



**ALASKA FARM BUREAU
NEWSLETTER
September 2013**

**AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (OBAMA CARE) OCTOBER 1ST DEADLINE FOR
EMPLOYERS TO GIVE TO CURRENT AND FUTURE EMPLOYEES**

The Affordable Care Act requires all employers to provide their employees with an “Exchange Notice” by October 1, 2013. The notice must be provided to ALL current and new, full-time and part-time employees, including H2A workers and seasonal employees. This notice is required regardless of whether or not an employer offers health insurance to their employees. Employers who have at least one employee fall under this requirement. **Failure to do so may subject you to a \$100/day penalty.**

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) has developed a fact sheet and information for farm employers that provides guidance on how to comply with this new requirement: Fact Sheet, Exchange Notice Information and New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage. All three documents can be found on the Alaska Farm Bureau’s web page at <http://akfb.fb.org> The Small Business Administration will be offering small business webinars. To register: <http://www.sba.gov/healthcare#>.

BALLOTS HAVE BEEN MAILED

Ballots have been mailed to members that are eligible to vote for Directors to represent your chapter on the Alaska Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Please contact the Alaska Farm Bureau Office at 907-803-4752 or send an e-mail to janehamilton99737@yahoo.com if you have not received yours.

Incumbents Marlene Wenger and Rex Wrigley are running unopposed for their seats in the Copper River Valley and Delta Chapters.

Rita Jo Shoultz is running unopposed for the Kenai Peninsula Chapter.

Stuart M. Davies is running against incumbent Gerald A. Marlow in the Fairbanks Chapter.

No nominating petitions were filed for the Mat-Su Chapter. According to the By-Laws, the Board of Directors will appoint someone to serve a two-year term to represent this Chapter. If you are interested, please contact the Alaska Farm Bureau Office.

Lorne White of Kodiak has one more year left in his term of office, so there will not be an election this year.

CHENA HOT SPRINGS HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE APPROACHES

The October 9th deadline to register at Chena Hot Springs is only about two weeks away. Make your reservation with Diane at 907-451-8104, Extension 1904. Tell her you are making your reservation under the block of rooms that has been reserved for the Alaska Farm Bureau. Use code AKFB111313 for the discounted rate of \$129/night. Reservations made after October 9th will be filled if rooms are available. Use the same discount code.

AGENDAS FINALIZED FOR FRIDAY FORUM AND ANNUAL MEETING

The agendas for both days are completed and are posted at the end of this newsletter. We think you will find both days will be interesting and informative. Please remember that the “early bird” registration deadline is October 9th. Registering after then will cost a bit more.

WANT A SHUTTLE RIDE TO CHENA HOT SPRINGS RESORT?

The Fairbanks Farm Bureau Chapter is volunteering to provide a free van shuttle to Chena Hot Springs for those attending the Friday Forum and Annual Meeting.

The pickup points will be: Fairbanks International Airport, Pike’s Waterfront Lodge, Alpine Lodge and Westmark Hotel. The pickup times will be at 1:00, 3:00 and 6:00 P.M on Thursday, November 14th. Return trips will be immediately after the Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 16th and at 9:00 A.M. on Sunday, November 17th. (Please note that these are they only times for this free service.)

Reservations MUST be made several days in advance on-line at <http://conta.cc/1428I3F>.

If you are flying and the shuttle departure times are not compatible with your flight, arrangements have been made for you to be able to wait at Pike’s Waterfront Lodge. They have a very nice area just past their registration desk with a fireplace, sofas, table and chairs and a large screen TV. This will be much more pleasant than the airport which doesn’t offer many “creature comforts” once you leave the secured area. Pike’s Lodge is about a mile from the airport, so the cab ride there won’t be expensive.

The Chapter will graciously accept donations for this service to pay for their fuel. Remember, the round trip is about 120 miles from the airport and return. (Chena Hot Springs Resort charges \$ 195/round trip for 1 person and \$ 125/round trip per person if 2 or more passengers on the same trip.) Taking the shuttle saves you the expense of renting a car.

