



Alaska Farmland Trust Corporation

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Board of Directors

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Division of Agriculture

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Dear Board of Directors,

Alaska Farmland Trust (AFTC) is a private, non-profit land trust dedicated to assisting landowners in preserving their working agricultural lands. Preserving farmland in production is essential as Alaska faces increasing food security issues. AFTC's goals are to secure Alaska's farmland for future generations and to promote agricultural infrastructure through enhanced marketing, statewide policy, and provide education to the public about agricultural issues.

The Alaska Farmland Trust was founded with the support of Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation and is governed by a board of directors. We are funded through generous individual donations as well as corporate and foundation grants. The Alaska Farmland Trust is a statewide effort to protect farmlands for future generations.

The Alaska Farmland Trust envisions a future with thriving local food markets that will give Alaskans access to fresh, healthy food, and keep our farmers farming.

In order to realize this vision, AFTC will achieve its goals in an assortment of ways.

- Work collaboratively with landowners who wish to protect the special features of their farmland through voluntary private action.
- Bring together diverse segments of the community to help preserve Alaska's farmland.
- Cooperate with resource agencies and non-government organizations on projects that benefit the community.
- Work collaboratively with farmers, agricultural affiliates and other Alaskan based land trusts, grocery retailers, farmers markets, and community leaders to increase demand for Alaska's agricultural products through direct marketing and coalition building.

Farmland Trusts and Alaska: The Need

Only 4% of Alaska's farmland is accessible and viable for farming, and less than 10% of food consumed in Alaska is locally grown. Because of this, there is an immediate need to preserve farmland and educate local populations on the agricultural opportunities available. As oil prices, food prices, and transportation costs continue to increase, so will the cost to import global foods to Alaska. Alaska Farmland Trust was established to be an effective and consistent voice for agriculture in Alaska and to address the major challenges and opportunities facing our agricultural future.

Sincerely,

Steve Gallagher

Manager

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