



Division of Agriculture Activities

Volume 2, Number 1

December 31, 2009

Find us on the web go to:
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag>

Director of Agriculture—
Franci Havemeister
907-761-3867
Franci.Havemeister@alaska.gov

In This Issue

- Director's Note
- Food Security in Alaska
- Brand Book
- Land Planning Update
- BEE Aware
- "Unless Otherwise Specified"
- Rural Village Seed Production Project
- Pest Detection for 2010

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

Questions or Comments? E-Mail me at Patricia.O'Neil@alaska.gov or call 907-761-3858.



Note From the Director

Thank you for your continued dedication to Agriculture and for the products produced and made available to Alaskans. Consumers are fortunate to have the opportunity to buy local and taste the difference!

Please continue to check the division's website and read through the newsletter to learn about upcoming conferences, grant opportunities, and general information. Mark your calendars for the upcoming Produce Growers' Conference scheduled for the first part of February. It is also that time of year to update the long range plan called Building a Sustainable Agriculture Industry. The plan can be found on the division website and I would appreciate your input and comments. Please send your comments before February 1, 2010 to: Lora.Haralson@alaska.gov.

I hope you enjoyed the Christmas season and wishing you and yours a happy and prosperous New Year.

Franci

Calendar Events—

- Division will announce the Cooperative Marketing Program (CMP) Grant:
February 1st
- Division will announce the Alaska Ag Innovation Grant (AAIG):
February 10
- Produce Growers Conference (Formerly the Potato and Veggie Conference): February 16th & 17th @ the Palmer Train Depot
- Alaska Peony Growers Association Conference: February 19th & 20th @ Providence Medical Center Building, Anchorage
- Nursery & Greenhouse Conference: February 25th & 26th. Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall, Juneau
- Delta Farm Forum: February 27th, Delta Junction
- SARE Conference: March 16th—19th, Princess Lodge, Fairbanks

Marketing Section

Food Security in Alaska

Recently, due to so much discussion about food security and sustainability, there was a large discussion about our Alaska food supply, and how much 2-3% really is. Many say that 98% of our food is shipped up here. If you assume that Alaskan farmers provide (benefit of the doubt) 3% of food for Alaskans per year, it comes out to about 11 days of the year. We went beyond that. We took the Alaska Agricultural Statistics book and reviewed actual production, considered our population, and came up with some interesting data. As a hint, 3%, or 11 days, isn't very far off!

We want to acknowledge that there are many different variables to consider:

1. Subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering.
2. Crop production: This changes year to year.
3. Population: More or less people may need to be provided for; we are using an estimated urban count for this scenario.
4. Farmers responses to crop production surveys.

We are using a scenario that assumes we are in an emergency, transportation has been shut down, and all grocery store outlets are closed – all the food from the grocery stores has been consumed. For this scenario, Alaska has an emergency food storage bank of all Alaska Grown food, specifically potatoes, carrots, and frozen meat.

First, we used the data from 2007 because 2008 was such a cool and rainy summer and crop production was considerably down. Next, we considered the population from the urban areas, giving consideration to subsistence living. The ten largest cities in Alaska add up to a population of around 400,000. So, for our example, we will be feeding only 400,000 people in Alaska. We are providing a "winter" scenario; we will be feeding Alaskans with winter storage crops and meat. We are figuring on only potatoes, carrots, and meat being available. In this example each individual will be privy to one potato, ¼ lb carrots, and 1/5 lb meat per day. In this emergency situation, this is all the food that each individual will be allowed.

This is how it all works out:

- There will be meat for 13 days, for 400,000 people, receiving 1/5 lb each. (Beef or Pork)
- Each individual will be allowed ¼ lb of carrots & the supply will last for 15 days.
- Luckily for us in Alaska, potatoes are healthy, and one medium potato contains about 50% vitamin C of the daily recommended value, because we have enough potatoes in Alaska to feed 400,000 individuals one small potato/day for 131 days, or for 4 months and 10 days. I am sure in an emer-

		# Days Eating /	
lbs Potatoes	Population	Person	
17,500,000	400,000	131.25	1 small potato/person
lbs Carrots			
1,500,000	400,000	15	1/4 lb Carrots/Person

Marketing Staff

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

Doug Warner

907-761-3861

Douglas.Warner@alaska.gov

Amy Pettit

907-761-3864

Amy.Pettit@alaska.gov

Patricia O'Neil

907-761-3858

Patricia.ONeil@alaska.gov



(Continued from page 2)

Hanging Weight: Beef & Veal	lbs of Meat Bone Out	# of 1/5 lb Meat Portions	Population	# Days Eating /Person
1,235,000	802,750	4,013,750	400,000	10.034375
Hanging Weight: Pork				
376,000	244,400	1,222,000	400,000	3.055
				13.089375

gency situation, that potato consumption would increase after the meat and carrots ran out.

