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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Media Contact: Patricia O'Neil 907-761-3858
Division of Agriculture

2010 Alaska Agriculture Innovation Grant Announced Application Deadline March 31, 2010

To: Interested Alaska Farmers, Producers and Industry Members

The Division of Agriculture is soliciting proposals for the Alaska Agriculture Innovation Grant (AAIG) for 2010. Funding is a result of the successful USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) proposal submitted by the Division of Agriculture.

Eligible *specialty crops* include fruits, vegetables, and nursery crops including floriculture. Alaska Grown products that **DO NOT** qualify as specialty crops under the federal agreement and are therefore ineligible for this grant include: feed crops (such as barley, corn, hay, oats) livestock, dairy products, eggs and aquaculture products.

Grant amounts for the AAIG will range from \$500.00 to \$5000.00. Applicants will be eligible for up to 50% of the total cost of the project, equipment or "system" that is purchased. Shipping and labor costs are not eligible for reimbursement. Multiple pieces of equipment or cohesive systems can be bundled into one application; however no individual will receive greater than \$5000.00. If multiple pieces of equipment are requested, the Division of Agriculture reserves the right to approve or deny item by item.

The AAIG is intended for specialty crop producers to adopt and develop methods and systems for **season extension and increased crop productivity**. Innovative technologies not currently being utilized in Alaska are encouraged. Requirements of the contracts will include:

- Purchase the system identified and described in your application;
- Dollar-for-dollar match of every State dollar expended, shipping and labor not included;
- Public presentation of your project and information to other producers/farmers; and
- Deliver a final report on the project, including required documentation.

Applicants should submit proposals using the proposal requirements supplied. Please review the application information carefully. The application, evaluation methods, sample proposal and budget sheet can be found online at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/>.

Proposals must be received at either the Central or Northern Region Division of Agriculture (Division) offices by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 31 2010. Palmer Office: 1800 Glenn Hwy Ste. 12; Palmer, AK 99645. Fairbanks Office: 1648 Cushman St. #201; Fairbanks, AK 99701. Selected proposals will be announced by April 16, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Patricia O'Neil at Patricia.ONeil@alaska.gov or at (907) 761-3858.

