

4-H NEWSLETTER

alaska4-h.org

“Hot Off the Grill” by Matthew Anderson



←————→
The school year and 4-H year are flying by quickly. We breezed through spring break like a musher leaving Safety (last Iditarod checkpoint) heading to Nome (finish line).

Market livestock projects are in full swing and thoughts of summer projects are flowing through our minds.

These last few months were filled with fun adventures and competitions. From Youth in Governance in Juneau, community service projects, and a photo scavenger hunt to Public Presentation and Demonstration Day – **Tanana District 4-H is on the move to become Beyond Ready!**



YIG 2026: Goofy times!



YIG 2026: Formal times!
Matthew Anderson photos



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CALENDAR



PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT – ONGOING TIL SPRING!

Check out page 10 for details on how to be eligible for COOL PRIZES!



April

- 01 Happy "Double-Your-Homework" Day! (April Fools!)
- 01 Livestock Council Education Fund Animal Applications are due April 1! (No jokes!)
- 05 Happy Easter Eggs!
- 06 Teen Club, 6 p.m.
- 07 Livestock Committee, 6:30 p.m.
- 10-15 National 4-H Conference, Arlington, Va.
- 14 Leaders Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 16-18 State 4-H Horse Contest, Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center, Palmer. Please note change in venue. Registration in ZSuite is due April 8. No late registrations.
- 19-25 National Volunteer Week
- 20 Teen Club, 6 p.m.
- 21 Final Mandatory Market Livestock Participants Meeting, 7 p.m. Youth and a parent/guardian must attend this meeting if they did not attend the first meeting on Feb. 21.
- 21 Friends of 4-H
- 22 Happy Earth Day!



May

- 04 Teen Club, 6 p.m.
- 05 Livestock Committee, 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Happy Mother's Day!
- 12 Leaders Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Youth and Leader Educational Scholarship Applications DUE (for events July 1-Sept. 30, 2026)
- 18 Teen Club, 6 p.m.
- 25 Memorial Day (UAF/4-H offices closed for holiday.)



HOUSEKEEPING

HEADS UP!

UPark Weekend Access Issue

As a couple of our clubs know, we have had issues with the UAF University Park building being locked on weekends (exterior doors).

Several UAF departments are in discussion about a permanent solution, but until then, UAF Security Chief Max Becker asks that responsible parties (club leaders) call Security at [907-474-7721](tel:907-474-7721) before heading over to the building and they will have it open by the time you arrive.

For questions, comments or concerns, you can reach out to the 4-H office or Chief Becker at the above number or at mbbecker@alaska.edu.

We sincerely hope a solution will be worked out soon. Thank you for your patience and understanding. The safety of our youth is of utmost importance.



Enrollment and Trainings

We still have some folks who need to enroll – both youth and volunteers. If not, and something happens to you, you are not covered by insurance or liability insurance.

You also should not be doing any fundraising using the 4-H name or logo until you are fully enrolled. Thanks!

If you are having any problems with enrollment or trainings, please reach out to me or Ronda. We are happy to help!

Volunteer Hours

The hard work our volunteers do throughout the years is invaluable. 4-H would not run without all the volunteers. To show our stakeholders how important you are, I am requesting that each month you report those hours you volunteered. Also, if your club has volunteered, you can report those separately. This information goes to stakeholders across the state and country. I will be sending a link out each month to remind you about reporting these hours. Thank you again for all that you do for our youth and Extension. (For those who would like to bookmark the link, visit <https://forms.gle/X25TJqJ96GMJoTb46>



COME JOIN US!

Leaders Council Monthly Meetings

All leaders are welcome and encouraged to attend Leaders Council meetings, held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Most meetings take place in person and a Zoom link is available, if requested in advance. We hope to see your smiling face and hear your great ideas soon!



Livestock Committee Meetings

Typically, the Livestock Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in February, April, May, September, October and November, and then as needed.

