



November: A Time to Reflect, Celebrate and Be Grateful

A Message from Director Bryan Scoresby

November is a month for giving thanks. Farmers, ranchers, producers, and the rest of us who support and promote agriculture reflect on the past year's work, count our blessings, and thank those who helped make our success stories. None of us can do it alone. The producer must have a customer to buy their product to be successful, and the customer needs a farmer to produce the desired product.

First, let's all recognize our veterans with expressions of gratitude for their service. At the Division of Agriculture, one of our team served in the U.S. military. On a personal note, I have two sons-in-law who are currently in the National Guard. My father served in the Navy in WWII; my father-in-law served in the Navy during the Korean War. We recognize the service and sacrifice of those who served, but let's also acknowledge the sacrifice of the family members who stay home. Husbands and wives miss each other when one serves. Children miss their dad or mom when they serve. Their sacrifice and support from home is appreciated.

Earlier this month, three of our staff reviewed proposals for new seed-cleaning equipment to be installed at the Plant Materials Center. The winning bidder has been awarded a contract. The next few months will see little and big steps, getting us closer to installation and operational by September 2025. Our ability to clean seed faster will increase substantially.

Taylor Nelson led about 45 FFA students and their school advisors to Indianapolis for the National FFA convention. This is an excellent opportunity for students to participate and compete on a grand scale. Isabella Pratt from the Palmer chapter earned bronze in Creed Speaking. Brayden Abeyta from the Midnight Sun chapter placed silver in National Talent. The opportunities for the students in the FFA program are impressive. If your kids attend a school with FFA, make sure they are taking advantage of these possibilities. If your school does not have FFA, call Taylor and your principal to get a chapter started.

Division staff was in Fairbanks last week to present and participate in the State Farm Bureau convention. The opportunity to share information, learn new things, and start new friendships is reason enough to go. If you missed this year, plan to go next year.

Our ARLF program has money to lend at very competitive rates. We want your loan business. Our loans help people buy farmland, finance equipment, and finance annual operating expenses. Please apply early so Christy and Gavin can provide you with the best service.

The National Thanksgiving Holiday is coming up on the fourth Thursday in November. This holiday is my personal favorite, as we gather with family and friends to express thanks for all that we have. My family has a tradition for those at our table: We express thanks for three things.

I am grateful to be in your service as Director of the Division of Agriculture. The commissioner and all his staff support our mission and responsibilities. They help and guide us along the way to serve you better. The Governor is supportive of agriculture. Many in the legislature are on our side. Agriculture is a great place to work, serve, and make a living.

Next, I am grateful to our staff here at the Division. Working with each one regularly makes coming to work a real pleasure. The team is focused on serving you, our producers, and customers in the agriculture community. Each one is doing their part at the Division, so your interaction with us is accurate, pleasant, and helpful. We cheer for each of you and your successes and mourn with you your failures.

I express gratitude to each farmer, rancher and producer in our state and nation. Lifelong friendships have and continue to develop as we work together. The abundance and variety of the foods we enjoy are the envy of many throughout the world. Our Alaska Grown products are a favorite at home. This northern land is full.

Record funding is available in 2025 to private landowners and agricultural producers in Alaska from NRCS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can help you achieve your farm, forestland, or food operation goals. It all starts by looking at the health of your natural resources, such as air, soil, water, plants, animals, and energy. Is there soil erosion on your property? Do your crops struggle to thrive? Do you experience issues with irrigation or watering? NRCS offers free technical assistance to answer your questions on the farm, as well as financial assistance programs to help reimburse you for activities that can boost your production.

NRCS accepts applications for financial assistance year-round, but producers interested in fiscal year 2025 funding should apply before the application date below through NRCS at their [local USDA Service Center](#).

Application Dates in Alaska:

December 20, 2024 - [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program](#) (ACEP)

March 14, 2025 - [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) and [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) (CSP)

- **Fiscal Year 2025 EQIP and CSP application ranking deadlines:** Starting November 7, 2024, eligible and ranked applications will be evaluated for funding every second and fourth Friday of the month, with the last funding evaluation on May 8, 2025.
- **Fiscal Year EQIP and CSP application deadline:** Applications received by close of business on March 14, 2025, and are eligible and ranked by April 24, 2025, will be considered for funding.

