The Division of Agriculture Activities

February 3, 2016
Find us on the web at:
http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag

Director's Office

Robert Carter, Acting Director
907-745-8127
Robert.Carter@alaska.gov

Curt Sandvik
907-761-3866
Curt.Sandvik@alaska.gov

Lora Haralson
907-761-3851
Lora.Haralson@alaska.gov

Rebecca Jeffers
907-761-3850
Rebecca.Jeffers@alaska.gov

Fax: 907-745-7112

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To add or remove your name from our newsletter list click here.

Questions or Comments?
E-Mail or call 907-761-3861.

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Director's Note

The new year is coming in like a lamb with its mild winter temperatures that you can almost feel spring approaching. With spring, comes renewal and the opportunity for change. As most of you are aware, the legislative session started mid-January. The Division of Agriculture will do its best to keep you informed of topics that may affect agriculture issues around the state. Check the newsletter monthly for updated information.

With the approaching season comes the opportunity to attend conferences and meetings, and to complete grant applications before everybody gets busy in their fields. Be sure to register for the 2016/2017 Alaska Grown Source Book and the Native Plant Source Directory before their March 15th deadlines. There are three large agriculture-related conferences at the end of February in Anchorage and Delta Junction. Everyone is sure to discover something that they are interested in at these events. Details on the conferences can be found on the Division of Agriculture's online calendar.

While on the division website stop by the grants webpage for information on the Farm to School Program's Farm to Summer Meal Site mini-grant information and application. The program is also looking for a few people that would like to gain grant experience by volunteering to help review the applications. The program would also like to welcome new Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) volunteer, Kelli Whelan.

As you may have heard, the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Cooperative Extension Service (CES) soil testing laboratories are unfortunately closing. Customers are advised to send their samples to out of state laboratories. CES has provided contact information and instructions on where to send future samples on page 10 of this newsletter.

The newsletter this month is one of our largest and is full of great information. I encourage you to read it and take advantage of the opportunities presented so that together, we can all *"promote and encourage the development of an agriculture industry."*

The Division of Agriculture is always open to your thoughts and ideas. If you have any questions or concerns please stop by or give me a call at 745-8127 or email me at Robert.Carter@alaska.gov.

"Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted."
~David Bly

David Driscoll, Manager
Marketing, Land Sales &
Inspection Services
907-761-3861
David.Driscoll@alaska.gov

Agriculture Calendar

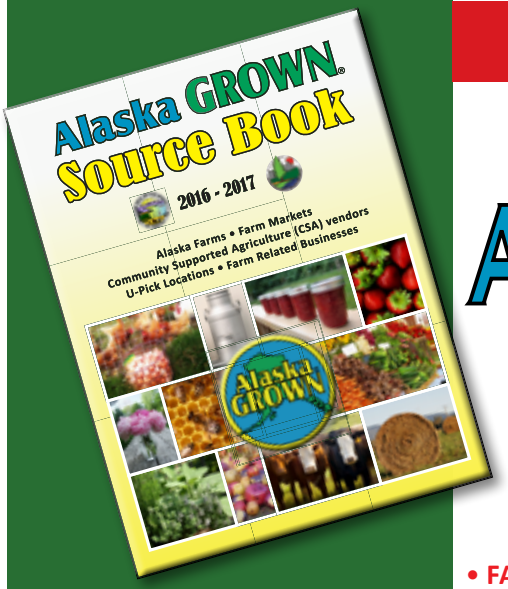
• Tue., **Feb. 9**	**Potato Industry Meeting.** Plant Materials Center Conference Room. 5310 S. Bodenburg Spur, Palmer. 7-9pm. *Details:* here
• Thur., **Feb. 11**	**Hay Producers Workshop.** Kenai Peninsula College, Ward Building, Room 118. Homer Campus Room P212. Kenai. 6-8:30 pm. *Details:* here
• Thur., **Feb. 18**	**Board of Agriculture & Conservation Meeting.** Division of Agriculture, 1800 Glenn Hwy., Suite 12, Palmer. *Details:* here
• Sat., **Feb. 20**	**2016 Delta Farm Forum.** Delta High School Gymnasium, Delta Junction. 9 am. *Details:* here
• Tue.-Thur., **Feb. 23-25**	**Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference.** The Lakefront, 4800 Spenard Rd., Anchorage. 8:30 am. *Details:* here
• Fri.-Sun., **Feb. 26-28**	**Alaska Food Festival & Conference.** Univesity of Alaska, Anchorage. *Details:* here

If you have an event that you would like to add to the calendar, please contact Lora Haralson.

