

ALASKA FARM BUREAU NEWSLETTER May 2013

FARM BUREAU CHALLENGES, ISSUES TARGETS, AND GOALS

The Alaska Farm Bureau Board of Directors has been working on resolving some of the issues facing agriculture and the Alaska Farm Bureau. The first step was identifying them. Their list of the Top Challenges is below:

LONG RANGE PLAN

- Develop ag plan
- Set long range goal for agriculture
- Provide support for education, market development, research
- Promote development of in-state lime and fertilizer resources

OUTREACH

- Unite various agriculture sectors into a single organization
- Organize chapters in other areas of the state
- Improve our outreach to non-farmers
- Increase relevancy with younger people and younger farmers
- Become more of a participant with FFA and 4-H families

ADVOCACY

- Represent agricultural interests in Juneau
- Increase influence with legislators
- Find a focused message that majority of farmers support
- Improve information dissemination
- Increase participation of our current members
- Increase membership

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Improve farmers image as to feeding Alaskans
- Better public recognition of what Alaska Farm Bureau does
- Form alliances to improve public perception of agriculture

The next step was to select which ones they would work on in the coming year. Their list and the targeted completion dates are below.

- Develop promotional material (Outreach and PR). A membership brochure was completed by the May 15th target date.
- Develop a goal for agriculture to focus on the development of a plan (Long Range Plan) within the Farm Bureau by the Nov. Annual Meeting.

A statewide plan developed and approved by all sectors of the agricultural community by December 31st

- Review resolution platform and recommend updates (Advocacy) July 1st
A committee was formed to accomplish these goals. Gerald DeVilbiss will serve as chairperson. Committee members are Loren White, Ben VanderWeele and Mike Paschall.
- Seek additional member benefits (Outreach) Ongoing
- Regularly post to Facebook page (Outreach and PR) Ongoing
- Develop an outreach plan (Outreach) August 1st

We'll keep you posted on the accomplishments!

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.

PNWER CONFERENCE JULY 14TH –19TH

The Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) conference will be held at the Denali 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.

NEW SWINE BOOKLET FOR 4-H

The National Swine Board has developed a new booklet for 4-H folks or any youngsters involved in raising swine. The booklet can be found on our website: <http://akfb.fb.org/>

SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN ALASKA

A white paper from the Sustainable Livestock Production workshop that was held in Anchorage in 2011 has just been published. It can be found on our website: <http://akfb.fb.org/>. A paper version of the report is available on request. Contact Jan Rowell, Research Faculty, SNRAS UAF, jerowell@alaska.edu.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Bison Hides for Sale: Prime bison hides available. \$1000 each. Beautifully tanned. Soft, clean and pliable. 6 remaining. Call Scott Hollembæk 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.

Specialty Products Workshop: May 29th and 30th at the Palmer Train Depot. There will be 1-½ days of classroom and a ½ day of hands on product development. 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Topics include marketing trends, labeling guidance, shelf life, food safety, buyer's perspectives and more. Special guest speakers are from the Oregon Food Innovation Center. Registration is FREE! Call Kristi Krueger to reserve your seat at the Alaska Division of Agriculture at 907-761-3858.

Strengthening Community Agrosecurity Planning Workshop: June 10th and 11th. Held at Fire Station 61 at 101 W. Swanson in Wasilla. Workshop designed to enable community partners to build to capacity to handle agricultural issues during an emergency or disaster, improve networking among stakeholders who can plan for and respond to emergencies and to establish or enhance agrosecurity components within existing local emergency operations plans. Facilitators help participants work together within multi-agency teams to examine the issues relevant to specific agricultural vulnerabilities. Critical local agricultural infrastructure assets are identified and prioritized. Threats to the food production continuum are defined and community agricultural vulnerabilities are identified. The registration fee is \$20 and the fee includes lunch both days. To register on line at: <http://bit.ly/ces-workshops>. For more information, contact Stephen Brown, CES Agriculture Agent at scbrown4@alaska.edu or telephone: 907-745-3360.

FSA County Committee Nominations: The deadline to nominate yourself or a neighbor to run for the Farm Service County Committee election is August 1st. The County Committees are a critical link between the Alaska agricultural community and USDA. At least two agricultural producers are needed to fill seats in the Fairbanks and Anchorage areas. Complete and sign form FSA-669A. The form is available at USDA Service Centers or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

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.

JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH

The average cow produces enough milk each day to fill six one-gallon jugs, about 55 pounds of milk.

It takes over 21 pounds of white milk to make one pound of butter.

The natural yellow color of butter comes mainly from beta-carotene found in the grass cows eat.

McDonald's uses approximately four million gallons of low-fat vanilla yogurt each year in its Fruit'n'Yogurt Parfait.

