



February 3, 2015  
Find us on the web at:  
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag>

## Director's Office

**Franci Havemeister, Director**  
907-761-3867  
[Franci.Havemeister@alaska.gov](mailto:Franci.Havemeister@alaska.gov)

**Curt Sandvik**  
907-761-3866  
[Curt.Sandvik@alaska.gov](mailto:Curt.Sandvik@alaska.gov)

**Lora Haralson**  
907-761-3851  
[Lora.Haralson@alaska.gov](mailto:Lora.Haralson@alaska.gov)

**Rebecca Jeffers**  
907-761-3850  
[Rebecca.Jeffers@alaska.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Jeffers@alaska.gov)

### In This Issue

- [Letter from the Director](#)
- [Agriculture Calendar](#)
- [Coming Soon Notices](#)
- [GAP/GHP Food Safety Audits Available](#)
- [Specialty Crop Competitive Grant Grantee Final Reports Available](#)
- [Farm to School Conference Update](#)
- [Potato Blight Reminder](#)
- [Understanding Hardiness Zones in Alaska](#)
- [Avian Influenza Outbreak](#)
- [11th Annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference in March](#)

To add or remove your name from our newsletter list [click here](#).

Questions or Comments?  
E-Mail or call 907-761-3864.

Follow us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/dnr.alaskagrown](http://www.facebook.com/dnr.alaskagrown)



# The Division of Agriculture Activities



## Director's Note

With the winter solstice behind us, it is a welcome return of longer days. The warm weather we experienced in December and January seems long gone as the temperatures have plummeted around the state and we are now experiencing more typical weather. In my opinion, the best thing you can say about February in Alaska is that March is just around the corner.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Legislative session gaveled in on January 20<sup>th</sup>, and hit the ground running. There have been multiple bills introduced, with the following five being of interest to agriculture:

- HB 20 – “An act limiting the application of neonicotinoid pesticides.” <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/PDF/29/Bills/HB0020A.PDF>  
Prefile released 1/9/15 by Representative Drummond.
- HB 38 – “An act relating to the rapid response to, and control of, aquatic invasive species and establishing the aquatic invasive species response fund.” <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/PDF/29/Bills/HB0038A.PDF>  
Prefile released on 1/9/15 by Representative Seaton.
- HB 53 – “An act relating to the application of pesticides and broadcast chemicals in certain public places near fish habitat or water used for human consumption and on state-owned land, land leased by or to the state, state highways, and state-owned rights-of-way.” <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/PDF/29/Bills/HB0053A.PDF>  
Prefile released on 1/16/15 by Representatives Kreiss-Tomkins and Ortiz.
- HB 59 – “An act relating to marijuana concentrates; and providing for an effective date.” <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/PDF/29/Bills/HB0059A.PDF>  
Prefile released on 1/16/15 by Representative Seaton.
- SB 08 – “An act relating to the regulation and production of industrial hemp.” <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/PDF/29/Bills/SB0008A.PDF>  
Prefile released on 1/9/15 by Senator Ellis.

Any bills of interest can be tracked through the Bill Tracking Management Facility (BTMF) [http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/btmf\\_login.asp?session=29](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/btmf_login.asp?session=29).

Please take the time to read through the newsletter and mark your calendar for the upcoming events and conferences. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please give me a call at 761-3867 or send me an email at [franci.havemeister@alaska.gov](mailto:franci.havemeister@alaska.gov)

~ Franci

*“Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”  
- Henry Ford*

## ARLF Services

[http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag\\_arlf.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_arlf.htm)

**Amanda Swanson, Loan Officer**

907-761-3869

[Amanda.Swanson@alaska.gov](mailto:Amanda.Swanson@alaska.gov)

## Fairbanks Office

907-328-1950

**Curtis Knight** 907-374-3732

[Curtis.Knight@alaska.gov](mailto:Curtis.Knight@alaska.gov)



## Marketing Staff

[http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag\\_ms.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_ms.htm)

**Amy Pettit, Marketing Manager**

907-761-3864

[Amy.Pettit@alaska.gov](mailto:Amy.Pettit@alaska.gov)

**Jacki Schade** 907-761-3858

[Jacquelyn.Schade@alaska.gov](mailto:Jacquelyn.Schade@alaska.gov)