CONTACT US



UAF Cooperative Extension Service and 4-H – Tanana District Office
UAF Community and Technical College, 604 Barnette St., Rm. 205
P.O. Box 758155, Fairbanks, AK 99775-8155
907-474-1530, www.uaf.edu/tanana4h

Matthew Anderson, Tanana District 4-H Program Coordinator – mranderson@alaska.edu, 907-474-2427

Ronda Boswell, Tanana District Admin. – rlboswell@alaska.edu, 907-474-2450

CLOVERBUDS

Cloverbud Camp Counselors needed! Applications due June 5!

The application to be a camp counselor for Cloverbud Camp can be found on pages 11-15 inside this newsletter. I hope many of you who were counselors last year will return again and maybe a few new folks. Any questions, please give Matthew a call. The deadline for applications is June 5.



Cloverbud Camp Dates Set – July 13-15

Summer is fast approaching and we want everyone to be aware of our camp dates for this year so you can get them on your calendars.

Cloverbud Camp runs July 13-15. It is a day camp where campers ages 5-7 (as of Oct. 1, 2025) participate in morning explorations at the UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden, while still enjoying the safety of home in the evenings.

We haven't started the planning yet, but soon will. I know it will be a fun and exciting camp, as it always is.

So, if you have young youth who would be eligible to attend this camp, watch the listserv and/or the next newsletter for registration information.



SCHOLARSHIPS



Travel Scholarships

Youth and Leader Educational Scholarship Applications are **DUE MAY 15** (for events July 1-Sept. 30).

The Tanana District 4-H Leaders Council established the Youth and Leader Educational Scholarship Program to provide funds for youth and leaders to help them attend events that will further their leadership skills and project knowledge. It is not intended to replace other funding sources or to be a full scholarship for the event.

Visit <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/4-h/quick-links/district-directory/fairbanks-tanana-district/forms.php> for all the details and forms.



PROGRAMS

Youth in Governance

This year's Youth in Governance (YIG) program in Juneau went well, as Marla passed the torch to Matthew. The Youth in Governance program is a statewide 4-H program that teaches youth about state government. We had 10 participants from around the state and three participants from the Tanana District travel to Juneau Feb. 15-20 to meet with their representatives and learn how the state legislature works. Learning about our government is a great way to be **Beyond Ready!**



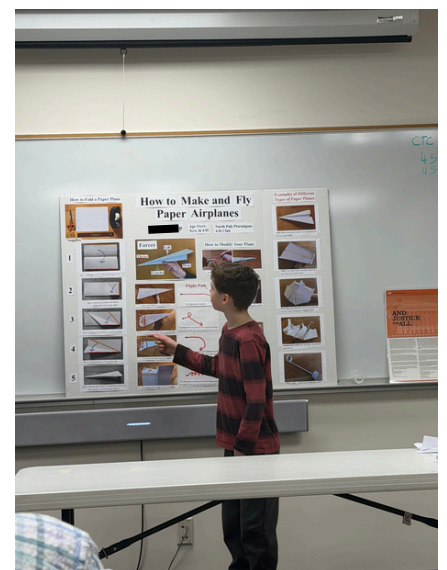
YIG 2026: Mock session.

Public Presentation and Demonstration Day – Everyone's a winner!

This year's event looked a bit different with a new location and a little different format for the day. We had seven brave youth compete in the Tanana District 4-H Public Presentation and Demonstration Day, March 14, at the UAF Community and Technical College building downtown.

There were three Cloverbuds, three juniors, and one senior division participant – presenting on various topics such as favorite color, rocks, paper airplanes, making chili, livestock, and horse racing. In the senior division, Anja received a blue ribbon and grand champion ribbon. William received a blue ribbon and grand champion ribbon in the junior division. Everyone who participated earned a special certificate for their hard work. Well done and congratulations, 4-H'ers!

