The Division of Agriculture Activities

January 5, 2016
Find us on the web at:
http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag

Director's Office

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

Questions or Comments?
E-Mail or call 907-761-3861.

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Director's Note

As the winter solstice and the hustle of the 2015 holiday season has come and gone, I am amazed at how quickly one year ends and another begins. Each and every new year brings change and it was no different for the Division of Agriculture. On December 4th, Franci Havemeister's position with the division came to an end. Franci was the longest serving Director of the Division of Agriculture. On behalf of division staff we would like to thank her for her dedication, support, and leadership over the last eight years.

With the new year off to a start it is time to look back at where we have been, what we have accomplished, and take this opportunity to set resolutions and goals for the upcoming new year. Hopefully, for each and every Alaskan, one of your resolutions is to look for, ask for, and buy more Alaska Grown!

The 29th legislative session is also quickly approaching. Session begins on January 19th and will run through April 17th. The division will work to keep you updated on any legislation that may have future impacts on agriculture and we'll be sure to cover it in the monthly newsletter.

Please enjoy this month's newsletter, look at the calendar to keep an eye out for up and coming events, and if you have any questions or concerns please stop by or give me a call at 745-8127 or email me at Robert.Carter@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

Rob Carter

"My grandfather used to say that once in your life you need a doctor, a lawyer, a policeman, and a preacher but everyday, three times a day, you need a farmer" ~ *Brenda Schoepp*

Marketing Staff

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

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Agriculture Calendar

- Thur., **Jan. 7** — **Board of Agriculture & Conservation Meeting.** Division of Agriculture, 1800 Glenn Highway, Suite. 12, Palmer. 9am. *Details:* here

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

Marketing

Alaska GROWN® Source Book

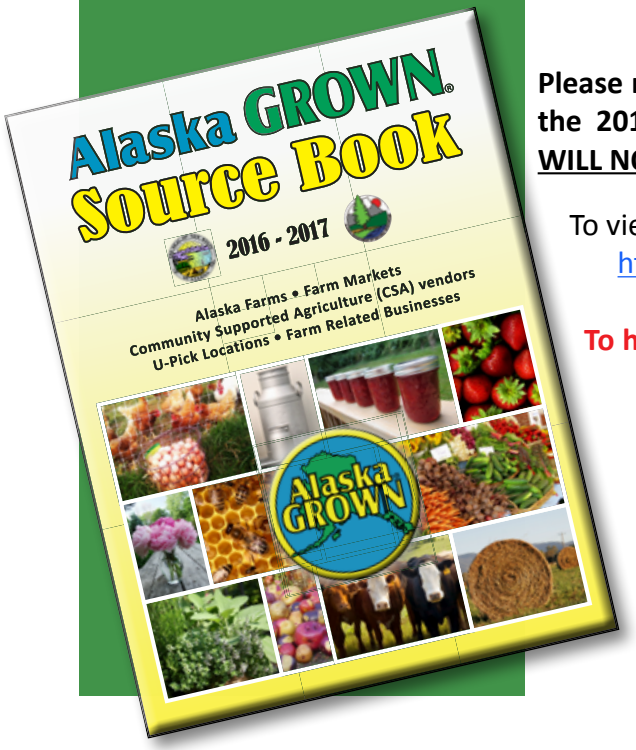
Deadline Reminder: March 15, 2016

The Source Book is an online and printed publication that lists:

• FARMERS • FARM MARKETS
• CSAS • U-PICKS • FARM SERVICE BUSINESSES

throughout the state.

The Division of Agriculture creates a new Source Book every other year in order to keep vendor information up to date and allow new vendors the chance to participate. Because the Source Book is a printed publication, we must have written confirmation from farmers that they would like us to publish their information. By filling out the application, you are giving the Division of Agriculture permission to print your farm information in the 2016-2017 Alaska Grown Source Book.