Marketing

~ NOTICE ~ NOTICE ~

Deadline Reminder: March 15, 2016



Sign up NOW for the 2016 - 2017

Alaska GROWN® Source Book

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

The Source Book is an online and printed publication that lists:

• FARMERS • FARM MARKETS • CSAS • U-PICKS • FARM SERVICE BUSINESSES

throughout the state.

The Division of Agriculture creates a new Source Book every other year in order to keep vendor information up to date and allow new vendors the chance to participate. Because the Source Book is a printed publication, we must have written confirmation from farmers that they would like us to publish their information. By filling out the application, you are giving the Division of Agriculture permission to print your farm information in the 2016-2017 Alaska Grown Source Book. **Everyone MUST submit a new application to be included.**

For more information contact: Jacquelyn.Schade@alaska.gov or at 907-761-3858.

Marketing Staff

http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_ms.htm

Johanna Herron 907-761-3870
Johanna.Herron@alaska.gov

Farm to School

Farm to Summer Meal Site Grant Opportunity

Providers of summer nutrition programs are invited to apply for a Farm to Summer Meal Site grant to educate children about nutrition and promote healthy attitudes towards food choices.

The purpose of the Farm to Summer Meal Site Grant is to encourage gardening projects, incorporate local foods into meal programs, build healthier environments and engage children with fun and interactive nutrition education.

The grants are administered by the Division of Agriculture Farm to School Program through a coordinated effort between the Alaska State Department of Education & Early Development's Child Nutrition programs and the United States Department of Agriculture's Team Nutrition Program.

Eligible applicants include school districts or agencies participating in the National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program. Grants may be used to purchase gardening supplies or other materials to support activities such as growing, harvesting or cooking local foods.

The Division intends to award up to $750 per summer meal site or $150 per day care homes. Approximately 35 to 60 summer meal sites will be chosen for a total of $28,000 in grants.

Applications will be accepted Jan. 22 through Feb. 29. For more information and to apply, go to http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_grants.htm.

The Farm to Summer Meal Site would also like to take this opportunity to introduce Americorps VISTA volunteer, Kelli Whelan. Kelli will be assisting with the Farm to Summer Meal Site Program:

Hello! My name is Kelli Whelan, and I will be starting my first AmeriCorps VISTA service with the Farm-to-School program this February. I am a two-time alumna of Michigan Technological University with degrees in Chemistry (B.S.) and Environmental Engineering (M.S.). What excites me most about working with this program is the opportunity to help such a multi-faceted educational and regional development tool continue growing. I had a wonderful Farm-to-School experience while at Michigan Tech, so I jumped at the chance to help others have the same. Outside of work, I love cross country skiing, biking, and fly fishing. I look forward to meeting and working with you!

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@alaska.gov or (907) 761-3870.

Interested in being a reviewer for the Farm to Summer Meal Site mini-grants?

Reviewing grants is the best way to get experience and improve your grant writing skills. If you are interested in being a reviewer contact Johanna.Herron@alaska.gov or call 907-761-3870.

Mt. McKinley Meat & Sausage

http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_mmms.htm

Frank Huffman 907-745-5232
Frank.Huffman@alaska.gov

ARLF Services

http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_arlf.htm

Amanda Swanson, Loan Officer
907-761-3869
Amanda.Swanson@alaska.gov

Interested in Showcasing Your Business to School Food Service Buyers?

