



November 3, 2014

Find us on the web at:

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

## Director's Office

**Franci Havemeister, Director**

907-761-3867

[Franci.Havemeister@alaska.gov](mailto:Franci.Havemeister@alaska.gov)

**Curt Sandvik**

907-761-3866

[Curt.Sandvik@alaska.gov](mailto:Curt.Sandvik@alaska.gov)

**Lora Haralson**

907-761-3851

[Lora.Haralson@alaska.gov](mailto:Lora.Haralson@alaska.gov)

**Rebecca Jeffers**

907-761-3850

[Rebecca.Jeffers@alaska.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Jeffers@alaska.gov)

### In This Issue

- [Director's Note](#)
- [Agriculture Calendar](#)
- [Save the Date: AK Peony Conference](#)
- [Farmer Profile Feature on facebook](#)
- [Farm to School Update](#)
- [Farmers' Market SNAP 2014 Season Recap](#)
- [ADF&G Farming in Moose Country](#)
- [Calling All Producers Survey](#)
- [CNIPM Creates facebook page](#)
- [PMC Regenerates In-Vitro Potato Germplasm](#)
- [Eggs and Meat From Backyard Poultry](#)
- [Keep Your Feed and Water Bowls Clean](#)
- [USDA Rep Explores AK Ag Potential](#)

To add or remove your name from our newsletter list [click here](#).

Questions or Comments?

E-Mail or call 907-761-3864.

Follow us on Facebook:



[www.facebook.com/dnr.alaskagrown](http://www.facebook.com/dnr.alaskagrown)

# The Division of Agriculture Activities

## Director's Note

Well, November is here and with it the holiday season. This is my favorite time of year with fresh snow blanketing the ground and the shorter days bringing an end to the hectic pace of summer, drawing family members back inside. The crock pot emerges from storage and brims with potatoes and carrots harvested a few months earlier. November in Alaska is a peaceful time of year!

This November also brings around the end to a very busy election season. This year's ballot includes state senate and representative seats, congressional seats, governor & lieutenant governor elections, judge seats as well as three propositions. Your vote is your voice and I encourage you to know the issues and head to the polls on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

As many of you know, ADF&G is planning on releasing wood bison in the Innoko/ Yukon River Area in spring of 2015; these animals are currently housed at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published the final rule which classifies the subspecies wood bison (*Bison bison athabasca*) as a "nonessential experimental population" under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Finalizing the rule was necessary before the State could reintroduce wood bison back into Alaska because it will assure oil and gas development, mining, recreation, hunting, trapping and other land uses can coexist with the wood bison herds without the legal restrictions normally associated with the ESA. The 10(j) rule means that wood bison will not have critical habitat set aside and they will live on the landscape essentially the same as moose, caribou and other Alaska wildlife. Both the rule and the Environmental Assessment state the ADF&G will use a public planning process to



develop implementation and management plans for wood bison restoration. Draft management plans will be circulated for public review, and final plans will be presented to the Alaska Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board for review and approval.

In early October, I attended the first Alaska Wood Bison Management Planning Team meeting. The team is composed of a diverse group of interested people who are committed in working toward understanding and addressing the key issues through a consensus driven process. It includes State and Federal agencies as well as citizens from local and non-local interest groups from the Lower Yukon/Innoko area. After much discussion, it was clear that the group:

- supports the reintroduction of wood bison into Alaska
- collaboration between State, Federal, and Tribal Councils is necessary
- believes that wood bison will increase food security for Alaska
- believes it is essential to maintain a diverse ecosystem in the area
- desires a sustainable wood bison herd

The group is scheduled to meet again in mid November. For more information on the project please go to the following link: [http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/species/speciesinfo/woodbison/pdfs/woodbison\\_news8\\_summer\\_2014.pdf](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/species/speciesinfo/woodbison/pdfs/woodbison_news8_summer_2014.pdf) .

