Haralson@Alaska.gov, or call her at 907-761-3851.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and I wish you a healthy prosperous new year.

-Franci Havemeister

"I don't know who my grandfather was; I am much more concerned to know what his grandson will be"

- Abraham Lincoln.

Agriculture Calendar

- ▶ Thurs. Jan. 5th, 3:30 - 5 pm: **DEC Animal Care Workshop - Domestic Pets**; Anch.
Teleconference: (800) 315-6338; Passcode: 8213
- ▶ Tues. Jan. 17th: **27th Alaska Legislative Session begins**; Juneau.
- ▶ Wed. Jan. 25th- Thurs. Jan 26th: **Alaska Greenhouse & Nursery Conference**; Alyeska.
Registration Information: <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/>
- ▶ Thurs. Jan. 26th- Fri. Jan 27th: **Alaska Peony Growers Conference**; Alyeska.
Registration Information: <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/>
- ▶ Mon. Jan. 30th, 1:00 pm: **BAC Regular Meeting**; Division of Ag., Palmer AK.
To participate via telephone: (800) 315-6338; Passcode: 122#

As we learn about new agriculture events throughout Alaska, we will add the details to the calendar. If you have an event that you would like to add, please contact [Lora Haralson](mailto:Lora.Haralson).

Marketing Section

Restaurant Rewards Program Offers Incentives to Local Alaska Restaurants

The Division of Agriculture Marketing team is excited to announce the new Restaurant Rewards program. If you know of an Alaska restaurant owner or Chef - point them towards this program. Designed to encourage restaurants to source more Alaska Grown specialty crops, this program offers cash reimbursements for food services that use Alaska Grown crops.

More information about this program, and an application are now [available on our web site](#). Contact Kristi Krueger with questions at Kristi.Krueger@alaska.gov or 907-761-3858.

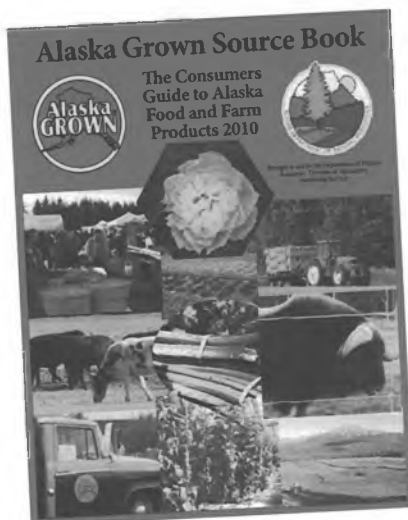


Specialty Crop Grant Webinar - January 31st

Thinking about applying for a Specialty Crop Grant in 2012? Attend a webinar with program manager Amy Pettit on Tuesday, January 31st at 1pm to learn more. The webinar will include an overview of the Specialty Crop Competitive Grant; a detailed definition of specialty crops, examples of previously funded projects, and a lengthy Q & A session.

Information about the Specialty Crop Grant Program is available online, at dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_grants.htm. You will be able to attend the webinar for free, seeing the presentation on your home computer. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Pettit at (907) 761-3864 or email Amy.Pettit@alaska.gov.

2012 Alaska Grown Source Book - Is Your Business Listed?



Was your farm listed in the 2010 Alaska Grown Source Book? Do you want to be listed in the updated 2012 version? Soon the Division will be requesting updated information from all farmers throughout the State, to be used in the preparation of the 2012 Source Book. Stay tuned to [our website](#) for more information.

The Alaska Grown Source Book is the only state-wide listing of all Alaska farmers. The Division of Agriculture prints and distributes a minimum of 5000 copies each year and the online version is viewed over 500 times per month. The Source Book is an opportunity to have your farm and products included in this directory FOR FREE!

If you would like a copy of the current Alaska Grown Source Book, contact the Division of Agriculture at (907) 745-7200 or email Kristi.Krueger@alaska.gov.

Upcoming Growers' Workshops and Conferences

The season of growers' workshops and conferences is upon us. First up in January is the [Alaska Greenhouse & Nursery Conference](#), January 25th & 26th. Immediately following this will be the [Alaska Peony Growers Conference](#), January 26th & 27th. Both events will be held at Alyeska Resort in Girdwood. Online registration is available through the [Cooperative Extension Service website](#).

Further details about these and other upcoming events happening throughout 2012 will be available through the Agriculture Calendar, at dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_calendar.htm.

Remember to follow Alaska Grown on Facebook at facebook.com/dnr.alaskagrown.



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http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_ms.htm

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Inspection Staff

http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_is.htm

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Alaska Farm-to-School Program Update

School Garden Census

For those of you who have not heard, the Alaska Farm-to-School program has a new resource available; **Alaska School Garden Food Safety Guidelines**. The guidelines offer guidance for those managing a school garden with the intent to utilize the school garden-grown food in the school meal program. It also could be referenced if you have a small farming or gardening operation that is interested in selling product to a school.

The guidelines are available at: dnr.alaska.gov/ag/FarmToSchool/SGfoodsafetvguide.pdf. To request that a copy of the guidelines be sent to your school, go to: surveymonkey.com/s/SGFoodSafetyGuideRequest.

To date, **Alaska School Garden Food Safety Guidelines** have been requested and distributed to 68 schools and community partners, representing 20 school districts and over 19,000 students, almost 15% of statewide K-12 student enrollment!

From the requests we learned who has a school garden and who is planning one. 40% of respondents have a school garden

already, with an additional 13% having plans to start a school garden next summer. Another 38% of respondents listed a school garden as a long term goal.

We are also actively collecting data state-wide, asking if schools have a school garden. Over half the schools in Alaska have been contacted thus far. We are excited to hear that there are a quite a few gardens existing already, and a lot of people interested in more information. Stay tuned to see what the state-wide school garden tally will be.




Volunteer Internship Opportunity

The Alaska Farm-to-School Program is seeking assistance. An unpaid volunteer position is available now. The individual selected will gain valuable experience with marketing concepts, community engagement, and information synthesis!

If you or someone you know is interested in this internship with the Farm-to-School program, contact Johanna Herron in Fairbanks at Johanna.herron@alaska.gov or (907) 374-3714, or Kristi Krueger in Palmer at Kristi.Krueger@alaska.gov, or (907) 761-3858.

2011 End of Year Report

For those of you that want to see the progress of the Farm-to-School program over this past year, a 2011 overview is now available from the Farm to School web page, at: dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_FTS.htm.

For Farm-to-School updates, news, grant opportunities, and announcements join our listserv at: list.state.ak.us/soalists/akfarm-toschool/il.htm. Also remember to check out the Farm-to-School facebook page at: facebook.com/AlaskaFarmToSchool. 

