



# Alaska Food Policy Council

health.  
self-reliance.  
prosperity.

Alaska Food Resource Working Group  
(AFRWG)  
November 4, 2013





# Our Food System





# Alaska's Food System Impacts Our

- Economy
- Health
- Preparedness
- Culture



## Did you know?

Alaskans spend \$2.5 billion dollars on food each year at grocery stores and restaurants.



## Did you know?

It's estimated that 95% of Alaska's food is imported.

That makes Alaska vulnerable in times of disasters.



## Did you know?

Alaska's food system creates a lot of jobs.

About 115,000 jobs are food-related.

That's 1 in 7 jobs in Alaska.



## Did you know?

Rates of chronic disease related to lifestyle choices are escalating in Alaska. That means high healthcare costs borne by the state.



## Did you know?

\$459 million annual medical care costs are attributable to obesity in Alaska.

The State of Alaska pays one quarter of those costs.





## Did you know?

Chronic diseases—such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes— are related to unhealthy eating and physical inactivity.

These are among the most prevalent, costly, and preventable of all health problems.



## Salmon in Hydaburg Smokehouse

Credit: Alaska Department of Health and Social Services



## Farm field in Palmer

Credit: Alaska Division of Agriculture





## Gathering sea greens, Aleutian Islands

Credit: Gary Ferguson



A critical part of Rural Alaska's Food System



# Our Food System





# What is food policy?

Food policy is any activity that addresses, shapes or regulates the food system.



# USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan on the Alaska Food Policy Council:

“A collaborative planning process is a powerful tool for ensuring that Alaskans have their voices heard on the issues that matter to them: stimulating local economies and creating jobs, expanding access to healthy foods in our communities and our schools, and ensuring an abundant local food supply...”





# Who is the Alaska Food Policy Council?

Over 200 individuals and agencies  
across the state – driven by the need  
to strengthen our food system.



## How do we impact Alaska's food system?

Through collective action targeting policies that impact Alaskan's health, self-reliance and prosperity.



# Alaska Food Policy Council

## Vision:

A healthy, secure food system that  
feeds all Alaskans.

# AFPC's Core Values



**health.  
self-reliance.  
prosperity.**





# AFPC Goals

## Goal I

**All Alaskans have access to affordable, healthy (preferably local) foods.**



# AFPC Goals

## Goal 2

**Alaska's food-related industries have a strong workforce and operate in a supportive business environment.**



# AFPC Goals

## Goal 3

**Food is safe, protected and supplies are secure throughout Alaska.**



# AFPC Goals

## Goal 4

**Alaska's food system is more sustainable.**





# AFPC Goals

## Goal 5

**Alaskans are engaged in our food system**



# AFPC Organization

- Governing Board
- Locally Grown Workgroup
- School Programs Workgroup
- Emergency Preparedness Workgroup
- Research and Information Workgroup
- Public Engagement Workgroup
- Legislative Workgroup



# Organizations Represented on the Governing Board

- USDA Farm Service Agency
- Alaska DNR, Division of Agriculture
- Alaska DHSS, Obesity Prevention & Control Program
- University of Alaska, Fairbanks
- UAF Cooperative Extension Services
- Alaska Farmers' Union
- Sitka Local Foods Network
- Fairbanks Community Cooperative Market
- Rosie Creek Farm
- Taco Loco
- Ugashik Wild Salmon Co.
- Alaska Center for the Environment
- Alaska Marine Conservation Council



# USDA Efforts to Address Food Systems



**KNOW YOUR FARMER  
KNOW YOUR FOOD**



# Contact the Food Policy Council

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