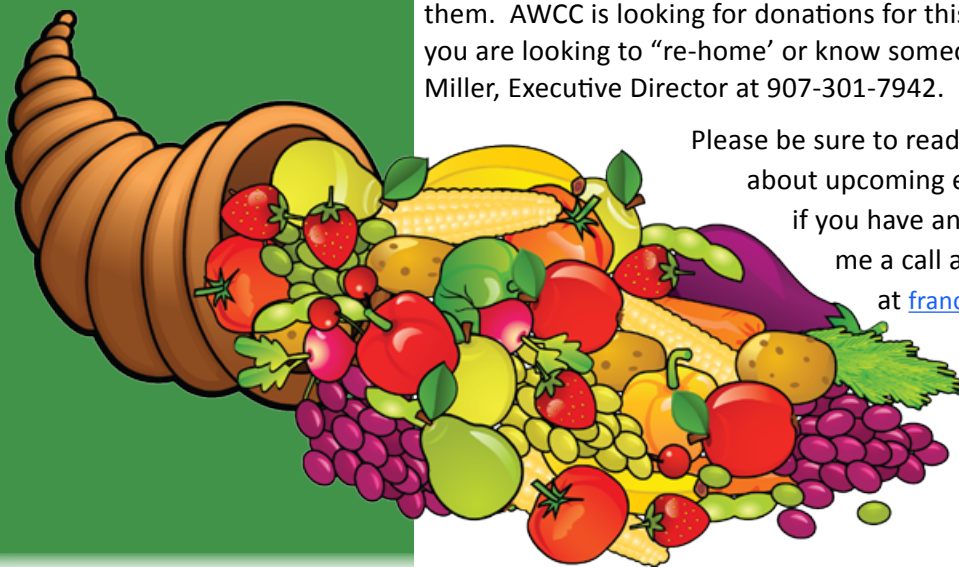
If you would like to share your thoughts or concerns regarding this project please give me a call or send me an email.



Another interesting project underway is the 4H reindeer husbandry program. The Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center (AWCC) is hoping to develop a program similar to University of Fairbanks, School of Natural Resources and Agriculture Science. This program will teach students all aspects of reindeer and wildlife husbandry. During the winter months, 4-H students will stay at the AWCC and learn on site. During the summer months, students will stay at the center for two weeks for additional training and then be given the opportunity to bring a calf home in the fall. They will be required to build an approved enclosure, but this will allow them to continue their project at their own home.

This program will be of no cost to the student and the calf will be donated to them. AWCC is looking for donations for this program. If you have a reindeer you are looking to “re-home’ or know someone who is, please contact Mike Miller, Executive Director at 907-301-7942.

Please be sure to read through the newsletter to learn about upcoming events, conferences, etc. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please give me a call at 907-761-3867 or send me an email at [franci.havemeister@alaska.gov](mailto:franci.havemeister@alaska.gov).



***Wishing you and yours a  
Happy Thanksgiving!***

*~Franci Havemeister*

*How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong.*

*Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.*

*~ George Washington Carver*

## ARLF Services

[http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag\\_arlf.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_arlf.htm)

**Amanda Swanson, Loan Officer**

907-761-3869

[Amanda.Swanson@alaska.gov](mailto:Amanda.Swanson@alaska.gov)

## Fairbanks Office

907-328-1950

**Curtis Knight** 907-374-3732

[Curtis.Knight@alaska.gov](mailto:Curtis.Knight@alaska.gov)



## Marketing Staff

[http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag\\_ms.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_ms.htm)

**Amy Pettit, Marketing Manager**

907-761-3864

[Amy.Pettit@alaska.gov](mailto:Amy.Pettit@alaska.gov)

**Jacki Schade** 907-761-3858

[Jacquelyn.Schade@alaska.gov](mailto:Jacquelyn.Schade@alaska.gov)

**Beki Parham** 907-761-3880

[beki.parham@alaska.gov](mailto:beki.parham@alaska.gov)

**Johanna Herron** 907-761-3870

[Johanna.Herron@alaska.gov](mailto:Johanna.Herron@alaska.gov)

**Barb Hanson** 907-761-3854

[Barbara.Hanson@alaska.gov](mailto:Barbara.Hanson@alaska.gov)

## Agriculture Calendar

• Tue. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>

**Plant Materials Center Advisory Committee Meeting.**

Plant Materials Center Conference Room,

5310 S. Bodenbug Spur. Palmer. 9 am. *Details:* [here](#)

*If you have an event that you would like to add to the calendar, please contact [Lora Haralson](#).*

## Marketing Section



# Save the Date!

## 2015 Alaska Peony Conference

January 30-31  
Westmark Hotel  
Fairbanks, AK

**Would you like your farm to be featured on the Alaska Grown Facebook page?**

Fill out the short Farmer Profile survey, send in a picture and we will create a Farmer Profile for your farm. This profile will be featured on our **Alaska GROWN** Facebook page and be listed on the Division of Agriculture website.