Please note: Everyone MUST submit a new application to be entered into the 2016-2017 Source Book. Farm listings from previous Source Books <u>WILL NOT</u> 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_2017SourceBook VendorApplication.pdf

For more information contact:
Jacquelyn.Schade@alaska.gov or at 907-761-3858.

2016 Alaska Peony Growers Association (APGA)
Winter Conference • January 28-30, 2016
Land's Inn, Homer, Alaska

For information on and to register for the APGA 2016 Winter Conference, click on this link: **http://www.alaskapeonyconference.com/**

GOVERNORS DINNER

The Alaska Farm Bureau announced the Governors dinner will be housed in Juneau February 10, 2016. Bernie Karl (bernie.karl@gmail.com) and Brian Schmidt (f4grown@gmail.com) are putting together 61 Alaska GROWN. gift bags for those attending this dinner. The gift bags will consist of items made and grown here in Alaska to help express the economic importance of legislative support for buying locally grown and 'Made in Alaska' products. If you have something to contribute or would like more information on the dinner please contact Bernie or Brian.

TOPICS OF INTEREST

"I SHOPPED LOCAL" CAMPAIGN

The Crew over at the The People's Paper are working hard to help support local businesses by promoting a new "I Shopped Local" campaign and so far it has been a big hit! Part of their marketing local businesses has been to hand out thousands of "I SHOPPED LOCAL" stickers to participating businesses. To find out more on "I Shopped Local" visit: www.makeasceneak.com/i-shop-local or contact Bryce Burkhart at Make a Scene Magazine Direct: 907-373-2698.

MAPPING TOOLS

Would you like to know where one borough boundary ends and another begins or even search for local anadromous streams? This is a one stop Geo-spatial data shop: http://www.asgdc.alaska.gov/.

CLOSING THE FARM TO TABLE GAP IN ALASKA ~ THE NEW YORK TIMES

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/04/us/closing-the-farm-to-table-gap-in-alaska.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&_r=2.

Mt. McKinley Meat & Sausage

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

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ARLF Services

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Farm to School

This time last year the Farm to School Program was busy planning the first ever Alaska Farm to School Conference in Anchorage. On day two of the conference there was a theme; 'Go Further With Partners', a fitting theme to describe the program over the past year. Two partners have stood out in regards to helping farm to school work go further this past year: Department of Education and Early Development, Child Nutrition Programs and UAF, Cooperative Extension Services.

Local Food Recipe Development

In 2011 the Alaska Farm to School Program partnered with UAF Cooperative Extension Services to develop standardized recipes using local ingredients for Alaska Schools. A total of 14 recipes were pulled together and posted online at: http://www.uaf.edu/files/ces/publications-db/catalog/hec/FNH-00414.pdf.

More recently Child Nutrition Programs secured a USDA grant to make an entire recipe book for Alaska school food service staff to use. Child Nutrition Programs contracted UAF Cooperatived Extension Services to develop dozens more recipes and even conducted taste tests with students to maximize success. Nearly a year later the recipe book has been released and is avaiable for schools to use bringing more Alaska food to students around the state. To view the cookbook go to: https://education.alaska.gov/tls/cnp/cookbook/Make_It_Local.pdf.

Culinary Connections

Farm to School covers everything in a local food system from food production to consumption. Working with staff at UAF Cooperative Extension Services has expanded our services to include culinary skills as well. While the partnership started with recipe development we quickly discovered there was potential to also provide classroom lessons and skills development for food service staff.

In 2004 UAF, Cooperative Extension Services developed a test kitchen with grant funds from USDA. The kitchen is a DEC permitted facility and is located on the UAF campus, the rate to rent the kitchen is $20/hour. The kitchen is open to the public to use for events, catering, or small food production; this allows producers access to a permitted kitchen while they get their businesses off the ground. The kitchen has recently brought in enough revenue to hire a part-time project assistant who will focus on Farm to School projects and resource development. Having extra staff time devoted to Farm to School collaboration will be a great addition to the efforts at the Division of Agriculture. Kate Idzorek will be the contact for using and accessing the kitchen for use.