**Beki Parham** 907-761-3880

[beki.parham@alaska.gov](mailto:beki.parham@alaska.gov)

**Johanna Herron** 907-761-3870

[Johanna.Herron@alaska.gov](mailto:Johanna.Herron@alaska.gov)

**Barb Hanson** 907-761-3854

[Barbara.Hanson@alaska.gov](mailto:Barbara.Hanson@alaska.gov)

## Agriculture Calendar

- **Thur. Feb. 5** **High Tunnels: Compatible plantings/retrofitting (Winter Conservation Series - Free)**  
Mat-Su College, Palmer. 7-8:30 pm. *Details: [here](#)*
- **Wed. Feb. 11** **Farmers Market Roundtable.**  
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, K-Beach Rd., Kenai 9-4 pm. *Details: [here](#)*
- **Thur. Feb. 12** **Vegetable Production the Organic Way (Winter Conservation Series - Free)**  
Mat-Su College, Palmer. 7-8:30 pm. *Details: [here](#)*
- **Wed. Feb. 18** **Webinar on Mobile Slaughter Units**  
*Details: [here](#)*
- **Wed. Feb. 18** **Alaska Food Policy Council/Palmer Town Hall Meeting**  
UAF Matanuska Experiment Farm, 1509 S. Georgeson Rd., Palmer. *Details: [here](#)*
- **Thur. Feb. 19** **How To's of High Tunnels (Winter Conservation Series - Free)**  
Mat-Su College, Palmer. 7-8:30 pm. *Details: [here](#)*
- **Thur. Feb. 26** **Planting for Beauty & Wildlife (Winter Conservation Series - Free)**  
Mat-Su College, Palmer. 7-8:30 pm. *Details: [here](#)*
- **Thur. Feb. 26** **Board of Agriculture Regular Meeting**  
Division of Agriculture Conference Room, 1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 12, Palmer. 1 pm. *Details: [here](#)*
- **Fri. Feb. 27 - Sun. Mar. 1** **SE Alaska Commercial Growers Conference**  
Petersburg Council Chambers, Petersburg. *Details: [here](#)*

*If you have an event that you would like to add to the calendar, please contact [Lora Haralson](#).*

## Marketing Section

# COMING SOON!

## Farmers Market Roundtable

**Scaling Up: Ready for the farmers market?**

**Wednesday, Feb. 11, 9a.m. - 4p.m.**

**at Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association on K-Beach Road, Kenai**

**FREE - Lunch provided. Call 283-8732 ext. 5**

Sponsors:



USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program

## 2015 SE Alaska Commercial Growers Conference

**Friday, Feb. 27 thru Sunday, Mar. 1, beginning at 4pm**

**at Petersburg Council Chambers & Lutheran Church Holy Cross House  
in Petersburg**

**For more info, please email the conference coordinators at**

**[farragutfarm@gmail.com](mailto:farragutfarm@gmail.com)**

## Mt. McKinley Meat & Sausage

[http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag\\_mmms.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_mmms.htm)

**Frank Huffman** 907-745-5232  
[Frank.Huffman@alaska.gov](mailto:Frank.Huffman@alaska.gov)

## Land Sales & Grazing Leases

[http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag\\_sales.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_sales.htm)

**Dan Proulx** 907-374-3716  
[Dan.Proulx@alaska.gov](mailto:Dan.Proulx@alaska.gov)

**Erik Johnson** 907-761-3863  
[Erik.Johnson@alaska.gov](mailto:Erik.Johnson@alaska.gov)

## GAP/GHP Food Safety Audits Available Through the Alaska Division of Agriculture

Over the past few years, increased attention has been directed toward the safety of the nation's food supply. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Federal and State Departments of Agriculture, private industry and grower groups are all working to develop and implement practices that help to ensure food safety, from farm to table.

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has developed a voluntary, audit-based program designed to verify that produce growers, shippers, and handlers are adhering to recommendations made by the FDA to minimize food safety hazards for fresh fruits and vegetables. The Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) Audit Verification Program assesses produce growers' and distributors' efforts to provide a safe product to the consumer. Various sections of the audit address issues such as farm and business management practices, employee training, temperature controls, facility engineering, cleanliness and product recall abilities.

While farms and distributors are not required to have a GAP/GHP audit, many retailers and food distributors are now requiring them from their food suppliers, as a way to help ensure the safety of the product they sell.



