

# ALASKA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | August 2024



*Director Bryan Scoresby bottle-feeds his newest calf.*

## A Message from Director Scoresby

Welcome to the first of our monthly newsletters here at the Division of Agriculture. Several farmers have asked, "What is happening at the Division of Agriculture?" I know we are doing great things to serve the agriculture community, but in retrospect, we have not been telling our story very well. This newsletter is a beginning method of telling our story and keeping you informed.

In the past year, we have diligently filled all vacant positions at the division. Our leadership is in place, and the last remaining hire began Monday, 8/19. Existing staff had an opportunity to move up and bring their experience into a new role. Others have come to the division to start or expand their existing careers. Our team is welcoming to all and anxious to serve each of you with the services we provide at the division.

We have had staff out in the field traveling to all areas in the state, performing their duties, such as food safety audits, seed potato inspections, invasive weed and pest detection surveys, and farmland and loan site visits. The staff appreciates the opportunity to visit with each of you and you taking the time to visit with them and answer their questions. When we get to know you better, we can serve you better.

At the Plant Materials Center (PMC), we have accomplished some goals I am proud of. In full disclosure, I inherited some money for projects acquired during my predecessor's tenure. We have purchased a larger, higher capacity, more efficient combine to better harvest the foundation level seed we produce at the farm. This included small grains and grasses for seed. Additional plots have been planted this year than in recent memory. The enthusiasm this machine brought to the staff at the PMC is stimulating. The service and work it does is well worth the investment. At the end of this year, our seed supply for foundation level seed will be significantly increased. We are currently running our seed cleaner 12 hours a day to increase the volume of seed cleaned for industry use. We are in the process of receiving bids for new seed-cleaning equipment that will have a much larger seed-cleaning capacity. This new equipment will increase seed-growing opportunities for existing and new producers. We aim to install the new equipment in the summer of 2025. Another project is building a new equipment storage barn to house and protect all our farm equipment which will begin in the spring of 2025. All staff have put their thoughts into the planning, so when it is completed, all our farm equipment will be properly stored and protected. Lastly, we will host a PMC tour next fall to showcase the changes and additions.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. We, at the Division of Agriculture, deeply appreciate all that you do for agriculture, and we look forward to sharing more of our story with you each month. Your support and participation are invaluable to us.



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