



**ALASKA FARM BUREAU
NEWSLETTER
June 2013**

LIKE TO WRITE? WANT TO EARN \$40.00?

The Alaska Farm Bureau is soliciting articles to be published in our monthly newsletter. Articles will be accepted from Alaska Farm Bureau members and their children. Children of all ages are eligible-from grade school to, and including, college or trade schools. It's a great way for your children to earn a little money this summer. You may submit as many articles as you want.

The purpose is to garner positive publicity about Alaskan agriculture, entertain and educate the agricultural community and the general public about what is going on around the state on our farms and ranches, farm related businesses as well as information about Alaskan agriculture or our history. Students and adults are encouraged to write about their family farm, 4-H or FFA project, conduct interviews of family members, neighbors, farmer market vendors, as well as their own activities, projects, experiences, or thoughts about agriculture.

One article will be published each month. Payment of \$40.00 will be made for each article printed. Articles not printed will be kept on file for consideration in future issues.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, is currently accepting applications for a full time Project Assistant on the Marketing team.

The position can be viewed on workplace Alaska, Job #: 01110. It closes Friday June 28th, 2013 at 5:00pm Alaska time. Please contact Amy Pettit with any questions, amy.pettit@alaska.gov.

ELECTIONS HELD

The Kenai Peninsula Farm Bureau Chapter held elections during their June 14th meeting. Elected were:

President: Rita Jo Shoultz

Vice President: Mark Marette was reelected to another term.

Treasurer: Pete Roberts

Secretary: No one was officially elected to this office. However, Katie Schollenberg Matthews agreed to record the minutes as often as she can. The chapter agreed for the first time to pay the person recording minutes.

Their next meeting will be held on August 8th at the Ninilchik fair grounds.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2013 FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

The Division of Agriculture is inviting the public to submit nominations for the 14th Annual Farm Family of the Year award that will be presented during the Alaska State Fair in August. The Alaska State Fair established the award in 2000 to honor an Alaska farming family that epitomizes the spirit of the industry and to show appreciation for all the hardworking Alaskans committed to agriculture and aquaculture in the state.

The 2012 award recipient was the Martin Family, which has owned and operated the Diamond M Ranch on the Kenai Peninsula since 1975.

Nominations are due on June 28. The Farm Family selection committee will select a family using the following criteria:

- Production of quality Alaska Grown products (not based on quantity);
- Community involvement (civic organizations, school, sports, church);
- Involvement in agricultural industry organizations (local, state and federal, etc.) and,
- Overall farm family image, farming history, and unique or special production.

Nominations should offer details about the family and how the family members fulfill the criteria. The nomination should be mailed to: Amy Pettit-Farm Family at the Alaska Division of Agriculture, 1800 Glenn Highway, Ste. 12, Palmer, AK 99645. Nominations may also be faxed to (907) 745-7242 or emailed to Amy.Pettit@alaska.gov.

The award, sponsored by the Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union, will be presented at the Fair Board Reception on opening day, August 22.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS BEHIND THIS YEAR

The second invoices for membership renewals were mailed in May. Although we have received several dues payments, five of the six chapters are still way behind. Usually by this time every chapter has reached their quota or very close to reaching it. Quotas are established for each chapter as one member more than the previous year. To date, Kodiak is the only chapter that has reached and exceeded their quota for this year.

Chapter	Quota This Year	Members to Date
Kodiak	14	15
Mat-Su	130	113
Kenai Peninsula	49	40
Copper River Valley	14	13
Delta	56	53

Don't forget that everyone who is gets for five new members to join receives transportation and two hotel nights paid to attend the annual meeting this November at Chena Hot Springs Resort. Be sure that your name is on each new member's application in order to receive credit for their joining the Alaska Farm Bureau. A membership application is included at the end of this newsletter to get you started.

PNWER CONFERENCE JULY 14TH -19TH

The Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) conference will be held at the Dena'ia Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage on July 14th-19th. PNWER is comprised of Northwestern U.S. States and Canadian Provinces. Registration for the conferences and tours can be found at www.pnwer.org/2013summit/Home.aspx

Three days of the conference specifically address agriculture: The Agriculture Working Group's session on Tuesday, July 16th and the Cross-Border Livestock Health conference on Wednesday and Thursday, July 17th and 18th.