The Alaska Division of Agriculture has staff certified to conduct USDA GAP/GHP audits. If you would like more information about the audits, or more information about food safety practices in general, please contact Barbara Hanson at the Alaska Division of Agriculture at (907) 761-3854.



### Additional Specialty Crop Competitive Grant (SCCG) Grantee Final Reports Available Online

The Division of Agriculture (DOA) offers the Specialty Crop Competitive Grant (SCCG) annually. The purpose of this grant is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops\*. The DOA first offered this grant opportunity in 2010 and projects have ranged from one to three years in duration.

Now available on the DOA website are three more final reports from SCCG recipients:

#### 1. David and Nikki Love – Southeast Alaska Garlic Variety Trials

- a. The purpose of this pilot project was to determine which garlic varieties do better in the Southeast climate, evaluate storage methods, and complete a preliminary market research on garlic sales.

#### 2. UAF Dr. Pat Holloway & Dr. Mingchu Zhang – Post Harvest Handling Methods for Enhanced Competitiveness of Fresh Cut Peonies

- a. The purpose of this project was to conduct a series of experiments to establish standards for best quality fresh cut flowers to meet or exceed rigorous international industry requirements.

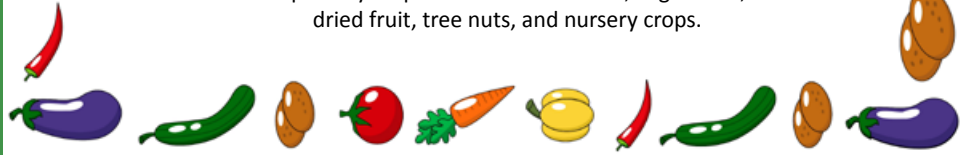
*continued on next page*

### 3. Alaska Peony Growers Association – Peony Nutrient Study

- a. The purpose of this project was to conduct a two year study designed to develop the baseline nutrient needs for Alaska peonies.

To view these final reports, visit: [http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag\\_grantsSCCGR.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_grantsSCCGR.htm)

\*Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, and nursery crops.



## FARM TO SCHOOL CONFERENCE UPDATE

With 129 people in attendance we had an overwhelmingly successful Alaska Farm to School Conference with many highlights.



- Deborah Kane and Johanna Herron were interviewed on Talk of Alaska which you can find in their archives in case you missed it: <http://www.alaskapublic.org/category/aprn/toa/>
- Evaluation results:
  - ▶ Over 80% will be starting or expanding their farm to school efforts after attending the conference.
  - ▶ Over 95% of the producers that responded plan to sell more products to schools.
  - ▶ Over 95% of school food service staff who responded plan on buying more local product.
  - ▶ Finally, 99% of those who responded said that they would be integrating more farm to school concepts into their curriculum.
  - ▶ Would people recommend the conference to people they know? 100% of the responses said they would likely recommend the conference.
  - ▶ When we asked about the usefulness of the various conference presentations and resources responses were flattering. Every component of the conference had 93% or higher of the responses stating it was either somewhat or very useful!

On the last day we had a panel of farmers and school food service directors talk about the challenges and successes of working together. Toward the end of the panel session we all witnessed a touching interaction between a farmer and food

service director. The farmer said he started growing more food for the schools because he knew they had money to buy local food. He reached out to all the food service directors in the state in an email to let them know what food he had available. He ended by stating that not a single food service director responded. He





***It is safe to estimate that over 10,000 students around Alaska would benefit from the resources that we handed out.***

very simply asked why nobody responded. When the microphone got to one of the rural food service directors on the panel she responded; "I get paid for 7 hours a day and work 9, I have kids at home, I am in school at night, and I run the meal program as well as cook for it. I do all this because I love my community and I care. I got your email and I did not respond. I have nobody to blame except myself. I am truly sorry and take full responsibility." She then began to get teary and continues, "I never realized by not responding, I am impacting your ability to provide for your family and contribute to your community and I am so sorry for that. I will look at that email again and respond as soon as I get back".