Property for sale by the Board of Agriculture and Conservation

513 South Valley Way, Palmer



Former Matanuska Maid Manufacturing Facility: Real Property and Improvements



3 acres in downtown Palmer, bounded by E. Dogwood Ave, Dahlia Ave, & Denali St.

ARLF LAND SALE #09-01
Over-The-Counter Offering:
Purchase Price \$975,000.00.

Questions or comments regarding the sale process may be directed to Director Franci Havemeister, at 761-3867 or by email to Franci.Havemeister@alaska.gov

Land Sales & Grazing Leases

http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_sales.htm

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Inspection Section

Green Potatoes: The Solution

Potatoes can be green due to many causes but there are only two classifications: **Sunburn** and **Greening**. Sunburn is a 'greening' that occurs before harvest, due to direct sunlight exposure. This type of greening occurs in the field when tubers are not sufficiently covered with soil. When potatoes are exposed to sunlight, development of chlorophyll occurs, progressing from a light yellow to a definite green. If exposure to light is prolonged, chlorophyll develops deep into the tissue, resulting in a bitter taste associated with the alkaloid solanine. Greening after harvest can occur due to incandescent and/or fluorescent light exposure during storage, grading and/or placement on store shelves.

The degree of greening and length of time before it occurs varies with temperature, the brightness of light and the thickness of the potato epidermis. In order to avoid sunburn before harvest, maintain a sufficient soil cover above the potato seed piece and keep the hill wide enough for new tubers to expand underground.



Potatoes can become sunburned when the hill of soil does not completely cover the tuber

To avoid greening after harvest, don't wash the tubers going into storage. Dirt remaining on potato tubers will offer some protection against exposure to light and greening. Store potatoes in the dark and choose light resistant packaging. In order to prevent retail greening, avoid displays near windows or under strong, fluorescent lights, have a good system of package rotation and store reserve stock in a cool, dark environment. Do not use spotlights on potato displays.

At home, store potatoes in a cool, dark area in a light resistant container, such as a brown paper bag or box with a lid. Wash potatoes only before cooking. Green areas,

especially the peel, may be cut away and cook the rest for safe eating. If the potato tastes bitter, throw it away.

No matter what you do there will still be potatoes that suffer from Sunburn and Greening, so please follow the US No 1 and US No 2 allowable tolerances:

Sunburn

- **US No 1:** When removal causes more than 5% total weight of the potato.
- **US No 2:** When removal causes more than 10% total weight of the potato.

Greening

- **US No 1:** When removal causes more than 5% total weight of the potato or, when materially detracting from the appearance of the potato. Green color affecting more than 25% of the surface in aggregate is considered materially detracting.



Unwanted greening can occur when potato tubers are exposed to sunlight or artificial lighting

- **US No 2:** When removal causes more than 10% total weight of the potato. Green color affecting more than 50% of the surface in aggregate is considered materially detracting.

Further information about green potatoes is available from the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension, at digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/88/. If you have questions, you can also contact the Alaska Division of Agriculture at (907) 745-7200.

Photos: Univ. of Nebraska Cooperative Extension

Plant Materials Center

<http://plants.alaska.gov/>

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Plant Materials Center

Rural Village Seed Production Project (RVSP) Update

The RVSP staff has launched a project website, located at www.plants.alaska.gov/rvspp. Profiles of each participating village are linked, and a project brochure is available. The RVSP staff is developing an Alaska Native Seed Production Manual that will be available from the website in early 2012. Please check back for additional content.

In general, the village cooperators have slowed down considerably for the winter. RVSP staff continues to make contact and offer additional information that is pertinent to their area or of interest in general. Progress on the project for each participant village is as follows:

Aniak, located on the southern bank of the Kuskokwim River, has a previously established farm with several acres available to them. This acreage will be used for RVSP plantings.

In September, staff wild-harvested fireweed. The seed has been dried and is now being stored. Aniak staff also wild-harvested Bluejoint reedgrass in the fall. This seed should be ready to clean this January.

Aniak project staff have been diligent in ordering parts and supplies and will be ready to get a good start with planting in the spring.



RVSP staff perform soil sampling in Aniak

RVSP staff in **Hooper Bay**, on the Alaska's west coast in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, are having a very quiet season, as the project has been shuttered for the winter.

The **Metlakatla** RVSP staff has been keeping busy this winter cleaning Lupine seed

that was harvested in previous years. They are also continuing to monitor and nurture their first seeding.

Pedro Bay is a village of 50 residents located on the North East corner of Iliamna Lake. During the summer of 2011, the Rural Village Seed Production Project broke ground on two and a half acres set aside for the project. The crew has shut down for the winter, and is anxiously awaiting the spring to put finishing touches on the seed house and host a dedication ceremony for the new structures.



Planting site in Pedro Bay, cleared in 2011

The project staff in **Chignik Lake**, located on the Southern coast of the Alaska Peninsula in the Aleutian Mountains, have been ordering equipment for land clearing and preparation, and planting to occur in the spring. There is great community interest in this project as there is a need for revegetation materials locally and in the surrounding region.

Manley Hot Springs, in interior Alaska near the end of the Elliot Highway, is the only community participating in this project that is on the road system. The Manley Village Council is working to organize their staff and has plans to clear up to 20 acres in the spring.

For more information about the Rural Village Seed Production Project, contact the Alaska Plant Materials Center, at (907) 745-4469. You can also visit the RVSP website, at www.plants.alaska.gov/rvspp.

Photo: Sherlie Taylor | Pedro Bay RVSP

Photo: Sue Lincoln | Alaska PMC



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation: Division of Environmental Health

Upcoming DEC Animal Care Standards Workshops

The Office of the State Veterinarian is continuing their work to develop animal care standards for the state. These standards will be part of a comprehensive revision of the state animal health regulations. Future public workshops have been scheduled and will focus on only one animal category at a time.

The last remaining scheduled focus group is January 5, 2012, and will cover dogs only. Other pets will be covered in future workshops, to be scheduled in January and February. The dates and times will be posted on the Animal Care Standards [web page](#).

We want to encourage anyone who is interested to attend workshops by telephone

at 1-800-315-6338 (use pass code 8213 when prompted) or in person at the State Environmental Health Laboratory at 5251 Dr. MLK, Jr. Ave, Anchorage, AK, 99507. All meetings will be from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. If you are unable to attend meetings, feel free to submit your comments to us in writing via mail or email.

