

HB

238

<TARGET><BILL>HB 238</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
238</SUBJECT><COMM>HCRA28</COMM></TARGET>

Kimberly Clark

From: Kelly Cunningham
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 3:55 PM
To: Kimberly Clark
Cc: Kris Curtis
Subject: Replace Fiscal Note
Attachments: HB 238 Various Departments.pdf; Kelly_Cunningham.vcf

Hi Kim,

I now understand what's going on and Leg. Audit should not have a fiscal note. Please use the attached version and discard the one I just sent you.

Kelly

Kimberly Clark

From: Lisa Vaught
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 2:37 PM
To: Kimberly Clark
Subject: FW: Fiscal note for HB 238

Lisa Vaught
Chief of Staff for Rep. LeDoux
State Capitol, Room 416
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-4998
lisa.vaught@akleg.gov

From: Kelly Cunningham
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 2:36 PM
To: Lisa Vaught
Cc: Amy Defreest
Subject: Re: Fiscal note for HB 238

It doesn't work that way. Unless you have the administration prepare a new note, the note is "prepared" by the committee it resides in.

Auto transcribed from my iPhone

On Apr 1, 2014, at 2:22 PM, "Lisa Vaught" <Lisa.Vaught@akleg.gov> wrote:

Kelly,

Can we get this fiscal note to show that it was prepared by whoever prepared it rather than the Co-chairs of the Committee?

Thanks

Lisa

Lisa Vaught
Chief of Staff for Rep. LeDoux
State Capitol, Room 416
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-4998
lisa.vaught@akleg.gov

From: Kelly Cunningham
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 9:56 AM
To: Lisa Vaught
Subject: Re: Fiscal note for HB 238

Here is the link:

http://www.legfin.state.ak.us/FiscalNotes/fiscalNote.php?q=&billID=HB_238&billVersion=U&compNum=2978&session=28

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 31, 2014, at 9:33 AM, "Lisa Vaught" <Lisa.Vaught@akleg.gov> wrote:

Hi Kelly,

Kimberly Clark is out sick today and I am preparing for tomorrow's Community and Regional Affairs meeting. Can you send me the fiscal note for HB 238?

Thanks

Lisa

Lisa Vaught
Chief of Staff for Rep. LeDoux
State Capitol, Room 416
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-4998
lisa.vaught@akleg.gov

CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 238(CRA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES TARR AND GARA, Tuck

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the state and municipal procurement preferences for agricultural**
2 **products harvested in the state and fisheries products harvested or processed in the**
3 **state; and providing for an effective date."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 *** Section 1.** AS 29.71.040(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) When agricultural products are purchased by a municipality that receives
7 state money, only agricultural products harvested in the state shall be purchased
8 whenever priced not [NO] more than 12 [SEVEN] percent above products harvested
9 outside the state, available, and of like quality compared with agricultural products
10 harvested outside the state.

11 *** Sec. 2.** AS 29.71.040(b) is amended to read:

12 (b) When fisheries products are purchased by a municipality that receives state
13 money, only fisheries products harvested or processed within the jurisdiction of the
14 state shall be purchased whenever priced not [NO] more than 12 [SEVEN] percent

1 above products harvested or processed outside the jurisdiction of the state, available,
2 and of like quality compared with fisheries products harvested or processed outside
3 the jurisdiction of the state.

4 * **Sec. 3.** AS 36.15.050(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) When agricultural products are purchased by the state or by a school
6 district that receives state money, a 12 [SEVEN] percent preference shall be applied to
7 the price of the products harvested in the state.

8 * **Sec. 4.** AS 36.15.050(b) is amended to read:

9 (b) When fisheries products are purchased by the state or by a school district
10 that receives state money, a 12 [SEVEN] percent preference shall be applied to the
11 price of the products harvested or processed within the jurisdiction of the state.

12 * **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 238
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB 238 Various Departments
Title: PROCUREMENT PREF: AK GROWN FISH/AG
 PRODS
Sponsor: TARR, GARA
Requester: House Community & Regional Affairs

Department: Various (for Fiscal Notes only)
Appropriation: Various
Allocation: All Branches
OMB Component Number: 0

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2015	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Personal Services				***	***	***	***
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	***	***	***	***

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	***	***	***	***

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Initial Version

Prepared By: Co-Chair Representative LeDoux
House Community and Regional Affairs Committee
Co-Chair Representative Nageak
House Community and Regional Affairs Committee

Phone: (907)465-4998
Date: 03/27/2014

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 238

Analysis

This bill increases the Alaska Grown purchase requirement by municipalities, the state, and school districts from its current 7% to 12% effective July 1st, 2016. Departments will be able to spend more on Alaska Grown products at that time however the fiscal impact is indeterminate.

May/June 2014

- H.B. 238 signed into law, increasing AK Grown preference

July-November
2014

- Dept. of Ag notifies purchasers of increased price flexibility in FY15
- Dept. of Ag. notifies producers of increased price flexibility for next harvest
- USDA farm service agency contacts farmers & purchasers in existing networks

Pre-December-
2014

- State agencies, municipalities, & school districts finalize state budget requests

29th Legislature
(1st Session)

- Legislature considers FY16 budget

28-LS1167N
Bullard
3/27/14

CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 238(CRA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES TARR AND GARA, Tuck

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11 price of the products harvested or processed within the jurisdiction of the state.

12 * **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2015.

