



ALASKA FARM BUREAU NEWSLETTER August 2013

AG APPRECIATION AND LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

Monday, August 26th is the deadline to submit nominations for the Ag Appreciation and Legislator of the Year awards.

The Ag Appreciation Award honors someone who is exceptional in their service to agriculture and the farmers and ranchers in Alaska. The Legislator of the Year Award is to honor a Representative or Senator who has made a significant contribution to the advancement, promotion or protection of farmers and ranchers in the state. Recipients of the awards will be honored at the banquet held on November 15th at Chena Hot Springs.

The nomination process is not formal - just send an e-mail or note with the person's name and a sentence or two describing why you think they should be honored. The e-mail address is janehamilton99737@yahoo.com and the mailing address is the Alaska Farm Bureau at PO Box 760 Delta Junction, AK 99737.

VENDOR TABLES AT THE FRIDAY FORUM AND ANNUAL MEETING

We are accepting registrations for vendors who would like a display table during the Friday Forum and the Alaska Farm Bureau Annual Meeting that will be held on November 15th and 16th at Chena Hot Springs. The registration form is at the end of this newsletter.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nominating Petitions have just been mailed for you to nominate someone to represent your chapter on the Board of Directors. We have 6 Alaska Farm Bureau Chapters. The Fairbanks, Delta, Mat-Su and Kenai Peninsula Chapters each have 2 Directors with a staggering term of office. Each term is for two years. The Copper River Valley and Kodiak Chapter each have one Director, serving a two-year term. The Kodiak Chapter will not be electing this year.

The Board IS the Farm Bureau! They make all of the decisions as to what direction the Farm Bureau will be heading, what programs we will offer, what programs and policies we will work on as well as the budget for each year. In this capacity, the Board works as a whole with the best interest of agriculture for the whole state.

In addition, they represent their individual Chapters. In this capacity, they keep the Board informed about what is going on in their Chapter. They also bring any problems, concerns or issues that the Chapter and the members are having to the Board. The Board as a whole assists the Chapter to find a resolution.

Despite these duties, there is not a big time commitment for a Director: The Directors meet once a year in conjunction with the Friday Forum and Annual Meeting each November. Their travel expenses are paid to attend these meetings. In addition, there are usually a few teleconferences and some e-mail polling during the year.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Kodiak Harvest Potluck: September 11th at the Kodiak High School Commons. Sponsored by the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District. This is a big social event for local agricultural producers and an evening of discussing the potential for increasing agricultural production and the industry. Everyone interested in promoting agriculture is invited.

Rodeo Alaska: September 13th and 14th at the Sullivan Arena in Anchorage. Be sure to visit the Alaska Farm Bureau booth.

Circumpolar Agriculture Conference and Uarctic Inaugural Food Summit- Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in the Circumpolar North. Ayleska Resort in Girdwood, Alaska. September 29-October 3, 2013. More information at www.uaf.edu/cac/

September 6th and 7th: Grazing Workshop. They are bringing Dr. Ben Bartlett back for a follow-up workshop on planned grazing. It's our intention to utilize the holistic planned grazing approach to pasture management at the Robert G White Large Animal Research Station (LARS) in Fairbanks.

This workshop will look at the nuts and bolts of getting started – putting theory to practice – from drafting a realistic management plan based on real farm logistics: do you have enough feed, landscape, pastures, water, fencing, non-traditional livestock, and labor & budgetary limitations. LARS will serve as a 'demonstration' and 'challenge' project. Can we really use muskox grazing to improve these pastures? This will also serve as a springboard for questions relating to different farm situations in Alaska.

If you are seriously thinking about instituting planned grazing on your farm, want to improve your grazing program, would like to reduce your harvested feed cost, or if you are just interested in understanding what it takes to implement planned grazing, this is the workshop to attend. It will take place at the LARS facility in Fairbanks. Space is very limited and participant numbers will be held to 10-15.

Participants will be sent worksheets in advance of the meeting so they can come with a set of working statistics – the statistics can be from a real farm or theoretical. This meeting is a “hands on” workshop. Register at <http://www.uaf.edu/snras/dslp/> The link is under the picture.

