



The Division of Agriculture Activities

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<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag>

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Questions or Comments?
[E-Mail me](mailto:Franci.Havemeister@alaska.gov) or call 907-761-3858.

Director's Note

It is hard to believe that summer is quickly approaching the half way mark. I don't know where the Alaskan summer goes, but before we know it we will be keeping a leery eye on the mountains dreading that first dusting. This has been a busy summer for all – including the Division of Agriculture.

This last budget cycle added new positions to the Division, two full-time and one part-time. This additional funding is giving us the opportunity to create the New Farm to School Program and further develop our Inspection Program. The Marketing and Inspection Section will now be managed separately. Doug Warner, with his 25+ years of experience, will continue to oversee the Inspection Section and Amy Pettit will now oversee the Marketing Section. The growth in both these sections will allow us to increase our promotion and assistance to the industry.

The Division of Agriculture held a public outcry land auction June 29th in Fairbanks. Seven parcels were offered totaling 684 acres. The auction was well attended, three parcels were sold and the remaining four will be offered through an Over-The-Counter Lottery. The application period for the Lottery sale is July 14th – 26th. Interested parties can find more information [online](#) or contact Dan Proulx at the Northern Region office at 374-3716.

The Natural Resources and Conservation Development Board (NRCDB) is looking for nominations or possible candidates for the Southwest/Kenai Peninsula seat. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone please contact [Shana Joy](#) for more information.

FSA has announced in their June newsletter that they will begin taking applications in August for the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Program geared toward assisting geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. This program will pay producers a small percentage of their eligible, transportation-related costs. Updates on application procedures and deadlines can be found [here](#).

If you have an interest in chickens or their eggs the recent Letter Health Consultation prepared by the Utah Department of Health under a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) may interest you. A health consultation is a verbal or written response from ATSDR or a Cooperative Agreement Partner to a specific request for information about health risks related to a specific site, a chemical release, or the presence of hazardous material. This letter addresses commercial chicken feeds that contain an arsenic-based additive called Roxarsone which has been reported to transfer into both meat and eggs. Click to see [The Report](#).

This year, the Mat-Su Governor's Picnic "Building Strong Families" will feature Alaska Grown product. If you are interested in partaking of delicious food, great entertainment and excellent company, plan on visiting the Alaska State Fair on July 23rd, from 4-7 pm.

Have a safe and happy Fourth of July. – Franci

Calendar Events

- ▶ Delta Farm Tour-July 15th, starting in Fairbanks or joining in Delta Junction, more details on [AKFB](#).
- ▶ Peony Summer 2010 Meeting: July 21 & 22 in Fairbanks, sign up deadline July 12
- ▶ Governors Picnic, Mat-Su Valley, Fairgrounds - July 23rd, 4-7 PM
- ▶ Mat-Su Farm Tours - July 31st, beginning in Anchorage or joining in the Valley

Plant Materials Center

http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_pmc.htm

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Plant Materials Center

Village Seed Project-ARRA

The Village Seed Project Team visited the Metlakatla Indian Community (MIC) June 7-9, 2010. Milo Booth, Director of the MIC Natural Resources and Forestry Office, invited us to meet with community council members. It was a very beneficial trip, resulting in MIC wanting to be a participant in the program. MIC has serious potential to be the southeast representative for the Rural Village Seed Production Project (RVSP).

The RVSP team is busy working with new consultant Bartz Englishoe. Bartz is currently working to contact regional corporations around Alaska to promote the RVSP. His understanding of the project as a whole is growing as the team continues to provide him with proper terminology and reading material. We have increased our state wide community interest levels since Bartz was brought on in May.

Looking forward, the RVSP is continuing work on which communities will best suit the framework of the project. July and August will be spent sending out Letters of Interest to idea candidates and possibly traveling to two or three more locations.

The RVSP team looks forward to attending the Alaska Federation of Natives event in Anchorage in September.

Marketing Section

It's that time!!! Alaska Grown vegetables are being harvested from the fields, farmers markets are thriving and consumers are excited to be able to "Ask for Alaska Grown!"

Marketing staff are working hard to educate and encourage customers to "ask for Alaska Grown" wherever they are making food purchases. We have placed radio advertisements, announced media releases and met with industry representatives in an attempt to increase the 'top of the mind awareness' of Alaska Grown.

For the third year we will be launching the Alaska Grown Eat Local Challenge during the final week of August. It is our goal that during that week Alaskans will seek out new ways to source, utilize and support Alaska Grown. We are hoping to get support from Farmers Markets, restaurants, and city officials as we develop exciting ways for the consuming public to increase their support of Alaska Grown.

We are excited to welcome Rachel Kenley to our marketing staff for the months of July & August. She has a strong agriculture background and is currently pursuing a degree in Agriculture Communications; we look forward to utilizing her skills during our busy summer season!



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Inspection Section

“Well trimmed” Romaine and “Fairly Well Trimmed” Leaf Lettuce

Romaine:

The US No 1 grade requires each plant to be “well trimmed”. “Well trimmed” is defined as when the stem is trimmed off close to the point of attachment of the outer leaves and does not exceed 1 inch.

Romaine plants that have been trimmed to remove defective leaves may result in a thin appearance. Keep in mind that ‘well trimmed’ refers to the point of attachment of the outer leaves, not the fullness of the plant. As long as these plants are well trimmed, “not more than one inch below the point of attachment of the outer leaves” they should meet US No 1 grade.

Romaine plants which have been so closely trimmed at the butt/base to cause the outer leaves to fall off will not meet US No1 grade if more than two leaves fall off the plant.



Leaf Lettuce:

The US No 1 grade requires that each plant be “fairly well trimmed”. “Fairly well trimmed” is defined as when the stem is trimmed off within three-fourths inch of the point of attachment of the first whorl of leaves and that leaves which are materially bleached or discolored have been removed.

*En route destination tolerances may be found on the USDA AMS [website](#).