



ALASKA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

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Buying Alaska Grown helps Alaska grow



By Director Bryan Scoresby

Alaska Grown is the strongest brand in Alaska to promote products grown in Alaska. In the last couple of weeks, Mike Mosesian from Bells Nursery gave me a grand tour. Mike and his team do a first-class job of raising many products. The next week, I purchased tomatoes and I have a daughter that did also. She made juice and salsa and has it put away for the winter now. Her kids won't eat canned tomato products like spaghetti sauce and salsa. My grand kids will be in good shape this coming year.

We have a retail promotion that is shared with all retail stores to promote Alaska Grown products. Retailers and stores compete for a "Golden Carrot" award. Our web site shows past winners. When talking to the produce or store manager, they are proud that their store has won that award in the past. Going into the stores, I see Alaska Grown produce in several of our retail outlets. Last year, Fred Meyer at their Northern Lights store was the winner of our Golden Carrot award. Fred Meyer in Palmer has won that award twice in the past. Carr's in Palmer and Three Bears have been winners in past years. Alaska needs our retail partners in the whole food chain. Farmers grow our food and retail establishments sell it. Farmers cannot be successful without them, and

they cannot be successful without farmers.

We have many growers across the state that produce amazing products and sell them in farmers markets too. The quality and freshness cannot be overstated. If market day is on Saturday, most of the sale products are harvested on Friday. It is difficult to get any fresher. Be sure to visit the farmers market nearest you for the freshest products. Interesting fact, but in Homer, the farmers markets are so dominant that the retail produce section is nearly empty during the summer months.

Marketing is not an exact science like growing crops. If the farmer practices proper agronomic practices, they can grow a fantastic product. With marketing, a good idea may sell product and may not, so we try another idea until we settle on something that works. Ultimately, marketing is all about relationships. The interactions we all have with the grower, distributor, retailer, and our marketing staff all work together to sell more products.

When you shop, remember to ask for Alaska Grown in your grocery store. Ask the produce, dairy, meat manager if you do not see or need help finding Alaska Grown products. And remember to spend at least \$5.00 per week on Alaska Grown. Your small contribution will help grow our agriculture industry.

Al Poindexter of Anchor Point Greenhouse named 2026 Farm Family of the Year



By Mia Kirk

We were excited to receive 18 public nominations for this year's Farm Family of the Year. Al Poindexter and his

family, owners and operators of Anchor Point Greenhouse, received eight of those nominations. It was a clear choice for the review committee in naming Anchor Point Greenhouse as the 2026 Farm Family of the Year. Congratulations to Al, his family, and all the loyal employees who have supported the business over the past 50 years! Al and his wife, Grace will be presented the award at the Alaska State Fair Director's Reception on August 21. To read more about the 2026 Farm Family of the Year, [please visit the press release on our website](#).

Micro-Grants Update

Unfortunately, the Division of Agriculture did not apply for the most recent (2026) cycle of USDA Micro-Grants for Food Security. This was a difficult decision. The cost of administering the program far exceeded the allowable administrative budget under the award (limited to no more than three percent of total Federal funds). Continuing the program diverted staff from statutory responsibilities and higher priority projects that have a greater positive impact on agriculture in Alaska. We will evaluate participation in future rounds of USDA Micro-Grants and may resume the program if resources allow.

For current recipients: The grants team is in the process of closing out prior years' Micro-Grants for Food Security grants. Previously funded projects that are still within their performance period, including approved extensions, will continue as outlined in the grant agreement.



Al and Grace Poindexter pose with employees of Anchor Point Greenhouse.

Current recipients are still required to complete their projects as described in their approved applications. Final reimbursements will be processed upon receipt and approval of final performance reports and required documentation. Final report templates will be provided to grantees this month.

Alaska FFA at the Fair

Alaska FFA will be at the Alaska State Fair on the first weekend of the fair August 21-24 (Friday-Monday) at the Craig Taylor Farm Exhibit Barn. This is third year that Alaska FFA has had hosted an AG Education Expo, for the listing of activities, please go to the [Alaska FFA website](#).

Alaska FFA was also featured in the New Horizons magazine honoring 50 years of Alaska FFA. To read the articles and watch the videos about Alaska youth in agriculture [click here!](#)

