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Nominations sought for 2020 Alaska Farm Family of the Year

(Palmer, AK) – The 2020 "Alaska Farm Family of the Year" nomination process will be conducted online, making it easier for the public to nominate families and for all Alaskans to learn more about those who make the state's agriculture industry work.

The "Farm Family of the Year" award was established in 2000 by the Alaska Division of Agriculture and the Alaska State Fair, with support from Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union, with the intent to honor an Alaska farm family that best epitomizes the spirit of the industry that year, and to show appreciation for hard-working Alaskans committed to agriculture and aquaculture.

The 2019 winning family was the St. Pierres of Ester, Alaska. Previous winners include the Olsons of Soldotna, and the McCollums and Pinklemans of Delta Junction.

With the COVID-19 pandemic driving many normal activities online, the division decided to use on-line resources to increase the accessibility of the award and the visibility of the industry it supports.

Throughout the nomination period, the "Alaska Grown" Facebook page at <u>https://www.facebook.com/dnr.alaskagrown/</u> will include posts featuring nominated farm families from across the state, with information on their history and influence on Alaska agriculture. Nominations will be accepted at through September 25 at <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HMQSLVC</u>.

CONTACT: Devynn Maclure, 907-355-2296, devynn.maclure@alaska.gov

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