

ALASKA GROWN

Farmer Profile



Flour Mill increases food security in Alaska

FAIRBANKS - You could say farming is “in” this family considering that when Bryce’s ancestors emigrated from England they started farming in Utah. From there they moved to Idaho which is where Bryce got his start and where some of his family is still farming. The family has had its hand in just about everything at one point or another including; hogs, cattle, peas, radish seeds, sweet corn, field corn, hay, alfalfa, sugar beets, and more. As a part of the third generation of farmers in Idaho, Bryce wanted to expand but there just was not room.

So in May of 1983 when Bryce heard about an Agriculture

project in Alaska, he and his father hopped in his Toyota pickup and drove up the Alaska-Canada Highway to check it out. It must have seemed right because in November of that same year Bryce and his family made the move. Starting with barley as a feed crop, they moved to pigs at one point, and now they’ve come full circle with the only commercial flour mill in Alaska.

On their 1700 acre farm they currently grow wheat, barley, hullless barley, and field peas. Their flour is 100% whole grain, with nothing removed and nothing added. The Wrigley’s sell their barley products to a few school districts and stores throughout the state. This includes the Fairbanks North Star School District where they use his barley flour in hamburger bun and dinner roll recipes developed through the cooperation between the School District, the Alaska Farm to School program, and the UAF Cooperative Extension Service. The Wrigley’s also sell their cream of barley hot cereal to the Petersburg and Juneau School Districts to use in

their students breakfast programs. In addition to the schools Bryce’s barley products are also available in stores throughout the state.

Bryce has been farming his entire life. He is a linear thinker and enjoys seeing the progress of all his farming work. “Once I have started something I like to see it progress until it is finished. Farming is very much like that, you start at one end of the field with; planting, harvesting, weeding or what have you and just keep working across the field until it is completed.” Bryce also enjoys the new found sense of purpose the flour mill has given him; they are doing something that no one else in the state is doing, for people they do not even know, which has the larger benefit of increasing Alaska’s food security.

Bryce Wrigley is also the President of the Alaska Farm Bureau.



This farmer profile is brought to you by the
Division of Agriculture

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