Alaska produce growers conference scheduled in Palmer

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Fairbanks, Alaska— The Alaska Produce Growers Conference Feb. 16-17 in Palmer will connect farmers with the latest research and recommendations.

Conference organizer Stephen Brown, a Palmer agriculture and horticulture agent for the UAF Cooperative Extension Service, said the annual event is geared to potato, vegetable and fruit growers. Speakers will include experts from the university and state and federal farm agencies.

Speakers on Feb. 16 will highlight topics of interest to potato farmers, including research updates, fertilizers, precision soil nutrient modeling and pest management. Potato farmers also will talk about their experiences with precision agriculture in Mat-Su and farming in Bethel.

The conference will focus on vegetable and fruit topics the following day. Special guest speakers Jeff Conn and Steven Seefeldt, research agronomists from the USDA Agricultural Research Service, will talk about weed seeds in soil and the fate of herbicides in soil. Amy Pettit, a development specialist with the Division of Agriculture, also will offer a three-hour workshop on agricultural grant writing. Brown said the workshop will teach farmers how to pursue agricultural grants available through the state.

While most of the farming in the state goes on in the Tanana Valley and Mat-Su areas, Brown said participants are coming from across the state, including Bethel, Barrow and Dillingham.

The Palmer Community Center at 610 S. Valley Way will host the conference. A schedule and registration form may be downloaded from a link at www.uaf.edu/ces. Registrations are requested by Feb. 11. For more information, contact Extension’s Mat-Su/Copper River District Office at 745-3360.

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ON THE WEB: www.uaf.edu/ces