The Alaska School Nutrition Association Annual Conference is fast approaching February 17th – 19th. The Vendor Show is scheduled from 11-2 Thursday, February 18th at the Egan Center in Anchorage. If you are interested in securing a table at the Vendor Show please contact Johanna.Herron@alaska.gov as soon

Local Alaska Vendors: Taco Loco and Alaska Flour Company showcase their products at the vendor show in 2013.

Inspection Staff

http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_is.htm

Kirk Brown 907-761-3857
Kirk.Brown@alaska.gov

Mia Kirk 907-761-3853
Mia.Kirk@alaska.gov

Jacki Schade 907-761-3858
Jacquelyn.Schade@alaska.gov

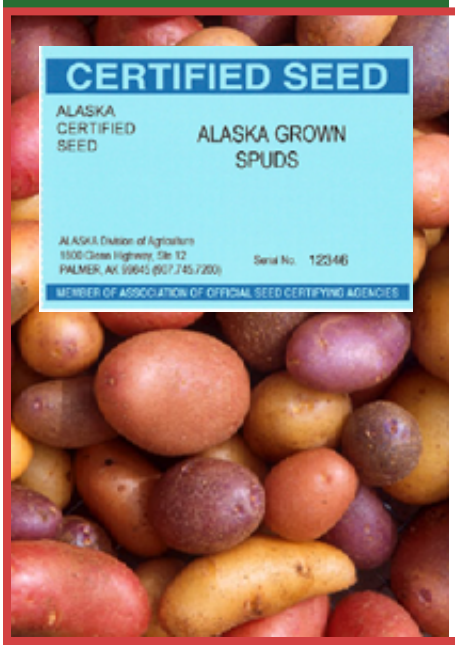
Native Plant Source Directory Deadline
March 15, 2016

The Division of Agriculture requests that **growers of native plants, seeds, wildflowers, trees and shrubs**; **or who offer revegetation services**, register or reregister their information by completing this online form by March 15, 2016 to be included in the next online Native Plant Source Directory. Listings will also be included in the 2016-2017 Alaska Grown Source Book.

This publication is **FREE ADVERTISING**!

If you were previously included in this directory you still must complete this form. For more information contact: Kim.Allen@alaska.gov.

Pest Detection / Inspection Section



Are you a nursery, greenhouse, garden center, etc. searching for Alaska Certified Seed Potatoes for Spring 2016?

The 2016 Certified Seed Potato Grower and Variety Lists are now on the Alaska Division of Agriculture website (under Programs/Inspection Services).

Over 70 varieties are available.

Please contact an Alaska Certified Seed Potato Grower from the list above to place your order for AK GROWN SPUDS!

Land Sales & Grazing Leases

http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_sales.htm

Erik Johnson (Palmer Office)
907-761-3863
Erik.Johnson@alaska.gov

Dan Proulx (Fairbanks Office)
907-374-3716
Fax: 907-328-1951
Dan.Proulx@alaska.gov

Agricultural Land Sales & Management

State Agricultural Land Nominations

Do you know of a piece of vacant land you would like purchase to farm on or would make good farmland for someone else?

If it is state-owned land you can nominate it for inclusion in a State Land Sale Program. Land nomination forms are available online at http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/landsale/ or any DNR office. The forms usually go to the Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) to research the land, and if acceptable, incorporates it into a future land offering. If the land in question is classified as agriculture the DMLW will refer it to the Division of Agriculture to research and, if suitable, prepare it for disposal.

The first thing to do is determine if the parcel is state-owned. One way to discover this is by going to the DNR Alaska Mapper web site. After you open the application select the 'Ownership Map' and zoom into the general area where the land is located. When you find the land, note the township and range, this information will be needed that for the application. You can click the Legend button on the left side of the page to check if the land is state land or use the township/range information in the method discussed above.

Once you have determined that it is State land you can fill out the nomination form. The form will ask you to attach a map showing where exactly the land is located, a status plat map being a very good option for this. It will also ask for any survey information, which you may find on the status plat or by looking at the Land Records page in "Get State Surveys" drop down menu. You will also want to note any improvements on the land, i.e. house/cabins, storage buildings, etc.

