Produce conference will focus on potatoes, marketing

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Fairbanks, Alaska—The annual Produce Growers Conference Feb 19-20 at the Palmer Depot will highlight potatoes and farm marketing.

Palmer Cooperative Extension agent Steve Brown said four Extension potato experts from the Lower 48 will talk about identifying and preventing common potato diseases, including late blight and bacterial ring rot. They will participate by audio and Alaska experts will answer questions.

Brown said ring rot caused significant losses of potatoes in the Matanuska-Susitna area last year. Potatoes are the second-most valuable crop in the state, behind hay, and the most important crop in Mat-Su.

The UAF Cooperative Extension Service hosts the conference for growers, Brown said, to provide the latest research and recommendations. Other topics will include Facebook marketing, farm insurance, farm management, weeds, using mycorrhizae, precision farming and agricultural agency updates.

The conference will run from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. both days. The agenda and registration information are linked from www.uaf.edu/ces. A fee of $30 for one day or $45 for both includes lunch. Conference co-sponsors include the Alaska Division of Agriculture and the Food Bank of Alaska. For more information, contact Brown at 745-3639.

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ON THE WEB: www.uaf.edu/ces

NOTE TO EDITORS: Information here

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