Send pictures to [Jacquelyn.Schade@alaska.gov](mailto:Jacquelyn.Schade@alaska.gov) with the subject: Farmer Profile.

Survey: <https://www.research.net/s/FarmerProfile2014>





# FARM TO SCHOOL UPDATE

**October flew by with loads of Farm to School activity. Schools all over the state celebrated Farm to School Month with activities, local lunch, and taste tests!**



## Classroom visits:

The Farm to School Program staff visited six schools and led activities in 14 different classes engaging over 400 students in the state, from Cordova to Palmer.

Cordova was the state recipient of a grant from National Farm to School Network and United Natural Foods, Inc. Foundation to celebrate National Farm to School Month in their schools. To help celebrate their award we hosted a school wide assembly at Mt. Eccles Elementary School, ate local lunch with the kids, talked to the preschool class about new foods, and led four classes at the high school. Kids in the career exploration class learned about the different jobs in Alaska that have to do with the food system and the home economics classes did carrot taste tests and sampled cream of barley cereal. The local carrots won the taste test nearly unanimously and the kids got to learn about the different types of producers around the state.

We also partnered with Child Nutrition Programs to promote a Local Lunch and Farm to School Contest during the month of October.

## Local Lunch Day:

Unalaska, Coffman Cove, Juneau, Cordova, and a preschool in Wasilla were proud to report their local lunches to us. Collectively they estimated serving 830 pounds of local food to over 800 students in 26 different menu items for lunch!

## Farm to School Activities:

From Bethel to Homer and Anchorage to Ester we saw a huge number of farm to school activities taking place. A kindergarten class at Swanson Elementary learned where the parts of a hamburger came from and approximately 1600 students were engaged in school gardens in the Fairbanks area. Collectively it was estimated these activities utilized over 1000 pounds of local food engaging more than 3,000 students!

For updates, news, grant opportunities, and announcements join our listserv at: <http://list.state.ak.us/soalists/akfarmtoschool/jl.htm>

For more information about the Alaska Farm-to-School program, or if you have any questions, contact Johanna Herron at [Johanna.herron@alaska.gov](mailto:Johanna.herron@alaska.gov) or (907) 761-3870.



## Inspection Staff

[http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag\\_is.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_is.htm)

**Doug Warner, Inspection Manager**

907-761-3869

[Douglas.Warner@alaska.gov](mailto:Douglas.Warner@alaska.gov)

**Mia Kirk** 907-761-3853

[Mia.Kirk@alaska.gov](mailto:Mia.Kirk@alaska.gov)

**Kirk Brown** 907-761-3857

[Kirk.Brown@alaska.gov](mailto:Kirk.Brown@alaska.gov)

## Farmers' Market SNAP 2014 Season Recap

The shortening days and dropping temperatures mean different things to different people, but for farmers' markets, it means the end of another season. The Farmers' Market EBT program, which is managed by AmeriCorps\*VISTA volunteer Beki Parham out of the Palmer office, had a successful 2014 season. The number of participating markets as well as the SNAP benefits spent at the markets increased in 2014 compared to 2013. Eleven markets in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Homer, Bethel, Sitka, Petersburg and Willow accepted SNAP benefits at their farmers' markets this year compared to ten markets in 2013. Additionally, the amount of Quest dollars spent at these markets increased by \$5,000 compared to the 2013 growing season.

New this year, the program featured a bi-weekly e-newsletter. Each issue celebrated and highlighted market accomplishments and led to increased participation in the program by market managers. They enjoyed the recognition for their accomplishments and learning about other markets in the program as well. This was also an effective way to make them aware of any deadlines for paperwork.

The success of the Farmers' Market EBT program in 2014 highlights its importance not only for SNAP recipients, but for local economies as well. Every dollar spent benefited SNAP recipients, market managers, local producers, and local economies throughout Alaska.

