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Division of Agriculture

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Farm Family of the Year nominations sought

(Palmer, AK) - The Division of Agriculture encourages the public to provide nominations for the 13th Annual Farm Family of the Year Award. This award recognizes the efforts of Alaska farmers by honoring one family epitomizing the spirit of this vibrant industry.

A winning family will be judged on the following criteria:

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

Nominations are due on June 29. They should offer details about the family and how its members fulfill the criteria. They can be mailed to Amy Pettit – Farm Family, Alaska Division of Agriculture, 1800 Glenn Hwy, Ste. 12, Palmer, AK 99645, faxed to 907-745-7242 or e-mailed to Amy Pettit at amy.pettit@alaska.gov.

The Alaska State Fair established the award to honor an Alaska farming family and show appreciation for all the hardworking Alaskans committed to agriculture and aquaculture in the state. The award is sponsored by the Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union.

The 2011 recipient was the Baker Family, which has owned and operated Gray Owl Farm in Palmer since 1998.

The award 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 Division of Agriculture. The award will be presented at the Fair Board Reception on the fair's opening day, August 23.

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