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Alaska Peony Producers Can Apply for Disaster Relief Program

(Palmer, AK) – Alaska’s peony growers are getting a much-needed boost after back-to-back seasons of damaging weather. The Alaska Division of Agriculture, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency, is rolling out a new financial assistance program to help eligible producers recover from peony rootstock losses caused by eligible weather events in 2023 and 2024.

Backed by \$1.2 million in federal disaster relief funding authorized through the 2025 Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, this initiative aims to stabilize Alaska’s peony industry and support farmers as they rebuild from recent challenges.

“The Alaska peony industry has faced recent crop damage due to unusual weather events, and this new program will provide much-needed relief,” **said Bryan Scoresby, Director of the Division of Agriculture.** “Our hope is that this funding will support the industry’s recovery efforts and strengthen its competitiveness in the years to come.”

This assistance is intended to help Alaska peony producers recover from damage to peony rootstock caused by weather conditions in 2023 and 2024. Qualifying weather events include abnormal rainfall occurring immediately before or after the plant’s dormancy period, abnormal lack of snowfall that results in insufficient ground insulation needed to protect peony rootstock, and winter freeze–thaw cycles that prematurely break dormancy before spring.

This funding will cover the replanting of peony rootstock and anticipated future economic losses due to reduced peony production.

Eligible producers who have replanted or intend to replant peony rootstock are encouraged to apply for assistance. Applications will be open through May 15, 2026. Supporting documentation will be required to verify claims. The grant application and eligibility details are available at

https://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_grants/disaster_relief_program_for_peony_producers.htm.

Reimbursement rates will be determined after all applications are received and reviewed.

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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