A BIG thank you to our volunteer judges, Jan Hanscom, former longtime 4-H leader, and Scott Vance, executive director, Tanana Valley State Fair. We are super proud of our participants and excited to see them continue to grow **Beyond Ready.**

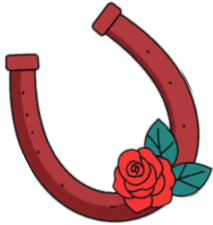


From presentations to demonstrations, and from ribbons to certificates, Presentation Day was enjoyed by everyone! Matthew Anderson photos

ALASKA RANGE RIDERS 4-H

Building Skills and Community Connections in Delta Junction

By Sage, 4-H club member



Club photo



In Delta Junction, the Alaska Range Riders 4-H Club is a group of local youth who come together through their shared interest of horses and the outdoor Alaska lifestyle, while also giving back to the community through community service projects.

Living in Alaska means communities rely on each other, and being part of 4-H helps teach kids what it means to step up and help where it's needed. Community involvement helps strengthen the connection we have with Delta Junction and builds respect for the people and history of our town.

One of our current projects is creating homemade goodie bags that will be distributed to Delta Junction senior citizens in partnership with the Caring Hearts Program. This project helps us show appreciation to the older generations who helped build and support our community.

Projects like this help keep 4-H members active and involved during the long winter and non-riding season. Even when we aren't riding, we are still learning responsibility, teamwork, and leadership skills.

During the summer months, our group meets often for equine lessons. These lessons give us hands-on experience learning about horse care, riding skills, and overall horsemanship. These are important skills for horse owners in Alaska, where agriculture, livestock, and self-sufficiency are still a big part of life.

Next, our group is planning a trip to Dry Creek to work with draft horses. This will give us the opportunity to learn more about working horses and traditional skills that are still important in Alaska today.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

2026 National 4-H Conference – April 10-25

The 2026 National 4-H Conference will take place April 10-15 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

Bringing hundreds of 4-H'ers to the nation's capital each spring, the National 4-H Conference is the flagship youth development opportunity of USDA, hosted by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). By providing opportunities for young people between the ages of 15 and 19 to share their voices with the federal government, this nationally recognized event is developing the next generation of leaders.

Experience unparalleled discovery, learning, professional development, and networking with 4-H'ers from around the world. During the Conference, delegates will become familiar with the government and share their voice with federal agencies and congressional committees with the goal of impacting change in America.

If you miss it this year, be sure to look for the conference next year in spring!

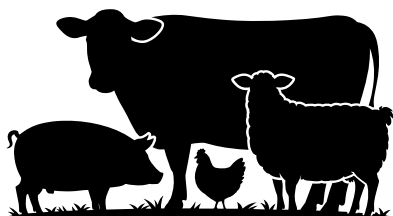


LIVESTOCK

Final Market Livestock Participants Meeting – April 21

We had our first Market Livestock Participants Meeting on Feb. 21 with great success and enthusiasm. We will be having our last mandatory meeting on April 21 at 7 p.m. at UAF University Park Building, 1000 University, Room 150, so if you missed the first meeting, you must attend this meeting.

As you are raising your livestock, remember records, proper care, and nutrition are vital. If you have any questions about proper care or have any problems, please reach out to the livestock committee or the 4-H office so that we can help guide you through.



Livestock Possession Dates

Don't forget the following dates if you checked on the agreement that you are raising one of these animals for market.

- **Feeder Steer** – born on or after Dec. 1 and in possession by April 15.
- **Lamb** – born on or after Jan. 1 and in possession by May 1.
- **Swine** – born on or after Jan. 1 and in possession by April 15.
- **Goat** – born on or after Jan. 1 and in possession by May 1.
- **Turkey** – hatched on or after March 15 and in possession by April 15.
- **Goose** – hatched on or after March 15 and in possession by April 15.
- **Ducks** – hatched on or after May 25 and in possession by June 8.
- **Chickens** – hatched on or after May 23 and in possession by June 6.
- **Rabbits** – born after May 8 and in possession by July 1.

