

Marty Rutherford

Acting Commissioner

550 W. 7th Ave., Ste 1400

Anchorage, AK 99501

dnr.alaska.gov



Elizabeth Bluemink

Communications

Coordinator

907.269.8434

elizabeth.bluemink@alaska.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 10, 2014

Division of Agriculture to host Farm to School Conference

(Palmer, AK) – The public is invited to attend Alaska's first-ever Farm to School Conference on Jan. 13 and 14 in Anchorage. The conference is designed to help schools and communities develop farm to school programs, which seek to have Alaska food products available in local schools.

The Division of Agriculture received a \$25,000 competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm to School Program to host the conference. Deborah Kane, the national director of the USDA Farm to School Program, is scheduled to attend the Alaska conference.

There is no cost for attending the conference, which will be held 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days at the Anchorage Marriott Downtown, located at 802 W. 7th Ave. To see the agenda and register for the conference, go to <http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/FarmToSchool/AKFTSConfReg.pdf>.

The first day will emphasize Farm to School in the classroom and community, and the second day will focus on the cafeteria and local food producers. Session topics include garden-based education, a farmer/producer networking session, local food procurement, school garden food safety, rural farm to school solutions, Farm to School success stories, sustaining a program, and a Farm to School funding discussion. Nearly 100 stakeholders have provided input into what they would like to see at the conference with people from all over the state planning to attend.

CONTACT: Johanna Herron, 907-761-3870 or johanna.herron@alaska.gov.

###

STAY CONNECTED:

DNR Newsroom: http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/dnr_newsroom.htm

DNR on Social Media: http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/social_media.htm

DNR Public Information Center: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/>