



**ALASKA FARM BUREAU
NEWSLETTER
November 2013**

FARM BUREAU SEEKING WEBMASTER

The Alaska Farm Bureau is soliciting bids for someone to manage our web page, update our Facebook page, and administer receivables through our Pay Pal account.

The position is a contract hire job, providing a monthly stipend. It does not provide any benefits. This person will work out of your home without any support services for the home office, telephone, Internet service, equipment or supplies.

Please submit examples/link to your prior work with your proposal. The proposal, including expected fees, should be submitted by December 31, 2013. The person selected should be or be willing to become an Alaska Farm Bureau member. We are looking for an innovative individual with good communication skills and an enthusiasm for Alaska's agricultural industry.

Submissions should be sent to the Alaska Farm Bureau via e-mail to janehamilton99737@yahoo.com or to P.O. Box 760 Delta Junction, AK 99737, If you have questions, please send them to the e-mail address above or call the executive director at 907-803-4752.

Please feel free to circulate this announcement to anyone you feel may be interested. If a suitable bid is not received, we will be advertising the position to the general public.

FARM BUREAU EVENTS AT CHENA –ALMOST LARGEST EVER

Over 100 people had registered for the Friday Forum and 96 had registered for our Annual Meeting. Both would have exceeded attendance for both events in recent history – until THE STORM hit Fairbanks. Wednesday produced over two feet of snow, freezing rain and winds that caused havoc with driving conditions and lost power to thousands for several days. In fact, as of November 24th, several hundred were still without power for over 10 days.

Persistent Farm Bureau members were not fazed, and the majority of those registered still managed to reach the end of Chena Hot Springs Road. The road, thankfully, was finally plowed Saturday afternoon, in time for a much easier drive home for everyone.

Friendships were renewed, new ones made, Farm Bureau business was conducted, and great food made for an enjoyable weekend retreat.

Highlights of the Annual Meeting:

- A motion to support HB-207 failed. The bill introduced by Rep. Eric Feige would have transferred ARLF loan approval authority to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development as well as combining the Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board and the Board of Agricultural and Conservation into a single board. This means that the Alaska Farm Bureau will not be supporting the bill in the coming legislative session.
- A motion to discontinue pursuing a Department of Agriculture carried.
- The proposed resolution regarding ag covenant land failed.
- A motion to support Ag in the Classroom (AITC) at the same \$7,500 level as last year was approved.
- Proposed Honey Bee Bill: No action taken at this time. The Alaska Farm Bureau Board of Directors has appointed a committee to investigate the ban on these pesticides. The committee will be submitting their results to the Alaska Farm Bureau Board of Directors prior to the start of the next legislative session.
- The judge's decision in the Riddle lawsuit was discussed. William Satterburg, Jr., Robert Riddle's attorney reviewed the case. A motion to support an Amicus Brief to be filed by DNR in the Riddle appeal, supporting the Right to Farm Act was approved.
- An Energy Committee was formed to propose ideas, suggestions and guidance to create a statewide Energy Plan that will be submitted to the legislators. Volunteers to serve on the committee were Bernie Karl, Randy Scharfenberg, Jeff Warner, Rex Wrigley and Karl Jewett. If you would like to serve on this committee, contact any member. The committee will meet via teleconference.

Bryce Wrigley was re-elected President and Bruce Willard was re-elected Vice President.

The combined Scholarship silent auction held during the Friday Forum and the outcry auction following the Awards Banquet brought in \$3,017.00. This is a bit more than the \$2,877.00 that had been announced at the Annual Meeting as several people actually paid more than their winning bids-rounding out their bid amounts and increasing their donation to the scholarship. Since 100% of all auction funds raised are dedicated to the scholarship fund, we will offer a \$2,000 scholarship in 2014 and \$1,017 will be carried over and added to funds raised at next year's auctions for the 2015 scholarships.



Frank Borman was selected as the recipient of the Ag Appreciation Award for his support of locally grown products. Frank owns a U-Pick operation in Delta Junction and especially well known for his knowledge and expertise that he readily shares with those growing their own vegetables, potatoes and berries.