## Pest Detection / Inspection Section

### ADF&G – Farming in Moose Country

Agricultural practices, both large and small, will invariably present challenges where moose coexist in Alaska. This is particularly true in the Matanuska and Susitna Valleys where the large resident moose population expands when moose descend from the Chugach and Talkeetna mountains to winter in the lowlands. For the farmer, the resulting conflicts can lead to property damage, crop and feed loss, and much frustration.

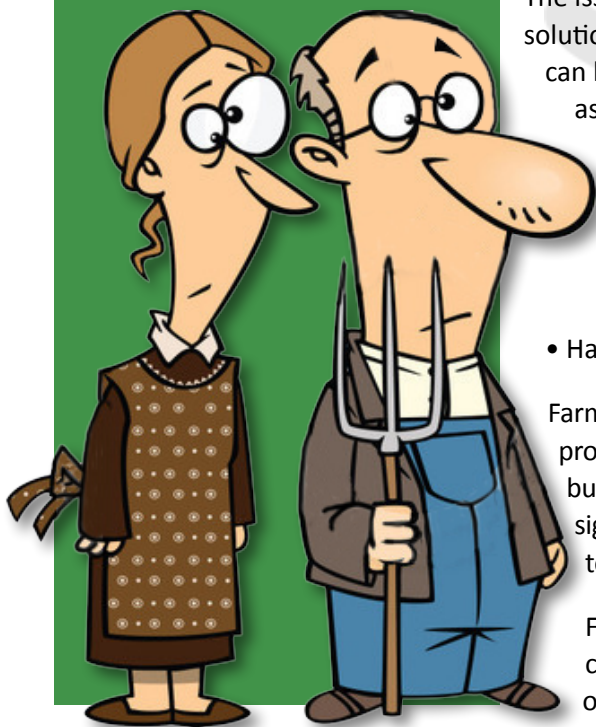
The issue of how to separate moose from high value crops has only one effective solution – fencing. While installing 7-foot high wire fencing around your property can be a financially and logistically daunting task, the question that should be asked is: What is most feasible to fence and protect?

A continual loss of high value produce or nursery stock in the amount of thousands of dollars annually presents a good argument to redirect that loss by installing selective fencing. Some areas for fencing might include:

- High value produce
- Nursery stock
- Hay/stack yards
- Animal feed
- Livestock

Farming in moose country has its challenges. During years of high moose productivity or deep snows, dealing with moose can be extremely trying, but selective fencing can be the tool to help make the difference between significant financial losses and an investment that will pay off over the long term.

For additional information and assistance with issues of depredation, please contact the Palmer offices of the Department of Fish and Game at 746-6300 or the Division of Agriculture at 745-7200.



## Mt. McKinley Meat & Sausage

[http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag\\_mmms.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_mmms.htm)

Frank Huffman 907-745-5232  
[Frank.Huffman@alaska.gov](mailto:Frank.Huffman@alaska.gov)



## Land Sales & Grazing Leases

[http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag\\_sales.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_sales.htm)

Dan Proulx 907-374-3716  
[Dan.Proulx@alaska.gov](mailto:Dan.Proulx@alaska.gov)

Erik Johnson 907-761-3863  
[Erik.Johnson@alaska.gov](mailto:Erik.Johnson@alaska.gov)

## CALLING ALL PRODUCERS

On January 14<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a 'Local Producers Showcase' at the Farm to School Conference in Anchorage. We want to introduce you and your business to the school food buyers. We will have you briefly introduce what food items you produce, in what quantities, and when it is available. After the 'Local Producer Showcase' we will hear from producers that sell to the schools and from school food service directors about their experience buying directly from producers. If you are interested selling your product to the schools this is the place to be. We still have travel scholarship money available but it is going fast!



Above: Growers, manufacturers, chefs, and produce vendors come together to discuss selling product to the schools in 2013.