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: SSHB 238

1 Page 1, line 3:

2 Delete "**relating to legislative oversight of those procurement preferences;**"

3

4 Page 1, line 6, through page 3, line 2:

5 Delete all material.

6

7 Page 3, line 3:

8 Delete "**Sec. 2**"

9 Insert "**Section 1**"

10

11 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

12

13 Page 3, lines 24 - 29:

14 Delete all material.

15

16 Renumber the following bill section accordingly.

17

18 Page 3, line 30:

19 Delete "**Sections 2 - 5 of this Act take**"

20 Insert "**This Act takes**"

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

H.B. 238

“Alaska Grown Purchase Preference”

Request for a Hearing

To: Rep.s Gabrielle LeDoux, Benjamin Nageak, Co-Chairs

From: Rep. Geran Tarr, Prime Sponsor

Representatives LeDoux and Nageak,

As prime sponsor of H.B. 238, I am requesting a hearing by the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee. Attached is the most recent version of the bill, a sectional analysis and analysis of changes, the sponsor statement, and supporting documents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geran Tarr".

Rep. Geran Tarr

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

H.B. 238

“Alaska Grown Preference”

Sponsor Statement

Alaskans spend \$2.5 billion annually on food, and if Alaskan grown products were 30% of that market, local economies would grow by \$750 million a year. This bill increases the Alaska Grown purchase requirement by municipalities, the state, and school districts from its current 7% to 12%. The purchases involved are those of agricultural and fisheries products. The bill also requires the legislative audit division to conduct audits for the legislature regarding performance as relates to compliance with the purchasing requirement. The first audit would be completed and available to the legislature for the First Regular Session of the Twenty-Ninth Alaska State Legislature.

Alaska is the largest state in the Union, but fewer than one million of its 365 million acres are farmed and 82% of farmers farm on less than 500 acres. Only 5% of Alaska’s food is grown in Alaska, compared to 55% in 1955, with the highest percentage being dairy products, meat, potatoes, hay, and a few other types of vegetables. Only 3% of farms sell more than \$500,000 per year, while 82% sell less than \$50,000. An important side effect of the small amount of production is that if transportation to Alaska is cut off, the State only has 3-5 days’ supply of many food items in our grocery store.

Increasing the in-state purchasing would encourage farmers to invest in and enlarge farms. Improving the local farming economies would also help overcome the hurdle of increasing fuel costs, which leads to higher fertilizer costs and less competitive pricing. Furthermore, increasing opportunities would encourage more young farmers to stay in the market, considering that the median age of farmers is now hovering around 57 years old and rising. Finally, enforcement of these purchase preferences is a priority of the Alaska Food Policy Council, a statewide organization with a broad mix of agricultural-related companies, state

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

agencies, and consumers. In sum, providing a larger market for farmers and enforcing this market size allows farmers to increase production and sales and makes Alaska more self-reliant.

Alaska grown foods are fresher, travel fewer miles, and put money back into local economies. There are fewer diseases and crop pests in Alaska, meaning that local foods have fewer chemical contaminants, and other countries favor Alaska grown food because of this. I ask for your consideration and support for increasing the Alaska preference and creating an auditing process to ensure its enforcement. We must take steps to increase support for our farmers, improve local economies, and create healthier communities.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

H.B. 238

“Alaska Grown Purchase Preference”

Sectional Analysis & Changes

Section 1: adds under the legislative audit division’s powers and duties an obligation to conduct audits of compliance with the Alaska purchase preference.

Section 2: as regards municipalities that receive state money, increases an Alaska preference for agricultural products priced up to 12% above outside products, raised from a previous 7%.

Section 3: as regards municipalities that receive state money, increases an Alaska preference for fisheries products priced up to 12% above outside products, raised from a previous 7%.

Section 4: as regards purchases by the state or a school district receiving state money, increases an Alaska price preference for agricultural products to 12%, raised from a previous 7%. This provision was not in the original version of the bill.

Section 5: as regards purchases by the state or a school district receiving state money, increases an Alaska price preference for fisheries products to 12%, raised from a previous 7%. This provision was not in the original version of the bill.

Section 6: requires that the first compliance audits must be completed and available to the legislature on the first day of the first regular session of the Twenty-Ninth Legislature.

Section 7: makes July 1, 2016 the effective date of implementation for sections 2-5.



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THE STATE OF ALASKA GROWN

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Robert DeBerry

ALASKA GROWN

Gold Nugget employee Erin Sturdivant boxes heads of lettuce in the Butte. (ROBERT DeBERRY/Frontiersman)

Posted: Thursday, July 19, 2012 6:40 pm | Updated: 12:39 pm, Fri Jul 20, 2012.

Mary Lochner

There's a new crop of farmer's markets this summer. There are 44 around the state this year, up from 33 in 2011. That's up from just 13 in 2005, making Alaska the state with the greatest overall increase in the number of farmer's markets during the last half-decade.

It's a trend that has Kristi Krueger, project assistant for the Alaska Grown marketing team in Alaska's Division of Agriculture, feeling rosy about farming's future in the state.

"The indication we're getting from farmers is pretty positive," she said. "About as fast as people can grow it, people are buying it."

The growing interest in buying Alaska-raised meat and crops has been nourished by the local food movement, sometimes called the farm-to-table movement. There are a lot of reasons cited by activists for buying local. Food bought from local farms has a smaller carbon footprint, because it takes less fuel to transport it to market. It's fresher when it arrives. It puts money back into local economies. And, less tangibly, it restores the human connection between the grower and buyer.

In Alaska, there's the issue of food security, as well.

"In the 30 years I've been here, I've seen transportation disrupted so many times," said Delta Junction farmer Bryce Wrigley, "and when that happens, we only have three to five days' supply of many items in the grocery stores. I'd like to help us get to the point where we're able to provide a certain percentage of a balanced diet so we could extend our ability to take care of ourselves."

