



# The Division of Agriculture Activities

October 29, 2010

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<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag>

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Questions or Comments?  
[E-Mail](#) or call 907-761-3858.

## Director's Note

As we look forward to the winter months I would like to personally thank the agricultural community for your continued support. The development of agricultural resources is an integral element in the diversification of Alaska's economic base and without our producers we would not be where we are today.

The month of October has brought us wonderful fall produce don't forget to look for Alaska Grown at your local supermarket!

Finally, I want to wish you a wonderful, safe Thanksgiving!

Franci

## Marketing Section

### Food and Farm Products Directory

We have finished compiling all the data for the Food and Farm Products Directory, which we print every two years. In 2008 we made substantial changes to the directory, and did a survey requesting feedback on it. From information gathered we made a few changes to the new print directory, as well as the online resource.

Among many comments, a few addressed the name of the directory. If someone was searching for Alaska Grown products, would they search or ask for the "Food and Farm Products Directory?" Probably not! In response to those concerns, we have named the new directory the "Alaska Grown Source Book." We will also be changing the name online but wanted to notify industry prior to making that change. Alaska Grown is a well known phrase and we hope that more seeking consumers will find the book and recognize it as a valuable and desired resource, pointing them to you for local products.

The online resource has each section broken out. If you are looking for Aquaculture, for example, when you click on the "Aquaculture" link only those aquaculture producers (who responded to the survey) will be listed. This was done to simplify the process for those not familiar with Excel. We still have the complete listing available, for those wanting to browse each listing in its entirety. Go to the [Source Book](#), to see each section and how it is presented online.

Our print directory is at the printing press right now. It is due to be printed by this Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>! We are excited for the new *Alaska Grown Source Book* to be available to all; it will be available during the conferences this winter and per requests it can be mailed directly to a residence.

We are always interested in improving our work and appreciate continued feedback on the book. We hope you enjoy this new Alaska Grown Source Book.

### Alaska Food Policy Council

Have you heard about the Alaska Food Policy Council (FPC)? Launched in May with the support of Federal funding, the FPC has been focusing on the many issues facing Alaska's food system. Different committees have formed under the council, targeting different issue areas including *Traditional Local Foods* and *Education & Regulation*. Marketing staff serve on both the *Administrative* committee as well as the *Production* committee. If you're interested in adding your voice and insight to the group, please contact [Amy Pettit](#) for more information. Click for more details about the different committees and the [FPC](#).

### AFMA

The Alaska Farmers Market Association (AFMA) recently held a teleconference to discuss statewide

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happenings. It was great to hear about the 2010 season from markets spanning the state from Delta Junction to Sitka. Overall market managers gave reports of success. Managers shared knowledge and ideas on how to tackle issues in their area – from lawful placement of roadside signs to whether or not adding music to the market is beneficial – it was a productive discussion. If your market hasn't yet joined [AFMA](#), click for more information about the benefits.

### Winter Conferences

With winter also comes conference season! Over the next five months many different agriculture workshops, meetings and planning sessions will be held. We try to list all of them in our "Calendar" section with the important details. Event organizers work hard to bring together experts from around the state as well as from outside Alaska. Take a look and mark your calendar!

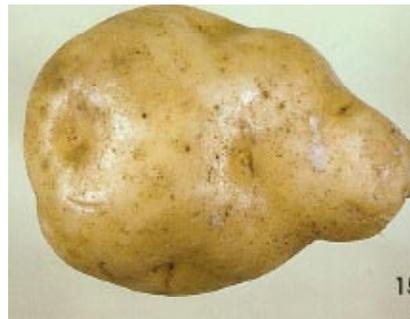
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## Inspection Section

### How to meet US No 1 and US No 2 grade quality for shape in Potatoes

US No 1 requires that the potato be "fairly well shaped." Fairly well shaped is defined as not materially pointed, dumbbell-shaped or otherwise badly deformed. Please see image below for maximum allowances.

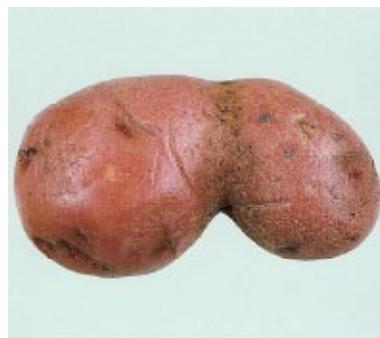
US No 2 requires that the potato be not "seriously misshapen." Seriously misshapen is seriously pointed, dumbbell shaped or otherwise materially deformed.