It takes more cows to produce milk annually for Pizza Hut's cheese than there are people living in Green Bay, Wisconsin-about 170,000.

It takes 12 pounds of whole milk to make one gallon of ice cream

The average cow drinks 30-50 gallons of water each day – about a bathtub's worth.

Plastic milk bottles were first introduced in the United States in 1967.

FARM BUREAU ADDS CASE IH AS A NEW BENEFIT FOR OUR MEMBERS



The Alaska Farm Bureau has added the Case IH Tractor and Equipment Incentive Program as a new discount benefit for belonging to the Farm Bureau.

Farm Bureau members will receive an incentive discount – from \$300 to \$500 – when purchasing qualifying Case IH equipment from participating dealerships.

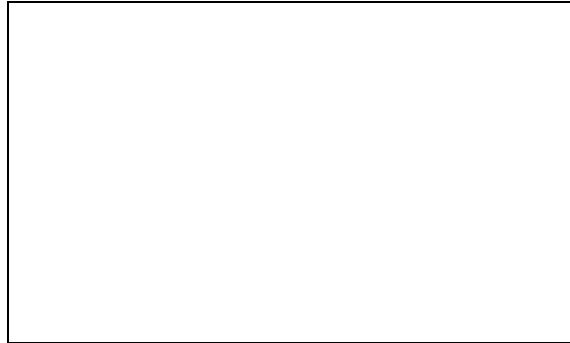
The discount is stackable, meaning it can be used with other discounts, promotions, rebates or offers that may be provided by Case IH or a Case IH dealership. A current Farm Bureau membership verification certificate must be presented to the Case IH dealer in advance of product delivery to receive the incentive discount. Incentive discounts cannot be awarded after the equipment is delivered.

Members print their own discount certificate at www.fbadvantage.com/deals/case. You will need your Farm Bureau membership number to download your certificate. There is no limit to the number of certificates you use, but it is one certificate per piece of equipment. The certificate must be for your own personal or farm use.

OFFICE DEPOT – ADDITIONAL 15% OFF YOUR FIRST ORDER!

Discounts at Office Depot are another one of the benefits members are eligible as a member of the Alaska Farm Bureau. Orders over \$50.00 are shipped to

Alaska without any shipping charges. Here's an additional discount on top of everyday discounts. For online orders only.



Coupon details: The 15% off coupon is our way of saying WELCOME TO SAVINGS! It is valid for your first online order only (not valid for in store purchasing). **To redeem, login through the Alaska Farm Bureau's web page: <http://akfb.fb.org>** and register your business/personal information. Click on "member benefits" under Membership. Purchase the items you need. Go to your shopping cart. On the right-hand side, click on "add coupon." Enter coupon code 50591873.

If you have already registered and have not placed an order online, you can take advantage of this coupon and save an additional 15% off the already discounted price.

***Coupons are not valid for purchases of the following: 1) Gift Cards; 2) any technology or consumer electronic products and accessories or media and software products; 3) performance protection plans; 4) postage or mailing/shipping services; 5) HP ink or toner; 6) Tech Depot Services or third party services; or 7) premiums/free gifts with purchase.*

GRAINGER

We always talk about everything that Grainger sells-tools, batteries, lights, safety equipment, motors, etc. It's amazing at what they sell. Did you know they sold comfortable Sealy Posturpedic bed sets that you easily fall asleep on. (Queen Bed Set #6FCG3). Be sure your account with them is set up indicating you are an Alaska Farm Bureau member! Check their home page for monthly discount specials. www.grainger.com. Remember, almost everything is shipped free of charge for Farm Bureau members who order on-line.



FARM BUREAU GOES TO THE RODEO

The Alaska Farm Bureau will be talking about Alaska's agriculture at Rodeo Alaska this year. We will be at their Anchorage rodeos: June 14th-16th and August 9th-11th at the William Clark Chamberlin Equestrian Center at 3900 Abbott Road and at the Sullivan Arena on September 13th and 14th. The rodeos will give us exposure to several thousand potential new members.

There will be announcements throughout the events. Our announcements will feature the advantages of eating locally grown products, as well as how agriculture impacts everyone's daily life. Be sure to visit us while you attend these events as they celebrate over 50 years of Alaska rodeos – Ain't No Fear in the Last Frontier.

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU PHOTO CONTEST

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) is announcing the second annual Farm Bureau® Photo Contest. This contest is a coordinated effort between the American Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. It is open to all Farm Bureau members and staff over the age of 18 at the time of entry, including professional photographers.