Food dependence

ATWOOD CONCERT HALL
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Anchorage Concert Association
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We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!
Submit news

CALENDAR
March 2014
Calendar grid showing days of the month from 1 to 31, with navigation buttons for 'today's events', 'browse', and 'submit'.

Wrigley's a big believer in moving Alaska toward self-reliance when it comes to food. As president of the Alaska Farm Bureau, he helped start the Alaska Food Independence Project, which eventually grew into a multi-organization group called the Alaska Food Policy Council. The partnership between governmental agencies, non-profits, and farming organizations develops strategies for increasing food security in Alaska.

Wrigley said there's a wide-open field of business opportunities for Alaska agriculture just waiting to be sewn with entrepreneurial endeavors. He points out that Alaskans import nearly all their food from out of state. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Services Agency, Alaskans spend an annual \$2.5 billion on food.

"Most of that money goes Outside, where our food is coming from," Wrigley said. "If we were to get just 30 percent of that food market, and fill that with products grown in Alaska, that's \$750 million a year we'll be turning over and over in the Alaska economy."

Potentially, there's a lot of future ag land out there: the state estimates the acreage of Alaska's farmable land at between 8.1 million and 18.4 million acres, including land for grazing.

Markets and processors

The state needs two things to stimulate agricultural growth, Wrigley said: first, the development of new markets, and second, the creation of new food-processing facilities.

Thanks to Alaska's short growing season, those two factors are somewhat mutually dependent. It's difficult for farmers to expand food production for major buyers such as restaurants, grocery stores and school districts when what they offer is only available for part of the year.

That's something the state's Farm-to-School program is working on, with a pilot program to create the perfect locally grown potato wedge.

The Anchorage School District serves 20,000 lunches per day, and some of those meals include a two-ounce serving of a potato dish. The district serves up locally grown potatoes when they're available. But even though they tend to store well, Alaska potatoes aren't available year-round.

In a partnership with the Anchorage School District, the Alaska Chip Company and VanderWeele Farms, the potato wedge pilot project will explore ways to process the product, such as by flash freezing or through a nitrogen-flushing fresh system, so that it could be available to school kids all year.

"We've got to come up with a wedge that's seasoned just right, and mostly cooked," said Krueger at Division of Agriculture's marketing team. "So when it's delivered to ASD, all they have to do is open the bag and put it in the container, and heat it up for 15 to 20 minutes."

Krueger said there are a few local food processors coming on line. The Alaska Rhubarb Company is planning to make rhubarb chunks that restaurants and hotels could use for desserts. The Alaska Flour Company started making and selling the state's only locally made barley flour in late 2011 (available at Natural Pantry, for those local-foodies who are interested). Delta Junction farmers planted wheat for the first time this year, and the company will start selling flour made from wheat later this year.

Farm-to-table enthusiasts might point out that's not the kind of local food that's in the spirit of their movement. But processed food could help expand Alaska's overall agricultural production, increasing the amount of available in-season fresh product, as well.

Wrigley points out that, from a food security perspective, food-processing facilities are necessary to strengthen the state's self-reliance.

"If the food supply grown in Alaska is available all year," Wrigley said, "it doesn't matter when a disaster happens at that point, because it's on the shelf. It's available."

Other innovative approaches to developing markets for Alaska-grown food include the production of biofuels. Delta Junction farmers are working with the U.S. military to develop barley production for biofuels that would be used on bases, Wrigley said. If the deal goes forward, it could increase the Delta Junction's output from 5,000 acres of barley each season to 20,000 acres. Delta Junction has 50,000 acres of farmland that are currently idle, he said.

In many communities around the state, farmers have started using high tunnels for their crops, some with the help of USDA grants. A high tunnel, unlike a greenhouse, is unheated. It does offer some protection from the cold, allowing for a longer growing season, but in comparison to a greenhouse, it is relatively inexpensive to build and maintain.

A logistics problem

Rising fuel and petrochemical prices are eating up Alaska farmers' profits, however, making it difficult to pay for transportation and fertilizer.

At Palmer Produce, co-owner Jerry Huppert sees oil and gas prices hitting farmers from every angle. Palmer





MARKETPLACE

Anchorage Press
Anchorage, AK
99501 [Map]
907-561-7737

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Produce is a food distribution company that carries locally grown food to retailers such as Carrs Safeway and Fred Meyer. It uses a refrigerated trucking fleet to keep the food fresh.

"That's what's driving up the cost of the (food) product, is the cost of fuel," Huppert said. "And it drives up the cost of fertilizer. Everything gets higher. The oil companies have record profits, and here we are just trying to break even."

Palmer Produce always tries to price its product to match vegetables shipped up from outside, Huppert said. So it's mostly the farmer that's eating the added expense. Huppert is also a farmer himself, raising mostly potatoes.

"I've been farming over 40 years," he said. "I don't do it 'cause it's fun. You do it to make a living. If you can't make a living, there's gonna be less farmers around. They gotta be able to make up the expense."

As fuel prices go up, the price of food shipped in from far-away locations goes up too, potentially making the price of locally-grown food more competitive. But in Alaska, that's not necessarily true. If it costs more to truck food from Seattle to Anchorage, then it also costs more to transport it among the hundreds of communities that dot Alaska's 585,412 square miles.

Farming and ranching is booming everywhere from Nenana to Kodiak, but unlike many Lower-48 counterparts, there aren't a bunch of major metropolitan areas nearby to market agricultural products to. With few food processors, there's minimal in-state infrastructure for distributing local food to markets.