The completed form can be submitted to any DNR Public Information Center. If the land in question is classified agriculture, the Division of Agriculture will research the land to see if it is suitable for disposal. If it is determined that the land is suitable to offer for sale we will follow the same process we do for any other land sale we conduct. That is, writing a preliminary decision and asking the public for comments. If no problems arise, a best interest finding is written. After preparing the parcel for sale, e.g. appraisals, title reports, surveys, the land is offered in the next agriculture sale. Due to cost effectiveness considerations sales are not held for individual parcels. Sometimes parcels are held on to for a year or more before offering it for sale. This way it can be grouped with other parcels for a larger sale.

While the Division of Agriculture may do the research and offer a parcel sooner than MLW it is not a quick process. Due to all the statutory and regulatory factors involved, the process of submitting a nomination and the sale can take anywhere from three to five years if no major issues arise during the adjudication. It is also important to remember that the person nominating the land for sale has no special rights to the land itself during the sale. Many times the land is located adjacent to the nominators existing

property and that may result in a preference right situation but nominating the land by itself does not grant any rights.

The Division of Agriculture is working hard to find and offer as much agricultural land as possible to the citizens of Alaska and we ak for your help in finding that land. If you think a piece of ground looks suitable for agriculture, please let us know, or nominate it for sale.

For more information or to submit a land nomination form please contact one of the following DNR offices:

Juneau • DNR Land Information Office
P.O. Box 111020
400 Willoughby Ave., 4th Floor, Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-3400, Fax: (907) 586-2954
E-mail: Southeast_Land@dnr.state.ak.us
Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, M-F

Anchorage • DNR Public Information Center
Robert B. Atwood Building
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1260, Anchorage, AK 99501-3557
Phone: (907) 269-8400, Fax: (907) 269-8901, TDD: (907) 269-8411
E-mail: pic@dnr.state.ak.us
Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, M-F

Fairbanks • DNR Public Information Center
3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709
(Corner of Univ. & Airport Way)
Phone: (907) 451-2705, Fax: (907) 451-2706, TDD: (907) 451-2770
E-mail: fbx-pic@dnr.state.ak.us
Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, M-F

or The Division of Agriculture offices at:

Palmer • Division of Agriculture
1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 12, Palmer, AK 99645-6736
(907) 761-3863, Erik.Johnson@alaska.gov

Fairbanks • Division of Agriculture
3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 347-3716, Dan.Proulx@alaska.gov

Plant Materials Center

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

Alicia Holladay 907-745-8104
Alicia.Holladay@alaska.gov

Rob Carter
Acting Director/Manager
907-745-8127
Rob.Carter@alaska.gov

Phil Czapla 907-745-8747
Phil.Czapla@alaska.gov

Casey Dinkel 907-745-8108
Casey.Dinkel@alaska.gov

David Edgerton 907-745-8142
David.Edgerton@alaska.gov

Rusty Foreaker 907-745-8092
Rusty.Foreaker@alaska.gov

Peter Johnson 907-745-8105
Peter.Johnson@alaska.gov

Brianne Blackburn, Manager
907-745-8785
Brianne.Blackburn@alaska.gov

Kim Allen 907-745-8735
Kim.Allen@alaska.gov

Christine Macknicki 907-745-8021
Christine.Macknicki@alaska.gov

Lyubo Mahlev 907-745-8782
Lyubomir.Mahlev@alaska.gov

Todd Steinlage 907-745-8138
Todd.Steinlage@alaska.gov

Heather Stewart 907-745-8721
Heather.Stewart@alaska.gov

Plant Materials Center (PMC)

Potato Program Update

Many of you heard the news report recently about a cargo ship's mechanical failure resulting in its inability to deliver food and goods to the state of Alaska. It was estimated that Alaska maintains a one week supply of consumables and any delay or failure beyond that leads to shortages. In light of this news it is an opportune time to promote sustainable agriculture in Alaska, and for certified seed potatoes; that begins with the PMC.