Conference participants said it best:

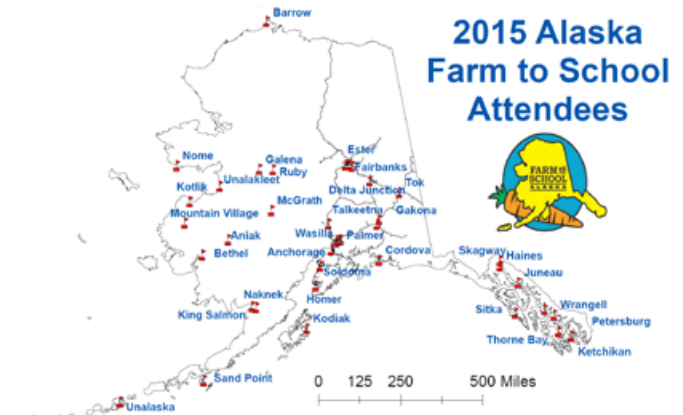
A director of a child care facility shared, "I had an amazing time at the conference and I'm excited to use the knowledge that I gained from the experience here with the children at the daycare. I appreciated being able to attend and listen to all of the different presentations and network coming home with a better understanding of Farm to School and great resources to start implementing what I learned."

Farmers made some great connections as well, "Thank you for hosting a wonderful conference. I made many contacts that should prove to improve the farms position to supply more food to the school districts. I have found the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District to be quite supportive."

We also gave away hundreds of resources from books, posters, and curricula to farm to school evaluation and program planning tools. Average student reach per resource was 100 kids. It is safe to estimate that over 10,000 students around Alaska would benefit from the resources that we handed out.

For updates, news, grant opportunities, and announcements join our listserv at: <http://list.state.ak.us/soalists/akfarmtoschool/jl.htm>

For more information about the Alaska Farm-to-School program, or if you have any questions, contact Johanna Herron at [Johanna.herron@alaska.gov](mailto:Johanna.herron@alaska.gov) or (907) 761-3870.



## Inspection Staff

[http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag\\_is.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_is.htm)

**Doug Warner, Inspection Manager**  
907-761-3869  
[Douglas.Warner@alaska.gov](mailto:Douglas.Warner@alaska.gov)

**Mia Kirk** 907-761-3853  
[Mia.Kirk@alaska.gov](mailto:Mia.Kirk@alaska.gov)

**Kirk Brown** 907-761-3857  
[Kirk.Brown@alaska.gov](mailto:Kirk.Brown@alaska.gov)

## Pest Detection / Inspection Section

### Potato Late Blight Reminder and Notice to Retailers

We are approaching that time of year when potato growers and nursery retailers are beginning to ask *"where can I find certified seed potatoes?"* Each year, the Alaska Division of Agriculture updates the Alaska Certified Seed Potato Grower List and reminds retailers, in the form of a letter, to **be mindful of the current seed potato and tomato plant Late Blight Quarantine**. The Late Blight Quarantine Letter, the 2015 Alaska Certified Seed Potato Grower List, and the 2015 Alaska Certified Seed Potato Varieties can be found at the Division of Agriculture website at [http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag\\_is.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_is.htm). This letter, outlines the requirements for the sale of seed potatoes and tomato plants from out-of-state sources, as well as the requirements for the sale of **Alaska Grown** seed potatoes. Seed potatoes must meet State Seed Potato Certification requirements and must have an official certified seed tag or certificate attached to the container or sales display. Please note that tomato plants from seed grown in Alaskan greenhouses and nurseries are not subject to the quarantine requirements. If you are a retailer, please review these requirements to ensure compliance. Division staff will be conducting inspections to ensure compliance with the quarantine requirements.

Adhering to these requirements will help to maintain Alaska agricultural environments and reduce the risk of Alaska being exposed to serious bacterial, fungal, and virus diseases, as well as insect pests and nematodes that have proven to be problematic in other parts of the country. Once contaminated with a serious agricultural or environmental pest, it can be very costly and difficult to eradicate. It is much better to prevent an introduction and take measures to reduce the risk and spread of unwanted pests.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Division of Agriculture Inspection Staff at 907-745-7200 or view the restrictions on the website at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/Inspection/LateBlight2015.pdf>



Photos of potato plants affected by Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*).