Fairly well shaped  
U.S. No. 1 - maximum allowed



Fairly well shaped  
U.S. No. 1 - maximum allowed



Not seriously misshapen  
U.S. No. 2 - maximum allowed



Not seriously misshapen  
U.S. No. 2 - maximum allowed

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## Pest Detection

### Forest Moths of Concern

Each year, the Division of Agriculture, through the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS), monitors for several different unwanted species of moths that are currently not present in Alaska. During summer, 2010, detection surveys for European (North American) Gypsy Moth, Asian Gypsy Moth, Rosy Gypsy Moth, Nun Moth, and Siberian Silk Moth were conducted throughout the state. Most of these species occur overseas in the Far East, but the European Gypsy Moth is established in the North Eastern U.S. and is spreading westward with several detections having been documented in Alaska. Alaska's forest products, agricultural resources, and tourist industries would potentially be at risk

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should any of these Lepidopteran pests become established.

Survey partners throughout the state cooperated to deploy a total of 646 detection traps in 2010. Trapping efforts focused primarily on the likely pathways for introduction, such as port communities, international borders, shipping and container facilities, and high use recreational sites.

If you have seen a green trap hanging in a tree, like the one in the picture, it is likely that it was baited with a pheromone to attract a male of one of the targeted Moths. The pheromones used in the traps mimic that of the associated female moth. Most of the traps have been collected and documented for this year's survey, as the flight period for the moths has generally ended in their native ranges and winter is fast upon us here in Alaska. But should you see one of these traps next year, please remember that these survey traps are among our best detection mechanisms for finding these moths should they be introduced to Alaska.



The following are images of the targeted moths, along with lists of their associated host species that occur either naturally, ornamentally, or agriculturally in parts of Alaska. The lists are by no means exhaustive, as these species, in their larvae stage, feed on many different kinds of plants.

### European (and Asian) Gypsy Moth

Hosts: Although oak (*Quercus*) are preferred generally, gypsy moth caterpillars also eat hundreds of other tree and shrub species including apple (*Malus*), alder (*Alnus*), aspen (*Populus*), birch (*Betula*), willow (*Salix*), hemlock (*Tsuga*), tamarack (*Larix*), pine (*Pinus*), and spruce (*Picea*). The Asian type is similar, but the females are avid flyers and the host range is much broader.



### Pink (Rosy) Gypsy Moth

Hosts: Species of birch (*Betula*), crabapple (*Malus*), alder (*Alnus*), ash (*Fraxinus*), larch (*Larix*), pine (*Pinus*), oak (*Quercus*), willow (*Salix*), and others.

### Siberian Silk Moth

Hosts: Approximately 20 species of the following genera of Pine (*Pinus*), firs (*Abies*), larch (*Larix*), spruce (*Picea*), and hemlock (*Tsuga*).



### Nun Moth Hosts: Species of Spruce (Pi-

cea), pine (*Pinus*), firs (*Abies*), larch (*Larix*), and birch (*Betula*).



If you notice, all of the moths above have feather-like antennae. There are native moths, such as the Tussock moth, that occur in parts of Alaska and have feather-like antennae, but they may be hard to distinguish with an untrained eye. Should you encounter a moth with feathery antennae, please report it to the Division of Agriculture, Northern Region Office in Fairbanks.

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## Additional Information

### Grants

There is a grant available for Sustainable Agriculture Students, offered by *Annie's Home-grown*.

"Annie's Homegrown is pleased to announce we are again offering \$75,000 in scholarship funds to students studying sustainable and organic agriculture.

Sustainable and organic agriculture is at the very root of our philosophy:

\*Planet to Food. Food to People. People to Planet. \*\*We believe healthy soils and healthy farms are the foundation for healthy foods, which help make healthy people! Therefore, we're proud to support the next generation of farmers. Undergraduate and Graduate students studying at an accredited US college or university are eligible to apply. Please visit [scholarship](#) to learn more. Our [application](#) is available at online. The deadline to apply is December 15, 2010."

### Conferences

- ▶ Nursery Greenhouse Conference: for more information call Steve Brown, CES 745-3639
- ▶ Alaska Peony Growers Association: for more information call Ron Illingworth, 488-0446
- ▶ Produce Growers Conference: for more information call Steve Brown, CES 745-3639
- ▶ Alaska Farmers Market Association Meeting: for more information contact [Amy Pettit](#).

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## Calendar

- ▶ Fall Harvest Dinner, November 3rd @ 6pm, Palmer Elks Lodge. More info call: 745-3165
- ▶ Veteran's Day, November 11, State Holiday
- ▶ Alaska Farm Bureau Meeting, Fairbanks, November 12 & 13th. 12th - General Attendance, 13th, FB Members
- ▶ Thanksgiving Day, November 25, State Holiday
- ▶ Nursery and Greenhouse Conference, January 26 & 27th, Wasilla
- ▶ Alaska Peony Growers Association, January 27 & 28, Wasilla
- ▶ Produce Growers Conference, February 15 & 16, Palmer
- ▶ Alaska Farmers Market Association, February 17, Palmer
- ▶ SARE, March 22 & 23, Fairbanks