DO YOU USE THESE CHEMICALS? AK HONEYBEE BILL PROPOSED

Representative Harriet Drummond (D-Anchorage) will be introducing legislation in January to ban seed treatment, granular soil application and foliar treatments for all neonicotinoid insecticides: imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, dinotofuran and acetamiprid. These insecticides and pesticides are often used in the Lower 48 on leafy vegetables, apples, beans, turf farms, as well as in commercial buildings for cockroach control. They are known to attack the central nervous system and, ultimately, kill honeybees.

Rep. Drummond first became aware of these chemicals at the Spenard Farmers Market where she purchases her honey. Her investigation to date leads her to believe that they are not currently being used in Alaska. She admits that pollination and agriculture are not her areas of expertise and she is asking Alaska Farm Bureau members if there is any reason why this bill would be a bad idea. She notes that if there are any red flags, it's a lot easier to stop a bill now than waiting until the session starts. She would really appreciate talking with anyone about this issue. The honeybee issue is becoming critical, especially in the Lower 48. Alaska has an abundance of crops that rely on bee pollination and she feels now would be the ideal time to ensure that this sector of the agriculture industry is not adversely affected by neonicotinoids in the future. Her interim contact phone number: 907-269-0190.



The Alaska Farm Bureau will be looking at this issue further and let you know what we find. In the meantime, we would also appreciate knowing if any of our members currently use these chemicals before we support Rep. Drummond's "Honeybee Bill".

NEW EXCLUSIVE FARM BUREAU ONLY \$1000 INCENTIVE ON CHEVROLET SILVERADO AND GMC SIERRA HD PICKUPS

Effective immediately and continuing through April 1, 2014, Chevrolet and GMC are offering exclusively to Farm Bureau members, an additional \$1,000 off incentive on the purchase of any new 2013 and 2014 REGULAR CAB, heavy duty (2500/3500 series) trucks. This is in addition to the standard \$500 Farm Bureau incentive, so the total Farm Bureau incentive on these models is \$1,500. Farm Bureau's Private Offer is stackable with all retail promotions, such as Consumer Cash (for the current month, \$2500 or \$3500 on 2500 & 3500 trucks, depending on the specific model and method of acquisition; i.e., Consumer Cash is not available with certain lease offers - though your total Farm Bureau incentive is).

There is no additional procedure required to obtain this additional incentive. Eligible Alaska Farm Bureau members follow the same verification procedure as they would for the regular \$500 incentive *however*; it's always a good idea to remind dealer sales personnel of your Alaska Farm Bureau membership so you are assured of receiving the Farm Bureau incentives.

You must be an Alaska Farm Bureau member for 60 days to be eligible. Print your discount certificate at www.fbadvantage.com/deals/gm or use the link on our website. You will have to enter your Alaska Farm Bureau membership number and zip code. The certificate can be used in Alaska as well as in states Outside.

SALES CLOSING FOR FORAGE CROP INSURANCE

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds Alaska producers of the upcoming 2014 crop year Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) final sales closing date September 30 for Forage Production. The policy is available in Fairbanks North Star, Kenai Peninsula, Matanuska-Susitna, Southeast Fairbanks, and Valdez-Cordova boroughs.

Alaska producers may also want to consider buying a whole-farm revenue protection package. Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) provides protection against low revenue due to unavoidable natural disasters and market fluctuations that affect income during the insurance year. Most farm-raised crops, animals, and animal products are eligible for protection, including coverage for organic and specialty commodities. The sales closing date is March 15, 2014 for all policyholders.

Producers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent to learn specific details for the 2014 crop year, including insurance for forage production, which may be eligible for coverage under a written agreement. Federal crop insurance program policies are sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance companies and agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers throughout the United States or on the RMA web site at www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents.

JOHANNA HERRON RESIGNS

Johanna Herron, the Farm to School state coordinator, has accepted a position with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture. She writes "It has been an absolute pleasure to work with all of you and I've enjoyed being a part of the team that made the Alaska Farm to School Program a national leader in farm to school work. I am confident the program and all the program activities will continue strong with the great marketing team in the Division of Agriculture." Her last day was September 3rd.