In conclusion, Alaska can feed itself for about two to three weeks per year. If an emergency storage facility was built and our producers were interested in stocking it, Alaskan producers could grow enough food to fill that cache. However, without increasing production, little would be left over for winter market sales.

What this means for agriculture is: there is room for growth! While the numbers are startling it is encouraging to look at the possibilities that lie before the agricultural industry. Thank you for your dedication to agriculture. We wish you a very happy New Year!

Brand Book

The Division of Agriculture would like to announce that it is time to renew your brand registration with the State of Alaska. Upon receipt of your brand renewal notification, please review your brand information, location of the livestock, contact information, make any corrections necessary and return to the Division of Agriculture with our renewal fee of \$1.00 by February 1, 2010.

It is mandated that the brand book be updated every five years. It was last updated in 2005, and the new brand book will be available in 2010. Upon receipt of the new registrations, each brand member will receive the new 2010 State of Alaska Brand Certificate & Book. All brands currently registered with the state will be valid through January 2010. The ending period for brand registration is February 1, 2010. At this time the State of Alaska does not have a brand registration-for-life program. As stated before, all brands must be renewed at this time.

If you have any questions regarding the brand program please contact Amy Pettit at Amy.Pettit@alaska.gov or Kirk Brown at Kirk.Brown@alaska.gov. You can also call the Palmer office of the Division of Agriculture at 745-7200.



Kirk Brown
907-745-7200

[Click Here](#) to contact Kirk about the Brand Book Notification

Land Sales & Grazing Leases

Land Sales & Grazing Leases

Dan Proulx

907-374-3716

Dan.Proulx@alaska.gov

Erik Johnson

907-761-3863

Erik.Johnson@alaska.gov



Inspection Staff

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

Barb Hanson

907-761-3854

Barbara.Hanson@alaska.gov

Mia Kirk

907-761-3853

Mia.Kirk@alaska.gov

Planning Updates

The Susitna Matanuska Area Plan has been sent out for agency review. Staff members at the Division of Agriculture are reviewing this plan as well as local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Public review and comment periods will occur in the next few months. Check the Division homepage for links when they become available.

The Fish Creek Area Management Plan was adopted by the Mat-Su Borough in September. The Commissioner of DNR has issued a public notice regarding the intent to adopt this plan as approved by the Borough. If you would like to comment upon this Management Plan please [click here](#):

Comments on this plan must be received by February 3rd, 2010.

Inspection Section

Bee Aware: State of Alaska Beekeeping Regulations

Since about 2004, honeybee populations in the United States have suffered a dramatic decline. The causes behind the loss of hives have not been entirely clear, as bees are susceptible to many different parasites and diseases. Several of these, such as varroa mites, colony collapse disorder, acarine mites, and nosema, can decimate honeybee colonies. The State of Alaska Division of Agriculture regulates bees and beekeeping equipment in an effort to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of bee diseases. The regulations, *in part*, state that:

11 AAC 35.020

- A person importing bees into the state shall, within 72 hours after the bees arrive, send the division a copy of the health certificate required by [AS 03.47.020](#).
- The health certificate must be issued by an official inspector of the state or country from which the bees originated within 90 days before shipment of the bees.
- A person keeping bees shall notify the division of the existence and whereabouts for the bees within 72 hours after acquiring them, and annually after that, on forms available from the division.
- A person moving or transporting bees from one geographic area to another in the state shall notify the division at least 15 days before moving or transporting the bees. The boundaries of the geographic areas are available from the director and from local beekeepers associations.

"Unless otherwise specified"

In order to meet US Grade Standards, some vegetables and fruits have size requirements. These size requirements may be "otherwise specified" and still meet the requirements of Grade. Some fruits and vegetables may have a set minimum and maximum length and diameter defined in the grade but may be "otherwise specified". So what does that mean exactly? A fruit or vegetable may be labeled US No 1 but not meet the minimum and/ or maximum size re-

(Continued from page 4)

quirements if labeled appropriately. Below are the size requirements for Beets, Broccoli Crowns, Carrots and Radishes and some examples of how “unless otherwise specified” can be used.