You can find minutes from previous meetings and agendas for future workshops on our website at: dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/Animal-CareWorkshop.html. If you would like to be placed on our group email notification list to receive automatic updates on this project, please email your name, agency (if applicable), and phone number to jav.fuller@alaska.gov.

Environmental Health

Alaska Department of
Environmental Conservation
907-269-7501

Kristin Ryan
Director, Environmental Health
Kristin.Ryan@alaska.gov

Kim Stryker
Program Manager,
Food Safety & Sanitation
Kimberly.Stryker@alaska.gov

Karin Hendrickson
Program Coordinator,
Pesticide Control Program
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Robert Gerlach
Alaska State Veterinarian
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Photo: Dr. Sabrieta Holland

A guardian dog watches over a goat herd in the Mat-Su valley

For veterinary information, please contact:

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Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO)- Alaska
USDA APHIS VS
P.O. Box 670590
Chugiak, AK 99567
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FAX: 907-688-1239 or 907-745-6050
CELL: 907-529-7784
Rosemarie.T.Lombardi@aphis.usda.gov

Office of the State Veterinarian
5251 Dr. MLK Jr. Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99507
(907) 375-8215
Bob.Gerlach@alaska.gov or
Jav.Fuller@alaska.gov

* A returned check fee as provided in 11 AAC 05.010 will be assessed for any check on which the bank refuses payment.

* Permittee is responsible for maintaining a current address with the division during the life of this authorization.

* Permittee is responsible for obtaining authorizations required by other agencies for the permitted activity.

1. This Land Use Permit conveys no interest or property right in state land. This permit may be reissued upon application by the permittee at the state's discretion. This permit is revocable immediately, with or without cause. If revoked without cause, the permittee will be allowed 30 days within which to remove the permittee's possessions and vacate the premises. If revoked for breach of any condition, the permittee shall immediately vacate the premises. This permit is not transferrable. It is issued to authorize specific activities requested by the applicant and that are not included in the category of "generally allowed uses."

2. This Land Use Permit is subject to the following provisions:

- a. Activities employing wheeled or tracked vehicles shall be conducted in such a manner as to minimize surface damage.
- b. Existing roads and trails shall be used wherever possible. Trail widths shall be kept to the minimum necessary. Trail surface may be cleared of timber, stumps, and snags. Due care shall be used to avoid excessive scarring or removal of vegetative ground cover.
- c. All activities shall be conducted in a manner that will minimize disturbance of natural drainage systems, that will not cause a change in character, pollution, or siltation of streams, lakes, ponds, water holes, seeps, and marshes, and that will not disturb fish and wildlife resources. Cuts, fills, or other activities causing any of the above disturbances, if not repaired immediately, are subject to any corrective action as may be required by the director.
- d. Unless specifically authorized by this permit, the director prohibits the disturbance of vegetation within 300 feet of any waters located in specially designated areas as prescribed in 11 AAC 96.010(2) except at designated stream crossings. These special designations are noted on the State of Alaska land status plats.
- e. All activities shall be undertaken in a manner which causes the least possible interference with other authorized uses of state lands.
- f. Trails and campsites shall be kept clean. All garbage and foreign debris shall be eliminated by removal, burning, or burial, unless otherwise authorized.
- g. All survey monuments, witness corners, reference monuments, mining claim posts, and bearing trees shall be protected against destruction, obliteration, or damage. Any damaged or obliterated markers shall be reestablished in accordance with accepted survey practices of the division.
- h. Every reasonable effort shall be made to prevent, control, or suppress any fire in the permitted area. Uncontrolled fires shall be reported immediately.
- i. Holes, pits, and excavations shall be filled, plugged, or repaired. Holes, pits and excavations necessary to verify discovery on prospecting sites, mining claims, and mining leasehold locations may be left open but shall be maintained so as to minimize erosion and siltation and shall be consistent with public safety and welfare.
- j. No person may engage in mineral exploration activity on land open to such use, the surface of which has been granted or leased to third parties by the State of Alaska, or on land in which the state has received the reserved interest of the United States until good-faith attempts have been made to agree with the surface owner or lessee on a settlement for damages which may be caused by such activity. If agreement cannot be reached, or lease or surface owner cannot be found within a reasonable time, operations may be commenced on the land only after specific approval of the director, and after making adequate provision for full payment of any damages which the surface owner or lessee may suffer.
- k. Entry on all lands under prospecting permit, lease, or claim, by other than the holder of the permit, lease, or claim, or his authorized representative, shall be made in a manner which will prevent unnecessary or unreasonable interference with the rights of the permittee, lessee, or claimant.

3. In the case of a permit authorizing early entry, pending issuance of a final authorization, permittee agrees to remove any improvements and to rehabilitate the area to a condition acceptable to the director if the final lease/right-of-way permit is not issued or the permittee fails to complete the lease/right-of-way process within one year of the date of the execution of this entry authorization. Permittee also understands that early entry is undertaken at his/her own risk in the event that the final authorization is not issued.

ADL [REDACTED]

4. Permittee and permittee's contractors, subcontractors and all personnel shall indemnify the State of Alaska and hold it harmless from any and all claims, suits, loss, liability and expense for injury to or death of persons and damage to or loss of property arising out of or in connection with permittee's entry on and use of this land.

**STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER
SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS
PERMIT # ADL 231214**

1) Compensation: (a) Pursuant to 11 AAC 05.010 (e)(7) a fee per head month that is 70 percent of the Federal head-month grazing fee for the western states published by the United States Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture (2011 Federal fee is \$1.35), with a minimum charge of \$100 per year for each permit; (6 animals per month for 5 months = 30 AUM. $30 \times \$1.35 \times \%70 = \28.35) The minimum **\$100 yearly fee** applies, due on or before August 31, of each year.

2) Livestock conflicts: If, due to livestock moving off the permitted area on to private property, boundary conflicts arise at some time in the future, it will be the responsibility of the permittee (at no expense to the lessor) to properly locate and place fencing or other deterrents to the movement of livestock. This may require a partial survey of the permit area.

3) Use of the Parcel. A Grazing Development Plan must be submitted and approved prior to stocking this permit area. The plan must include range information and the permittee's general proposed development and operating plans and time lines. In addition to the initial stocking rate established by a range specialist under criteria established in the NRCS Handbook will establish allowable stocking levels. Compliance and operation in conformance with the Plan in its current or amended form is required by this permit. Utilization or development of the permitted land for other than the uses allowed within the Plan or this permit document shall be grounds for cancellation of the permit. Failure to make substantial use of any part of the land, consistent with the Plan and accepted range practices may result in the lessor reducing the permit area to reflect the actual level of use or may constitute grounds for cancellation. If utilization of the permitted area, even under an approved practice, causes or begins to cause substantial damage to vegetation, soil stability, water quality, or any other valuable resource it is the responsibility of the permittee to take immediate actions to abate and correct the problem. The permittor should be notified as soon as possible of the required actions that were taken and the proposed changes in management that will address the situation into the future. Failure to take corrective actions or to notify the permittor shall be grounds for cancellation.

