



# ALASKA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

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## Legislators gather in Juneau for Alaska Grown dinner reception



*By Director Bryan Scoresby*

During Food Security Week, the Farmers Market Association teamed up with the Division of Agriculture to host an Alaska Grown dinner at the Governor's mansion in Juneau. Dinner guests included about 20 legislators and, coincidentally, six candidates for Governor. The focus of the dinner was to highlight our Alaska Grown brand, and it featured only Alaska Grown foods. For the foodie's information, the menu included oysters and carrot sticks dipped in beet hummus for appetizers, beef meatballs and roasted root vegetables for the main dish with a green salad on the side, and carrot cake and milk for dessert.

Many thanks to the farmers who grow our food products. Each of us had the assignment to use only Alaska Grown items for dinner. This event was a showcase of the Alaska Grown foods still available during our winter months. The farmers who produced and stored these foods for winter consumption and future sales do outstanding work. The Governor spoke briefly to the assembly,



**Director Bryan Scoresby promotes the \$5 Challenge at the Alaska Grown dinner reception last Tuesday.**

as did Brad St. Pierre, Mia, and I. Each farmer was recognized for their contribution and the products they produced. Alaska Grown, celebrating 40 years, is a recognized brand that identifies local, high-quality products.

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to Tara Lloyd and Brad St. Pierre from the Alaska Farmers Market Association for their financial support of the event. These types of events are not possible without our agriculture partners. Agriculture groups and non-profits, like us at the Division of

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## Cook with Alaska Grown during National Potato Lovers month



By Mia Kirk

This year, we are launching a new social media campaign promoting “Cook with Alaska Grown”. The marketing team will create and post videos

to increase consumer awareness of Alaska Grown products, their availability, and how to incorporate them into your everyday meals. If you are an Alaska Grown producer interested in contributing products for recipe development and having them included in our videos, please email the team at [dag.alaskagrown@alaska.gov](mailto:dag.alaskagrown@alaska.gov).

What better way to celebrate National Potato Lover’s month than by trying a new recipe with Alaska Grown potatoes? I personally love potatoes! There are so many ways to incorporate them into your everyday meals, and they are easy to find at your local grocery store, supporting the \$5 Challenge year-round!

### Speaking of the \$5 Challenge...

The 2025 “Golden Carrot” winner this year is Fred Meyer-Northern Lights in Anchorage. This store maintained Alaska Grown displays year-



Director Bryan Scoresby presents the “Golden Carrot” award to Fred Meyer-Northern Lights.

round and, in October, held a grand reopening ceremony that highlighted and promoted Alaska Grown products. We were thrilled to see that Fred Meyer corporate—in partnership with its Alaska distributor—also worked this year to get Alaska Grown carrots and potatoes into its Juneau store, increasing distribution of Alaska Grown products, creating new markets for local farmers, and increasing accessibility for Alaskans. This award was presented on Friday, February 20.

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# Seed cleaning construction continues



By Casey Dinkel

In February, construction on the seed cleaning facility continued. With all electrical and heating construction complete, we finally saw the fruits of our labor. PMC staff were excited to see each machine come to life as our electricians set controls and safety settings. Currently, we are installing a compressor and air lines to operate our color sorter and bin vibrators. Once all the air lines are installed, we will hold an initial training session with the design contractor. This training session will allow several PMC staff members to have hands-on experience with every piece of equipment

on the new seed cleaning line. This training will go over equipment operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting. We anticipate being fully operational by mid-April if all goes as planned. Staff at the PMC have also been hard at work planning for summer projects and field plantings.

Our state invasive species coordinator, Cody Jacobsen, has been busy planning logistics for treating invasive Elodea in multiple water bodies this summer. Alexander and Sucker Lakes systems are remote and logistically challenging. Most herbicides must be brought in during the winter months via snowmobile. The remaining gear, herbicide, and staff will be brought in throughout the summer as weather permits.

## Updates *Continued from page 2*

### Bee import requirements

Following the detection of the small hive beetle last year, we would like to remind bee package distributors (individuals who import bee packages into the state for distribution) of the statutes and regulations governing bee importations into Alaska. Per these requirements, all bees imported into the state must be accompanied by a health certificate stating the bees come from an apiary apparently free of bee diseases and signed by an apiary inspector determined to be qualified by the Division. Also, the Division must receive the required health certificates within 72 hours of the bees' arrival in Alaska. "Bee disease" includes American Foulbrood, European Foulbrood, acarine mites, or any other parasitic pest that constitutes a serious threat to the bee industry. For further clarification, hive beetles are considered a parasitic pest.

## 2026 CALENDAR

3 Months At-A-Glance

### FEBRUARY

**14** Valentine's Day

**16** Presidents' Day

**21-28** National FFA Week

**28** Delta Farm Forum

### MARCH

**7** National Cereal Day

**10-12** Mariculture Conference of Alaska

**17** St. Patrick's Day

**20** Spring Equinox

**30** Seward's Day

### APRIL

**1** National Sourdough Bread Day

**14-17** 2026 Alaska FFA Convention

**20** Earth Day



## Dinner *Continued from page 1*

Agriculture, have one and only one purpose: to support and grow agriculture. Working together, we form a formidable force whose strength is drastically diminished when we work individually.

Food Security Week is a time for all agricultural entities to gather in Juneau en masse to promote agricultural issues to our legislature. Financing is an integral part of operating a farm business or a nonprofit, as much as it is of operating a government division. Timing matters in everything we all do. All of us, including farmers, manage our cash positions by drawing on various sources of funding, such as loans, allocations, grants, contracted work, sales, and even collecting unpaid debts, to continue operations. Pray we are all successful in securing the capital financing we need.