Alaska State Veterinarian Bob Gerlach is the co-chair of the Livestock Health Conference on the 17th and 18th. The conference will focus on four subject areas: Antimicrobial use in Livestock Production, Animal Welfare Pressures on the Food Industry, One Health and Electronic Certification Updates. The conference will include panel discussions:

- Animal welfare pressure on meat processors in USA and Canada.
- Food costs and the consumer with increasing animal welfare pressures.
- One Health-Implications for Cross Border Trade.
- USDA Updates on E-Certification Progress.
- E-Certification technology advancements –iPad app demonstration.
- Humans, livestock and wildlife interfaces in Alaska.

The Agriculture Working Group meeting on the 16th will focus on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the impact of GMO's and the progress of the Regulatory

Cooperation Council action plan. The session includes a panel discussion with leading experts from both countries.

Topics covered include:

- The progress of the RCCA Action Items Initiatives: crop protection products, mutual reliance of food testing results, and common approaches to food safety.
- Country of Origin Labeling (Cool) and implications of mandatory COOL requirements on meat products; perspectives from both sides of the border.
- A discussion on Low Level Presence (LLP) of Genetically Modified (GM) crops in imports of grain, food and feed.
- Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP); Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues relation to the TPP, specifically, the U.S. proposed chapter in the agreement's text for an enforceable, dispute-settlement mechanism for TPP member; and/or intellectual property with respect to geographical indicators.
- Canada-U.S. Wheat, including the Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Task Group efforts to address regulatory differences impacting cross-border trade.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The Division of Agriculture has extended the deadline for accepting proposals for the Chef at the Market Program. This program was a huge success last year bringing chefs to the Farmers Markets to show off their culinary skills using local foods from the market. These events are an EXCELLENT opportunity to bring kids to meet local farmers as well as chefs, as well as give families new ideas for cooking with local foods! If you like to cook with local food, this grant may be perfect for you; more information can be found at:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/Grants/2013CATMRFP.pdf>

CLASSIFIED ADS

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 without charge. Send your ad to the editor, Jane Hamilton at janehamilton99737@yahoo.com

WHAT'S GOING ON

Bee Registration: (Required by law.) Download the form at the Division of Agriculture's website at dnr.Alaska.gov/ag/Inspection/BeeRegistrationCard.pdf. You can e-mail the completed form to Kirk.Brown@alaska.gov or fax it to him at 907-745-7254. Call Kirk at 907-745-7200.

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/

Alaska Farm Bureau Workshop: November 14th - "Have I Got A Story For You". Fewer and fewer people have any first-hand experience with farming, yet many are vocal about issues including government farm programs, animal welfare and safe food. Farmers need to speak out so their side of the story is heard. In this workshop, you will assess what you know and don't know about the media. You will learn how to convey your main points during an interview, practice proven techniques to prepare for interviews and explore proactive ways to sell your story. This interactive workshop will held from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M., the night before the Friday Forum begins. There is no charge for the workshop, but it is limited to only 25 participants. Registration will be on the same form as the Friday Forum, Awards Banquet, Scholarship Auction and the Alaska Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting that will be held on November 15th and 16th. All of the events will be held at Chena Hot Springs Resort, north of Fairbanks.

Friday Forum: Farm Bureau's agricultural conference on November 15th. Awards Banquet and Scholarship Auction that evening. Registration form on the Alaska Farm Bureau web page: <http://akfb.fb.org>. Held at Chena Hot Springs Resort in Fairbanks. Lunch is compliments of the Alaska Farm Bureau.

Alaska Farm Bureau Annual Meeting: Alaska Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 16th. Held at Chena Hot Springs Resort Fairbanks. Lunch is compliments of COUNTRY Financial.

FARM BUREAU GOES TO THE RODEO

The Alaska Farm Bureau was talking about Alaska's agriculture at Rodeo Alaska last week. We were at their Anchorage rodeo on June 14th-16th at the William Clark Chamberlin Equestrian Center. Don Berberich, president of the Mat-Su

Farm Bureau Chapter and two FFA students assisted us. We will be at the Sullivan Arena on September 13th and 14th. The rodeos will give us exposure to several thousand potential new members.

