Food Safety and Security Theme

Issue Statement

Alaskans are vulnerable to food shortages because a high percentage of Alaska’s food is imported. This results in high food costs, little or no control over food quality or quantity, and the risk of disrupting the food supply chain and stopping food imports into the state. Extension offers programs that improve local food production and Alaskans’ access to a healthful, adequate and culturally appropriate food supply.

Goals

1. Promote safe and healthy foods for Alaskans that will assist in increasing Alaska’s food security and decreasing imported foods.

2. Enhance agricultural opportunities in Alaska.

Goal 1: Promote safe and healthy foods for Alaskans that will assist in increasing Alaska’s food security and decreasing imported foods.

Objective 1: Provide programming that increases consumer knowledge about affordable and healthy foods.

Strategy 1: Incorporate local food production and food-gathering information into Extension’s nutrition education programming.

Strategy 2: Increase collaboration with federal, state and local agencies, tribal organizations and other partners to promote wild and locally produced foods.

Objective 2: Improve harvest and post-harvest food storage techniques, food preservation and safety, and quality of stored wild and domestic food.

Strategy 1: Provide education aimed at increasing proper food storage in Alaska households and communities.

Strategy 2: Provide educational opportunities aimed at increasing adoption of safe food preparation and preservation practices.

Strategy 3: Provide educational opportunities to improve harvesting and post-harvest handling techniques, increase product quality and reduce losses.

Objective 3: Increase the number of home and community gardens in Alaska to increase local food production.

Strategy 1: Identify, adapt and create educational resources on growing vegetables, fruits and herbs, including organic approaches.
Objective 4: Increase food policy issue visibility and public involvement in state, regional and local food security policy.

**Strategy 1:** Collect, prioritize and disseminate most recent educational resources for policy makers, communities and citizens on local agricultural production and subsistence foods contributions to Alaska food security.

**Strategy 2:** Collaborate with partners to develop/co-sponsor engagement venues with clientele concerning food security policy.

**Strategy 3:** Collaborate with state, federal, community and tribal entities to develop assessment tools to help communities determine their food security potential and their community food needs.

Goal 2: Enhance agricultural opportunities in Alaska.

Objective 1: Increase use of modern production practices on Alaska farms and greenhouse operations.

**Strategy 1:** Identify technologies applicable for optimum production for Alaska agriculture.

**Strategy 2:** Provide educational opportunities in optimum production practices in crops and livestock in collaboration with partners internal and external to the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

**Strategy 3:** Incorporate integrated pest management (IPM) education into classes, conferences and publications.

Objective 2: Provide tools that assist in improving profitability of commercial agriculture in Alaska.

**Strategy 1:** Increase education in farm management and agricultural economics.

**Strategy 2:** Provide educational opportunities in areas such as enterprise budgeting techniques, marketing, product pricing, etc.

Objective 3: Protect Alaska’s crops, livestock and natural food sources from invasive species.

**Strategy 1:** Provide education to individuals and community groups on invasive species identification and control.

**Strategy 2:** Provide information to the horticulture industry to stop the importation, sale and transport of invasive species and identify alternative species.

**Strategy 3:** Collaborate with state, federal and local partners on invasive species education.