They are also incorporating information/demonstration on techniques for Low Stress Animal Handling. Register online here. Participants will be admitted on a first come first served basis. Registration Cost of \$30 will cover materials and breaks. Register at: <http://www.uaf.edu/snras/dsp/>

September 10th: Low Stress Animal Handling Demonstration at the Palmer Musk Ox Farm. Dr. Ben Bartlett will be leading a low-stress animal handling demonstration at the Palmer Musk Ox Farm. There will be two parts to the demonstration, the lecture part will take place in the Conference Room of Turkey Red restaurant and the second part will be a hands-on demonstration with animals at the Palmer Musk Ox Farm.

The demonstration will focus on handling techniques that can help increase safety and efficiency as well as improve the welfare of livestock. Dr. Bartlett worked at Michigan State University as an extension dairy and livestock agent. He is trained as a veterinarian and is a consultant who teaches the fundamentals of low-stress animal handling. Ben and his wife also operate a large sheep farm in Michigan. Registration cost is \$15. Space is limited. Interested participants can email: janelle@muskoxfarm.org

October 9th: Deadline to register for the Alaska Farm Bureau events: Annual Meeting, Friday Forum conference, Awards Banquet, Scholarship Auction and Thursday night workshop. (Registration form at the end of this newsletter.)

October 9th: Deadline to make your hotel reservations at the Chena Hot Springs Resort in Fairbanks. Call 907-451-8104, Extension 1904. A block of rooms has been reserved under the Alaska Farm Bureau. Use code AKFB111313 to get a discounted room rate.

ARRC – Lending to Farmers Is Our Business:



Line of Credit loans for all farm-operating costs. (3 years)
Chattel loans for equipment new or used (5 years on used 7 years on new)
Real Estate loans for purchase or improvements to land. (Up to 20 years)
All loans are 5 to 9 percent interest depending on credit and collateral. Call Steve at 907-745-3390 or email at steve@arrc.us

AMERICAN NATIONAL CATTLEWOMEN

The American National Cattlewomen, Incorporated, (ANCI) is looking for new members. Their website is www.ancw.org.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Baler for sale: It's a Welger baler designed for high moisture hay. It forms a 4x4 foot bale that weighs about 600 pounds, depending on the moisture. I used it for many years, but have moved up to a bigger baler with net wrap. The Welger is a single string tie and has a gandy for delivering powders. The sprocket chains only have one season on them and we have just finished going through the pickup header. Should be field ready. Price is \$5000. I can provide pictures if desired. Call Larry DeVilbiss in Palmer at 907-355-0733 or e-mail at carrots@mtaonline.net.

Bison Hides for Sale: Prime bison hides available. \$1000 each. Beautifully tanned. Soft, clean and pliable. 6 remaining. Call Scott Hollembaek in Delta Junction at 907-895-4008.

Farm for Sale: 70-acre ag parcel for sale for \$80,000. It is almost all cleared with a good 40-45 acres planted to a brome/timothy mix. There is a creek that runs through the property. The area around the creek has not been cleared (green belt). The remaining land is in berms. No buildings. The farm is located at Mile 315 Parks Highway, about 9 miles north of Nenana. The property is listed with realtor Gene DuVal, Re/Max Real Estate. His office phone is 907-452-4363. If you have questions or would like to talk with the owner, call Bill Spencer at 907-832-5280.

Classified ads are placed free of charge. Contact the editor at 907-803-4752 or via e-mail at janehamilton99737@yahoo.com.

EDUCATION GRANT OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

Lowe's Toolbox for Education: K-12 Public School Improvement Projects. Up to \$5,000 will support basic necessities with preference for funding requests that have permanent impact such as facility enhancement as well as landscaping and cleanup projects. Deadline October 15th.

foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id:428800027

Kids in Need Foundation: Accepting application for 2013 Teacher Grants Program. Grants up to \$500 for K-12 educators for projects that strengthen creativity, critical thinking skills and/or core knowledge y engaging students in the learning process. Deadline September 30th.

foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id:431500021

Whole Kids Foundation: School Garden Grant Program. Grants up to \$2,000 for public and private K-123 schools to help fund school garden projects. Deadline October 31st. www.wholekidsfoundation.org/schools/school-garden-grant-program.