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.

SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION ITEMS

The Scholarship Auction will be held on Friday, November 15th following the Awards Banquet at Chena Hot Springs Resort. The Alaska Farm Bureau awards \$2,000 scholarships to those improving their skill level to work in an agricultural or natural resource field through college, university, trade school, or vocational training.

The auction is the only source of funds for the scholarship program. 100% of all money raised during the auction is devoted to the program. Please bring your donations to the Friday Forum registration table on Friday morning. Your donations can also be certificates for items too large to be brought to the auction.

WHAT'S GOING ON

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/

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.

October 15th: Deadline for the White-Reinhardt Mini Grants \$500 grants for education programs for grades K-12 to initiate new programs or expand existing programs. Scholarships are also available for educators and volunteers to attend the National Ag in the Classroom Conference. This scholarship program is to provide travel expense funds to attend the conference. Contact Julia Recko at juliad@fb.org at 202-406-3737.

December 1st: Deadline for the My American Farm Photo Challenge is open for fans of the popular educational gaming site to enter to win a My American Farm Kiosk for your Farm Bureau Chapter. Anyone can participate in the contest. All submissions are made online. More information at myamericanfarm@fb.org.

COUNTRY FINANCIAL SUPPORTS THE ALASKA FARM BUREAU

We greatly appreciate COUNTRY FINANCIAL's support of the Alaska Farm Bureau and our members. COUNTRY will again be hosting the noon luncheon at our Annual Meeting on November 16th at Chena Hot Springs Resort. Be sure to visit their display table for information about what they offer and to sign up for their giveaways! Don't forget to thank them for your complimentary lunch.



COUNTRY Financial offers Home, Auto, Life, and ID Theft policies as well as Financial Planning services. Their farm policies are sold only to Alaska Farm Bureau members.

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

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.

DO YOU KNOW A DESERVING YOUNG PERSON?

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is soliciting applications/nominations for the 2014 Spirit of Community Awards. The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards are designed to recognize young people in grades 5 through 12 for their community service. Last year's Alaskan awardees were Shaylee Rizzo of Kenai and Samuel Allred of Wasilla.

Who is Eligible? Students in grades 5-12 who have participated in a community volunteer activity since September 1, 2012.

How are Youth Chosen? Eligible youth must submit an online application (available at <http://spirit.prudential.com> and www.nassp.org/spirit) and ask their principal or the local head of one of the designated groups (Girl Scout chapter, 4-H group, American Red Cross chapter, YMCA, or an affiliate of HandsOn Network) to review it. The school/designated group reviews applications and submits nominees. Spirit of Community Awards judges at the national level who select the state and national honorees then review all nominees.

How are Youth Recognized? Local honorees receive certificates and, if they qualify, the President's Volunteer Service Award. State level honorees receive \$1,000, a silver medallion, and an all-expense-paid trip for themselves and a parent/guardian to Washington, D.C. for the award events. The top ten National Awardees receive an additional \$5,000, a gold medallion, a crystal trophy for their nominating school/organization and a further \$5,000 to donate to their charity of choice.

More detailed information about the Spirit of Community Awards is available from <http://spirit.prudential.com> and www.nassp.org/spirit.

The *application deadline is November 5th*. Honorees will be announced on February 11th. State honorees will be brought to Washington, D.C. in early May for special recognition events.



CHOICE HOTELS
INTERNATIONAL

□

Register before your first trip at ChoiceHotels.com to earn unlimited free nights. Set up you account as an Alaska Farm Bureau member using #00228830

□ Book at ChoiceHotels.com or 800.4CHOICE and after your second qualifying trip with arrival between **September 5** and **November 13, 2013** you'll receive enough **Choice Privileges®** points to redeem for a FREE night at over 1,500 hotels; corporate travelers can book through a travel agent or corporate booking system

□ Trips at Econo Lodge®, Rodeway Inn®, Suburban Extended Stay Hotel®, or MainStay Suites® hotels must be a minimum of two consecutive nights.