For more information on how to access the test kitchen go to: http://www.uaf.edu/ces/small-food-business/test-kitchen/.

For updates, news, grant opportunities, and announcements join our listserv at: http://list.state.ak.us/soalists/akfarmtoschool/jl.htm.

For more information about the Alaska Farm to School or Farm to Institution programs, or if you have any questions, contact Johanna Herron at Johanna.herron@alaska.gov or (907) 761-3870.

Inspection Staff

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The Asian Gypsy Moth.

A milk carton trap used by the CAPS program to capture different defoliating moths.

For more information about CAPS visit, https://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/home.

For more information about CAPS in Alaska, contact your State Survey Coordinator, at 907-761-3858 or Jacquelyn.Schade@alaska.gov.

Pest Detection / Inspection Section

Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) and Alaskan Agriculture

The Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) is a program of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The purpose of the program is to help safeguard agricultural and environmental resources by ensuring that new introductions of harmful pests and diseases are detected before they are able to cause significant damage. CAPS is active in all 50 states and each state prioritizes their surveys based on their state's industry needs.

The surveys conducted are chosen by a CAPS Committee. Each state has their own committee made up of the State Plant Health Director, State Plant Regulatory Official, Pest Survey Specialist, State Survey Coordinator, State Operations Support Officer, and various specialists including plant pathologists, forest entomologists, weed specialists, and cooperative extension service staff. The Alaska CAPS Committee includes individuals who are active in the Alaskan agricultural community and knowledgeable about the pests and diseases that have the potential to make it to and establish in Alaska.

Alaska has been involved with the CAPS program since the early 1980's. Through the years, CAPS has conducted surveys for potato cyst nematode, emerald ash borer, light brown apple moth, purple loosestrife, Illyrian thistle, giant hogweed, pine wilt nematode, potato late blight, peony mosaic virus, tobacco rattle virus nematode, and thrips associated with peonies to name a few.

During the summer 2016, the Alaska CAPS program will conduct three surveys: Asian Defoliating Moth Survey, Exotic Wood Boring Bark Beetle Survey, and a Mollusk Survey.

Alaska has been conducting surveys for various moth species since the early 1990's. The Defoliating moth survey is searching for the Asian Gypsy moth, Rosy Gypsy moth, Siberian Silk moth, and the Nun moth. Asian defoliating moths are native to parts of Europe, Asia, and Russia. Alaska receives heavy traffic from these locations, making it a high risk area for Asian defoliating moth introduction and establishment. If established, these moths would defoliate trees throughout Alaska's landscape, devastating Alaska's forests and select horticultural crops.

This will be the first exotic wood boring bark beetle survey conducted through the CAPS program in Alaska. This survey is searching for Asian Longhorned Beetle, Six-Toothed Ips, European Spruce Bark Beetle, Mediterranean Pine Engraver, Black Spruce Beetle, Brown Spruce LongHorned Beetle, and Pine Shoot Beetle. Many of these beetles originate in Asia. Alaska receives heavy traffic from this area and is at risk of being invaded by these beetles. If established, these beetles would weaken and kill trees throughout Alaska's landscape, devastating Alaska's forests.

The Alaska CAPS program first surveyed for exotic mollusks in 2006. This survey is searching for *Arion* spp., *Arion vulgaris*, *Arion circumscriptus*, *Arion subfuscus, Cantareus apertus, Cernuella* spp, *Cochlicella* spp, *Helix Pomatia, Monacha cartusiana, Theba pisana,* and *Zerolenta obvia*. Invasive mollusks cause damage to agricultural and horticultural crops when they feed, transmit pathogens to humans indirectly through contaminated fruits and vegetables consumed by humans, and displace native species of snails and slugs. There are known invasive slugs and snails in Alaska and this survey will help track their populations and determine a course of action.

