The Division of Agriculture Activities

August 5, 2015
Find us on the web at:
http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag

Director's Office

Franci Havemeister, Director
907-761-3867
Franci.Havemeister@alaska.gov

Curt Sandvik
907-761-3866
Curt.Sandvik@alaska.gov

Lora Haralson
907-761-3851
Lora.Haralson@alaska.gov

Rebecca Jeffers
907-761-3850
Rebecca.Jeffers@alaska.gov

Fax: 907-745-7112

In This Issue

- Letter from the Director
- Agriculture Calendar
- Alaska Grown Source Book applications being accepted
- Grade size requirements for broccoli
- Phytosanitary exportation requirements
- Native Plant Source Directory registration request
- Division of Agriculture Open House
- Biosecurity tips on the farm and at the fair
- Agriculture Appreciation Day

To add or remove your name from our newsletter list click here.

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

Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/dnr.alaskagrown

Director's Note

Although fall is still around the corner, change is in the air at the Division of Agriculture. We have had multiple people retire over the last few years and several chose different career paths. Each person has brought something unique to the Division and when they leave their absence is felt. Most recently, our Marketing Manager, **Amy Pettit** has joined the above group. We wish her luck in her new position with the Alaska Farmland Trust and thank her for her dedication to Alaskan producers and her efforts to increase awareness of Alaska Grown.

Recently, **Governor Walker** recognized the importance of agriculture in a media release dated July 28th. He is quoted as saying *"With Alaska facing dramatic fiscal challenges, we need to give support to our agriculture and food production industries. There is great opportunity to expand our state's agricultural footprint, and it is critical to consider the long-term health of this industry. I am eager to participate in discussions about sound policies and support of key stakeholders so we can make Alaska's farming industry a robust one."* We are looking forward to working together to promote agriculture in Alaska.

Agriculture has been in the news lately, with several articles covering Mt. McKinley Meat & Sausage (MMM&S). During the last legislative session, several legislators stressed their interest in privatizing the facility and moving it out of state ownership. This was reiterated when they attached a "One Time Increment (OTI)" to MMM&S funding; which means the facility is only funded through FY16. The legislators may choose to continue funding in FY17 but the OTI requires them to re-address the issue. In response to the legislators, the Alaska Farm Bureau has created a "Red Meat Working Group" that is looking at the feasibility of privatizing the plant. The Board of Agriculture has approved the group's request to allow a consultant to review the plant and provide recommendations and feedback on the possibility.

Please take the time to review the newsletter that includes information about Phytosanitary Certificates, scheduling inspections, fees, and the deadline for updating and/or including your farm information in the 2016-2017 Alaska Grown Source Book.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns give me a call at 761-3867 or send me an email at franci.havemeister@alaska.gov.

~ Franci Havemeister

**"Procrastination is attitude's natural assassin.
There is nothing so fatiguing as an uncompleted task."**

~ William James

ARLF Services

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

Amanda Swanson, Loan Officer
907-761-3869
Amanda.Swanson@alaska.gov

NOTICE:
The Division of Agriculture's Main Office in Palmer now has only one fax number: 907-745-7112

Marketing Staff

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

Jacki Schade 907-761-3858
Jacquelyn.Schade@alaska.gov

Johanna Herron 907-761-3870
Johanna.Herron@alaska.gov

Barb Hanson 907-761-3854
Barbara.Hanson@alaska.gov

Agriculture Calendar

- Thur., **Aug. 6** — **Alaska Agriculture Appreciation Day at the Farm**
  1509 S. Georgeson Rd. (Matanuska Experiment Farm), Palmer. 12-5 pm. *Details:* here

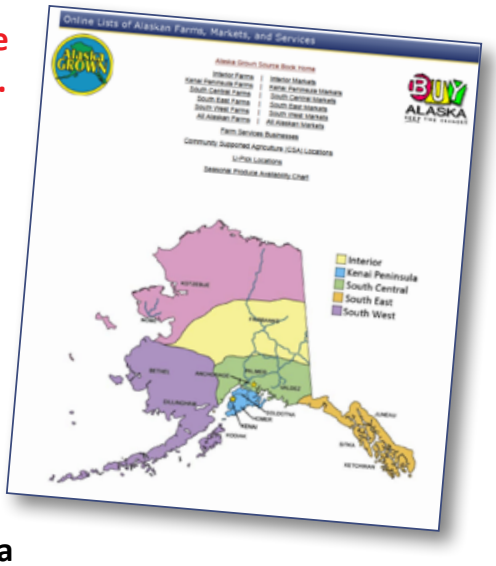
If you have an event that you would like to add to the calendar, please contact Lora Haralson.

