2012
Program Highlights

Putting education to work in your life and community

Working with Alaskans

• Extension reached Alaskans with distance education using videoconferencing, audios and computers. We trained Master Gardeners, pesticide applicators, food protection managers, 4-H leaders and Alaskan Growers School participants from 63 communities.

• Extension conferences and events brought research and expert information to producers of fruit, vegetables, grains, hay, peonies, rhodiola and livestock and others interested in growing local foods.

• Agents taught nearly 1,000 residents of 20 communities how to preserve garden produce, meat and fish and other Alaska foods.

• We’re connecting with Alaskans on 19 separate Facebook pages hosted by districts, Master Gardeners, 4-H clubs and other programs. We’re also on YouTube, iTunes U, Pinterest and Flickr.

• Alaska Native youth in 10 rural communities practiced skijoring, cross-country skiing, martial arts, breakdancing, dog mushing and nutrition activities led by agents and volunteers.

• Fairbanks 4-H leader Becky Osimowicz received one of two national awards given to 4-H leaders. Altogether, 1,400 4-H volunteers helped mentor 14,000 Alaska youth.
Camping with Alaska 4-H

During the past year, more than 1,200 youth participated in Alaska 4-H camps. These included day camps and residential camps — camps where youth learn leadership and how to judge a horse, play a bluegrass instrument or ride an ATV safely.

Camps offer youth an opportunity to develop important life skills and have fun, whether it’s canoeing, filleting salmon or building a survival shelter. Camps support the 4-H philosophy of “learn by doing.”

Local foods on the school menu

The Fairbanks school district central kitchen bakes 8,000 hamburger buns and rolls a week that contain hulless barley from Delta Junction.

The recipe the district uses is the result of a collaboration with Extension and the state’s Farm to School Program, which works to increase the use of local foods in school cafeterias. Extension hopes to continue its work developing recipes for Alaska-grown products and creating more opportunities for Alaska farmers.