"There isn't a food hub or a central processing location that farmers can go to, to get things out," Krueger said. "And we're such a big state. I'm sure Kodiak beef would be a big hit in Fairbanks. But even getting it to Anchorage is a challenge. It's a logistics problem."

Disappearing farmland

Paul Ruppert, the elder Ruppert farmer at Palmer Produce, has been in the game for decades, and he sees a simple equation reducing Alaska agriculture's production potential in the future.

"We need more land, and more farmers," he said.

An aging farmer population is affecting U.S. agriculture nation-wide. According to the USDA, the average age of the Alaskan farmer was 45.8 in 1982, and has risen steadily ever since. The age of the average farmer was 56.2 in 2007, the last time an agricultural census was taken.

At the same time that Alaskan farmers age and fewer young farmers get into the business, Alaska's best farming land is disappearing, Ruppert said.

The state's estimated 8.1 million to 18.3 million acres of farmable land might seem like a lot. But it includes potential pastureland for grazing, not just land for crops. And, Ruppert said, some of the state's arable land is made of shallow soil only suitable for growing hay and grasses. The good, deep rich soil needed to grow vegetables and grain is harder to come by, he said, and once it's gone, it's gone.

"The best land there was in agriculture in Alaska was there in the Matanuska Valley," Ruppert said. "I would say almost 80 percent of that land is in subdivisions."

There was some good deep soil out in Sand Lake in Anchorage, he said, but that's all houses now. The shallow soils out in Point MacKenzie could be used for hay and grass, and the state was supposed to have set it aside for agriculture uses. But then, over time, he said, the state has cut the parcels down to sizes that lend themselves more to the development of ranches for personal enjoyment, rather than for production of crops. Meanwhile, Ruppert said, the railroad is building a route right through the middle of Point MacKenzie's ag land, where they'll also build a switching yard.

"They could've avoided it," Ruppert said. "The state itself is the biggest abuser of using the land for other than agricultural purposes. If you can't get the state to protect it and live up to it, there's not much hope."

Still, Ruppert said, there is some hope for the future of Alaska agriculture in the fertile soils of Nenana Valley near Fairbanks, but it'll take commitment and legislative oversight to protect it for future generations.

"It has the deeper soils," Ruppert said. "The state should set a high priority to protect that for future use. I think the day will come when it'll be needed, and I think it'll be the most important thing people will have at that time for using the land, is to feed themselves."

SECTIONS

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Why does Alaska produce so much less food than 50 years ago?

Alaska Dispatch | October 26, 2012



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Courtesy Jennifer Kehoe

Local movements to reclaim Alaska food production have been on the rise in recent years, but Alaskans still have a long way to go. In 1955, 55 percent of the food consumed in Alaska was produced in the state. Today, however, the amount has shriveled to just 5 percent, according to the Redoubt Reporter.

“In 1955 we were pretty self-sufficient, but from 1955 to 2010, we have gone from being self-reliant and independent to completely vulnerable, completely dependent on the next plane,” Danny Consenstein, director of the Alaska Farm Service Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, told the Redoubt Reporter.

Why does Alaska produce so much less of its food in 2012?

The Redoubt Reporter cites a complex web of factors, including decreased fuel costs and a heightened supply chain that allowed for cheaper and more convenient food than one could grow in a family garden. Increased convenience led to demand for non-seasonal items, such as exotic fruits from across the world, while large corporations began to dominate the market over local business.

Yet as fuel prices increase, and concerns over carbon emissions and food security follow suite, Alaska is looking to produce more of its own food.

“We have gone from being self-reliant and independent to completely vulnerable, completely dependent on the next plane,” Consenstein tells the Redoubt Reporter.

Increased food production will mean a healthier, more stable and economically sound state, he says.

One U.S. Department of Agriculture survey notes that Alaskans spend \$2 billion annually on food, but only 2-3 percent of that food comes from within the state.

“Imagine if just 10 percent more stayed here...That 10 percent is like \$200 million dollars that would be bouncing around local communities,” Consenstein told the Redoubt Reporter.

Read much, much more from the Redoubt Reporter.

Read more about eating local in Alaska here.

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

– Margaret Mead

Community

Eat Local

Are you hungry for more renewables? Good news! You can eat renewable too! Help strengthen Alaska's food system by eating local meats and vegetables.

Alaska is geographically isolated and has a limited growing season, which makes Alaskan's heavily dependent on food imports. Approximately 95% of the food we eat comes from outside Alaska. Our food imports are based on a transportation system reliant on unstable fossil fuel prices. Additionally, Alaska is vulnerable to natural disasters (such as large-scale earthquakes and volcanic eruptions) that threaten food shipments into the state. According to the Alaska Farm Bureau, if Outside food sources were cut off, Alaska would only have a 3-5 day food supply. [MORE](#)

To find farmers markets in your region check out the Alaska Division of Agriculture's "[Alaska Grown Source Book](#)".

Quick Facts:

Alaskans spend an estimated \$2.5 billion per year on food. ([Alaska Food Policy Council](#))

Alaska agriculture supplies approximately 5% of the state's food needs while 95% is imported from other regions around the globe. ([US Department of Agriculture](#))

If Alaskan's doubled local food purchases from 5% to 10 % the multiplier effect of \$250 million in food dollars would remain in Alaska. ([Alaska Food Policy Council](#))

Primary concerns following the Alaska 1964 earthquake and tsunamis were food and water access. ([National Research Council](#))



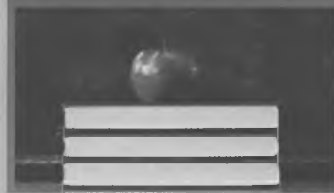
Recycling

A limited market for recyclable materials has made the implementation of recycling programs difficult in Alaska. However, many options for recycling do exist in Alaska's major communities. Because Alaska does not have a sorting facility, it is important to properly sort your recyclables by material. Curbside recycling is available in some areas of Anchorage. For more information on curbside recycling in Anchorage contact [Alaska Waste](#).

