



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

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April 22, 2016

Dear Farmer's Market Managers:

Spring is here, and with it a new market season. As market managers, I want to remind you of the State of Alaska regulations regarding the sale and labeling requirements for seed potatoes. As per, 11 AAC 34.075 Prohibited acts (j) No person may sell, offer for sale, or represent potatoes as seed potatoes unless the potatoes have been certified by the official seed certifying agency of the state or country of origin.

In recent years, Alaska Division of Agriculture, conducted surveillance at farmer's markets and retail stores and discovered potatoes for sale, described as planting potatoes, which were not certified. All potatoes represented as seed potatoes must have a certification tag or identification issued by the official certification agency of the state or country of origin attached to each container or the display.

This year, Alaska Division of Agriculture staff will conduct surveillance at farmer's markets and retail stores to ensure that potatoes offered for planting/seed have been properly certified. Potatoes not meeting these requirements will be issued a Stop Sale Notice by the Division of Agriculture inspection staff.

Please see enclosed certified seed potato informational sheet for more information or if you have any further questions regarding the sale or labeling of seed potatoes, please contact Mia Kirk at 907-761-3853 or Mia.Kirk@alaska.gov.

Thank you for your cooperation on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Keyes IV", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Arthur J. Keyes IV
Director

Cc: Mia Kirk, Development Specialist