Certified seed potato deliverables for the 2016 field season have been graded, bagged, and amounted to approximately 900 pounds not including surplus. This represents our largest Generation Zero (G0) production to date. Orders for the 2017 field season are currently being received through the end of January. Only a fraction of the expected orders have been returned and logged at this point and already we have received requests for nearly 1,300 pounds of G0 seed stock. This has kept the laboratory busy maintaining an inventory of 196 varieties in addition to preparing in-vitro plantlets for our upcoming largest G0 production year ever! The plantlets are propagated from four maintenance tubes, each of which has been tested by the PMC Pathology Lab and approved for use. The PMC will be prepared to transplant approximately 8,000 culture tubes of laboratory grown plantlets in order to produce 1,300 pounds of certified G0 seed.

In cooperation with the Horticulture Program the PMC is conducting a winter grow-out of both tissue culture plantlets and G0 seed stock. There are 11 varieties of potatoes growing in the greenhouse with an anticipated January to May growth period. This project allows the PMC to experiment with cost estimates, artificial light capabilities, heat conditions, and alternative fertilizer formulations prior to our production season. This will also allow the PMC to subsidize its stock of G0 seed available to growers. A winter grow-out and inspection is an export requirement, and learning the feasibility of such a project could be valuable. Most G0 seed producers send potatoes to Florida or Hawaii and contract out the winter grow-out and inspection process. This would be cost prohibitive at Alaska's scale of production.

In spite of facing budget concerns, the potato program has grown tremendously in the past four years. The PMC has seen an 85% increase in pounds of G0 seed sold, from a low of 182 pounds in 2013. The potato industry as a whole seems to be thriving and the PMC is proud to support Alaska potato growers with certified, clean G0 seed stock.

The Plant Materials Center 2015 Annual Report has been published and can be found at
http://plants.alaska.gov/pdf/annual-reports/AnnualReport2015.pdf

Potato Seed Growers Meeting

Tuesday, February 9th, 7-9 pm
Plant Materials Center Conference Room
5310 S. Bodenburg Spur, Palmer
907-745-4469

For more information contact:
Robert.Carter@alaska.gov

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation:

Division of Environmental Health

Managing Bovine Respiratory Disease

Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) is one of the most costly disease problems in the cattle industry. Many different pathogens can cause BRD, viruses like Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR), Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (BRSV), Parainfluenza 3 Virus (PI3), and Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV); bacteria such as Mannheimia haemolytica, Pasteurella multocida, Histophilus somni and Mycoplasma bovis also play a role.

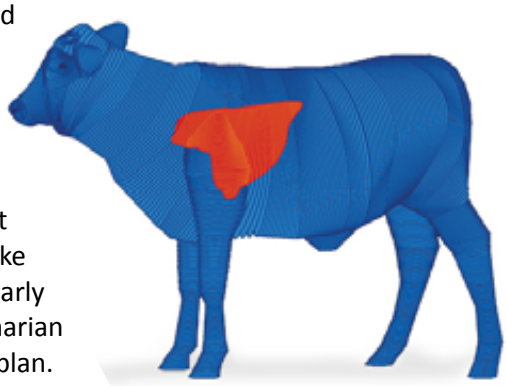
Respiratory disease seems to be more common during seasonal changes in weather and especially in the cold winter months. Check your herd health management plan and take some steps to reduce the risk this winter.

Cleaning and sanitation is the basis of a good biosecurity plan to keep pathogens off the farm. Keep the cattle areas and equipment clean, especially areas where cattle congregate, at feed and water troughs, in the barn or shelter areas. For dairy farms this means special attention to calf hutches, stalls and bedding. In addition, you should avoid being a carrier of the BRD pathogens, wash your hands especially after handling new stock or treating sick animals.

Isolate new stock, do not introduce them with animals on the farm for at least a week and longer is better. Also avoid commingling calves in large groups to lessen the chances of spreading disease, especially while they're young and their immune systems are developing. Make sure you are feeding a balanced ration, healthy immune system relies on a healthy diet. Consult a nutritionist and make sure feed rations and milk replacers are balanced with the right nutrients, vitamins and minerals to optimize health and growth.

