



The Division of Agriculture Activities

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

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

[Plant Materials Center](#)

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Director's Note

Most farmers will admit that they are true optimists – always believing that next year will be better, but this year has tested even the most optimistic! The interior has struggled with a soggy July with rainfall amounts exceeding or approaching monthly records in multiple locations and the south central area beat the 1951 record of 27 straight days of precipitation on August 14th, which marked the 28th continuous day of rain. Hopefully September will bring blue skies and a break in the weather for the fall harvest. The Ted Pyrah family was honored at the Farm Family of the Year presentation, August 26th at the Alaska State Fair. The evening reception and award ceremony was well attended by fellow farmers, supporters and dignitaries and showcases successful agriculture in Alaska. This award is based on quality of product, community involvement and overall positive agricultural representation. If you know of an Alaskan agriculture family that fits that criteria, be sure to nominate them for the 2011 Farm Family of Year Award in June – nominations can be sent to the Division of Agriculture.

The Division of Agriculture currently has two vacancies on the Board of Agriculture and Conservation (BAC) and is looking for applicants and nominations. The two vacant seats are in the area of Statewide Agriculture Promotion and General Business/Financial Experience. If you are interested in serving on this board or would like to nominate someone please call the Division at 745-7200.

Just a quick reminder – if you are affected by the Delta bison herd please fill out the survey: [Bison Survey](#)
May you have a safe and productive Labor Day weekend.

Franci

Plant Materials Center

Wanted: Seed From Alaska Native Plants

Where can I purchase 'Sourdough' Bluejoint, 'Nortran' Tufted Hairgrass, Oxytrope, Goldenrod, Jacob's Ladder, Fireweed, etc.?

This question is received hourly by people at the Alaska Plant Materials Center (PMC). Landscape architects, construction companies, Department of Transportation engineers, and revegetation consultants need native Alaska seed for their projects.

Here at the PMC we refer these individuals to the source directories on-line [FFPD](#); [Native Directory](#); [AK Snapps](#). We also suggest alternative plant seeds where possible.

There is an immense need for commercial growers to start growing these native plants for seed harvest and re-sale! Many of the revegetation sites have to use native Alaska seed – but if it is not available, they get concessions from the specifiers to purchase the seed from elsewhere.

The PMC sells foundation seed bi-annually for commercial growers. This seed has been evaluated for vigor, germination, and ease of growth. It goes through tests for viability, purity, and noxious weeds. The word foundation means "to build upon", thus this seed is designed for growers to plant and build this beginning seed into a larger crop for resale.

The types of seed for sale, and the prices, are listed both on the Division of Agriculture's website as well as on the PMC's website in pdf format: [Seed Sale](#). To view what the plants look like and how to grow them, go to the PMC's website and click on [Plant Fliers](#).

The seed sale date interval this season is longer than usual to allow the attendees at the second "Grown in Alaska" workshop an opportunity to purchase the seed. The date for the end of the sale is September 23, 2010. People can e-mail, phone, or send their orders to Peggy Hunt, 745-8721, 5310 Bodenburg Spur Rd., Palmer, AK 99645. The next seed sale will be in April, 2011. (Photo is Butte Jacob's Ladder.)



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Calendar

- ▶ Grown in Alaska Conference, Palmer Train Depot, Sept 21-22
- ▶ Harvest root crops all month
- ▶ Prepare for vacation!

Marketing Section

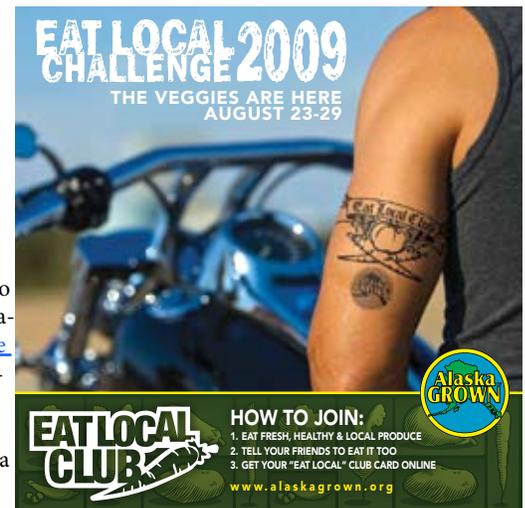
Eating local

The 2010 Alaska GROWN Eat Local Challenge came and went last week. We saw special events at various farmers markets, restaurants utilizing Alaska GROWN vegetables, print stories in the Anchorage Daily News and Palmer Community Newsletter, as well as some TV coverage on KTVA. Full results won't be available for a few weeks, but we hope that we moved the mark in terms of informing more Alaskans about where their food comes from and how to make Alaska GROWN a priority. If you have ideas on how to make next years' Alaska GROWN Eat Local Challenge a success, please contact Amy.

Job Opportunity

It's hard to believe that our Summer Marketing Intern, Rachel Kenley, has already gone back to school. Does that mean summer is also gone? We really enjoyed having Rachel on staff!

Have you heard about the Division's new Farm to School program? We are currently looking to fill the new position of Farm to School coordinator. Check out the full job profile on [Workplace Alaska](#). The position closes on Friday, September 3, 2010. We are excited to get someone on staff to help launch this new program targeted at increasing the procurement and use of Alaska GROWN food by public schools and other government institutions.



Inspection Section

Elk Fencing Guidelines

In accordance with AS 03.05.075, "Elk may be raised and bred as domestic stock for commercial purposes, including the sale of meat, by a person who lawfully owns the elk and who holds a current valid elk farming license..." In order to obtain an elk farming license, an application must be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture with a biennial license fee. In addition to this, the applicant must possess facilities for maintaining elk under positive control. What is defined as possessing facilities for maintaining elk under positive control? A physical barrier must be provided to prevent elk from escaping and to exclude wild ungulates. Perimeter fencing on an elk farm must be constructed and maintained using adequate materials and workmanship strong enough to withstand animal impacts and tall enough to preclude escape by jumping. The perimeter fence must be inspected and approved by a representative of the Division of Agriculture. For more information on the elk fencing specifications and application please go to the Division of Agriculture [Website](#).

