Sustainable agriculture conference March 14-15

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 7, 2012
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**Fairbanks, Alaska**—The Sustainable Agriculture Conference March 14-15 in Fairbanks will cover a variety of topics, including funding opportunities, farmers markets and large black hogs.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service will host the eighth-annual conference at the Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge.

Two preconference workshops will kick off the event March 13. John Collins of Alaska Farmland Trust will present a business-planning workshop for individuals interested in starting a farm. A mushroom workshop, led by Glenn Coville of Craftsbury, Vt., will include a short presentation on his organic mushroom operation, followed by a hands-on segment on cultivating mushrooms in straw.

Conference topics will include Alaska’s only flour company, the history of plant varieties developed in Alaska, pasture management, innovative farm contraptions, a peony growers update, beekeeping, growing grass on gravel runways and more. Local food efforts will be addressed with presentations from farmers markets, schools and universities, and a panel with restaurateurs and farmers.

The Alaska Community Agriculture Association will host its annual meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. March 14, following conference activities. This group of Alaska farmers, gardeners and community members promotes sustainable local food systems.

Preconference workshops are $35 and registration for the conference is $75 or $55 for one day. Preregistration is requested for planning purposes. See a full conference schedule, register online or download a registration form at [www.uaf.edu/ces](http://www.uaf.edu/ces). For more information, contact Tanana District program assistant Taylor Maida at 474-2422.

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ON THE WEB: [www.uaf.edu/ces/ah/sare/conference](http://www.uaf.edu/ces/ah/sare/conference)

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