For more information about what you can recycle and where to recycle it, refer to the following pages:

[Alaska DEC Solid Waste Program](#)

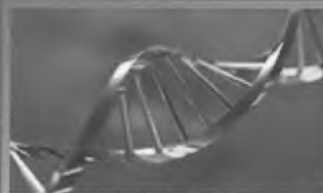
ALASKA *Agriculture in the Classroom*



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ALASKA GROWN

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WHY IS ALASKA GROWN SO IMPORTANT?

Products grown or raised in Alaska are allowed to carry the state's Alaska Grown label. That means the foods were not imported from another country, or brought in from another state. They were raised right here in Alaska.

Why is that important? Only a very small percent of Alaska's food is grown in Alaska. The highest percentages of homegrown products include potatoes, some other vegetables, dairy products and meat. The rest of the food consumed by Alaskans is brought in from other states and countries. Alaskans called the Lower 48 or Continental United States "Outside." Perhaps they do that because Alaska (and Hawaii) is so far from the Lower 48 states. It is 1,414 miles from Anchorage to Seattle, "as the crow flies." That is about as far as from Chicago, Illinois, to Phoenix, Arizona. Even Ketchikan, the southernmost city in Alaska, is 600 miles from Bellingham, Washington. From Barrow, Alaska, to Tampa, Florida, it is more than 4,000 miles. That's a long way for orange juice to travel, even with the faster means of transportation available today.

Buying Alaska Grown doesn't just mean fresher foods, it can also mean foods grown with fewer pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals. Because there are fewer diseases and crop pests in Alaska, many farmers use fewer chemicals. Some other countries buy Alaska Grown products specifically because of this benefit.

But there is another great reason to buy Alaska Grown. It helps Alaska farmers, ranchers and food processors, and Alaska's economy. Agriculture is the sixth-ranked industry in Alaska, behind oil, tourism, fishing, timber and mining. Though the nearly \$53 million in total agricultural receipts in 2004 sounds small compared to other states, it is still important.

And it is important to keep a local food supply. It's good eating and good for Alaska. So look for the Alaska Grown label. It is the pride of Alaska's agricultural producers.

[Click here](#) for more information on Alaska Grown.



To try some Alaska Grown Products, go to [Alaska Food & Farm Product Directory](#).

[Back to Top](#)



A Look at Alaska Agriculture

Capital: Juneau

Population: 698,473

Founded: January 3, 1959 (49th)

State Bird: Willow ptarmigan

State Tree: Sitka spruce

State Flower: Forget-me-not

Counties: 16 Boroughs and 11 Geographical Census Areas

Largest City: Anchorage - 273,700

Nickname: The Last Frontier

Number of Farms: 680

Average Farm Size: 1,294 acres

Total Farmland: 880,000 acres



www.agclassroom.org/ak

Climate & Soil

- Alaska's temperatures vary widely.
- The coastal areas range in temperature from 60.6°F to 28.9°F, while the inland areas average is more extreme from 72°F to -1.5°F. Average January temperatures range from -8°F in Barrow to 37°F in Valdez; average July temperatures range from 44°F in Barrow to 72°F in Fairbanks.
- Alaska has 318 different soil types.
- Permafrost is more than 2,000 feet deep on Alaska's North Slope.
- The state soil is Tanana, found in the Fairbanks area.
- An estimated 15 million acres of soil in Alaska is suitable for farming.

Crops & Livestock

- Summer days of nearly constant daylight allow some crops to be nurtured to enormous size. Jumbo crops include a world-record 19 lb. carrot, a 76 lb. rutabaga, and a 127 lb. cabbage!
- Barley was planted on 4,100 acres in 2008, with production for grain at about 99,000 bushels.
- Hay is planted on the most Alaska acreage: 18,000 acres.
- Greenhouse and nursery crops are the fastest-growing segment of Alaska's agricultural industry.
- In 2007, Alaska accounted for over 62 percent of the volume of the commercial seafood harvested in the United States.
- Alaskans rely on the sale of cattle, pigs, sheep, reindeer, milk, wool, antlers and velvet, bison, yak and elk.
- Alaska is the largest state (365 million acres), but fewer than 1 million acres are farmed.

General

- Alaska's oil production is 14% of the total U.S. production.
- Alaska is one-fifth the size of the contiguous U.S.; 488 times larger than the state of Rhode Island.
- 90% of Alaska is owned by the U.S. Government.
- The Tongass National Forest, at 16.9 million acres, is the largest national forest.
- The state fish of Alaska is the King Salmon. The state animal of Alaska is the moose.
- Alaska is divided into boroughs, instead of counties or parishes. There are 16 organized boroughs and 246 recognized tribal governments.
- Total cash receipts from farm marketing in 2008: nearly \$31.2 million.
- Other world record vegetables:

39 pound turnip	97 pound kohlrabi
106 pound kale	63 pound celery
65 pound cantaloupe	
- Alaska boasts the northernmost (Point Barrow), the easternmost (Pochnoi Point on Semisopchnoi Island in the Aleutians), and the westernmost (Amatignak Island in the Aleutians) points in the United States.
- Alaska has an estimated 100,000 glaciers.
- Of the 20 highest peaks in the United States, 17 are in Alaska. Mount McKinley, the highest peak in North America, is 20,320 ft. above sea level. Denali, the Indian name for the peak, means "The Great One."