4) Grazing Development Plan. The minimum requirements of the grazing development plan are: 1) A cooperative agreement between the lessee and the Alaska Soil Conservation District or appropriate subdistrict; 2) proposed feedlot sites, stock watering sites, supplemental feeding stations, corrals, temporary shelter structures, etc; 3) proposed fencing location and construction; 4) existing facilities on the land; 5) any proposed fields or cropland; 6) adjacent improvements owned by the lessee; 7) A record of the lessee's proposed management activities, including: a) Range management practices considered essential or desirable; b) livestock species to be stocked (only cattle and horses are approved).

5) Non-use of the Parcel. To maintain the land at its highest productive capacity, the permittor may, at any time during the life of the permit, when deemed necessary, declare all or a portion of the permit to be in non-use. The period of non-use may be for any specified length of time up to the expiration of the permit itself. The permittee shall be give written notice at least 60 days prior to a declaration of non-use. The permittor shall adjust the required AUM's to conform with the reduced area of the permit that may be utilized. The permittee may at any time during the life of the permit take non-use on any or all of the grazing permit to adjust or improve operations under the permit; however non-use may not be used merely to hold a grazing permit. If the permittor determines ADL ██████████

the intended purpose of placing acreage into non-use is merely to hold on to the permit and is not a temporary management action the area proposed for non-use will be withdrawn from the permit and the permit amended to reflect the change in acreage. (non-use is defined as the discontinuance of use of all or a part of a permitted area to allow the resource to return to its normal productivity.)

6) Identification of Livestock. All livestock permitted on a state grazing permit shall be properly identified and such identification registered in accordance with AS 03.40.010 - 03.40.270. Such identification shall be permanently placed on each animal in a manner that allows for identification of the mark from a distance of 20 feet. In addition each animal will be numbered (by ear tag or other acceptable method) to allow for the identification of individual animals for health and other monitoring purposes.

7) Health of Livestock. Prior to placing livestock on the permit area all stock shall be examined, and if determined necessary treated for the following diseases and parasites: Brucella-Tuberculosis, Blue Tongue, Anaplasmosis, Leptospirosis, Malignant Edema, Black Leg, Pasturella, Parainfluenza III, Respiratory Syncytial Virus, Infectious Bovine Rinstracheiti (IBR), Contagious Ecthyma, Equine Infectious Anemia, Scabies, Ovine Viral Diarrhea, Ovine Progressive Pneumonia, Endoparasites, Ectoparasites. The permittee shall supply the permittor with a listing by species, identification mark and individual animal identification number, of the animals inspected and the result of those inspections. The permittee must be in possession of that certificate prior to any livestock being placed on the state lease.

8) Range Improvements. permittee shall not make range improvements without first obtaining the written approval of the permittor. Permittee must make separate application to construct range improvements. That application shall indicate the location of the proposed improvements, the necessity for the improvements, the estimated cost thereof, photographic imagery of the site prior to construction, and that the improvements, as proposed, will not impair the value of the land or interfere with the other reasonable uses thereof. Range improvements include but are not limited to fencing and clearing of brush or trees. Range improvements made without written approval shall constitute grounds for cancellation of the permit. Approval of an operation plan does not authorize range improvements unless specifically stated in that approval. Photographic imagery of completed range improvements shall be provided in the following years annual report.

9) Other Improvements. Improvements other than those that can be considered as range improvements (see above) are not allowed on this permit area. Specifically more permanent improvements such as housing, barns, silos, slaughterhouses, permanent and substantial feed storage facilities, etc. may not be authorized on this grazing permit area. Placement of any unauthorized improvement on the permitted area by the permittee or a person authorized by the permittee shall constitute grounds for cancellation of the lease.

10. Recreation and Other Compatible Uses. The permittee shall not interfere with the right of the public to enter the land for the lawful pursuit of game animals, the taking of fish, the trapping of fur animals, the picking of berries, or for temporary camping or other compatible uses. Permittee shall not prohibit or otherwise interfere with reasonable access to and through the permitted area for other uses. Permittee may apply for and the lessor may grant the right to post certain key areas. If fencing is placed across a recognized public access an unlocked gate will be provided.

11) Assignment. Under no circumstances shall permittee be permitted to assign it's rights to this grazing permit without prior authorization from the director, Division of Land.

12) Reservation of Easements. The permittor expressly reserves the right to take for the use of the State of Alaska and the right to grant to third parties, easements or rights-of-way of unlimited size across the Parcel herein permitted if it is determined to be in the best interest of the State to do so, even though the creation of the easement or right-of-way terminates the entire permitted estate; provided, however, that the permittee shall be entitled to compensation for all improvements or crops which are damaged or destroyed as a direct result of such

easement or right-of-way. Permittee will not be entitled to compensation for loss of AUM capacity, however the minimum stocking rates will be adjusted to reflect any changes in total AUM's.

13) The permittor makes no representations or warranty that it will construct or maintain access to the Parcel.

14) Surface Reservations. The permittor hereby expressly saves and reserves out of the grant hereby made, unto itself, its permittees', successors, and assigns forever, the right to enter by itself, its or their agents, attorneys, and servants upon said lands, or any part or parts thereof, at any and all times, for the purpose of exploring for, opening, developing, harvesting, drilling and working surface mines, excavations, or timber sales on these or other lands and taking out and removing therefrom all valuable surface resources such as timber, stone, gravel or any other material valuable for building or commercial purposes and to that end it further expressly reserves out of the grant hereby made, unto itself, its lessees, successors, and assigns forever, the right by its or their agents, servants and attorneys at any and all times to erect, construct, maintain, and use all such buildings, machinery, roads, pipelines, powerlines, and railroads, sink such shafts, drill such wells, remove such soil, and to remain on said lands or any part thereof for the foregoing purposes and to occupy as much of said lands as may be necessary or convenient to such purposes, hereby expressly reserving to itself, its lessees, successors, and assigns, as aforesaid, generally all rights and power in, to and over said land, whether herein expressed or not, reasonably necessary or convenient to render beneficial and efficient the complete enjoyment of the property and rights hereby expressly reserved.