2026 MARKET LIVESTOCK PROJECT UPDATE



THE COUNTDOWN IS ON FOR FAIR TIME

Some important dates for our livestock families to remember!

APRIL

April 21: Mandatory Market Livestock

Participant Meeting, 7 p.m., at 4-H office. Parent or guardian must attend. Must attend this meeting if you did not attend the other meeting on Feb. 21.

April 26-May 4: Initial Weigh-in Week, Large Animals. Beginning weights of all large animal market projects (finished beef, feeder steer, swine, sheep and goat) must be turned in to 4-H office along with full-body, close-up picture of animal, date picture taken and 4-H tag number.

MAY

May 1: Organized Weigh-in, Large Animals, 4-8 p.m., at Tanana Valley State Fairgrounds, for those who wish to weigh their animals. Tagging and photos also to be available.

TBD

Date TBD: Committee-sponsored Livestock Showmanship Clinic. Large livestock is Saturday and poultry, rabbits and cavies are Sunday.

JULY

July 1: Med Check Day. Check on any medicated feeds and all medications for withdrawal dates for all market animals.

July 5-13: Weigh-in Week, Small Animals. Beginning weights of all small animal market projects (turkeys, geese, ducks, chickens, rabbits and cavies) must be turned in to 4-H office along with full-body, close-up picture of animal, date picture taken and 4-H band number (tattoo number for rabbits).

July 10: Organized Weigh-in, Turkeys, Geese and Ducks, 6-7 p.m., at Tanana Valley Fairgrounds, for those who wish to weigh their animals. Banding and photos also to be available.

July 25: Entry Day, 1-6 p.m. at Lergen Barn. Buyer contacts and record books due

July 27: Barn/Pen Set-up Day; potluck when work done, 5 p.m.

July 30: Delivery Day. Delivery of Animals to Fair. Small animals, 2-8 p.m., and large animals, 4-8 p.m. Remember, there will be a vet check before animals can be brought into the barns.

July 31: Mandatory Barn Meeting, 11 a.m.

July 31: Official Fair Weigh-in, noon-2 p.m.

AUGUST

Aug. 7: Mandatory Barn Meeting, 11 a.m.

Aug. 7: Livestock Auction

Aug. 9: Animal Pick-up Day and Barn Clean-up, 7 a.m.

Aug. 23: Small animals delivered to buyer unless other arrangements with buyer are made.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 10: Record books turned in to 4-H leader/ FFA advisor in order to be eligible for a market project next year.

**Questions? Contact Matthew Anderson at
907-474-2450 or mranderson@alaska.edu**



CONNECT WITH US

WHERE TO FIND US



Leif Van Cise photo

The Tanana District office of the UAF Cooperative Extension Service and 4-H office is now located in downtown Fairbanks at the UAF Community and Technical College (CTC), 604 Barnette St., Room 205.

Our hours remain the same, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. weekdays, or by appointment.

Here, you can find the following friendly folks at the CTC building in Room 205. (A note about parking: As the main lot around the building requires a UAF parking decal, it is best to find a parking spot alongside 6th or 7th avenues.

- **Leslie Shallcross**, health, home and family development district agent, 907-474-2426, lashallcross@alaska.edu
- **Matthew Anderson**, 4-H program coordinator, 907-474-2427, mranderson@alaska.edu
- **Amelia Sikes**, food system research professional, 907-474-2426, absikes@alaska.edu
- **Ronda Boswell**, administrative assistant, 907-474-2450, rlboswell@alaska.edu

Come visit us in our new home! We look forward to seeing you!