Stress weakens the immune system and increases the risk of a disease outbreak. Reduce stressful situations as much as possible, use proper cattle-handling techniques. Take your time and remain calm when working with calves and adult cattle. Rushing or pushing things too hard will agitate the animals and lead to added stress. This is very important when shipping cattle. Try to avoid long trips during extremes in weather conditions this can expose cattle to harmful irritants in the form of dust, smoke and exhaust, and dry cold air.

Vaccination for BRD pathogens can be a useful part of your herd health plan. Check with your veterinarian or extension agent for recommendations on what products are available. Remember vaccination will not be as effective and may be a waste of time an money if there are lapses in other portions of your herd health management plan. We already mentioned biosecurity issues like cleaning, disinfection, balanced nutrition, husbandry and handling techniques.



If you suspect you have a respiratory disease outbreak, the best outcomes result from early diagnosis and treatment. Make sure all your workers are aware of the early clinical signs of BRD and consult your veterinarian to devise the best treatment/management plan.

Environmental Health

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Dec.Alaska.gov/eh/
907-269-7501

Robert Gerlach
Alaska State Veterinarian
907-375-8214
Bob.Gerlach@alaska.gov

Jay Fuller
Assistant State Veterinarian
907-375-8213
Jay.Fuller@alaska.gov

Importing Livestock to Alaska

There has been an increase in the movement of livestock into the state, more animals have been imported in the last four months than over the previous 12 months. The process can be a bit confusing and expensive so it is important to gather as much information as possible and make a plan that fits your needs. In general all livestock entering Alaska must have a state import permit (no cost) and meet the state import regulations. These requirements can be found on the Office of the State Veterinarian webpage (http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/index.htm) under 'Alaska Import Fact Sheets.' The regulations will require a health certificate written by an accredited veterinarian, official identification for each animal and possibly some tests for certain diseases that we do not want entering Alaska

For Canadian livestock you will need a USDA Import permit (one species per permit) and a post entry inspection by a USDA veterinarian at your farm or another agreed upon destination location. This is because there is not a USDA Veterinarian stationed at the ALCAN as is the case with other USA Land Ports. The cost for these two services are determined by the USDA. You can contact the USDA National Center for Import/Export permit information phone number is 301-851-3300. Email: VS.live.animal.Import.Export@aphis.usda.gov for specifics. Moving animals from the lower 48, transiting Canada, will have increased paperwork and permitting from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and USDA, as well as, the increased cost of transportation. There is also always the option of flying or ferrying animals directly from the lower 48 states.

Once the local veterinarian in Canada has prepared the animal movement paperwork they will contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The CFIA veterinarian will examine the documents as part of the USDA import requirements and there is a charge for processing health papers and endorsement; $25 for first animal $1.50 per additional animal with max of $75.

Let's look at an example for importing adult cattle (over 6 months old). They will require a health certificate, a veterinary exam, then TB, Brucellosis, Anaplasmosis and Bluetongue testing, as well as be free from external parasites. The veterinarian will charge for the examination, collection of blood and processing of samples. Costs will vary, but there may be itemized charges for each test or you may be charged an hourly rate. The veterinarian will require a repeat visit to the farm to read the TB test three days after the skin test is performed. Laboratory charges average $60/animal. The veterinary costs can be the largest part of the process, resulting in hundreds of dollars per animal. This year we are trying again to change the state import regulations to reduce the testing requirements, without increasing any risk for introducing diseased animals into Alaska.

An option could be to import cattle under six months of age. There are no testing requirements for younger animals, they just need to originate from a TB and Brucellosis free herd. This means you will have costs for housing and feeding these animals until they are ready to take to slaughter or to breed. Another consideration is to import adult cattle for *immediate* slaughter. The problem is that there are currently no slaughter facilities approved by the USDA for immediate/direct slaughter. If a slaughter facility obtains USDA approval, cattle may be imported without testing, but a health certificate endorsed by the government is still required. Immediate/direct slaughter requires the animals be slaughtered within two weeks. They will be required to have a state import permit (no charge) and a USDA import permit.