MyPlate Kids Place: The USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion has launched the MyPlate Kids Place at <http://www.choosemyplate.gov/kids/Games.html>. It is designed to help kids ages 8-12, parents, and educators to make healthier food choices. It includes games, activities, recipes, songs, and other resources.

MyPlate on Campus (<http://www.choosemyplate.gov/MyPlateOnCampus/index.html>) is USDA's effort to get college students talking about and working toward healthy eating and lifestyles on campus. Students can register to become MyPlate Ambassadors, who receive training and assistance to lead their campus community toward healthier eating and increased physical activity through events, fundraisers, competitions, etc.

USDA for Kids at http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=FOR_KIDS provides students, parents, and educators with information, games, stories, and other resources about topics such as: animals, gardening, soil, nutrition, cooking, food safety, natural resources, and wildfire prevention.

Agriculture and Statistics: USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service and the American Statistical Association have a new resource to help teach statistical and agricultural literacy through a new "Census at School Food Preference Survey", which includes lesson plans and activities. Geared to students in grades 5 to 8, the curriculum includes learning about agriculture through math, reading, writing, nutrition, social studies, and consumer science. You can learn more at <http://www.amstat.org/censusatschool/pdfs/FoodPreferenceCensusLesson-3.pdf>.

Smart Snacks in Schools: USDA recently finalized their regulations to implement a provision of the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act that is aimed at improving the nutritional values of foods and beverages sold in schools during the school day. The new rules originated from legislation sponsored by Senator Murkowski and Senator Harkin that was enacted into law in 2010. The provision required USDA to update 30-year old rules pertaining to "competitive foods" sold in school vending machines, stores, and cafeteria a la carte items. The new rules do not, however, impact classroom parties, occasional fundraisers, home-packed lunches, or before/after school events. You can find brochures, fact sheets, fliers, school lessons, and much more at www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday.

**NOVEMBER 15th and 16th VENDOR SPACE REGISTRATION
FOR FRIDAY FORUM AND ANNUAL MEETING**

Exhibitor and vendor table space reservations are now being accepted for the Alaska Farm Bureau's Friday Forum, Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting at Chena Hot Springs Resort in Fairbanks on November 15th and 16th.

There will be 10 tables available inside the meeting room. It is expected that you would be able to set up on Thursday evening, November 14th.

Tables are offered to Farm Bureau members at the rate of \$75.00 for both days or \$100.00 for non-members.

To reserve your table, please complete and mail this form. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come basis.

_____ \$75.00/table for Farm Bureau Members

_____ \$100.00/table for non-members.

(Name of Company/Business/Farm Organization)

(Contact Person's Name)

(Telephone)

(Mailing Address)

(E-mail Address)

If paying by credit card, please complete the following:

_____ VISA _____ MasterCard

_____ Security Code from the back of the card

_____ Expiration Date

(Credit Card Number)

(Signature-Required)

Please mail your payment check or credit card information to:

Alaska Farm Bureau
PO Box 760
Delta Junction, AK 99737
(907) 803-4752
E-mail: janehamilton99737@yahoo.com



**ALASKA FARM BUREAU, INC.
2013 REGISTRATION FORM
Forum Conference - Workshop – Awards Banquet
and Farm Bureau’s Annual Meeting**

Your Name _____ Address _____
E-Mail Address _____

Thursday evening November 14th Informative no-cost Media Workshop 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. Limited to 25 people. Number attending _____

November 15th Friday Forum Conference “Strengthening Alaska’s Agriculture”
Before October 9th “Early Bird Discount” registration \$25 x _____ people \$ _____
After October 9th – space and meals limited registration \$35 x _____ people \$ _____

Friday Forum Conference Lunch - No Charge, but you **MUST** make your selection.
 _____ People. Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread and Parmesan cheese, dessert **OR**
 _____ People. Vegetable curry: Fresh mixed vegetables, tofu, potatoes, and fresh basil
 in coconut milk served with jasmine rice, and dessert.