Please contact Johanna Herron as soon as possible to reserve your spot at this conference! [Johanna.herron@alaska.gov](mailto:Johanna.herron@alaska.gov); 907-761-3870

## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

### Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management (CNIPM) Creates Facebook Page

On June 15, 2000, a group of individuals from agencies and private groups, including the Alaska Division of Agriculture, were invited by the Cooperative Extension Service to meet and look for solutions in controlling noxious weeds in the interior of Alaska. After sharing what had been done in the past, the group agreed that a statewide effort was needed. The group decided to establish the statewide Alaska Committee for noxious and Invasive Plants Management (CNIPM). A memorandum of understanding was developed. CNIPM is an informal group made up of individuals representing agencies and organizations statewide. Committee membership is based on interest, availability for meetings and willingness to work towards the goals of the committee. There are no formal membership requirements; anyone statewide may participate. The goal of this committee is to launch and coordinate



*Continued on Next Page*



## Plant Materials Center

<http://plants.alaska.gov/>  
Main Phone: 907-745-4469

**Alicia Holladay** 907-745-8104  
[Alicia.Holladay@alaska.gov](mailto:Alicia.Holladay@alaska.gov)

**Rob Carter** 907-745-8127  
[Rob.Carter@alaska.gov](mailto:Rob.Carter@alaska.gov)

**Michael Keen** 907-745-4469  
[Michael.Keen@alaska.gov](mailto:Michael.Keen@alaska.gov)

**Casey Dinkel** 907-745-8108  
[Casey.Dinkel@alaska.gov](mailto:Casey.Dinkel@alaska.gov)

**Phil Czapla** 907-745-8747  
[Phil.Czapla@alaska.gov](mailto:Phil.Czapla@alaska.gov)

**Rusty Foreaker** 907-745-8092  
[Rusty.Foreaker@alaska.gov](mailto:Rusty.Foreaker@alaska.gov)



**Brianne Blackburn** 907-745-8785  
[Brianne.Blackburn@alaska.gov](mailto:Brianne.Blackburn@alaska.gov)

**Kimberly Allen** 907-745-8735  
[Kim.Allen@alaska.gov](mailto:Kim.Allen@alaska.gov)

**Lyubo Mahlev** 907-745-8782  
[Lyubomir.Mahlev@alaska.gov](mailto:Lyubomir.Mahlev@alaska.gov)

**Todd Steinlage** 907-745-8138  
[Todd.Steinlage@alaska.gov](mailto:Todd.Steinlage@alaska.gov)

**Heather Stewart** 907-745-4469  
[Heather.Stewart@alaska.gov](mailto:Heather.Stewart@alaska.gov)

a process for the development of a strategic plan to manage noxious and invasive plants in Alaska. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was developed to establish CNIPM and to secure agency and organizational support. Representatives of both private and public sectors have submitted letters of endorsement and MOU signatures. One of CNIPM's communication efforts was to launch a social media page to help raise awareness of invasive plants. CNIPM invites you to like their Facebook page or join their listserv at the links below. Together, we can help stop the spread of these harmful invasive plants.

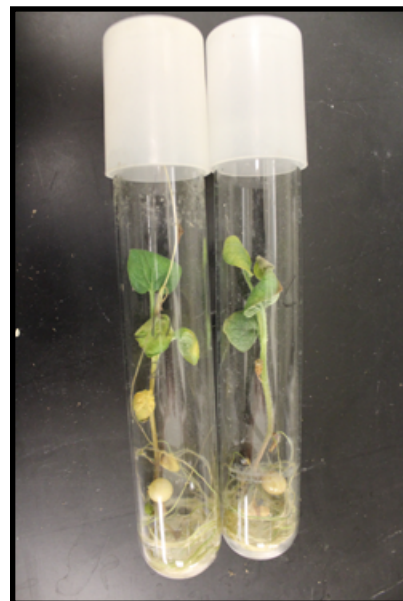
 Like us on [www.facebook.com/AKinvasiveplants](http://www.facebook.com/AKinvasiveplants)  
or join our listserv at <http://tinyurl.com/CNIPMlistserv>