Alaska Facts

on
agriculture & natural resources



Alaska, by far the biggest state in the union, is a diverse land. Alaska's temperatures vary widely — and wildly — from region to region and season to season, affecting its agricultural production.

Alaska's coastal regions have less extreme temperature swings from season to season. For instance Homer, on the mainland coast, has an average maximum temperature in July of 60.6 degrees Fahrenheit; in January, it's 28.9. But in Fairbanks, the average max temperature in July is 72.4 degrees, compared to -1.5 in January.

Alaska Fast Facts

Motto: "North to the Future"
 Flag: dark blue background with eight stars -- the North Star and the Big Dipper.
 Name: derived from an Aleut word "Alyeska," which means "great land."
 Capital: Juneau, which can only be reached by air or water.
 Flower: Forget-me-not
 Gem: Jade
 Sport: Dog mushing
 Bird: Willow ptarmigan
 Fish: King salmon
 Tree: Sitka spruce
 Mineral: Gold
 Land Mammal: Moose
 Marine Mammal: Bowhead whale
 Insect: Four-spot skimmer dragonfly, which eats mosquitos.
 Soil: Tanana, found in Fairbanks area



Most of Alaska's agriculture lands are located in the Matanuska Valley north of Anchorage and the Tanana Valley east of Fairbanks. The Matanuska Valley is known for mild summers and moderate winters, while the Interior's Tanana Valley sees hot summers and very cold winters.

One interesting facet of Matanuska Valley farming goes back to the Great Depression. A federal program designed to help Midwestern farmers start over on fertile Alaska land brought "pioneer" farm families to Alaska in the mid 1930s. While many of those farms failed, the potential for farming the sheltered valley was realized. In the 1950s, replacement "colonists," as they had come to be known, were recruited from Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Some of them prospered and the Matanuska Valley's famous monster vegetables became legend. Some of the original and replacement Colonists' family members still farm in Alaska.

Speaking of monster vegetables, how about a 100-pound cabbage? The Alaska State Fair record is 105.6 pounds. Summer days of nearly constant daylight allow some crops to be nurtured to enormous size. Other

jumbo crops include a world-record 18.99 pound carrot and a 75.75 pound rutabaga, another world record.

Alaska doesn't find itself in the U.S. production rankings very often. Its agricultural production is quite small, especially considering it is by far the biggest state — more than 365 million acres. Fewer than 1 million acres are farmed, and only about 29,000 acres were in cropland in 2006. An estimated 15 million acres of land in Alaska have soils suitable for farming.

Alaska's farmers supply less than 2 percent of the food consumed in their state, and 40 percent of the feed supplied Alaska animals. To highlight its products, the state promotes its homegrown products with a distinctive Alaska Grown label. With so much of Alaska's food brought into the state on trucks, in planes and on ships, the label trumpets the freshness of the Alaska-grown product.

Alaska Miscellany

- Regions of Alaska: Far North, Interior, Southwest, Southcentral, Southeast
- Largest city: Anchorage, population 278,700, according to 2006 estimates.
- Alaska covers 570,380 square miles
- State population: 670,000, according to 2006 estimates.
- Population density: 2.6 person for each each square mile, minus lakes, rivers, etc.
- Alaska is divided into boroughs, instead of counties or parishes.

There are 16 organized boroughs, but some areas of the state are not included in any municipal form of government, either borough or one of Alaska's 149 incorporated cities. There are also more than 229 federally recognized tribal governments.

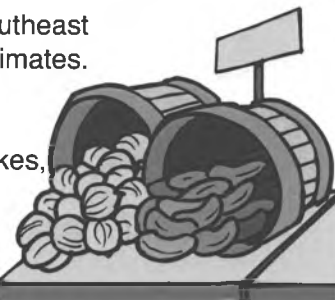
- Alaska has 318 different soil types in seven of the twelve soil orders.

- Alaska has 100 volcanoes and volcanic fields that have been active within the last 1.5 million

years. More than 40 of these have been active in historic time. These make up about 80 percent of all active volcanoes in the U.S.

- Alaska's oil production is 25 percent of the total United States production.
- Alaska was purchased from Russia on March 30, 1867 for \$7.2 million. Alaska became the 49th state on Jan. 3, 1959.
- Alaska is one-fifth the size of the contiguous United States; 488 times larger than the state of Rhode Island; larger than the three next-largest states combined.
- Alaska leads the nation in quantity of commercial seafood landings. In 2007, more than 200 million salmon were harvested.
- Permafrost is more than 2,000 feet deep on Alaska's North Slope.
- A pingo is an ice mound that develops as tundra lakes fill with silt and sediments. As permafrost encroaches from the sides of the lake, excess water bulges upward as it freezes, forming a pingo.
- The Tongass National Forest, at 16.9 million acres, is the largest national forest.
- Forests cover 129 million acres of Alaska, about one third of the state.
- Alaska is the northernmost, easternmost and westernmost of the United States (because the Aleutian Chain crosses the International Dateline into the Eastern Hemisphere).
- Ninety percent of Alaska land is owned by a government agency.
- Alaska has three million lakes.

Most info was obtained from State of Alaska or USDA-Alaska sources. Other sources included Alaska Forestry Association.



Alaska Ag Product Facts — 2006

Crop Production

Hay	22,000 tons
Barley	157,000 bu.
Oats	28,000 bu.
Potatoes	18.6 million lbs.
Head lettuce	1 million lbs.
Cabbage	845,000 lbs.
Carrots	1.67 million lbs.
Other veg.	2 million lbs.

Livestock Production

Beef	1.5 million lbs.
Dairy	9.8 million lbs.
Hogs	477,000 lbs.
Sheep	16,000 lbs.
Reindeer	220,000 lbs.