Representative Bill Stoltze was the recipient of this year's Legislator of the Year award. Rep. Stoltze, known as the "Quiet Voice Doing Good Things for Alaska" was recognized for his annual farm tour for legislators, the local produce he purchases and donates to the Lions Club's for their holiday baskets, and his love of locally grown carrots. His legislative office always has a plate of carrot sticks available for everyone stopping by his office, he has a cart in both the Colony Days and Alaska State Fair parades loaded with carrots which he distributes along the parade routes instead of the usual carrots, and he is known to carry 50 pound bags of carrots with him as he makes visits around the state. He sponsored HCR1, establishing a State Food Resource Development Group, which called on the Governor to request that all departments in his administration work closely with farmer and ranchers to produce more locally grown food products to be consumed by Alaskans. He was instrumental in putting \$3 million in the state budget for the Nutritional Food in Alaska Schools program. This provided funding for every school district in the state to purchase Alaska Grown products, native foods, seafood and berries. The Governor liked the program so well that he put it in the 2013 budget and it is expected that he will likely include it in his 2014 budget as well. The agricultural community is fortunate to have him promoting and advocating agriculture. The Alaska Farm Bureau gave him our Legislator of the Year award in 2011 and we are proud to bestow this honor on him again this year.



Presidents of the three chapters that met their membership quotas for the year were awarded backpack/luggage with their names and the Alaska Farm Bureau's logo embroidered on them. Left to right, State President Bryce Wrigley, Rita Jo Shultz, President of the Kenai

Peninsula Chapter; Lorne White, President of the Kodiak Chapter and Bernie Karl, President of the Fairbanks Chapter. Membership quotas are established as one member more than the previous year.

PETER C. ROBERTS

Longtime Homer resident, Peter C. Roberts, 70, died unexpectedly in November 2013 in Homer.

Pete Roberts was born in November of 1943 in New York City, New York. In 1961 he joined the U.S. Army, where he attained the rank of sergeant before he was honorably discharged in 1964. After leaving the service, he moved to Colorado where he worked as a surveyor across the Southwest, ran trail crews in Rocky Mountain National Park, and studied geology at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

In June of 1972, he moved to Alaska. He lived and worked in Denali National Park and Fairbanks before relocating to Homer in 1973. There, he established and operated a cattle and sheep ranch near Ohlson Mountain. In addition to ranching, Pete worked as both a log and frame builder in Homer. Later, he completed a degree in house design at the University of Alaska Anchorage and designed and built numerous houses in the area.

Peter was involved with many organizations in Homer, including the Kenai Peninsula Farm Bureau Chapter, the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, Fox River Cattleman's Association, Concerned Citizens Against Annexation, and Kachemak Emergency Services Area. Over the years, he also ski patrolled at Eldora Mountain, coached Homer Little League teams, was a lifetime NRA member, volunteered at Homer Hospice and ran trail crews in Kachemak Bay State Park.

The family wrote, "Pete loved the outdoors of the American West and Alaska, where he lived an adventurous life riding horses, hunting and just seeing the country. He has a passion for craftsman style fine woodworking, was a ready mentor to anyone in need of advice, and he always made time for a good story. We will miss him and his memory will always bring a smile to our faces."

He is survived by his wife Madrene Rene Hoyt of Homer, son Luke Roberts and his partner Nicole Kinsman of California and Fairbanks; Luke's mother, Franci Roberts of Homer, his brother and family, David, Rosemary and Rachel Roberts, all of Brunswick, Maine and many dear cousins and in-laws.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Pete to the Hospice of Homer, P.O. Box 4174 Homer, AK 99603 or the Friends of Kachemak Bay State Part, 95 Sterling Highway, Suite 2, Homer, AK 99603.

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

USDA ANNOUNCES VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS Grants extend production season and income opportunities

On November 25th Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the availability of nearly \$10.5 million in USDA grants to help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities designed to give them a competitive business edge.