## PMC Regenerates In-Vitro Potato Germplasm

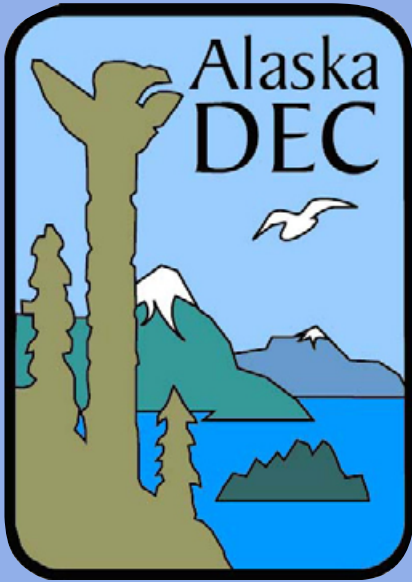
This fall the Plant Materials Center is regenerating a large portion of their in-vitro potato germplasm. Selected varieties of the collection were grown in both the production greenhouse and the field this season. This is completed as a check for varietal integrity and to allow for additional plant pathogen testing. Potato tubers that have met specific criteria will be brought into the laboratory to begin the tissue culture process. Once the selected varieties are established in-vitro and subsequent testing has been completed, they will be used for further multiplication and eventual production of generation zero (G0) seed potatoes.

The G0 seed potatoes produced from these plantlets will be available for sale annually to Alaska Certified seed producers around the state.

For more information on the PMC Potato program visit our their website at <http://plants.alaska.gov/Potato.html>.



Rob Carter working in the potato lab.



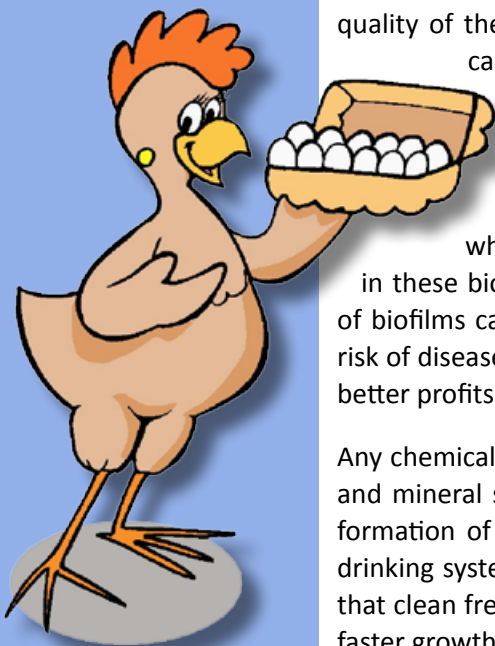
## Environmental Health

Alaska Department of  
Environmental Conservation

[Dec.Alaska.gov/eh/](http://Dec.Alaska.gov/eh/)  
907-269-7501

Robert Gerlach  
Alaska State Veterinarian  
907-375-8214  
[Bob.Gerlach@alaska.gov](mailto:Bob.Gerlach@alaska.gov)

Jay Fuller  
Assistant State Veterinarian  
907-375-8213  
[Jay.Fuller@alaska.gov](mailto:Jay.Fuller@alaska.gov)



# Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation: Division of Environmental Health

## Eggs and Meat From Backyard Poultry

The use of medicated feeds or medication in water for preventing and treating disease in poultry is something that should be done in consultation with your Cooperative Extension Agent or your local veterinarian. There is greater focus on the use of antibiotics in livestock and pets due to the increase in the prevalence of antibiotic resistant bacteria and the presence of residues in agricultural products. The danger is that residues from the medications do remain in eggs and meat for various lengths of time after the treatment was stopped. You need to follow label directions and keep good records of the dosage and the dates when medications were administered to avoid the consumption and exposure to the medication that could remain in the product.

Using antibiotics or pain medications to treat traumatic injuries and other common conditions such as foot infections or using chemicals to treat for external or internal parasites is not unusual. If you purchase medications over the counter or as a prescription from your veterinarian closely follow the directions on the drug label. This includes only using the drug if it is specifically labeled for the type of poultry you need to medicate (laying chickens, broilers, turkeys or waterfowl) and for the diseases listed on the instructions. Don't change the dosage, the dosing interval or the duration of treatment. The withholding time, the time you need to wait after the last dose of medicine until eggs or the meat can be harvested and eaten, should also be written on the label Instructions. If you have any questions double check prior to eating or selling any poultry products.