Land Sales & Grazing Leases

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

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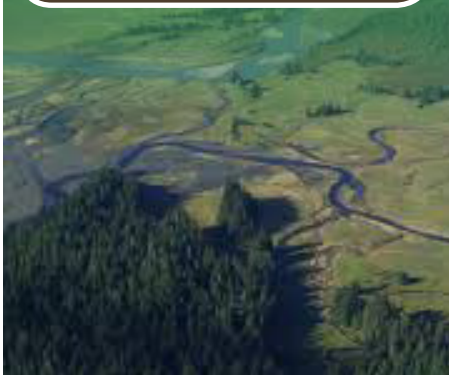
Alaska State Lands Advisory Group Meeting

Jan. 27th, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
State Capitol Building,
Room TBD,
Juneau, AK

https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=179442

For more information or to get an application for a lease authorization please contact the State of Alaska Public Information Office near you: http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/index



Agricultural Land Sales & Management

Land Sales & Agricultural Leases

The Division of Agriculture can assist anyone with leases for agricultural purposes on State land. Leasing land can help reduce upfront expenses associated with purchasing land. Leases may allow you to access remote sites (grazing leases are a good example). If the desired business interest on a lease authorization fails, you will need to remove any improvements before you relinquish land back to the State and if it succeeds, you can apply to purchase the land. Below is an introduction to the pre-authorization process beginning with the submittal of an application to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Mining Land & Water (DMLW).

After submitting an application (with a $100 fee) for interest in state-owned land an adjudicator will prepare a case file. Your project information will be distributed to other state agencies for review. The review period will last for 30 days. Your case will then be assigned to an adjudicator to examine the merits of your application and a Preliminary Decision (PD) will be prepared as directed by AS 38.05.035(e). The creation of a PD is a procedural step it is a document in which your project is adjudicated to determine whether it is in the best interest of the State to issue a lease. If the conclusion is in favor of your project, the Adjudicator then issues a Public Notice.

The Public Notice is mandated in statute (AS 38.05.945) and will set out the necessary publishing requirements. It will also be posted on the DNR public website and sent to all adjacent landowners and permit/lease holders. All other potentially interested parties and applicable organizations may be notified, including, but not limited to: native corporations, tribal and village councils, municipalities and boroughs. This public outreach tool will help keep neighbors and other interested parties informed on the application and desired use for State land. The comment period may be open anywhere from 30 – 60 days, depending on the type of authorization.

After the Public Notice phase, the Adjudicator then compiles any comments received, researches their effect on the project, and begins drafting the Final Finding (FF). At this point, the Adjudicator may again request additional information from you to address concerns generated by the comments received. The FF restates the PD, addresses all public and agency comments received, addresses any alterations made to your project development plan and sets the estimated annual fee, bond amounts and insurance requirements. The FF may then be circulated for another Public Notice, depending on public interest to the project or if there were significant changes made to your development plan. If the case goes to this second Public Notice and no comments are received or if it is determined a second Public Notice is not required, the FF is then issued and enters a 20-day appeal period. If the project is not appealed, it becomes a Final Decision and the adjudication process is over.

If you are required to provide a Survey and Appraisal an Early Entry Authorization (EEA) can be issued; this is not a lease and does not give you any rights to the land other than to construct and survey your project. The EEA will outline all the requirements you must meet in a specific timeframe and, when completed, you will be issued your lease. These requirements will include the submittal of bonds, insurance and annual rent outlined in the Final Decision.

Some examples of current agricultural leases include grazing, hay fields and a peony farm. *This process is outlined in Statutes (AS 38.05.035 – AS 38.05.075 and AS 38.05.810) and Regulations (11 AAC 58).

Plant Materials Center

http://plants.alaska.gov/
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ALASKA
PLANT MATERIALS CENTER
STATE OF ALASKA - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES - DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

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Plant Materials Center (PMC)

Seed Potato Order Reminder

Dear Growers, Please remember to have your seed potato orders in by **January 31, 2016** so that we may establish our greenhouse production plans for 2016 at the PMC. We encourage you to renew your seed stocks as often as possible with disease -free seed from the PMC in order to provide a healthy start for your crop.

