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**Department of
Natural Resources**

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Dec. 1, 2022

First Round of \$1M Farm Aid is Available

(Palmer, AK) – Starting today, the Alaska Division of Agriculture is accepting applications from commercial livestock farmers to help offset the recent high cost of animal feed. The Food Security Cost Assistance program has funds available for producers that operate a livestock farming business in good standing with the State.

A spring dry spell followed by nearly nonstop precipitation in the summer and fall caused a shortage in local feedstocks, while the current 40-year high of inflation drove up the costs of imported feed. The Division held a stakeholder meeting and conducted a statewide survey with feed producers, retailers, and consumers to receive input on the situation and to address food security in Alaska.

“There’s no doubt that this year’s weather and the inflationary pressure of fuel and fertilizer prices have created tremendous challenges for our farmers and livestock producers,” **said Governor Mike Dunleavy**. “I want to thank the Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Game, and the Division of Agriculture for moving forward with this initial aid package. Food security is a top priority for my administration, and that means supporting our local producers now so they may continue to provide food to Alaskans in the future.”

Livestock producers must apply for the Food Security Cost Assistance program by Dec. 31, 2022. Eligible livestock is cattle, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, reindeer, elk, bison, yak, and other animals raised for human consumption (including eggs, milk, and cheese) on a farm that operates as a business. Feed purchased from Aug. 1, 2022 – Nov. 30, 2022 is eligible, with the reimbursement rates determined after all applications are processed. More information on the eligibility requirements can be found on the application:

http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/assets/pdfs/index/Livestock_Producer_Cost_Assistance_2022.pdf

The initial aid package is funded through the Governor’s Office of Food Security authorizing the recent transfer of \$1 million in appropriated food security funds from the Department of Fish and Game to the Department of Natural Resources. The Dunleavy administration plans to keep working with State agencies and legislators to provide additional financial support to feed producers, retailers and end users/consumers in support of food security for Alaskans.

The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.

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