Provided, however, that no rights reserved hereunder shall be exercised by the permittor or its agents, until provision has been made by the permittor or its agents to pay to the permittee of the land upon which the rights are herein reserved, full payment for all damages sustained by said permittee by reason of entering upon said land; and provided that, if said permittee for any cause whatever refuses or neglects to settle said damages, the permittor or its agents, or any applicant for a sale or contract or option from the Permittor for the purpose of exploring for or extracting valuable surface resources shall have the right, after posting a surety bond with the permittor issued by a corporation qualified to do business in Alaska and licensed to sell insurance in Alaska, or after posting with the Lessor and after due notice and an opportunity to be heard, to exercise rights granted to it for reasonable use of the surface required for the full enjoyment of the reserved surface resource rights which it holds. Each surety bond and the Permittor or agent shall have the standing which may be necessary to determine the damages which the surface Permittee of such lands may suffer, and the security appropriate to hold the surface Permittee harmless in relation thereto.

15) Annual Report. An annual report shall be submitted on April 1st of each year and upon termination of authorized activities. This report shall contain the following information:

1. Type(s) and numbers of livestock grazed upon the permit area.
2. A report covering any known incidents of damage to the vegetative mat and underlying substrate, and follow-up corrective actions that may have taken place while operating under this authorization.
3. Photographic imagery of authorized range improvements taken before, during and after the proposed activity to document permit compliance. Photographs must consist of a series of ground level view photos that clearly depict the authorized range improvement.

Permittee, [REDACTED]

Date

Authorized Representative, Department Of Natural Resources

Date

ADL [REDACTED]

Alaska Farm Bill Discussion

Increased awareness of Alaska's precarious situation relating to food security requires us to look at the current structure of the Division of Agriculture because it is the state agency whose mission it is to support the development of agriculture. A look at the ag statistics shows a gain of 70 farms in Alaska since 2002. They also show a loss of 20,000 acres during the same period. Cash receipts from agriculture from 2003 to the present are basically flat when not adjusted for inflation. When adjusted, agriculture receipts lost \$4.8 million dollars or a loss of 15%. Clearly, agriculture is not developing as our opportunities would suggest we could. I believe that is in large part due to the lack of vision, direction, and support from the administration.

Developing agriculture is not a stand alone goal, but should be part of a larger development process that involves most of the state agencies including DNR, Commerce and Economic Development, Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Energy, Transportation, Education, and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

The following outline identifies a few of the opportunities to work between agencies to not only expand agriculture, but also to improve overall the state's economic and social issues. Without a specified coordinator such interagency collaboration will be impossible, therefore the governor's support is vital.

Energy

- Support development of alternative energy sources that can be grown and harvested from farms
 - Barley
 - Wood
 - Grass
 - Oil seed
- Instate development of natural gas industries
 - Urea for use in state as well as for export (Urea is a fertilizer)
 - Available natural gas for heating, food processing, greenhouse operations
 - Development of new industries utilizing Alaska natural gas

Research

- Research is desperately needed to develop and improve short season varieties that can be grown in Alaska. Today we are growing the same variety of barley developed over 30 years ago. Early maturing, frost-resistant cereal grain development cannot occur in a different climate zone.
- Disease-free potato seed
- Earlier maturing oilseed varieties for use as food and biodiesel
- Develop vegetable and fruit varieties for Alaska
- Targeted funding for crop research at university level to replace ARS research capabilities recently lost

Marketing

- Develop in-state markets of vegetables, meat, and dairy products
- Develop a sustained marketing campaign to reconnect consumers with locally grown produce
- Connect users of bio-energy with producers of bio-energy
- Vegetable processing facilities to extend marketing season for crops
- Focus on local marketing of farm products
- Alternative Fuel credits, grants, low interest loans to spur alternative fuel development from agriculture
- Expand the state's Alternative Energy grant program to include all forms of alternative energy, not just electricity generation
- Develop a food independence campaign to raise awareness among Alaskans.

Development

- Preservation of land suitable for agriculture
- Long term leases for grazing with credit for improvements to the lease.
- Timely grazing lease renewals for ranchers who are grazing animals and following a range management plan
- Offer more non-ag ground for housing development to relieve pressure on farmable ground.
- Open up land with pioneer access to speed development of farm ground.
- Mobile USDA-inspected slaughter facilities to promote sales of meat to regional markets
- Develop in-state emergency warehouse system for use during natural disasters
- Clarify that the wisest and best use for ag ground is for agriculture development
- Reinstate a Dept of Agriculture to oversee agriculture development geared toward food security. This is important because it requires involvement of higher levels of the administration.
- Board of Agriculture and Conservation should be an advisory board without loan authority, allow appointments from a larger pool of farmers, and include recommending policy development for agriculture, land disposal, new market and infrastructure development.
- Develop in-state resources for fertilizer including use of abundant natural gas to produce Urea, develop phosphate, potassium, and lime deposits to reduce fertilizer cost and increase yields.
- Use production credits to incentivize production of targeted crops needed to provide food security

Transportation

- Backhaul rates for agriculture on Alaska Railroad and State Ferry System.
- Improved loading/unloading facilities for farm products at railheads.
- Railroad spur to Alaska Farmer's Cooperative in Delta allowing shipment of fertilizers, grain, and hay.
- Consider subsidizing transportation of fertilizer until state sources can be developed.

Taxes

- Farmland that is producing at certain levels should be tax exempt or have a graduated tax reduction based on level of food production
- Farm buildings should be taxed at lowest rate
- Use a production credit program to encourage production of certain crops

Education

- Support ag education k-12 by requiring ag related instruction in the curriculum.
- Support for FFA in high school to encourage the new generation of food producers.
- Increase emphasis on agriculture at university level.



Division of Agriculture

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Alaska's Plan for Agriculture

Update in process _____





Division of Agriculture

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Dear Alaskans;

This plan was originally developed by the Division of Agriculture, in cooperation with the industry, educators, legislators and others in 2008. This report will be an evolving document, in that every other year the ADOA will work with the agricultural advisory panel to revise this plan as needed. It is important to note that the goals and steps may change over time to reflect the current needs.

ADOA heard the concerns addressed by the aquaculture industry during the 2008 public comment period. The farming of shellfish holds promising opportunity for coastal Alaska. This industry has not been addressed in our long term plan as authority does not lie within the Division of Agriculture.

I want to thank everyone who provided input during this process.

Remember to “Look, Ask, Buy Alaska Grown” at your local stores – and support Alaska’s Agriculture Industry.

Franci Havemeister, Director

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Alaska Division of Agriculture

The Long Term Plan for Agriculture

Introduction

The agricultural industry of Alaska is privately owned and privately managed. It continues to contribute to the economy, food security and the well-being of the State. To continue to do so, agriculture must be a healthy and sustainable renewable resource industry.