Marketing Section

2016-2017 Alaska Grown Source Book Applications are being accepted!

- *Are you considering starting to sell direct to consumer?*
- *Are you trying to expand your customer base?*
- *Has your previous Source Book listing helped increase your sales?*

Consider having your farm listed in the 2016-2017 Alaska Grown Source Book.



The Source Book is a publication the Division of Agriculture creates every other year to help Alaskan farmers and ranchers connect with potential consumers. It is the most comprehensive list of Alaskan Farmers and the go-to publication for consumers looking for farmers in their area.

Please note: Everyone MUST submit a new application to be entered into the 2016-2017 Source Book.

Farm listings from previous Source Books WILL NOT be automatically entered into the 2016-2017 Source Book.

To view the current online version of the 2014-2015 Source Book, go to:
http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/sourcebook/sourcebookindex2014.html

To have your farm or market added to the 2016-2017 Source Book complete the online application at
https://www.research.net/r/AKGSB16-17

or to download, print, and mail your form visit:
http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/sourcebook/2016_2017SourceBookVendorApplication.pdf

Inspection Staff

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

Mia Kirk 907-761-3853
Mia.Kirk@alaska.gov

Kirk Brown 907-761-3857
Kirk.Brown@alaska.gov

Land Sales & Grazing Leases

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

Dan Proulx 907-374-3716
Dan.Proulx@alaska.gov

Erik Johnson 907-761-3863
Erik.Johnson@alaska.gov

Mt. McKinley Meat & Sausage

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

Frank Huffman 907-745-5232
Frank.Huffman@alaska.gov

Fairbanks Office

907-374-3716
Fax: 907-328-1951

Pest Detection / Inspection Section

What are the U.S. Grade Size Requirements for Broccoli Bunches, Crowns and Florets?

The U.S. Grade Standards for Italian sprouting broccoli apply to bunched broccoli, broccoli crowns, and broccoli florets. What is the difference?

Bunched broccoli are stalks bound together to form a single unit. A single stalk may be considered a bunch if it is approximately as large as other bunches in the lot.

Crowns are the heads of the stalks that have cut off or shortened stems. The main stem is cut back from the portion of the broccoli plant.

Florets are bud clusters closely trimmed from the head, with remaining stalk usually being 1 inch or less.

The U.S. Grade Standards Size Requirements are the following:

US No. 1			
Broccoli	Diameter	Lenth (minimum - maximum)	
Bunch	No requirement; may be specified	5 inches uos*	9 inches uos*
Crown	No requirement; may be specified	3-1/2 inches uos*	6 inches uos*
Floret	Not less than 1 or more than 4 inches	1-1/2 inches uos*	4-1/2 inches uos*

The diameter is defined as the average measurement across the bud cluster at the top of the stalk, crown, or floret. The length is defined as the total length of the stalk measured from the base of the stem to the top of the bud cluster.
*unless otherwise specified

Broccoli is derived from the Latin word for "branch" or "arm" and Italian for "shooting stalk." California grows over 90 percent of the broccoli in the U.S., followed by Arizona, then Maine.

Phytosanitary Certification necessary for exportation of agriculture products

Are you interested in shipping agriculture products outside the U.S.? If so, what do you need?

If you are interested in exporting agriculture products outside the U.S. it is necessary to know the import requirements of the country of destination. Depending on the country, these requirements may vary; for example some countries may require a phytosanitary inspection/certificate and an import permit.

How do I find out what the requirements of the importing country are?

Contact the Division of Agriculture at 745-7200 if you would like assistance in determining import requirements. It is best to do your research well in advance to determine how and if the requirements can be met.

If I need a Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) what/who is involved in the process?

The Alaska Division of Agriculture provides this service as licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), and Plant Pest Quarantine (PPQ), as an Authorized Certification Official (ACO). An ACO will be able to provide you with the import requirements of the country and perform an inspection if necessary. If the inspection results determine compliance of the importing country's requirements, a PC is issued.

As an exporter, you will be required to file an application through the USDA Phytosanitary Certification and Issuance and Tracking (PCIT) System at https://pcit.aphis.usda.gov/pcit/. If you are new to the system and need assistance, Division of Agriculture inspection staff can assist you.

When do I schedule the inspection?

Once you have determined a date for export it is important to contact the Division of Agriculture as soon as possible to schedule an inspection. We currently have two inspectors located in the Mat-Su Valley who are trained to issue PC's. We work diligently to assure industry needs can be met, but due to travel and staff availability it is best to schedule early.

