



# ALASKA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

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## Mosesian wins Farm Family of the Year



*By Director Bryan Scoresby*

The fair season is here in South Central. Fairbanks fair has closed. The fair began as a celebration of agriculture.

Today, the fair offers many new displays, entertainment venues, and other activities. The 4-H and FFA livestock show, and market sales are at the end of this month. We awarded Mike Mosesian and his family, owners of Bells' Nursery in Anchorage, the "Farm Family of the Year" for 2025. This award recognizes the efforts of our Alaskan families who have and are building agriculture.

Commissioner Boyle has approved a plan for the next agricultural land sale in 2026. There will be 10 parcels for sale in Nenana and nine parcels for sale in Homer. These parcels all have roads to the property with plans to add power in another year.

Home on the Grange. This is a call for all community-minded individuals in North Pole to join the Grange in their community. Alaska also has a Grange in Two Rivers and another in Palmer. The Grange was designed to build community togetherness. This state used to have seven different groups and is now down to three. The Grange is mostly in rural areas where agriculture is the dominant industry, so those engaged in agriculture and farming enterprises are often members.



**Director Bryan Scoresby presents the "Farm Family of the Year" award to Mike Mosesian at the Board of Director's Reception, Friday, August 15, 2025.**

The Division is advertising for a new loan officer for our ARLF loan program. We thank Christy for her efforts and look forward to hiring someone new. If you know of someone who wants a career in farm lending, please point them to the State of Alaska employment website and encourage them to apply. Lending can be a career of its own, offering days of satisfaction and some frustration, much like any other employment. At ARLF, the selected person will have the opportunity to work with Alaska's top customers.





**Winner of the “Farm Family of the Year” award, Mike Mosesian and family at the Board of Director’s Reception, Friday, August 15, 2025.**



# Honoring 2025 Farm Family of the Year



*By Mia Kirk*

For the Alaska Grown \$5 Challenge this month, we are recognizing fresh Alaska Grown tomatoes and cucumbers, honoring and congratulating Mike Mosesian and family at Bell’s Nursery for winning the 2025 Farm Family of the Year!

We celebrated National Farmer’s Market Week at the Tanana Valley Farmer’s Market. Thank you to Brad St. Pierre for inviting us to ring the bell and read the Governor’s Proclamation at the Wednesday Market.

Did you know that the Alaska Division of Agriculture has an export program? The Division partners with the Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA) to conduct international trade activities, providing access to resources for export education, market intelligence, and receiving 50% reimbursement for international marketing expenses. This month, the Division hosted a delegation of floriculture importers, wholesalers, and WUSATA’s in-country contractor from South Korea to meet with peony producers who are interested in export. This activity was a great opportunity for peony producers to meet



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## WUSATA: *Continued from page 2*

with qualified buyers and importers, explore new market opportunities, and showcase their products. The Division previously hosted other consumer-oriented and specialty products buyer delegations from Canada, China, and Southeast Asia; as well as taking Alaska companies to international markets to meet with buyers in-country. To learn more about the WUSATA program and to visit the event calendar, please go to [www.wusata.org](http://www.wusata.org) or email Amanda Swanson at [amanda.swanson@alaska.gov](mailto:amanda.swanson@alaska.gov) or Kristi Short at [kristi.short@alaska.gov](mailto:kristi.short@alaska.gov).

### **We still have some supplies left!**

On July 11, we rolled out a new opportunity for Alaska Grown producers, the 2025 Alaska Grown Retail Assistance Program. This one-time incentive is for official Alaska Grown producers who have expanded their market by selling and delivering bulk fruit and vegetables, leafy greens, and other raw products to retailers that are not prepackaged. While supplies last, eligible producers can request stickers and twist ties to help ensure that those retailers have adequate labeling to promote their Alaska Grown bulk and/or raw product. For more information, please contact [dnr.alaskagrown@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.alaskagrown@alaska.gov).



**Amanda Swanson poses with a delegation of floriculture importers from South Korea.**

## 2025 CALENDAR

*3 Months At-A-Glance*

### AUGUST

- 5** National Oyster Day
- 19** National Potato Day
- 24** National Waffle Day

### SEPTEMBER

- 1** Labor Day
- 6** National Food Bank Day
- 22** Autumnal Equinox

### OCTOBER

- 12** National Farmers Day
- 15** National Mushroom Day
- 16** World Food Day
- 18** Alaska Day
- 26** National Pumpkin Day
- 31** Halloween





## PMC begins renovation projects in seed house



*By Casey Dinkel*

The PMC staff started to see the fruits of their labor finally come to fruition this past July. Several agronomists and LTC staff harvested nine different varieties of grass seed on the farm. Varieties such as “Nortran” tufted hairgrass, “Wainwright” slender wheatgrass, “Egan” American sloughgrass, and “Norcoast” Bering hairgrass were all harvested from breeder blocks that had been established during the summer of 2024. The seed harvested from these breeder blocks will be dried, cleaned, and then replanted in 2026 to bulk up into larger foundation production fields. This seed will eventually be planted and harvested by commercial grass seed farmers to provide native grass seed for revegetation and erosion control projects throughout Alaska.

In addition to grass seed harvest, PMC staff started and completed several interior demolition projects within the seed house to make way for the new seed cleaning line that will start to be installed at the beginning of August. Among these projects was the dismantling of the PMC’s main seed cleaning line that had been in place for nearly 50 years. With

the shutdown and dismantling of the Clipper 29D air screen machine and Clipper scalper, an era had come to an end. This seed cleaning line had served Alaska’s grass seed growers and industry for almost half a century. Even though the removal of this equipment had a somewhat somber feeling, we (Division of Agriculture) know that our new seed cleaning line will allow our grass and grain seed industry to grow for many more years to come.

Our state invasive species coordinator, Cody Jacobson, kept his nose to the grindstone in July and successfully completed another herbicide treatment for Elodea in Alexander and Sucker lakes. Cody also led the charge on a multi-agency effort to treat an Elodea infestation on Crescent Lake during its first year of treatment. Treatments on these water bodies have been very successful this growing season, and we are hopeful for future eradication in the coming years.

As PMC staff move closer to fall, we are excited for the grain and potato harvest. We are also excited for the construction of the new seed cleaning line and seed house renovations to begin. The future for the PMC is looking bright, and with it so are the abilities to produce high-quality, clean, and disease-free plant material for Alaskan farmers.