## Plant Materials Center

<http://plants.alaska.gov/>

Main Phone: 907-745-4469

**Alicia Holladay** 907-745-8104  
[Alicia.Holladay@alaska.gov](mailto:Alicia.Holladay@alaska.gov)

**Rob Carter** 907-745-8127  
[Rob.Carter@alaska.gov](mailto:Rob.Carter@alaska.gov)

**Phil Czapla** 907-745-8747  
[Phil.Czapla@alaska.gov](mailto:Phil.Czapla@alaska.gov)

**Casey Dinkel** 907-745-8108  
[Casey.Dinkel@alaska.gov](mailto:Casey.Dinkel@alaska.gov)

**Rusty Foreaker** 907-745-8092  
[Rusty.Foreaker@alaska.gov](mailto:Rusty.Foreaker@alaska.gov)

**Michael Keen** 907-745-4469  
[Michael.Keen@alaska.gov](mailto:Michael.Keen@alaska.gov)



**Brianne Blackburn** 907-745-8785  
[Brianne.Blackburn@alaska.gov](mailto:Brianne.Blackburn@alaska.gov)

**Kimberly Allen** 907-745-8735  
[Kim.Allen@alaska.gov](mailto:Kim.Allen@alaska.gov)

**Bryan Bowen** 907-745-8724  
[Bryan.Bowen@alaska.gov](mailto:Bryan.Bowen@alaska.gov)

**Peter Johnson** 907-745-8105  
[Peter.Johnson@alaska.gov](mailto:Peter.Johnson@alaska.gov)

**Lyubo Mahlev** 907-745-8782  
[Lyubomir.Mahlev@alaska.gov](mailto:Lyubomir.Mahlev@alaska.gov)

**Todd Steinlage** 907-745-8138  
[Todd.Steinlage@alaska.gov](mailto:Todd.Steinlage@alaska.gov)

**Heather Stewart** 907-745-8721  
[Heather.Stewart@alaska.gov](mailto:Heather.Stewart@alaska.gov)

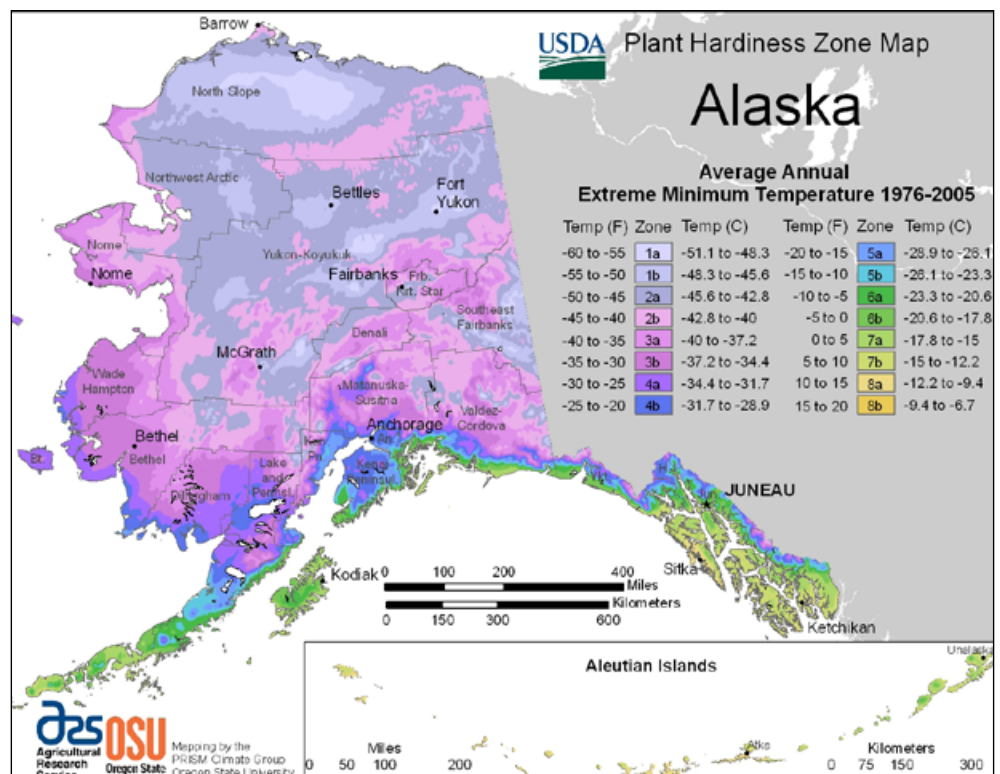
## Plant Materials Center (PMC)