WHO TO CALL/TEXT/EMAIL

Leaders Council Contacts

If you have any questions about 4-H, please contact your local 4-H office at 907-474-2427 or an officer of your 2025-26 Leaders Council:

- **President** – Priscilla Rice, plmrice.ak@gmail.com
- **Vice President** – Tiffany Gifford, tgifford@chugachschoools.com
- **Secretary** – Beth Austin, paulbethaustin@gmail.com
- **Treasurer** – Patsy Perkins, patsyjperkins@hotmail.com
- **District Representative** – Kaitlynne Rice, kmrice.ak@gmail.com
- **Program Coordinator** – Matthew Anderson, mranderson@alaska.edu

Livestock Committee Contacts

Got a question about the livestock program? Call the 4-H office at 907-474-2427 or an officer of the 2025-26 Livestock Committee and others:

- **President** – Mike Wilcher, wdoc2@gmail.com
- **Treasurer** – Lorrie Powalski, alliesfarmalaska@gmail.com
- **Auction** – Bill Eisele, weisele6@gmail.com
- **Resource** – Carrie Topp, carrietopp@gmail.com

Horse Council Contact

While the Horse Council is revamping, questions can be referred to the 4-H office at 907-474-2427 or to the following resources:

- Beth Austin, paulbethaustin@gmail.com
- Priscilla Rice, plmrice.ak@gmail.com

LET'S GET SOCIAL

Find us on Facebook

Don't forget to like Tanana District 4-H on Facebook. Also, like Alaska 4-H too. There is some great information that comes across it.



Photography Scavenger Hunt



THE TANANA DISTRICT 4-H LEADERS COUNCIL IS HOSTING
A 10- THEME, PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT FOR
4-H MEMBERS IN THE TANANA DISTRICT.



First Prompt
January 2026!

These 10 photo prompts may be compiled by the member to make up the scavenger hunt photos for entry into the Tanana Valley State Fair! Division 1, Class E, 4-H Communications.

Each Friday, a new photo theme will be announced via email. You will have one week to take your photos and enter them. Photo submissions will be entered into one of the four age categories: CLOVERBUD, JUNIOR, INTERMEDIATE, SENIOR.

ALL WEEKLY ENTRIES WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A PARTICIPANT DRAWING OF A \$15 GIFT CERTIFICATE AND a 4-H T-SHIRT FOR EACH AGE CATEGORY. CLOVERBUDS WILL RECEIVE A WEEKLY CERTIFICATE

~ AND ~

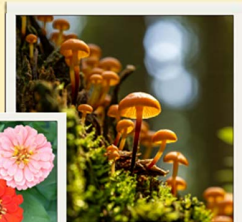
WEEKLY WINNERS IN EACH AGE CATEGORY WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A FINAL GRAND PRIZE DRAWING OF A \$30 GIFT CERTIFICATE AND A 4-H HOODIE.

Three ways to win!



QR code for submissions!

<https://forms.gle/YIXicC5Eg2TMY1V89>



Tanana Valley State Fair 2026!



All's Fair in Love & Spore



Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made five business days in advance to Alda Norris at <mailto:amnorris2@alaska.edu> or 907-474-7120. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to individuals with limited English proficiency upon request to amnorris2@alaska.edu.

The University of Alaska is an equal opportunity/equal access employer and educational institution. The university is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination against individuals on the basis of any legally protected status. This work is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

4-H Camp Counselor

JOB DESCRIPTION

DUTIES:

1. Be responsible for health, welfare and safety of campers.
2. Supervise cabin group during nonscheduled time.
3. Supervise all duties of cabin group, such as KP, cleaning showers, bathrooms, cabin, etc.
4. Carry out duties as assigned by director or other adult staff.
5. Assist with and participate in the discovery group learning phase of the program.
6. Take part in planning evening recreation activities, campfires, etc.
7. Be in your cabin each night at "quiet time."

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Be enthusiastically involved in camp.
2. Be familiar with the objectives of camp.
3. Establish and maintain a rapport with your cabin group.
4. Get to know each camper.
5. Encourage camper participation in activities and educational programs.
6. Promote respect for Twin Bears camp facility and natural surroundings.
7. Keep camper morale high.
8. Lead by being a good example.
9. Deal with discipline and report serious problems to director.
10. Show NO favoritism.
11. Contact the director or nurse at first signs of injury, illness or irregularities with campers or self.
12. Maintain good sense of humor; do not lose temper.
13. See that both you and your cabin group get enough sleep.
14. Maintain communications with staff.
15. Be responsible for keeping cabin clean and orderly.