The list of available materials and order forms can be found at http://plants.alaska.gov/PotatoSeedProduction.html. Thirty-six varieties are available this year and minimum orders are 5 lbs. The price per pound will remain the same as last year at $12 per lb. If there are varieties you are interested in but not listed please contact us.

If you require assistance please email Brianne.Blackburn@alaska.gov or call 907-745-4469.

Division of Agriculture Holiday Potluck

The Division of Agriculture hosted its annual holiday potluck at the PMC on Wednesday, December 16 at the Plant Materials Center froom noon - 2 pm. The public was invited and some community members were in attendance.

This is the first time the Division has held their holiday parties together and it promoted a nice family-feel and unity amongst the staff. A great time was had by all during the festivities. Special thanks to all of those who attended and those who helped organize the event with their decorating, clean up, and horticultural skills that produced the beautiful poinsettas!

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation:

Division of Environmental Health

Nutritional supplements can be a beneficial part of a balanced ration and a good farm heath plan

Nutritional supplements like prebiotics, probiotics, and vitamin/mineral supplements, if used in a balanced ration, can have a number of benefits to the farmer. Prebiotics are products that promote the growth of beneficial bacteria, while probiotics are products that actually contain a concentrated amount of these beneficial bacteria that are to support digestion and absorption of nutrients and stimulate the health of the intestinal tract. Scientists are developing alternatives to antibiotics that can help prevent poultry diseases and reduce bacteria such as *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*, two of the main pathogens in poultry that contaminate products and cause foodborne illness in people.

Numerous studies have shown that fed probiotics have an increase in beneficial intestinal bacterial populations, improved resistance to disease, reduced shedding of pathogenic bacteria, increased intestinal immunity, reduced disease symptoms and an increased growth rate resulting in overall improved health. With the big focus on antibiotic use on the farm and the development of antimicrobial resistance scientists are working with veterinarians and producers to use antibiotics in farm animals with discretion. The goal is to reduce the use of antibiotics by developing a good herd/flock health plan and focusing on biosecurity to reduce the introduction of disease agents to keep animals healthy and ensure that our food supply remains safe. Since several bacterial strains have become resistant to some of the antibiotics used to treat infections in both humans and animals, there is a focus to develop alternatives to antibiotics.

Scientists from the USDA-ARS Poultry Production Research Unit, are studying the effects of adding nutritional supplements and probiotics, like yeast and vitamin D, to turkey feed to help fight some common poultry diseases. One study found that adding yeast extract to poultry feed could help protect birds against Clostridial dermatitis or gangrenous dermatitis. The disease can be caused by Clostridal and *staphylococcus* bacteria resulting in skin lesions on the ventral areas of the birds and can lead to sudden death. The yeast extract was effective to decrease the incidence of the condition, is relatively inexpensive and a widely available feed additive. Other studies have shown that nutritional supplements and probiotics may not only decrease the risk of disease in a well-managed flock but also stimulate growth performance and immune response of poultry and other livestock species.

Environmental Health

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12th Annual

Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference

Join us . . .

February 23-25, 2016

The Lakefront Anchorage

Getting Down to Business with Fibers and Foods

Tuesday workshops will be followed by two days of presentations and discussion related to farm management, including a Thursday session on qiviut.

Tuesday Workshops:

Gina Greenway

- **Budgeting for Farm Decision Making**
  Presented by Gina Greenway
- **On-farm Food Safety and Marketing**
  Presented by Barbara Hanson and Johanna Herron

Garrie Hull

- **Connecting Fiber Producers to Markets**
  Presented by Carrie Hull

Cooperative Extension Service · UAF University of Alaska Fairbanks · Western SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

Contact Darcy Etcheverry at ddetcheverry@alaska.edu or 907-474-5107 or visit bit.ly/sareconf for more information.

UAF is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution.

Join us for the 2nd Semi-annual

ALASKA FOOD FESTIVAL & CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE

February 26-28, 2016

University of Alaska
Anchorage

Find more information at
akfoodpolicycouncil.wordpress.com

Alaska Food Policy Council