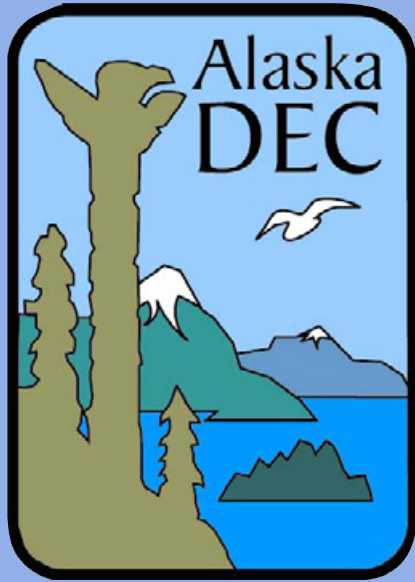
# Understanding Hardiness Zones in Alaska

There is no better time than the middle of winter to begin planning your garden. In order to be a successful gardener in Alaska, you must first begin with understanding what will thrive in the climate where you live. For starters, find your location on the map below to determine what “Hardiness Zone” your garden is in.

Hardiness Zones refer to defined geographic regions that can support specific plants, flowers, and trees. The zones define a minimum range of temperatures that a plant or tree can survive safely in that zone. The most commonly used Hardiness Zones were defined by the USDA.

Some common vegetables to consider that can thrive in most parts of Alaska are: Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Chard, Dill, Fava bean, Garlic, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Parsley, Peas, Potato, Radishes, Rhubarb, Rutabaga, Spinach, Snap pea, Turnip, and Zucchini. This list is not inclusive to all vegetables that will do well, and your area may have soil types that vary from loamy to sandy and have variances in between. With proper planning, starting your seeds indoors early, purchasing transplants from a reputable grower, and performing a soil test, your garden can thrive and provide that delicious and sweet Alaska flavor we have all grown to love. Check with your local Cooperative Extension service or contact the PMC at 907-745-4469 for more information.





## Environmental Health

Alaska Department of  
Environmental Conservation

[Dec.Alaska.gov/eh/](http://Dec.Alaska.gov/eh/)  
907-269-7501

Robert Gerlach  
Alaska State Veterinarian  
907-375-8214  
[Bob.Gerlach@alaska.gov](mailto:Bob.Gerlach@alaska.gov)

Jay Fuller  
Assistant State Veterinarian  
907-375-8213  
[Jay.Fuller@alaska.gov](mailto:Jay.Fuller@alaska.gov)

## Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation: Division of Environmental Health

### Washington, Oregon, Utah, Idaho and California: Avian Influenza outbreak in poultry being spread by wild birds

Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza (HPAI) is caused by an influenza type A virus and causes illness and death in poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl). The influenza virus is carried by waterfowl (ducks, geese and shorebirds) that show no signs of disease. Avian influenza viruses are classified by two groups of proteins on the surface of the virus: hemagglutinin or “H” proteins, of which there are 16 (H1–H16), and neuraminidase or “N” proteins, of which there are 9 (N1–N9). So there are many different combinations of “H” and “N” proteins are possible and fortunately only a few strains are listed as Highly Pathogenic which produces disease in domestic poultry.

The H5N8 virus originated in Asia and was spread along wild bird migratory pathways to North America in 2014. The Asian H5N8 virus mixed with North American avian influenza viruses, creating new virus strains H5N8, H5N2 and H5N1. These mixed-origin viruses contain the Asian-origin H5 part of the virus, which is highly pathogenic to poultry. The N parts of these viruses came from North American low pathogenic avian influenza viruses. The H5N2 HPAI was first identified in Canada in December, subsequently H5N2, H5N8 and H5N1 were found in different states along the wild bird migratory Pacific flyway. The new H5N1 virus is not the same virus as the H5N1 virus found in Asia, Europe and Africa that has caused some human illness.

No human cases of these new avian influenza virus strains have been detected in the United States, Canada, or internationally, and there continues to be no public health concern.

State Animal Health Officials, the USDA and wildlife agencies are responding to these outbreaks. Investigating any morbidity/mortality events in either domestic poultry or wild bird flocks, collecting surveillance samples to look for the viruses and following existing avian influenza response plans. These plans also will include preventing the movement of risky animals or products out of the immediate area to prevent further disease spread.

