Education can be expensive. Those of us who have educated our children through college degrees know the truth in this statement. But not all education is of the higher education variety. Sometimes, learning is for the idea of doing things better. Most of the education you get from the Cooperative Extension is of this variety and often, it comes for free.

In 1862, Congress passed the Morrill Act that financed the university land grant system. The idea was to provide an education for those families that couldn’t afford a private university. It was followed by the creation of Cooperative Extension, whose purpose is to disseminate the information gained in the University and to provide non-formal education for the masses. The Cooperative Extension Service exists to help you learn to live better.

During April, Extension is offering a week of classes to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act. Classes will be offered in the Tanana District office and with the exception of one class, they are all free. Take a look and see what you would like to learn about.

April 16

10 am-Worm Composting. Taylor Maida will teach you how to compost with worms. Worms are available from the Soil and Water Conservation District for $26 and Taylor will furnish you with the box and help you get started.

2 pm-Making Conflict Work for You. Do you cringe when a disagreement starts? Conflict gives you an opportunity to air issues and to come to an understanding that works for all parties involved. Deb Jones will help you recognize how to diffuse difficult situations.
7 pm-Using Your GPS. Marla Lowder will teach you how to use the equipment, what it will and won’t do, and will even teach you how to do geo-caching, a new activity.

7 pm-Of the People and For the People: Alaska’s Land Grant College. Professor Terrence Cole will give a lively presentation on how the land grant college has shaped the history of Fairbanks, the state and UAF. Reichardt Building, Boyd Hall (Room 301)

April 17

10 am-Super Vegetables. Are you getting your vegetables? Even more important, are you eating those with the highest nutritional value? Wendy Uzzell will show you how to prepare and might even get you hooked on vegetables.

2 pm-Fruit Round Table. CES’s Fruit Tree Trial will be discussed and local fruit growers will share their experiences and insight to growing fruit successfully in Alaska.

7 pm- Biomass Forestry & Boreal Forest Biology. This program presented by Glen Holt will talk about biomass forestry and basic boreal forest biology with lots of time for questions.

April 18

10 am-Crockpot cooking. One of the handiest tools in your kitchen can be your crockpot. But it takes a little planning and management to make food tasty and safe. Marsha Munsell will show you how to use your crockpot and you’ll be able to sample some great dishes.

2 pm- Seed Starting. Spring is just around the corner and you want to be ready to grow when it gets warm. Taylor Maida will share her hints and techniques to have a successful garden.

April 19

9 am to 12 pm-How to Do Business in China. We will talk about export law and documentation, understanding China, culture in business practices, basic business tips, overview in currency management, transaction assurance, and setting up your export strategy. One-on-one consultations will be available in the afternoon for interested business owners and managers.

7 pm-Raising chickens. Have you considered raising chickens, but you don’t know how to feed, house, or guard the health of the animals? Mara Bacsujlaky will go through the basics of having a backyard flock.
April 20

10 am-Estate Planning. Though we don’t want to think about it, planning your estate will help your family carry out your wishes and might even give you some peace of mind. Roxie Dinstel will cover the basics and will give you some topics to think about before you consult your lawyer.

2 pm-Septic Systems. The care and maintenance of a septic system can save or cost you thousands of dollars. Fred Sorensen will help you understand how your system works and how you can make it work optimally.

April 21

9 am – 12:30 pm-Starting a Food Based Business—Fee: $30. Are you interested in starting your own specialty food business? Quentin Fong and Kate Idzorek will talk about what it takes to develop a successful specialty food business. Topics such as how to do market research and developing marketing strategies, structure of the food marketing system, and business planning will be presented.

For further information on any of the classes, call the office for details or to register for classes at 474-2420 or 474-2450. You can also register on the web at http://bit.ly/UAF-land-grant

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