Another cost saving idea may be to coordinate with other farmers to combine shipments. This will reduce the cost of transportation and paperwork. The bottom line is that you need to know the regulations and make arrangements ahead of time that will meet your business plan.

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Cooperative Extension Service

Soil Testing Laboratories Closing

Due to the state budget crisis the UAF Matanuska Experiment Farm has closed its soil and forage testing laboratory. The following list of laboratories provides some options for meeting your soil testing needs. The list includes three laboratories outside of Alaska that are certified by the National Association of Proficiency Testing (NAPT).

The list is not exhaustive and is only intended to provide some examples of suitable soil testing laboratories. Soil types and growing conditions in Alaska are unique, so the number of soil-testing laboratories offering the exact set of tests used in Alaska is very limited.

A major limiting factor in selecting a suitable soil-testing laboratory is that the majority of laboratories in the western United States do not offer the Mehlich-3 extraction method. The Mehlich-3 method is effective in extracting available phosphorus from the acidic soils found in many parts of Alaska, but is not suitable for alkaline soils that dominate many western states. One laboratory in the Pacific Northwest that does offer Mehlich-3 is SoilTest Farm Consultants in Moses Lake, Washington. This laboratory will also automatically forward your soil test results to the UAF Cooperative Extension Service so that your district Extension agent can contact you. Your district agent can then provide UAF fertilizer recommendations based on the soils in your area.

Soil samples should be dried, placed in a bag and marked with a unique name. You can list your local Extension agent on the submittal form as someone who should receive a copy of the results. You will need to call or visit the website of the laboratories outside of Alaska to obtain a submittal form and current lab prices.

Samples for analysis must include prepayment. These laboratories may automatically send you fertilizer recommendations appropriate for their local conditions, but it is best to have your results interpreted by someone who uses Alaska research as a basis for fertilizer recommendations.

A&L Eastern Agricultural Laboratories
7621 Whitepine Road
Richmond, VA 23231
804-743-9401
www.al-labs-eastern.com

Request soil test package MESI, along with individual analyses for ammonium-N and nitrate-N. In addition to the basic Alaska soil test requirements, you will receive results for organic matter, magnesium, calcium, cation exchange capacity, and percent base saturation. Cost: $32 per sample (including the additional nitrate and ammonia N analysis).

Brookside Laboratories Inc.
200 White Mountain Dr.
New Bremen, OH 45869
419-977-2766 (phone)
419-977-2767 (fax)
www.blinc.com

Request soil test package S001AN. In addition to the basic Alaska soil test requirements, you will receive results for organic matter, sulfur, magnesium, calcium, manganese, zinc, copper, boron, iron, cation, exchange capacity, and percent base saturation. Cost $18.50 per sample.

SoilTest Farm Consultants
2925 Driggs Dr.
Moses Lake, WA 98837
1-800-764-1622
www.soiltestlab.com

Request test group S3. In addition to the basic Alaska soil test requirements, you will receive results for organic matter, soluble salts, sulfur, magnesium, boron, zinc, copper, and iron. Cost: $35 per sample.

University of Alaska Fairbanks
School of Natural Resources & Agricultural Sciences

Sustainable Agriculture Conference to be held in Anchorage

The annual Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference will take place in Anchorage for the first time on Feb. 24-25. The University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service will host the 12th annual conference at The Lakefront Anchorage at 4800 Spenard Road.

Conference organizer Steven Seefeldt said the state's largest agricultural conference has traditionally been held in Fairbanks, but is moving to Anchorage this year to reach a different audience. Seefeldt, the state horticulture specialist, said it will likely rotate between the communities in the future. The conference draws more than 200 participants from all over the state.

Seefeldt said the 12th annual conference has three concurrent sessions instead of two. More than 50 presentations will focus on farm management, growing fruits and vegetables, and meat and fiber production. An all-day session Feb. 25 will cover qiviut production and marketing.

Seefeldt said the conference is aimed at a broad spectrum of growers, from gardeners and backyard farmers to the biggest farms in the state.

"The focus is on improving your farm's sustainability." he said. This includes production recommendations, the financial footing and stewardship of the land.