### What Can You Do?

All bird owners should continue to practice good biosecurity, prevent contact between their birds and wild birds, and to report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to your local veterinarian or to the Office of the State Veterinarian (907) 375-8215. Additional information on biosecurity for backyard flocks can be found at [healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov](http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov). Further updates can be found on the State Veterinarian’s webpage:

<http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/index.htm>.





**Martha Westphal**  
907-474-7188  
[mmwestphal@alaska.edu](mailto:mmwestphal@alaska.edu)

**Marilyn Childress**  
907-474-7083  
[mlchildress@alaska.edu](mailto:mlchildress@alaska.edu)

**Nancy Tarnai**  
907-474-5042  
[ntarnai@alaska.edu](mailto:ntarnai@alaska.edu)

[snras.blogspot.com](http://snras.blogspot.com)

[www.facebook.com/uaf.snre](http://www.facebook.com/uaf.snre)

[www.uaf.edu/snre/](http://www.uaf.edu/snre/)

## UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS School of Natural Resources and Extension

### 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference Set For March

*Story contributed by Darcy Etcheverry, UAF Cooperative Extension Service*

Where is the agriculture industry in Alaska headed? Are we on a pathway to providing a higher percentage of locally grown products to residents? Will Alaska soon be in a position to grow the industry toward export markets? Or will the focus remain on supporting smaller family farms that provide products locally? These questions have been asked since the advent of Alaska's agriculture industry, and will be addressed at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference. The theme this year is "Defining Our Goals."

Alaska farmers and ranchers are here at an exciting time where local products are increasing in popularity. There appears to be growing demand for local foods from a variety of consumer, retail and wholesale markets. This could be the catalyst to increasing the impact of Alaska producers on the marketplace.

This year we are focusing on providing growers with information that will help you make decisions on how to manage and potentially expand your farming operation. Both of our keynote speakers have backgrounds in helping farmers manage their businesses. Phil Metzger comes to us from New York through Holistic Management International, an organization dedicated to sustainability of farms and ranches across the world. His workshop and conference presentations will be of value to farmers and ranchers of all experience levels. He will introduce



Phil Metzger will present at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual SARE Conference

the concept of holistic management, and work with producers to help them secure the progress they have made while assisting them with wise expansion. The tools he will present will make producers more confident in the decisions they are making to take advantage of new opportunities. Phil's sessions are sure to be packed with energy and enthusiasm.

One key to a sustainable farm is profitable farm. Gina Greenway is a professor of business and accounting at the College of Idaho with a background in agricultural economics. She will assist Phil at the Holistic Management workshop, and will present about enterprise budgeting and developing niche markets during the conference. Gina has visited Alaska and is familiar with our agriculture industry. We are looking forward to having her at the conference to help guide the decision making process.

*continued on next page*



## UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

### School of Natural Resources & Agricultural Sciences

Jeff Werner is no stranger to Alaska agriculture. As a former researcher at UAF's School of Natural Resources & Extension, Jeff has a strong background in controlled growing environments. He will be leading a workshop on growing vegetables hydroponically along with experts from across the state. If you are interested in commercial hydroponic production, join us for the four-hour workshop March 3. Learn about structures, systems and plants with the basics of how these elements integrate in greenhouse vegetable production. Several types of soilless culture will be covered for vine crops and leaf crops. Although all of the information needed to start your own commercial hydroponic operation will not fit into a few short hours, the workshop should help you get started in the right direction. Jeff will be teaching with other hydroponic growers from as far north as Nuiqsut and as far south as Copper Center.

There will be plenty of presentations from producers about their particular operations and how they have been successful dealing with Alaska's unique mixture of climate and geographic isolation. With the growing popularity of the Sustainable Agriculture conference, we have decided to offer concurrent sessions on March 4-5 so that attendees may choose between two topics at any given time. Sessions include: livestock, fruit, vegetables, marketing, managing a farm and sustainable practices. There will be breaks throughout the day to encourage networking across all focus areas.

Join us March 3-5 at the Westmark Hotel and Conference Center in Fairbanks. This will be an opportunity to learn more with your fellow farmers and join with policy makers to keep Alaska agriculture growing.

For details, visit <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/ah/sare/conference/>

Contact Darcy Etcheverry at [ddetcheverry@alaska.edu](mailto:ddetcheverry@alaska.edu) or 907-474-2422