The Alaska Division of Agriculture (ADOA) mission is not to direct the agricultural industry, but to promote and encourage. This mission is fulfilled through the following programs:

1. Agricultural Land Sales and Management
2. The Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF)
3. Plant Materials Center
4. Agriculture Inspection Services
5. Agriculture Marketing/Outreach

ADOA believes that through open communication, education, and appropriate funding, producers will prosper and the citizens of Alaska will enjoy the benefits that Alaskan Agriculture offers.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Alaska Division of Agriculture is to promote and encourage the development of an agricultural industry in the State.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Alaska Division of Agriculture is to promote an economically stable agricultural industry for Alaska that can enhance the quality of life for its people, Alaska's food security, and provide economic benefit to the state.

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Background - Agriculture

Agriculture has played a role in Alaska over the past century. Prior to statehood, the people of Alaska realized the value of agriculture. This is noted with the state seal, originally designed in 1910, which portrays a farmer, his horse, and three shocks of wheat. Today, much of the general population does not understand the significance of agriculture, as the majority of the population is two or three generations removed from the farm. It is critical that we educate the citizens of Alaska, most importantly – the young people, of the importance of a healthy agricultural industry, its role in enhancing Alaska's food security and improving the quality of life for all Alaskans.

Alaska's economy reflects the boom-and-bust history of the State and territory that has often sought immediate profit at the expense of long-term stability. This does not fully reflect Alaska's potential for a diversified agricultural industry, or the need for long-term stability. Numerous agricultural development projects, plans, analyses, reports, and studies have been undertaken, and issues and proposals have been debated. **Historically, the state has taken the lead with limited success. ADOA believes that industry must take the lead and the ADOA will partner with industry to achieve those goals.**

ADOA must continue to embrace the challenges and look for opportunities for the future. It must continue to encourage good agricultural principles and good management practices, including food safety and security.

At present, factors that impact the industry in a positive manner are:

- Recent emergence of niche markets;
- Increased concern about food safety;
- Consumer support in buying local;
- Increased interest in food security; and
- Demand for native plants to be used for revegetation.

Challenging factors include:

- The need for better linkages with land grant research, education and outreach;
- The need to ensure regulations and implementation do not hinder current markets nor discourage new markets;
- Lack of infrastructure; and
- Increasing input costs.

The ADOA continues to work closely with the Board of Agriculture and Conservation (BAC), and must continue to foster good relationships between the University Of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), industry representatives, state agencies, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), local governments and communities, and organizations across the State to encourage and promote a healthy and sustainable agricultural industry.

Purpose of a Strategic Plan

A comprehensive and strategic plan for the Alaskan agricultural industry is needed so the State can direct its efforts and resources to best serve the industry, and in turn the citizens of Alaska. The purpose of this bi-annual review and strategic planning process is to better understand the needs of the industry and a tool of which to track agency progress. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) recognizes that an industry driven plan with goals and specific objectives will provide ADOA with the information needed to assist the industry.

Some specific points need to be kept in mind:

- The agricultural industry must continue to receive support from the state of Alaska;
- The ADOA must continue to provide services and programs needed to support and promote the agricultural industry; and
- ADOA must work with industry to identify goals and define issues that impede the growth of a successful agricultural industry.

The goals and objectives of this process reflect the following five areas with which the ADOA has strategic programmatic emphasis.

1. Agricultural Land Sales and Management
2. The Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF)
3. Plant Materials Center
4. Agriculture Inspection Services

5. Agriculture Marketing/Outreach

Industry goals that fall outside of the five programmatic areas will require involvement of one or more of the following:

- Legislative changes
- Other State Agency Support
- DNR Support
- Governor's Support
- Legislative Support
- Additional funding

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Agricultural Land Sales and Management – Identify state lands with agricultural potential and expedite the sale of those lands into private ownership. Manage state lands through short and long term grazing leases and other permits for agricultural purposes.

Situation: The ADOA will continue to work diligently to move state lands with agriculture potential into private hands, guaranteeing future generations' access to agriculture land. ADOA will be an advocate of short and long term grazing leases and permits.

Objective 1.1: ADOA will continue to move state land suitable for agriculture purposes into private ownership.

Division benchmark: Sell 3800 acres of state land designated for agriculture use, with agriculture covenants attached into private ownership increasing Alaska's ability to increase production self sustaining and assuring future generations to agriculture land.

Objective 1.2: ADOA continues to support best management practices and encourages the agricultural community to develop State Farm Conservation Plans and/or Soil & Water Conservation plans.

Division benchmark: Continue to work closely with conservation districts and encourage producers to update their farm conservation plans.

Objective 1.3: ADOA will continue to support agriculture production under the Right to Farm Legislation.

Division benchmark: Remain an advocate for producers statewide.

Objective 1.4: ADOA continues to work with Division of Mining, Land & Water (DML&W), Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) to review state land suitable for agriculture use.

Division benchmark: To increase lands designated for agriculture use in area plans.

Objective 1.5: ADOA is working with DML&W to streamline the grazing lease and permit process.

Division benchmark: To have a clear understanding between ADOA and DML&W and facilitate the lease and permit process.

Objective 1.6: ADOA will inform the Agricultural community of area plan reviews that have the potential to affect agriculture and/or agricultural land sales.

Division benchmark: To keep the agricultural community apprised of agriculture issues through the Division monthly newsletter, the Division website, and attending industry events.

Objective 1.7: The ADOA will review existing legislation and regulations to determine applications to agricultural land that allow such land to remain in agricultural production; including taxation and regulations to protect agricultural lands, and regulations regarding waste disposal and application.

The Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF) - The Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund is a critical component to the viability of Alaskan agriculture, overseen by the Board of Agriculture & Conservation (BAC) and will be supported by ADOA. – The BAC will work with ADOA and industry to support the growth and development of Alaskan agriculture.

Situation: The health of the Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF) remains a critical component in Alaskan agriculture. This program offers low interest loans to the Alaskan agricultural industry. The ARLF within the ADOA has played and will continue to play an important role in creating a profitable and growing agricultural industry.

Objective 2.1: The ARLF fund must continue to revolve.

Division benchmark: To maintain a low delinquency rate, such as in 2010 of 2.1% and sell ARLF asset located in Palmer valued at \$975,000.

Objective 2.2: The BAC supports continued funding of ADOA with general funds.

Division benchmark: ADOA is currently funded with General funds and does not draw out of ARLF.

Objective 2.3: The ARLF will work with government agency lenders and guarantors to promote the growth of the agricultural industry.

Division benchmark: Staff will work cooperatively with other industry lenders to explore areas of possible collaboration.