FRIDAY FORUM AND ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORMS,
AGENDAS AND VENDOR FORMS FOUND BELOW.



FRIDAY FORUM AGENDA
November 15, 2013 – Chena Hot Springs Resort

- 8:00 Registration (in the Activitorium) - Coffee and Doughnuts
- 8:30 Welcome – Bryce Wrigley, Alaska Farm Bureau State President
- 8:45 Land Committee Report (Farmer and Industry Committee that met during 2013.)
Franci Havemeister, Director of Division of Agriculture
- 9:00 Education and Research Committee Report – as above – Speaker TBA
- 9:15 Farm to Store – Marlene Wenger, owner Wenger’s Country Store in
Copper Center, Alaska
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Marketing Through Social Media - Amy Pettit, Development Specialist, Alaska
Division of Agriculture.
- 10:45 From Barley to Vodka to Hog Feed-Farming’s Role in the Craft Distilling
Revolution – Rob Borland, owner Ursa Major Distilling, Fairbanks, Alaska
- 11:00 HB 202 (bison management plan and fees) and HB 207 (transfers BAC to Dept.
of Commerce, changes to ARLF). Representative Eric Feige has introduced both of
these bills for the January 2014 legislative session. Michael Paschall, Legislative Aide for
Rep. Feige will explain them; take questions and your recommendations for changes.
- 12:00 Lunch – will be served at the restaurant
- 1:00 Tour of Greenhouse and Power Plant
- 2:15 Circumpolar Agriculture Conference and Northern Food Summit, Milan Shipka
- 2:30 North Pole Peonies, LLC - Ron Illingworth, owner
- 2:45 Growing Quinoa in the Interior, Matt Springer, grower
- 3:00 The New Ag in the Classroom Program – Joni Scharfenberg, Administrator Rep.
- 3:45 MAP-21 New Laws, Regs for Farm Vehicles, CDLs, Weigh Stations, etc. Alaska
Enforcement Officer
- 4:14 Alaska’s Right to Farm Law, Peter Fellman. (Peter was very involved in the writing
and passage of this law. He’s been subpoenaed to testify and if the trial is not over at the
time of this conference, he may not be able to give this presentation.)
- 4:45 Adjourn - Awards Banquet begins at 6:00 P.M. in Arctic Room, off the restaurant.



ALASKA FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

November 16, 2013 – Chena Hot Springs Resort – Fairbanks, Alaska

- 8:00 – 8:30 A.M. Registration (in the Activitorium) Coffee and Pastries
- 8:30 A.M. Call to Order
Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
Introduction of Guests
Agenda Additions/Changes/Adoption
2012 Annual Meeting Minutes
President's Report, Bryce Wrigley
Treasurer's Report, Eileen Herman, Accountant
Audit Report
- 9:00 A.M. Resolution Platform - Proposed New Resolution
- 9:15 A.M. Ratification of Election for Directors
Presentation to Chapter Presidents that met membership quota
List of candidates developed for President and Vice President
- 9:30 A.M. Vision and Mission Statements – Revisions or Adopt new ones?
- 9:45 A.M. Chapter Reports – What has been going on in each of the chapters.
(Approximately 10-minute report from each)
- 10:15 A.M. Break and Opportunity to check out of hotel
- 10:30 A.M. Chapter Reports continue
- 10:45 A.M. “Change Is (blank)” John Torres, Director Leadership Development AFBF
- 12:00 Noon Lunch – Compliments of COUNTRY Financial
COUNTRY Financial Report and Presentations
- 1:00 P.M. DNR Roundtable Discussion with Assistant Commissioner Ed Fogels and
Franci Havemeister, Director of Division of Agriculture
- 3:30 P.M. Department of Agriculture-continue pursuing?
DNR Education and Research and Land Committees – what do we
support?
HB 202 and 207 - What do we support?
Honeybee Bill
Ag in the Classroom (AITC)
- 4:00 P.M. Items from the Floor

**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.