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Alaska agribusiness to meet with Canadian buyers on June 13-14

(Palmer, AK) – Alaskans interested in exploring opportunities to sell their agricultural products internationally will meet with Canadian retail buyers at the state Division of Agriculture's first buyer-to-business meetings, June 13-14 at the Grand View Inn in Wasilla.

The meetings are a joint effort by the division and the Western United States Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA), a non-profit trade association of 13 western state agricultural offices, funded in part from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help members and agribusinesses develop international markets for U.S. food and agricultural products.

"We are excited to offer these meetings to encourage innovative strategies to expand opportunities for Alaska's agricultural businesses," said Division Director David W. Schade. "Leveraging our partnership with WUSATA to help agribusinesses find new markets, including international markets, is one of the many important services we provide to private-sector businesses."

At the June 13 and 14 meetings, representatives of Canadian retail buyers will meet with Alaska businesses to discuss opportunities for selling their products to the Canadian market. The buyers will also tour various local retail outlets, as well as an agricultural manufacturer and producer, to get a feel for Alaska's production and retailready product climate. Nine Alaska businesses have registered for the meetings.

Schade will attend the June 13 luncheon to meet with the Canadian buyers and to share information about the opportunities in Alaska agriculture.

For more information about WUSATA's global export and other programs, visit <u>www.wusata.org</u> and click "sign-up".

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