There were quite a few announcements throughout the three day event. Our announcements featured the advantages of eating locally grown products, as well as how agriculture impacts everyone's daily life. The announcer last week was from Arizona and a Farm Bureau member. He featured the Alaska Farm Bureau quite often. Be sure to visit us during the September rodeo as they celebrate over 50 years of Alaska rodeos – Ain't No Fear in the Last Frontier.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEW RESOLUTIONS AND BY-LAWS

Members are reminded that July 1st is the deadline for Alaska Farm Bureau Chapters to submit new or changes to the Resolution Platform or our By-Laws. If you have an idea or suggestion, bring it to your next Chapter Meeting. If approved, it will be forwarded to the Alaska Farm Bureau Office at PO Box 760, Delta Junction, AK 99737 or via e-mail to janehamilton99737@yahoo.com. These will then be distributed to all chapters prior to the November 16th Annual Meeting. Copies of the By-Laws and Resolution Platform can be found at our website at <http://akfb.fb.org>.

ALASKA HAS NEW GRAINGER REPRESENTATIVE

Rich Wamboldt is the new Alaska representative for Grainger. Rich is there to assist you in setting up your account as an Alaska Farm Bureau member, helping you with your orders if needed, and any other assistance you may need. Feel free to reach out to him at 1-800-634-6795 or at Richard.Wamboldt@grainger-sales.com. Remember, Alaska Farm Bureau members receive free shipping with their on-line orders at www.Grainger.com along with great discounts both on-line and at their Anchorage store.

Be sure to check out their sales and promotions on our webpage at: <http://akfb.fb.org>.



FINANCIAL

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

Reasons To Choose COUNTRY

We can protect what you have like your car, home and family. We can help you build for the future by saving for a child's college education and reaching your retirement dreams. And we can help you achieve financial security no matter where you're starting from.

When you do business with COUNTRY Financial®, you get more than an insurance policy or investment service. You'll get personal attention and expertise from your COUNTRY Financial representative – a person you know and trust.

A team of experts - financial planners, customer service representatives, investment managers and claims representatives - backs your COUNTRY representative. Together, they will review all your financial needs and provide a tangible plan for your future financial security.

Your financial security is important. We know you don't entrust it to just anyone – and you shouldn't. You can trust COUNTRY to put our 80-plus years of experience and financial strength to work for you.

Alaska Farm Bureau is fortunate that COUNTRY Financial is such a great partner. All members attending the Annual Meeting appreciate their hosting of the noon lunch every year. At Chena Hot Springs Resort on November 16th, they will again be hosting a complimentary lunch. On the menu are a Grilled Chicken BLT Sandwich, Soup, French Fries and Dessert.

Did you know: The Alaska Farm Bureau provides membership benefits with many companies. Doing business with them not only saves you money, but also provides the Alaska Farm Bureau with a royalty from each, based on our member's participation. The Alaska Farm Bureau's main source of income comes from these royalties.

Don't forget that the membership application is on the next page. You can easily print it by selecting "print" and only print page 8. If you were responsible for enrolling a new member, be sure to write your name on the bottom of the page so you will be credited with that new member. Five is all you need for the travel expenses and two nights at Chena Hot Springs Resort this November!

Happy trails.....



Membership Application

(November 1st to October 31st)

Name and **Mailing** Address: _____

Business Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

E-mail address for our monthly electronic newsletter: _____

Type of Membership - Check one:

General (\$40.00)

Associate (\$40.00)

Century Club General (\$100.00)

Associate Century Club (\$100.00)

If a partnership or corporation, please list the designated voter:

*A **General Member** is someone who is actively engaged in farming or mariculture. General members are voting members. An **Associate Member** is someone that does not farm or is involved in mariculture, but supports agriculture. Associate members are not voting members.*

Century Club members meet the membership requirements listed above. The Alaska Farm Bureau will present you with a plaque that has spaces for each successive yearly renewal. Century Club, General and Associate members are entitled to all member benefits and discount programs.

Make your payment on-line through the Alaska Farm Bureau website at <http://akfb.fb.org> Click on "Payments". You may also pay by check, payable to the Alaska Farm Bureau, or have us enter your credit card payment through PayPal for you by completing the information below.

My check or money order is enclosed.

Charge my VISA or MASTERCARD payment using PayPal for me.

Account Number: _____ Security Code (on back): _____

Expiration Date: _____ Signature: _____

Mail to the Alaska Farm Bureau, Inc.

PO Box 760
Delta Junction, AK 99737

Telephone: (907) 803-4752 E-mail the Executive Director: janehamilton99737@yahoo.com