4-H Camp Counselor APPLICATION

There is required counselor training: Dates and times will be identified prior to each camp session.

- Qualifications:
1. Must be willing to follow all rules and behavioral recommendations.
 2. Must have completed 8th grade and above for Junior Jamboree Camp.*
 3. Must have completed 6th grade and above for Cloverbud Camp.*
 4. Must enjoy working with younger kids
 5. It is preferred, but not mandatory, that counselors are enrolled 4-H members.
 6. Must be able to attend all training sessions and camp.**

**Exceptions are determined on a case-by-case interview.*

***If you cannot attend the training sessions, you must schedule an appointment with Marla Lowder to cover the material.*

Name _____ Grade just completed _____

Address _____ City _____

State/ZIP _____ Phone _____

List any camps and the years you attended as a camper: _____

List all prior experience(s) you have been a counselor, year(s) or experience, name of camp(s), special duties, etc.: _____

List Expiration Dates

Do you have an up-to-date Red Cross First Aid Card? _____ CPR Card? _____

Have you passed Red Cross Lifesaving? _____ Jr. _____ Sr. _____ WSI _____

List your hobbies and interests: _____

List two people as references:

1. _____ Phone _____

2. _____ Phone _____

(Application continues on next page!)

4-H Camp Counselor (APPLICATION CONT'D)

Check all areas you have experience in:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group games | <input type="checkbox"/> Hikes | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Skits | <input type="checkbox"/> Drama |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singing | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Archery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature study | <input type="checkbox"/> Campfires |

Explain briefly your experience (include place, time period, year, etc.) as a learner and teacher in areas checked and any other areas that might be helpful in a camp or learning setting:

Write a short essay on why you want to be a counselor (include leadership experience, cooperative learning experiences, teaching experiences, etc.):

Return application to:

**UAF Cooperative Extension Service
Tanana District 4-H Program
P.O. Box 758155
Fairbanks, AK 99775-8155**

**Fax: 907-474-6885
Phone: 907-474-2427**

4-H Camp Counselor SELF-EVALUATION

(GOOD AT — OK — LOUSY)

*“What you DO speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say.”
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

NAME: _____

	GOOD AT	OK	LOUSY
1. <u>GOOD HEALTH AND VITALITY</u>			
A. Energy to last a whole day with 10-12 campers.			
B. Good eating habits.			
C. Will make sure campers/counselors get enough sleep.			
2. <u>ACCEPTABLE TO OTHERS</u>			
A. Dress to look nice yet practical.			
B. Clean in body and mind.			
C. Courteous, mannerly and friendly.			
D. Sense of humor, justice and fun.			
E. Cooperation (with directors, campers, counselors).			
3. <u>ADAPTABLE TO CAMP LIFE</u>			
A. Love children — all types.			
B. Capacity to accept responsibility and to work as a member of the group.			
C. Ability to be at home in the out-of-doors.			
D. Ability to teach skills.			
E. Understand the needs of campers; places their needs ahead of personal desires during camp.			

PARTING SHOT



Jeff Melton photo

As you are either working on your 4-H projects or helping youth with their projects, just remember that it is a journey, which will be easy some days and hard others. Some days you are ready to quit, but just remember when you get to the next checkpoint your “dogs” can rest and you can focus on the next check point.

*In 4-H, we strive to be **Beyond Ready** – just keep mushing through the checkpoints and you will reach Nome (finish line).*



Leaders and club members! Got a great photo to submit for Parting Shots? Email it to mranderson@alaska.edu for consideration. We can't wait to see what you've got!

REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

This work is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov, USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made five business days in advance to Alda Norris at amnorris2@alaska.edu or 907-474-7120. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to individuals with limited English proficiency upon request to amnorris2@alaska.edu.

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