FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 25, 2006

David L. Lentz Jr., horticulturist and co-owner of Landscape Expressions in Shreve, Ohio, has accepted the position of Extension 4-H/land resources agent for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service in Juneau.

Lentz was one of two finalists for the position that has been vacant since June 2004. The other finalist was Timothy K. Kock, who was originally the first to be offered the position. However, Kock declined in favor of another job overseas.

“This has been a bit of a roller coaster ride in terms of recruiting for this position,” said UAF Extension Associate Director William Butler, who chaired the search committee. “But it’s satisfying to know the committee chose such well-qualified finalists and we are very pleased David Lentz has agreed to take the job in Juneau.”

As a commercial horticulturist, Lentz is currently responsible for coordinating the daily operations of a landscape maintenance, renovation, design and installation business in Ohio, with a special emphasis on the use of perennials in the landscape. He will move to Juneau later this spring after he sells his landscape business. He is scheduled to start his new job April 17.

Before owning his own commercial horticulture business in Ohio, Lentz was an Extension horticulturist with the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service, where he developed and delivered commercial, consumer and youth-related educational outreach programs in horticulture, urban forestry and pest management to diverse audiences throughout the state of Wyoming. He also implemented a new public employee horticulture-training curriculum in support of commercial arborist and pesticide applicator certification and licensing requirements for the city of Casper, and served as the city’s consultant and public relations liaison for horticultural issues.

Lentz is a 1992 graduate of West Virginia University where he received a bachelor’s degree in agriculture with an emphasis on horticulture. He was named “Outstanding
Senior” by the American Society of Horticultural Science. Lentz has also completed two years of graduate studies in horticulture at Auburn University.

In addition to his background in Extension, Lentz has more than a decade of experience with 4-H as an officer, leader and ambassador in York County, Pennsylvania.

Alaska’s Cooperative Extension was founded in 1930 as a department of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, known today as the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). As a state land-grant university, UAF is charged by Congress to conduct resident instruction, research and outreach to people beyond the classroom.

UAF’s Extension is part of the largest informal education system in the world, connecting Extension programs at land-grant colleges and universities in every U.S. state and territory. This cooperative outreach effort ensures all people have local access to their state university and the knowledge and resources available to address needs and problems that face Alaskans.

As Alaska’s gateway to its university system, Extension serves some 60,000 Alaskans annually through its faculty educators, agents and staff throughout the state. Major program areas include agriculture and natural resources, community resource and economic development, home economics and consumer science, 4-H and youth development, and housing and energy.

Extension offers hundreds of publications, written and produced by university specialists, which contain practical information of interest to Alaska residents. Many publications are free and are available online at www.uaf.edu/ces.

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DPD/01.09.06/CES-CUfy06-09