Beets

The US No 1 and No 2 grades require that unless otherwise specified, the diameter of each beet shall not be less than 1-1/2 inches. Diameter means the greatest dimension of the root measured at right angles to a line running from the crown to the base of the root. “Unless otherwise specified” allows for Beets to meet US No 1 requirements without meeting minimum size requirements of the grade. An example of proper labeling for beets that are a minimum of 1 inch would be; “US No 1, 1 inch minimum”

Broccoli Crowns

The US No 1 grade requires that unless otherwise specified the length of each crown shall be not less than 3-1/2 inches or more than 6 inches. The minimum or maximum length, or both, in terms of inches and half inches, may be specified. An example of proper labeling for a broccoli crowns that are not less than 3 inches in length would be; “US No 1, 3 inch minimum”.

Carrots

The US No 1 grade requires that unless otherwise specified, the diameter of each carrot is not less than 3/4 inch or more than 1-1/2 inches, and the length is not less than 5 inches.

Radishes

The US No 1 grade requires that unless otherwise specified, the diameter of each root shall be not less than 5/8 inch. An example of proper labeling for radishes that are a minimum of 1/2 inch would be; “US No 1, 1/2 inch minimum”.

To inquire about other vegetables and fruits, please [click here](#) to visit the USDA/AMS/ Grade Standards website.



Plant Material Center

http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_pmc.htm
Main Phone: 907-745-4469

Stoney Wright

Manager, Plant Materials Center
Stoney.Wright@alaska.gov
907-745-8105

Peggy Hunt—Agronomist

Peggy.hunt@alaska.gov
745-8721

Plant Materials Center (PMC) -

Rural Village Seed Production Project:

USDA Forest Service American Reinvestment and Recovery Act:

The Plant Materials Center has been awarded funding to assist rural communities in the development of native seed production business to serve the restoration needs of resource extraction and development areas.

The PMC will work through a series of phases to contact local entities, gauge community interest, develop and train a workforce, and initiate seed production at the local level. Each phase will build towards creating a self-sustaining and locally-supported industry in rural communities that will generate high quality jobs. This project will help rural communities build an industry that promotes wise resource rehabilitation and development.

Pest Detection Surveys in Alaska

Pest Detection Surveys Planned for 2010

Fairbanks Office

907-328-1950

Charlie Knight

Charles.Knight@alaska.gov

907-374-3715

Curtis Knight

Curtis.Knight@alaska.gov

907-374-3732



We will begin this New Year's issue by highlighting some of the pest detection surveys we are planning to conduct in 2010. The Alaska Division of Agriculture conducts pest surveys known as the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey, or CAPS, via a cooperative agreement with the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS).

In 2009, the Division, with funding from USDA-APHIS, conducted six pest detection surveys. We plan to continue with the same surveys in 2010, however, the survey cooperative agreements with USDA-APHIS have not all been finalized.

Surveys for Lepidoptera pests of concern include European and Asian gypsy moths, as well as the Rosy gypsy moth, Nun moth, and the Siberian Silk moth. Alaska will again participate in the National Emerald Ash Borer Survey which is part of a national response program to the current infestation and spread occurring in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and surrounding states. Nematode surveys are planned again for Golden nematode and Potato Cyst nematode, as well as a survey for Paratrichodorus and Trichodorus spp. of nematodes that vector the Peony Mosaic Virus. And finally, a terrestrial mollusk survey is being planned to be continued again this year to more extensively survey for non-native slugs and snails throughout Alaska.



Most of the surveys that we conduct are for serious pests that we assume are not here, and we hope that we do not find them. Occasionally, we do have positive detections, indicating that some of these pests are making their way to Alaska, but usually, and fortunately, our surveys are negative. This negative data is extremely important for several reasons. First, negative information is used to help facilitate international trade in plant materials. And second, if we should find a serious pest in one of our surveys, this early detection would assist in determining the scope of the problem as well as helping to improve upon our chances of eradicating the pest before it became established. No pests of quarantine or regulatory concern were detected in any of the 2009 surveys we conducted in Alaska.