Objective 2.4: The BAC will continue to support the vision for Alaskan agriculture through input and personal expertise.

Division benchmark: BAC members must represent different industry sectors and different areas of the state.

Objective 2.5: The ADOA and the agricultural industry support the recapitalization of the ARLF.

Division benchmark: Request general funds to recapitalize the ARLF when available cash drops below two million or when loan activity increases substantially.

Objective 2.6: The ARLF will increase its marketing presence at agricultural functions and promote the use of its loan programs.

Division benchmark: Staff will attend and promote the ARLF at a minimum of 3 agriculture conferences and events annually.

The Plant Material Center – ADOA will facilitate the production and sustainability of appropriate plant materials for Alaskan agriculture.

Situation: The Alaska Plant Materials Center (PMC) is the primary source of information in Alaska for seed production, harvest, and cleaning. The PMC is also the primary source of information on revegetation and seeding mixes used by the primary seed purchasers. However, the primary purpose of the PMC is the production of high quality; disease tested seed stocks to be used in production agriculture in Alaska.

Objective 3.1: The PMC will reflect and anticipate the needs in Alaska to protect, support, enhance and expand Alaskan agriculture in terms of: appropriate plant materials for crop production; soil and water conservation programs and projects; noxious weed and invasive species, and increased activity in demonstration projects and education/outreach. Furthermore, the PMC will work to enhance its ties to the NRCS and the SWCD.

Division benchmark: Establish a horticulture program within the PMC. This remains a priority for the PMC Advisory Board.

Objective 3.2: The PMC houses the State's only official seed testing laboratory and is certified by the nation seed testing organization, Association of Official Seed Analysts.

Division benchmark: Continue to provide the essential services of purity and germination tests, noxious weed seed examinations, tetrazolium testing, and grain moisture testing.

In FY2011, the seed lab tests approximately 600-800 seed lots per year and 1,000 of individual tests.

Objective 3.3: The PMC must not lose sight of the fact that it is a crop production facility responsible for the production of high quality, disease tested, low generation crop seed. This material is the base for the production of Alaskan developed varieties. Crop production in Alaska depends on disease free, high quality seed.

Division benchmark: Assemble, evaluate, select, and increase plant materials needed in soil and water conservation, agriculture, and industry and maintain genetic purity of these materials.

Continue to meet certification standards maintained by the Alaska Seed Growers Association.

Objective 3.4: Nearly all development projects require some form of revegetation following surface disturbance. The primary users of seed in Alaska are the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the Department of Defense, mining companies, and the oil industry. The use of native species in restoration should be encouraged and users' findings shared so all Alaska programs can benefit. The PMC will enhance its abilities to act as the state's land resources conservation laboratory.

Division benchmark: Continue to partner with public, private, commercial and tribal partners and land managers to apply new conservation methods using plants.

Continue to market native plant seed through specifications and recommendations.

Objective 3.5: The PMC must remain ever vigilant to industry/producer needs and changes in technology or policy directions and remain adaptable to the new conditions and economic environment. The PMC is the production arm of the

ADOA; it is an economic development proponent and a new crop source for Alaska agricultural producers. This requires stable and appropriate funding.

Objective 3.6: Educational programs from the PMC involve the intrinsic value of green space, agriculture land, and wilderness.

Division benchmark: With improvements in the acoustics of the PMC conference room and added teaching equipment including Smart Board technology, the PMC has the ability to do on-site and distance education and technology transfer programs and is available to other agencies and groups.

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Agriculture Inspection Services – The ADOA will assist the Agricultural industry and continue to provide inspection services necessary to facilitate trade, meet regulatory requirements, and ensure food safety and security.

Situation: ADOA inspection responsibilities and regulatory roles are essential for Alaska agriculture to grow, prosper, and market their products. ADOA will continue to provide the industry with Inspection Services that are required to move product into commerce and work with industry to meet new requirements.

Objective 4.1: GAP & GHP -- ADOA will continue to maintain trained auditors to offer the USDA programs of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) to assess participants' efforts to minimize the risk of contamination of fresh fruits, vegetables, and miscellaneous commodities by microbial pathogens based on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's "Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables."

Division benchmark: To provide 100% of inspections required and requested from industry.

Objective 4.2: COOL-- ADOA will continue to maintain trained inspectors to assist Alaskan agricultural producers with the mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) required on all perishable agricultural commodities by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service.

Division benchmark: To maintain credentials required to provide assistance to Alaskan agricultural producers.

Objective 4.3: Shell Egg Inspection -- ADOA will maintain a trained shell egg inspector for market surveillance of shell eggs and egg products and to inspect

shell egg handlers and their facilities in Alaska to ensure compliance with quality standards of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service.

Division benchmark: To maintain credentials required to provide assistance to Alaskan agricultural producers.

Objective 4.4: Market Inspections – ADOA will maintain trained market inspectors to conduct both shipping point and destination market inspections to ensure compliance with quality standards of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service.

Division benchmark: To provide 100% of inspections ~~required, requested~~ required, requested and provide assistance to Alaskan agricultural producers.

Objective 4.5: Phytosanitary Inspections – ADOA will maintain trained inspectors to inspect exportable plant products to ensure compliance with plant health standards of the importing countries. This is a program of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to facilitate international trade.

Division benchmark: To provide 100% of inspections required and requested and to provide assistance to Alaskan agricultural producers.

Objective 4.6: Elk Fence Inspection – ADOA will maintain trained inspectors to inspect diversified livestock farms and ensure that fencing for elk is constructed and maintained in compliance with standards outlined in AS 03.05.075.

Division benchmark: Meet inspection needs as required.

Objective 4.7: Organic Inspection – ADOA will continue to cooperate with the Washington State Department of Agriculture to make organic inspections available to Alaskan producers, processors and handlers.

Division benchmark: Maintain partnership with Washington State Department of agriculture to continue providing organic inspections requested by industry.

ADOA continues to utilize grant funding to cost share Organic inspection costs with producers.

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Agriculture Marketing/Outreach – The ADOA will support and assist producers in increasing market share through marketing campaigns and continue to perform outreach and education.

Situation: Agriculture is a valuable industry in Alaska. A strong Alaskan agricultural industry is an important enhancement of our state and provides food security. The ADOA will continue to work cooperatively with producers to showcase their quality product and increase their market share in Alaska, participate in conferences that provide education opportunities for producers, partner with youth education groups, and continue to education consumers and residents on the b of buying local.

Objective 5.1: The ADOA continues to coordinate, partner, and focus efforts to raise awareness of the importance of Alaskan agriculture to Alaska consumers, including issues of food security, health benefits of locally grown and taste tests.