They are holding this contest to obtain usable and appropriate photos that accurately portray today's agriculture and safe practices of farmers and ranchers for future publications and promotions. All photos submitted must exemplify safe practices on the farm or ranch. Photos are being accepted in the following categories:

Sharing the Story - Photos submitted under the Sharing the Story category should cover the following topics: consumer outreach, communities in action and Farm Bureau in action. These photos should tell the story of how farmers and ranchers interact with consumers, students, other farmers and ranchers, media and elected officials. Show the diversity of agriculture and its people. This is a chance for our members and staff to share stories of outreach as well as show their pride in Farm Bureau.

Working on the Farm or Ranch - Photos submitted under the Working on the Farm or Ranch category should cover the following topics: planting, harvesting, irrigating, animal care, seasonal workers and working with machinery or tools. These photos should show action. All photos must exemplify correct and safe practices around the farm or shop.

My Scenic Farm or Ranch - Photos submitted under the My Scenic Farm/Ranch category should be dynamic and visually appealing. Photos can cover a variety of topics including, but not limited to: farm/ranch house, barn, crops, farm animals and landscapes. People may be present in the photo but should not be the main focus. Please do not submit close-up photos of flowers or plants. We want to see what today's modern agriculture looks like through your eyes – small, medium or large; row crops, specialty crops or animal agriculture; Northeast, Midwest, Southern or Western region.

The contest begins on May 20th and ends on October 15th. Late entries will not be accepted. Winners will be notified via email on Nov. 15, 2013.

Three photos will be selected from each of the three categories. Each winner will receive a cash prize and be featured on our websites and social media. Prizes will be awarded to the top three photos in each category: \$100 for 1st place; \$75 for 2nd and \$50 for 3rd place.

From the submitted photos, in addition to the prizes awarded in the categories above, we hope to select three photos for special awards. No separate entry or notation is necessary to be considered for these awards. They will be chosen from the regular entries. In order to recognize as many photos as possible, we plan to choose photos for these special awards that have not already won in one of the three contest categories. A special award in the amount of \$200 may be given for each of three photos that highlight the following:

Animal Care: The winning photo should reflect modern livestock production practices (e.g., caring for hogs or poultry indoors, cattle in a feedlot, dairy cows on an automated milking carousel) in an interesting and thought-provoking manner. Farm and ranch safety standards must be reflected in the photo.

Safety: The winning photo should creatively reflect the safe practices that take place every day on farms and ranches. From ensuring all locations on the operation are safe for youth to work and play, to showcasing proper safety gear being worn or emphasizing the importance of having slow moving vehicle signage on machinery, these photos should highlight the steps we take every day to ensure farmers, family members, workers and guests are safe on our farms and ranches.

Farm Bureau Proud: The winning photo should exemplify the pride of Farm Bureau members, show Farm Bureau as a unified organization or show members creating tradition, engaging the collective voice of agriculture and/or preserving the farm/ranch way of life. Photos must include either members wearing the Farm Bureau logo on hats, shirts, jackets, etc. or signage showing the Farm Bureau logo.

This year we will also be awarding three **Best in Show** prizes for the most dynamic photos submitted across all categories. Judges will select these top finishers from the winners in the three contest categories. Prizes will be awarded at the following amounts: Best in Show \$400; First runner-up \$300 and Second runner-up \$250.

In addition to monetary prizes, all winning photos will be featured on our websites and social media and during the AFBF Annual Convention in January. Please visit <http://www.fb.org/index.php?action=programs.photocontest2013> to see the full rules and learn how to enter the contest.

ALASKA FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Scholarships were awarded to two students this year. Both had previously graduated from Alaska high schools and were currently enrolled in universities.

Kathryn Schmidt was a graduate of Homer High School and is currently attending the University of Idaho, Moscow where she was working on her B.S in Rangeland Ecology and Management.

Milo Wrigley was a graduate of Delta-Greely High School and is currently attending Brigham Young University-Idaho where his field of study is International Agribusiness-Global Food Management.

USDA SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS TO PROVIDE DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT TO RURAL COOPERATIVES

(From a press release provided by Senator Lisa Murkowski's Office)

USDA is accepting grant applications from non-profit corporations and institutions of higher education, including 1994 land grant institutions, to help rural cooperatives develop new markets for their products and services. One part of USDA's mission is to strengthen rural economy. The funds will promote startup, expansion and operational improvements as cooperatives work to grow and strengthen their business.

The Rural Cooperative Development Grants (RCDG) may be used to conduct feasibility studies, create business plans, help rural cooperatives develop markets and provide training for cooperative leadership.

Individual grants of up to \$200,000 are available. The grants may be used to pay for up to 75% of the project's cost. Recipients are required to match 25%. The deadline for paper applications is July 15, 2013 and electronic copies are due by July 10th. For more information on how to apply, see page 30848 of the May 23, 2013 Federal Register, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-05-23/html/2013-12329.htm> or contact USDA Rural Development State Office.

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>.

Happy trails.....