The funding is being made available through the Value-Added Producer Grant program. Grants are available to help agricultural producers create new products, expand marketing opportunities, support further processing of existing products or goods, or to develop specialty and niche products. They may be used for working capital and planning activities. The maximum working capital grant is \$200,000; the maximum planning grant is \$75,000.

Eligible applicants include independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and agricultural producer groups. Funding priority is given to socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers or ranchers, and to small-to medium-size family farms, or farmer/rancher cooperatives.

The Value-Added Producer Grant program is one of many USDA programs that support the development of strong local and regional food systems as part of the *Know your Farmer, Know your Food* initiative. Launched in 2009, the initiative strengthens ties between agricultural producers and their local communities, helping meet growing consumer demand and creating opportunities for small business development.

USDA's Rural Development is encouraging applications from Tribal organizations as well as applications that support regional food hubs. Applications supporting value-added activities related to bio-based products are also encouraged.

Grant applications are due by February 24, 2014. More information about how to apply is available on page 70260 of the November 25 Federal Register or by contacting any USDA Rural Development office. Alaska Rural Development offices are listed at <http://www.ruraldev.usda.gov/AKOffices.html>

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. Six 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.

NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING SYSTEM EQUINE 2015 STUDY

USDA will be initiating a needs assessment for the National Animal Health Monitoring System Equine 2015 study. They have collected information from state animal health officials and some industry groups. They are now looking for input from other equine-related stakeholders throughout the country such as AAEP, AHC, State Horse councils, USAHA, VS and equine media contacts.

If you have an interest, please take the 5-minute survey at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NAHMS_Equine2015_I. Surveys must be completed by December 31, 2013.

If you have questions or would like more information on this study, contact Dr. Bob Gerlach, State Veterinarian at 907-375-8214 or via e-mail at bob.Gerlach@alaska.gov

BAC HAS TWO VACANT SEATS TO FILL

The Board of Agriculture and Conservation (BAC) has two, three-year terms they are looking to fill. Financial disclosure is a requirement.

The BAC meets 8 times a year at the call of the chair. They are looking for individuals that are engaged in commercial production of agriculture in the area of Greenhouse, Grain, Dairy, or Horticulture.

The board duties include: authorizing the disposal of agricultural land acquired by the agricultural revolving loan funds; approving and administering agricultural loans; adopting regulations; consulting with the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources about the classification and disposal of agricultural lands; and submitting recommendations for the appointment of a Director of Agriculture to the Commissioner.

While serving on the board, a board member, or an immediate family member of the board member who shares the same household and financial resources with that board member, may not obtain a lease, permit, installment contract, or loan or purchase land under AS 03.10 or under AS 38.05, or have an existing lease, permit, installment contract, or loan under AS 03.10 or under AS 38.05 modified or restructured.

You may fill out their application online at:

<http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell//services/boards-commissions/apply-online.html> or contact Elizabeth Giardina, Acting Director Boards and Commissions at 550 W. 7th Avenue #1700 Anchorage, AK 99501. Telephone: 907-269-6493. Her e-mail address: elizabeth.giardinia@alaska.gov. They are currently taking applications and interviews. There is no deadline. They will keep interviewing until they have a pool of qualified applicants.

FARM BUREAU BANK

Farm Bureau Bank offers these benefits and savings to Alaska Farm Bureau members:

Deposit Services: Interest bearing checking accounts. Money Market accounts, Certificates of Deposits (CDs). Individual Retirement accounts (IRAs). Health Savings accounts. Free 24/7 Internet Banking.

Consumer Cards: World MasterCard credit card with rewards. Farm Bureau Bank gift cards.

Vehicle Loans: Member special rates for new and used vehicles, RVs, motorcycles, ATVs, personal watercrafts and boats. Up to 100% financing and refinancing. Competitively priced protection plans.

Business Services: Premier Business Visa credit card with rewards. Free account management online, anytime. Business Checking.

Equipment Loans: Finance or refinance new or used farm equipment. Flexible payment plans.

Mortgage Loans: Variety of mortgages with competitive rates.

To apply, or for more information, call 800-494-3276 or visit them at farmbureaubank.com

Happy trails...