Division benchmark: Increase coordination between agencies to promote Alaskan agriculture. In FY 2011 partnerships between groups allowed for increased marketing and education.

Objective 5.2: The ADOA will continue to support Alaska Grown through marketing campaigns.

Division benchmark: Continue to partner with other agencies, agriculture advocacy groups to market Alaska grown.

In FY 2011 - 8 marketing campaigns were completed.

- Two month Chef Al promotion
- Carrs Bench ads
- Travel Guide – Alaska Edition full page ad

- Alaska wellness Magazine ½ page ad
- Anchorage Daily News twice-weekly ads
- 61 degrees North Magazine ad
- Alaska Grown Face book page with over 5200 likes'
- Coordinated with Spell Out (ASMI) on Alaska Magazine Advertisement

Objective 5:3: The ADOA will continue to market Alaska Grown products to restaurants and institutions.

Division benchmark: Staff continues to work closely with Department of Commerce (DOC) to encourage the purchase of Alaska Grown. Implement a new Restaurant initiative, utilizing Specialty Crop Block Grant, ~~summer~~, summer of 2012.

Objective 5.4: The ADOA will continue to work with retailers and wholesalers to source Alaska Grown product.

Division benchmark: staff continues to work closely, providing signage and Alaska grown material to highlight local produce.

Objective 5.5: The ADOA will continue to work with other state agencies to purchase Alaskan Grown Product.

Division benchmark: ADOA continues to work with DOC to facilitate the use of Alaska grown in state institutions.

- Producers report an increase in institution purchases during FY11

Objective 5.6: The ADOA implemented a “Farm to School Program” to educate students and nutritionists about the availability, flavor, and nutrition of Alaska Grown food products.

Division benchmark: To educate our youth on agriculture production and utilize Alaskan grown products in local schools.

In FY2011 some examples are:

- Creation of a Farm to School brochure
- 17 Farm to school grants were awarded throughout the state to increase awareness about Alaska Agriculture.
- Three districts trying new Alaska grown foods
 - Broccoli & Zucchini in Mat-Su
 - Cabbage in Fairbanks
 - Cabbage & Bison in Tok
- School Garden Safety Guide developed to address potential food safety issues.

Objective 5.7: The ADOA will continue to apply for federal grants that benefit the agriculture industry. This grant funding is used for conference hosting, pass through grants, advertising and point of sale materials.

Division benchmark: Receive federal grants to assist the industry.

In FY2011 examples of grant funding:

- Farmers Market Support and Promotion
- Cooperative Marketing Program
 - 11 projects funded

Objective 5.8: The ADOA continues to partner with FFA, 4-H, and Ag in the Classroom to help develop tomorrow's agricultural leaders. ADOA strives to partner with other state agencies interested in youth education.

Division benchmark: ADOA will continue to be an advocate for youth education and support youth events through staff participation and sponsorship funds when able.

Work with local Soil and Water Districts to facilitate cooperator and youth partnerships.

Objective 5.9: The ADOA will assist in building a strong base for Alaskan agriculture through partnerships, promotion, advocacy and communication. It will establish and cultivate champions and advocates of Alaskan agriculture, including individuals, organizations, government entities, and user groups.

Division benchmark: ADOA will continue to champion agriculture education in outreach, education, and presentations.

Work cooperatively with state and quasi state agencies to mentor agriculture education, workshops and opportunities.

State Agency/Industry Coordination – ADOA will work cooperatively with other agencies to address stumbling blocks and concerns of industry.

Objective 6.1: ADOA will work closely with Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and address wildlife management concerns of industry.

Division benchmark: Work with ADF&G to mitigate damage caused by Delta bison.

Objective 6.2: ADOA will facilitate communication between Department of Economic Development (DEC) and Industry.

Division benchmark: Host bi-monthly teleconferences with DEC and industry and provide an open line of communication.

Objective 6.3: ADOA promotes cottage industry development.

Division benchmark: ADOA will work closely with DEC to promote cottage industry development while addressing food safety concern.

Concerns brought forth by industry in this review process:

- Increase food security
- Address agriculture land tax issues
- Address agriculture land covenants
- Interest in sale of smaller agriculture parcels
- Streamlining lease/permit/patent process
- Address bison conflict in Delta

Infrastructure needs brought forward by industry in original plan:

- Local meat processing capabilities are needed near production areas.
- A stable dairy processing facility must be developed in the Mat-Su Valley.
- Manufacturing plant for urea that will sell to Alaska farmers as well as to international markets.
- Development of a phosphate mine.
- A vegetable processing plant to extend the market season for locally grown produce. (Mat-Su borough has done this study).
- Improved loading and unloading facilities for rail shipments.
- Rail spurs to Delta to carry fertilizers to farms and grain to markets.
- Formation of marketing cooperatives to insure consistent quality and supply, and develop new markets in the state.
- Access to natural gas for processing Alaskan products.
- Production Credits Program for producers meeting certain levels of production targets.
- Increase accessibility of USDA inspections coupled with the ability to sell locally in diverse areas of the state.
- Develop Nenana agricultural area and other agricultural areas.

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Agriculture Advisory Panel

**Bryce Wrigley
Jennifer Ansley
Mark Troutman
Marlene Wenger
Tim Meyers
Wayne Brost
Rita Jo Schultz
Rich Worrell
Don Berberich
Mike Emers
Bruce Willard
Lynn Gattis
Jan Flora
John Schirack
Ben VanderWeele
Stoney Wright
Amanda Swanson
Amy Pettit
Erik Johnson
Doug Warner
Franci Havemeister**

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Division of Agriculture – moving forward

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Definitions & Acronyms

The definition of agriculture is “The process, business, or science of producing food, feed, fiber, and other desired products by the cultivation of certain plants and the raising of domesticated animals (livestock). There are numerous branches of agriculture including: agronomy, animal husbandry, horticulture, floriculture, dairy production, and many others.

- ADF&G – Alaska Department of Fish & Game
- ADNR – Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- ADOA- Alaska Division of Agriculture
- AFES – Agriculture, Forestry, and Experiment Station
- AOSA – Association of Official Seed Analysts
- ARLF – Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund
- ARS – Agriculture Research Service

- BAC – Board of Agriculture & Conservation
- BMP's – Best Management Practices
- DOC - Department of Commerce & Economic Development
- DEC - Department of Environmental Conservation
- FFA – Future Farmers of America
- LUCL – Land Use and Conservation Laboratory
- MMM&S – Mt. McKinley Meat & Sausage
- NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
- PMC – Plant Material Center
- SWCD – Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- UAF – University of Alaska, Fairbanks
- USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

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