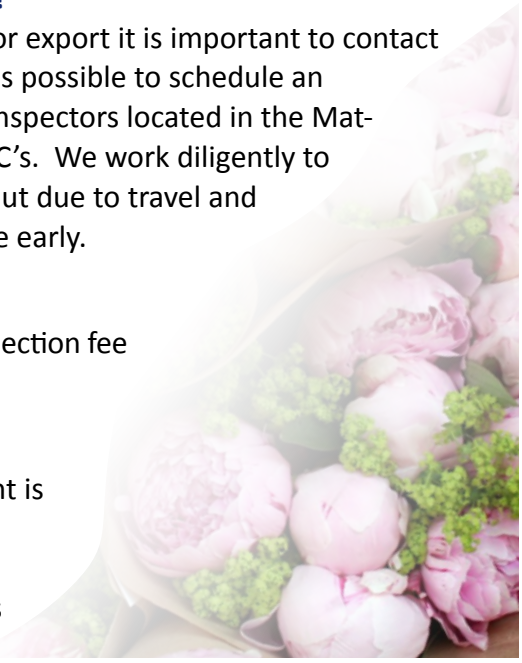
What are the Fees for Inspection?

$330.00 - Division of Agriculture Inspection fee

What are the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Phytosanitary Certificate Fees?

$ 61.00 if a noncommercial shipment is valued at less than $1,200.00

$106.00 if a commercial shipment is valued at more than $1,200.00



For more information on the Division of Agriculture Inspection Services visit: http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_is.htm or call 907-745-7200.

Plant Materials Center

http://plants.alaska.gov/
Main Phone: 907-745-4469

Alicia Holladay 907-745-8104
Alicia.Holladay@alaska.gov

Rob Carter 907-745-8127
Rob.Carter@alaska.gov

Phil Czapla 907-745-8747
Phil.Czapla@alaska.gov

Casey Dinkel 907-745-8108
Casey.Dinkel@alaska.gov

Rusty Foreaker 907-745-8092
Rusty.Foreaker@alaska.gov

ALASKA PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

Brianne Blackburn 907-745-8785
Brianne.Blackburn@alaska.gov

Kimberly Allen 907-745-8735
Kim.Allen@alaska.gov

Peter Johnson 907-745-8105
Peter.Johnson@alaska.gov

Lyubo Mahlev 907-745-8782
Lyubomir.Mahlev@alaska.gov

Todd Steinlage 907-745-8138
Todd.Steinlage@alaska.gov

Heather Stewart 907-745-8721
Heather.Stewart@alaska.gov

Plant Materials Center (PMC)

Online Native Plant Source Directory information request

The Plant Materials Center (PMC) publishes the "Directory of Alaska Native Plant Sources" in response to numerous requests from the public, industry, and agencies for sources of native plant materials from Alaska. This Directory depends on the response of suppliers, and does not claim to include all producers or sellers of native Alaskan plants. This is an online publication and is free of charge. By completing this form I understand my listing will also be included in the printed 2016-2017 Alaska Grown Source Book.

Examples of listings may include grass seed, wildflower seed and plants, Alaska trees and shrubs, and revegetation resources.

To be included in the new directory YOU MUST REREGISTER to ensure we have your most current information.

To view the current directory visit:
http://plants.alaska.gov/nativeplantindex.htm

If you are a grower and would like to enlist, update, or verify your information please email Kim.Allen@alaska.gov or contact the Plant Materials Center, at 907-745-8735 by March 15, 2016 with the following information:

Name of Business: _____

Contact Name:_____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Web address: _____

Products offered: _____

_____

or you may submit the fillable online form at:
www.plants.alaska.gov/pdf/NativePlantSourceDirectoryRequest_2015.pdf

Division of Agriculture 2015 Open House

One of the many demonstrations allowed visitors to participate in seed cleaning.

The Division of Agriculture hosted an Open House at the Plant Materials Center (PMC) in Palmer on Tuesday, July 28th, 2015. Over 120 visitors from all areas of the state were in attendance and excited to learn more about what their Division of Agriculture does for the industry and the State of Alaska.

Participants enjoyed the hay ride through the PMC trial fields and learned about the plethora of programs the Division offers. Guests learned about the Farm to School Program, the Alaska Grown and Marketing Program, Invasive Plants Management, Soil Conservation and Revegetation, Horticulture and Potato Trials, Seed Cleaning and Production, Pathology and Laboratory services, the Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund and Land Sales opportunities. All who attended seemed to find something that interested them. Visitors were able to test their knowledge at the potato guessing game, invasive plant identification test, and some youth activities took place at the Farm to School booth. Multiple demonstrations were held around the facility and the PMC's farm equipment was on display.