Awards Banquet and Scholarship Auction Friday evening
 \$25/person x _____ people (8 oz. Prime Rib, potatoes, veggie, salad, & dessert) \$ _____

November 16th Saturday Annual Meeting Noon Luncheon
 _____ people. Grilled Chicken BLT sandwich, French fries, soup and dessert.
 Compliments of COUNTRY Financial (**No Charge, MUST reserve**)

Total Amount Due \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the Alaska Farm Bureau, Inc. (address below.)

OR

You may send us your credit card information and we will enter your payment through PayPal. Your credit card number: _____.

The expiration date: _____ and the security code from the back of the card: _____. Signature: _____

OR

Registration and payment may be made at our website at <http://akfb.fb.org>

Please make your hotel reservation directly with Chena Hot Springs Resort by the October 9th deadline. Their telephone number is 907-451-8104, Extension 1904. Please use the Farm Bureau reservation code AKFB111313 for your hotel room.

**Questions? Call the Alaska Farm Bureau Office at 907-803-4752 or send an e-mail to: janehamilton99737@yahoo.com
 Mail to the Alaska Farm Bureau at PO Box 760 Delta Junction, AK 99737.**

FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- **Office Depot:** Up to 80% off preferred products. Free Shipping to Alaska on orders over \$50.00. Go online to <http://akfb.fb.org>
- **COUNTRY Financial:** Offering ID Theft, Home, Auto, Life policies and Financial Planning. Farm policies are sold only to Alaska Farm Bureau Members.
- **Choice Hotels:** Up to 20% off when you stay at any Comfort Inn, Quality, Clarion, Roadway Inn, Econo Lodge, Mainstay Suites, and Suburban hotels. Use the link on our website [http://akfb.fb.org/](http://akfb.fb.org) or call 1-800-258-2847. Enter “special rate” code:00228830.
- **Grainger:** 10-50% discounts on merchandise purchased online and at the Anchorage store. Free shipping on merchandise sent to Alaska that is ordered on-line at www.Grainger.com. Your account must be set up with them as a Farm Bureau member.
- **GM Discount:** \$500 discount on all GMC, Chevrolet and Buick new cars and trucks. All vehicles are eligible for the discount except the Chevrolet Volt and Cadillac. Must be a member for 60 days. Go to www.fbadvantage.com/deals/gm or use the link on our website. Enter your membership number and your zip code.
- **Prescription Drug Program:** Discounts for you, your family and your employees. There are no enrollment forms, no claim forms. There are 50 participating pharmacies in Alaska including Wal-Mart, Sam’s Club, Fred Meyer, Safeway and drug stores around the state. Discounts for those with and without insurance. Request cards from the Alaska Farm Bureau Office at 907-803-4752 or janehamilton99737@yahoo.com
- **Alaska Farm & Ranch News subscriptions:** Complimentary subscription provided by the Alaska Farm Bureau. This is Alaska’s only agricultural publication. Subscription coupon sent to you with your membership card. Send the coupon directly to the *Farm & Ranch News*.
- **NAPA Discount:** 10% discount at all NAPA stores in Alaska except for those in Tok, Kodiak and Southeast. For Fairbanks and Delta, use code 0495. Elsewhere in the state use code 3276.
- **Farm Bureau Bank:** Significant savings on all business and personal financial needs-credit cards; deposit accounts including money market savings and IRA’s; vehicle, student, home loans and much more at www.farmbureaubank.com.
- **AVIS Car Rental:** Discounts on vehicles rented both inside and outside of Alaska at participating rental offices. Use AVIS Code A298802.
- **CASE-IH:** \$300-500 discounts on equipment purchased at CASE-IH dealerships in Anchorage, Fairbanks as well as in the Lower 48. Use the link on our website to print your discount certificate. <http://akfb.fb.org>