Other Farm Products

Wool	5,800 lbs.
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Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom, a program of the Alaska Farm Bureau

www.agclassroom.org/ak; akaitc@alaskafb.org



Alaska Grown Source Book



Published November 2012 by
Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture
1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 12. Palmer, Alaska 99645
Phone: 907-745-7200 Fax: 907-745-7242

Welcome to the Alaska Grown Source Book - your resource for local food and farm products. We have listed all farm and ranch operations that have provided their information.

The Alaska Grown Source Book provides information about statewide resources and contacts relevant to Alaska agriculture. You will first find a list of statewide CSA & U Pick businesses, followed by a list of farmers markets broken out by regions, corresponding to the map at left. The balance of the book is dedicated to individual farm listings, organized by region and alphabetized by farm name.

We hope you enjoy the Alaska Grown Source Book and find this directory to be useful. We encourage you to become an active Alaska Grown buyer, looking for the logo in grocery stores, at farmers markets and in your favorite restaurant.



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Governor Sean Parnell
STATE OF ALASKA

Dear Alaskans,

As citizens of this great state, we have the unique opportunity to enjoy a bounty of natural resources available to us. It may be landscaping our yards using locally grown plants, eating fresh, local foods, or providing high-quality hay for our livestock. Products grown locally are plentiful and support our communities, economies, and Alaska's natural resources.

The Alaska Grown Source Book offers Alaskans a resource for locating Alaska Grown products. This guide provides information on everything from growing peonies to sustainable living or locating a farm for fresh produce. It is important to know where our food comes from and how our food is grown.

By looking for the Alaska Grown symbol, you can guarantee that you are supporting fellow Alaskans in producing high-quality, local products.



We continually encourage the consumption of Alaska Grown products in schools and restaurants. We are thankful to see Alaska Grown products on store shelves throughout the state and for the increase in farmers' markets in communities all across Alaska. This year we were proud to serve Alaskan Grown food at the Governor's Family picnics throughout the state.

We are grateful for your commitment to supporting Alaskan farmers and processors. I encourage you to look for the Alaskan Grown symbol when shopping or dining out – "Look, Ask, and Buy" Alaska Grown!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sean Parnell".

Sean Parnell
Governor

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development Division of Community and Regional Affairs

[State of Alaska](#) > [Commerce](#) > [Community & Regional Affairs](#) > [Grants Section](#) > [Nutritional Alaskan Foods in Schools](#)

GRANTS SECTION

NUTRITIONAL ALASKAN FOODS IN SCHOOLS

The Nutritional Alaskan Foods in Schools was first funded as a pilot program in fiscal year 2013. The program's purpose is to encourage every Alaskan school district to purchase nutritious Alaska Grown/caught/harvested foods. The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCCED, DCRA) administer the appropriation and distribute the money to the individual school districts.

The fiscal year capital bill (SB 18) has once again awarded \$3 million dollars to the program in fiscal year 2014.

- Fifty-three percent (53%) of the funding will be allocated according to the 2012-2013 school year Average Daily Membership of each school district.
- Forty-seven percent (47%) of the funding will be allocated according to the 2012-2013 School District Cost Factor.

The sum of these two amounts equals the total funding available to each school district for reimbursement of purchases under this program. [Click here for the list of school districts and their individual allocation amount.](#)

Each school district is responsible for making its purchases and submitting a reimbursement request and documentation to DCCED, DCRA. The request and documentation must detail the quantity purchased, cost, proof the products were Alaska Grown or caught/harvested in Alaskan waters. Once approved, reimbursement payments will be paid to the school districts up to the amount of the school district's allocation. School districts will have until June 30, 2014 to purchase items and July 15, 2014 to request reimbursement.

Each school district must enter into a grant agreement prior to requesting reimbursement of funds. [Click here for a sample grant agreement.](#)

Food items which qualify for reimbursement under this program are:

- Finfish or shellfish caught or harvested in Alaskan waters
- Livestock raised in Alaska
- Vegetables, berries and fruits grown in Alaska
- Poultry and poultry products grown in Alaska
- Grains harvested in Alaska
- Milk produced from livestock in Alaska



How does the Alaska Grown Certification Program work with the Nutritional Alaskan Foods for Schools program?

It works great! The State of Alaska, Division of Agriculture launched the Alaska Grown agriculture products certification program in 1986; it is designed to highlight and promote farm products in the marketplace. Farmers and producers are required to fill out a one-time, no cost application in order to join the program. The application is available online at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/Marketing/AKGrownApplication.pdf>

Food offered under the Alaska Grown logo are eligible foods for the Nutritional Alaskan Foods for School program.

Check out this [information](#) for purchasing tips!

Grant Documents And External Resource Links

- [Signatory Authority Form](#)
- [School District Information Form](#)
- NAFS Financial Report Reimbursement Request Form: [PDF Version](#) [Word Version](#) [Excel Version](#)
- [Financial Report/Reimbursement Request Form Instructions](#)
- [Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute](#)
- [Alaska Grown Source Book](#)
- [Resources for School Food Service Professionals](#)
- [Fiscal Year 2014 Capital Bill Citation](#)
- [Alaska Farm to School Program](#)

For more information about NAFS Grants contact:

Debi Kruse, Grants Administrator III
Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Division of Community and Regional Affairs
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1640
Anchorage, AK 99501

ALASKA GROWN RESTAURANT REWARDS PROGRAM:

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

Available at: <http://eatlocalalaskagrown.org/get-the-good-stuff/>

These restaurants make extra effort to buy Alaska Grown products and use them in menu items.
Support Alaska Grown when you eat out tonight!