The Division plans to host an Open House on an annual basis. If you attended we would like your feedback. Please submit ideas or comments to Kim.Allen@alaska.gov. If you would like more information on the Division of Agriculture visit: http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/index.htm and plants.alaska.gov.

Guests learned about the many Horticulture Trials and the Potato programs.

Thank you to all of the staff and visitors that made this event a success and for interest in Alaska agriculture!

Hope to see you next year!

It was a great day for a narrated hay ride tour of the farm fields! Visitors learned what crops are being produced and why the Division is growing and testing them.

The Farm to School program offered educational activities for children and shared its success stories.

Environmental Health

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Dec.Alaska.gov/eh/
907-269-7501

Robert Gerlach
Alaska State Veterinarian
907-375-8214
Bob.Gerlach@alaska.gov

Jay Fuller
Assistant State Veterinarian
907-375-8213
Jay.Fuller@alaska.gov

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation:
Division of Environmental Health

Tips for practical biosecurity on the farm and at the fair

The recent outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the lower 48 resulting in the death of almost 50 million birds is a reminder of the importance of good biosecurity to prevent disease from affecting not only our poultry but all animals on your farm. The avian influenza outbreak has resulted in many states closing poultry shows and fairs; others are just allowing poultry to be exhibited and restricting waterfowl entries. Our risk in Alaska seems to be lower since we have not detected any highly pathogenic Avian Influenza in either domestic or wild bird populations. But the risk is never zero since migratory water fowl could carry the virus north, so it is important that we acknowledge the potential risk and focus on biosecurity at the farm and at the fairs.

Specifically, a biosecurity plan is a part of your farm health plan and designed to prevent introducing pathogens to the farm but also stop the spread and movement of infectious diseases once they are discovered. A good health program includes purchasing healthy animals, having a good farm health plan, good nutrition, and having protocols in place for handling sick animals, mortalities, and any new animals or returning animals entering the farm. A quarantine of 7 to 14 days is advised for newly purchased livestock or animals returning from another farm or from the fair or show.

Cleanliness, not only for your animals and their pens , includes wearing clean clothes, disinfecting shoes, and washing your hands before handling your animals. After treating a sick animal, clean and disinfect the equipment before treating the next animal.

Restrict access to your animals. If you have visitors make sure they have clean clothes and footwear. The most important thing is removing mud and manure from boots. Have a boot brush and cleaning supplies available. Also prevent livestock and poultry from having contact with free roaming animals such as rodents, birds, and wildlife.

It is best not to share; this includes feed and water bowls and other equipment. If you do need to share equipment, be sure to clean and disinfect the equipment before bringing it to your farm or near your animals.

Handle feed carefully. Store feedstuffs to minimize spoilage and prevent access to rodents, pests and wildlife.

Keep good records. Health records should include notes on the diet, weight or body condition, and any vaccinations and treatments.

Report any sick animals; call your Cooperative Extension Agent or veterinarian. Also report any dead animals, even wild birds or other wildlife.

We have posted some recommendations on our web page (http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/index.htm) for you to consider in preparing for the fair and a set of recommendations for exhibitors. Please read through them and try to institute the protocols that are practical for you.

ALASKA AGRICULTURE APPRECIATION

Day at the Farm

Cooperative Extension Service, University of Alaska Fairbanks

University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Natural Resources and Extension

Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station, AFES

Free!

Thursday, Aug. 6, 2015
12 to 5 p.m.

Matanuska Experiment Farm
1509 S. Georgeson Road, Palmer

- Agriculture presentations
  - — soils 101 with testing demonstration
  - — controlling the high tunnel environment
- Cooperative Extension Service cooking demonstrations
  - — millet, beets, kale & rhubarb
- Live music 4-7 p.m.
  - — Colony Middle School steel drum ensemble
  - — Ken Peltier
  - — jam session
- Kids activities
  - — veggie harvest, veggie bobbing, gold rush, dunk tank
- Reindeer & porcupine from the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- Sheep-to-shawl demo
- Goat milking
- Self-guided trail tour
- Hay wagon rides
- Farm equipment displays
- Bug identification
- Live animals
- Greenhouse tour
- Vendors, exhibits and MORE!

100 years!
Celebrate the anniversary of the site selection for the Matanuska Experiment Farm!

University of Alaska Fairbanks

For more information, contact Theresa Isaac at 907-746-9450.

www.uaf.edu/snre • 877-520-5211

UAF is an AA/EO employer and educational institution.