

Daniel S. Sullivan
Commissioner
550 W. 7th Ave., Ste 1400
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-8431



Public Information Center
550 W. 7th Ave., Ste. 1260
Anchorage, AK 99501
www.dnr.alaska.gov
907-269-8400

Press Release

From and Authorized By: Division of Agriculture

Contact: Amy Pettit, 907-761-3864

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Request for Farm Family of the Year Nominations

(Palmer, AK) –The Alaska State Fair and the agricultural community want to honor an Alaska farming family that epitomizes the spirit of the vibrant industry.

We need the public's help in nominating friends and neighbors for the 12th Annual Farm Family of the Year award. The Alaska State Fair established the award in 2000 to honor an Alaska farming family and show appreciation for all the hardworking Alaskans committed to agriculture and aquaculture in the state.

The 2010 recipient was the Pyrah Family, which has been passionately involved in Alaska agriculture since 1979.

The selection committee is comprised of members from USDA's Farm Services Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service, the University of Alaska's School of Natural Resources and Cooperative Extension Service, the Alaska State Fair and the state Division of Agriculture.

The Farm Family selection committee will accept nominations and select a family using the following criteria:

1. Production of quality Alaska Grown products (not based on quantity);
2. Community involvement (civic organizations, school, sports, church, etc.);
3. Involvement in agricultural industry organizations (local, state and federal) and,
4. Overall farm family image, farming history, and unique or special production.

The award, sponsored by the Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union, will be presented at the Fair Board Reception on the fair's opening day, August 25, 2011. Nominations should include details about the family and how the family members fulfill the criteria. The deadline for submitting nominations is June 30, 2011. Nominations can be mailed, faxed or emailed to:

Amy Pettit (amy.pettit@alaska.gov)
Farm Family
Alaska Division of Agriculture
1800 Glenn Hwy, Ste. 12
Palmer, AK 99645
Fax: 907-745-7242

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