Anchorage:

Table 6

Haute Quarter Grill

Bear Tooth Theatre Pub and Grill

Café 817

Southside Bistro

Bridge Seafood

Fire Island Rustic Bakeshop

Mr. Gyros

Sacks Cafe and Restaurant

Maxine's Fireweed Bistro

Denali

Denali National Park Wilderness Center

229 Parks Restaurant

Fairbanks

Ivory Jacks

Lemongrass Thai Cuisine

Fairbanks Riverside Princess Lodge

The Cookie Jar Restaurant

Wolf Run Restaurant

Homer

Fresh Catch Cafe

Two Sisters Bakery

Palmer

Turkey Red

Petersburg

Inga's Galley

Soldotna

Mykel's Restaurant

Talkeetna

Flying Squirrel Bakery Café

Joe Balash
Commissioner

550 W. 7th Ave., Ste 1400
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 29, 2014

CONTACT:

Alaska Division of Agriculture

Taylor Berberich, Natural Resources Technician III, 907-761-3855

taylor.berberich@alaska.gov

Alaska Farm to School and Alaska Grown programs receive statewide award

(Palmer, AK) – The Alaska Division of Agriculture’s Farm to School Program and Marketing Section today received the Alaska Community Service Award for Health from the Alaska Public Health Association.

The community service award is given to organizations which make significant contributions to improving the health of Alaskans. The award was presented to the Division of Agriculture today during the Alaska Public Health Summit in downtown Anchorage.

The two programs were nominated due to their work to improve the availability of healthy, local foods.

“Because of these programs, Alaskans have more access to fresh, local foods in schools, restaurants, grocery stores and farmers markets,” said the nominator, Diane Peck, with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services’ Obesity Prevention and Control Program.

“The Alaska Division of Agriculture is proud of the work that the Farm to School and Marketing programs are doing and we are pleased to receive this honor. We look forward to continued service to the people of Alaska,” said Franci Havemeister, director of the Division of Agriculture.

###

Daniel S. Sullivan
Commissioner

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 26, 2013

CONTACT:

Division of Agriculture

Amy Pettit, Marketing Program, Development Specialist, 907-761-3864, Amy.Pettit@alaska.gov

Celebrate Alaska Agriculture Day on May 7

(Palmer, AK) – By executive proclamation, Alaskans will celebrate Alaska Agriculture Day on Tuesday, May 7. On this day, Alaskans are encouraged to support local agriculture by seeking out and purchasing products produced in Alaska and educating youth about the vital role that agriculture plays in our economy.

Here are a few ideas from the Division of Agriculture on how to celebrate Agriculture Day:

- Look for, ask for, and buy Alaska Grown at local stores and farmers markets. Buying local supports local farms and keeps your money in your community.
- Try planting certified Alaska seed potatoes this year. A growing number of stores are selling certified, locally-grown seed potatoes in a kaleidoscope of shapes and colors.
- Help educate children about local food by volunteering to assist with an agriculture-related school project.
- Encourage your child's participation in after-school agriculture education programs such as Future Farmers of America or 4-H.
- Join the 12,900 people who "like" the Alaska Grown Facebook Page at <http://www.facebook.com/dnr.alaskagrown> and learn about the exciting things that Alaskans are producing around the state. You can also track Alaska Farm to School activities on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/AlaskaFarmToSchool>.

- Interested in taking a farm tour this summer? Contact the Division of Agriculture or your local farm bureau and see what is available near you.
- Visit this link <http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/Index/AlaskaAgricultureDay.pdf> to read the full proclamation signed by Governor Sean Parnell.

###

Daniel S. Sullivan
Commissioner

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STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2013

CONTACT:

Division of Agriculture

Johanna Herron, Farm to School Program Coordinator, 907-799-0186,

johanna.herron@alaska.gov

Taste test raises student interest in Alaska Grown vegetables

(Anchorage, AK) – An analysis of survey results from a school taste test featuring roasted Alaska Grown root vegetables showed a positive impact on student perception of those vegetables.

This school year, East High School students created a recipe featuring Alaska Grown roasted beets, parsnips, turnips, and squash. In late January, they cooked and served the dish to more than 100 students at Polaris K-12 School. On a scale of 1 to 5, 80 percent of the students gave the dish an overall rating of 3 or better. The winning vegetable was the parsnip, which received a rating of 5 from more than half of the students.

Participating students also filled out a pre and post survey about their vegetables preferences, their willingness to try vegetables, and their knowledge of vegetables grown in Alaska. The results of the survey were analyzed by the Alaska Farm to School program staff. The post survey indicated that the students had a stronger preference for the vegetables used in the taste test, an increased willingness to try new vegetables at school, and increased knowledge about vegetables grown in Alaska, according to the Farm to School Program.

“It is exciting to see the benefits that a simple taste test can have on students,” says Farm to School Program Coordinator Johanna Herron.

The survey results have been shared with the Anchorage School District Student Nutrition Services and the recipe will be incorporated into the menu for the upcoming school year. LaDonna Dean, the registered dietician for Anchorage Student Nutrition Services, worked with the Alaska Farm to School Program and the Cooperative Extension Services at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to create a standardized recipe.

“The Anchorage School District is very excited to team up with the Alaska Farm to School Program to increase vegetable selections on the menu and offer more Alaska Grown produce to our students,” Dean said.

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FOOD SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

Prepared for:
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services,
Obesity Prevention and Control Program

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Institute of Social and Economic Research
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September 2012

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Full assessment available at: http://akfoodpolicycouncil.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/2012-food-system-assesment-final-report-11_19_12.pdf