## Keep Your Feed and Water Bowls Clean: Good Biosecurity Advice

Residual bacterial contamination in water and feed bowls or troughs affect the quality of the diet and can spread disease among livestock. Poor quality feed can have a negative effect on growth and production of poultry and livestock. The slimy material that you feel in the water or feed bowl is a Biofilm, a mix of contamination and bacteria that form on the equipment and in water lines. *Pseudomonas*, *Enterobacteriaceae* (e.g. *E. coli*), *Salmonella* and *Clostridia* are some of the organisms which cause disease in livestock and poultry and are frequently found in these biofilms. So by keeping equipment clean and reducing the formation of biofilms can significantly improve animal growth and production, reduce the risk of disease and the need for treatments with antibiotics. This should result in better profits.

Any chemical substances which are added to the drinking water, such as vitamin and mineral supplements, flavor enhancers and medicaments can enhance the formation of biofilms. So regularly cleaning bowls or rinsing and flushing the drinking system will reduce the bacteria count in the water and feed. It is a fact that clean fresh water will stimulate drinking as well as feed intake. The result is faster growth and reduced risk of gastrointestinal upset and diarrhea.





**Martha Westphal**  
907-474-7188  
[mmwestphal@alaska.edu](mailto:mmwestphal@alaska.edu)

**Marilyn Childress**  
907-474-7083  
[mlchildress@alaska.edu](mailto:mlchildress@alaska.edu)

**Nancy Tarnai**  
907-474-5042  
[ntarnai@alaska.edu](mailto:ntarnai@alaska.edu)

[snras.blogspot.com](http://snras.blogspot.com)

[www.facebook.com/uaf.snre](http://www.facebook.com/uaf.snre)

[www.uaf.edu/snre/](http://www.uaf.edu/snre/)

## UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

### School of Natural Resources and Extension

#### USDA Rep Explore Alaska's Agriculture Export Potential

Christian Foster, deputy administrator for the Office of Trade Programs, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, visited Alaska in late September to drum up business.

He met with Anchorage business people about exporting fish, craft beer, rhodiola and birch products to countries around the world, then went to Seward to visit peony farms and finally to Fairbanks to talk to University of Alaska Fairbanks agriculture faculty and industry representatives from peony and barley flour companies.



From left, Christian Foster of the Foreign Agricultural Service in Washington, D.C., met with Professor Pat Holloway, Rep. David Guttenberg, peony growers Carolyn Chapin and Ron Illingworth Sept. 26. He said throughout his trip to Alaska that peonies had "risen to the top."

While in Anchorage, Foster met with Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell and experienced a 6.2-magnitude earthquake.

"We want to help you promote agricultural resources and support international food security," Foster said. "Congress mandates that we give out \$250 million, but Alaska doesn't take its share. Please find a need for it."

In the U.S., 25 percent of all agricultural products are exported, Foster said. This year, the country set an all-time high of \$152 billion worth of food exports, with China being the largest importer. "In agriculture, they import like mad."

Foster believes Alaska-grown food will have a special appeal in foreign markets. "Not only can you say we have American products, you can say we're Alaskan; we have the purest food in the world," he said.

Meeting with SNRE faculty members Mingchu Zhang about canola, Meriam Karlsson about greenhouses and season extension, Pat Holloway about peonies, Jenifer Huang McBeath about potatoes, Greg Finstad about reindeer, along with several forest sciences faculty,

*Continued on Next Page*



Foster extolled the merits of three programs: Emerging Markets, Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops and Quality Samples.

Foster also met Bryce Wrigley, owner of Alaska Flour Co., home to the state's only commercial flour mill. Wrigley's farm produces Sunshine barley, which the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station researched and developed.

The only food product successfully exported in Alaska has been seafood, Foster said. "We have helped Alaska Market seafood worth \$50 million in the last 10 years. There is more money we could give Alaska if businesses came and said they have products to export."

Mingchu Zhang told Foster, "It is great you are here. You can help us link products to markets. There is huge potential here. You opened new horizons for us."

Foster said, "You need Alaska producers and associations to step forward and start the market research about demand. And you need to help farmers think like businessmen. The potential is massive."

As a result of the sessions, Reindeer Research Program Manager Greg Finstad is writing a proposal to help St. Lawrence Island producers market reindeer meat to Pacific Rim countries. "We're developing a business plan for a processing plant," Finstad said. "The timing was perfect."



Mingchu Zhang, left, and Christian Foster discussed the opportunities for Alaska to export GMO-free canola.

