



Division of Agriculture

A presentation to the

House Finance Natural Resources Subcommittee

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STRUCTURE & FUNCTIONS

The Division of Agriculture (DoAg) supports all of Alaska's Natural Resource Industries.

The Division's activities are grouped into four service components:

- 1. Administration and Support (Director's Office)**
- 2. Land Sales and Management**
- 3. Agricultural Inspection and Market Services**
- 4. Plant Production and Environmental Services (Plant Materials Center)**

The Division also supports:

Board of Agriculture and Conservation

Natural Resource Conservation Development Board

Agriculture Land Sales and Management Program

Land Sales:

Since 1978, 180,00 acres sold

Since 2014 10,000 acres sold



Nenana Tolchaket development of 50,000 acres of agricultural land in pre-planning phase.

Farm conservation plans: 20 plans approved or updated.



INSPECTION SERVICES

- Food Safety Audits- Programs referred to as (GHP/GAP); Good Handling Practices and Good Agricultural Practices audit inspections.
- Phytosanitary Certifications and Plant Protection and Quarantine for Export
- USDA Grade Inspection and Certification
- Retail Country of Origin Labeling



- Potato Seed Certification
- Elk Farm Inspections
- Pest detection/enforcement integration
- Plant Quarantine Enforcement
- Hemp Enforcement

Market Services



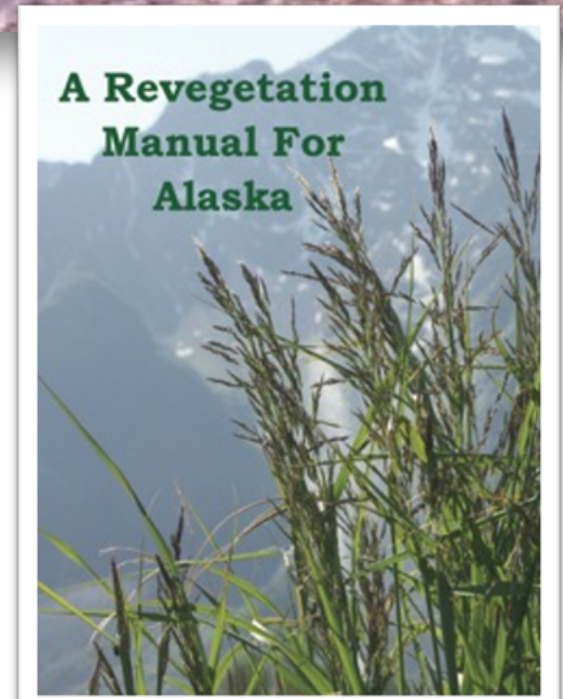
- Domestic and International Market Development
- Retail, Direct to Consumer, and Institutional Market Industry Support
- Farm Food Safety Education and Outreach
- State Branded Agricultural Market Program (Alaska Grown)
- Federal Grant Administration



Plant Production and Environmental Services (Plant Materials Center)

Services:

- Foundation Seed
 - Grass / Grains / Potatoes / Native Plant
- Certified Seed Laboratory
- Conservation Plant Technology
- Horticulture
- Native Plant Evaluation / High Latitude Germplasm
- Plant Pathology
- Revegetation / Reclamation
 - Manuals
 - Research and consultations
 - Soil Conservation and Enhancement



INVASIVE PLANT AND PEST PROGRAM

Pest Detection - Management

- Confirm the presence or absence of plant pests impacting our native environment and domestic and international movement of plants and plant products.
- Early detection & rapid response to pest infestations.
- Provide a distribution profile of plant pests in the U.S. deemed to be of concern to International trade.
- Maintain a pest information database to support U.S. Agricultural trade.
- Enhance national communication and education on pests, their life cycles, pathways of transport, and control.



Alaska Cooperators:



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

INDUSTRIAL HEMP PILOT PROGRAM

SB 6 (Ch 5, SLA 2018: 1) Create an Industrial Hemp Pilot Program to research the growth, cultivation, and marketing of industrial hemp

Status:

- 1) Industrial Hemp Regulations adopted by Commissioner Feige.
- 2) Applications will be accepted on the effective date of the regulations.
 - 1) There are three types of applications: Grower, Processor and Retailer.
- 3) Statutory changes will be necessary.



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE STAFFING

FY19: the Division had 33 positions.

FY20 2 unfilled Ag Vet positions were eliminated & 1 Land Sales position was transferred to DMLW.

First:

- 8 deleted positions were vacant
- 8 deleted positions were filled and incumbents were laid off

Second:

14 positions were added back, but 2 ARLF positions were vetoed. 2 Industrial Hemp positions were added. Thereafter the Division was **authorized 30 positions**.

- 8 positions are still vacant. 1 is in current recruitment, 3 are having updates to the position descriptions, and 4 are being re-classed. All are expected to be filled in the next 3 months.

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

FY21:

Continue focus on core services

Increase focus on:

International Markets

Invasives

Establish Industrial Hemp
Program



The St. Pierre family of Goosefoot Farm
2019 Farm Family of the Year



Palmer Fred Meyer 2019 Alaska Grown \$5 Challenge Winner

QUESTIONS?

**Thank you on behalf of
the Division of Agriculture!**