As usual, there will be an eclectic mix of sessions, everything from commercial pork production to farm insurance, birch tapping and Arctic gardening. Speakers will include growers, agricultural agency representatives and researchers. Researchers will provide updates on soil nutrient management and organic amendments, precision agriculture, asparagus variety trials, and ventilation and temperature control in high tunnels. The conference will encompass some of the fruit and vegetable topics formerly offered through the Produce Growers Conference in Palmer.

The keynote speakers will be Carrie Hull of the National Fiber Producers Cooperative and Gina Greenway of the College of Idaho, who specializes in agricultural economics. Hull will talk about developing cooperatives and Greenway will focus on strategies for strengthening and growing Alaska agriculture.

Roundtable discussions will cover structuring deals between growers and buyers, to go from direct sales at farm stands and farmers markets to dealing with retail and wholesale buyers. Other roundtable discussions will highlight the Alaska Food Policy Council and education resources for farming and gardening in rural Alaska.

Half and full-day preconference workshops on Feb. 23 will highlight fiber production, farm budgeting, and on-farm food safety and marketing.

See agenda and registration information at http://uaf.edu/ces/ah/sare/conference/. For the first time, participants may register for a webcast. For more information, contact Darcy Etcheverry at ddetcheverry@alaska.edu or 907-474-5107 or Seefeldt at ssseefeldt@alaska.edu or 907-474-1831.

Submitted by: Debbie Carter, Public Information Officer for the UAF Cooperative Extension Service.

Debbie Carter
907-474-5406
dscarter@alaska.edu

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2016 Delta Farm Forum

Saturday, Feb. 20 • 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Delta High School small gymnasium

BACK YARD FARMING

- **Backyard Hog Production**, *Colin Barnard*
- **Backyard Chickens for Egg Production,** *Vanessa Heath*
- **Getting Your Goat,** *Denise Wilhelm*
- **Field Peas in Alaska,** *Bob Van Veldhuizen*, agronomist, UAF School of Natural Resources and Extension
- **Genetically Modified Organisms and Choices in Alaska,** *Dr. Steven Seefeldt*, state horticulture specialist, UAF School of Natural Resources and Extension
- **Overview of the Alaska Ag Pest Project,** *Dr. Lisa Lunn*, UAF School of Natural Resources and Extension

- The Salcha–Delta Soil and Water Conservation District will give its annual report and announce the 2015 Cooperator of the Year.
- Local FFA/4-H will give a group presentation and program highlights.
- A variety of vendors will be in attendance throughout the day.

Potluck Luncheon – Guests are asked to follow this schedule when choosing a dish:

A-F = Vegetable or Fruit **G-L = Desserts**
M-R = Pasta or Rice **S-Z = Salads**

Main meat dishes, scalloped potatoes and dinner rolls will be provided through donations.

The 2016 Delta Farm Forum is co-sponsored by the
University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service
Delta District, **895-4215**
and the Salcha-Delta Soil and Water Conservation District, **895-6279**.
Both are located in the Jarvis Office Center in Delta Junction.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

UAF UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

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Join us . . .

12th Annual

Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference

February 23-25, 2016

The Lakefront Anchorage

Getting Down to Business with Fibers and Foods

Tuesday workshops will be followed by two days of presentations and discussion related to farm management, including a Thursday session on qiviut.

Tuesday Workshops:

Gina Greenway

- **Budgeting for Farm Decision Making**
  Presented by Gina Greenway

Carrie Hull

- **On-farm Food Safety and Marketing**
  Presented by Barbara Hanson and Johanna Herron
- **Connecting Fiber Producers to Markets**
  Presented by Carrie Hull

Cooperative Extension Service · UAF University of Alaska Fairbanks · Western SARE

Contact Darcy Etcheverry at ddetcheverry@alaska.edu or 907-474-5107 or visit bit.ly/sareconf for more information.

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Join us for the 2nd Semi-annual

ALASKA FOOD FESTIVAL & CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE

February 26-28, 2016

University of Alaska Anchorage

Find more information at akfoodpolicycouncil.wordpress.com

Alaska Food Policy Council