



Agriculture and Community Food Trends in Southeast Alaska



Where we've been

- 1,000s of years or 1700s
 - Tlingit, Haida (potatoes related to Makah Ozette potato, WA)
- 1730s- 1867
 - Russians (Czar required gardens established in all land settlements)
- 1880s
 - Gardens- Homesteaders, miners, fishing families
 - Dairies, fruits, vegetables in Juneau

Tlingit (Maria's) potato



More of Where we've been:

- 1898 Gold Rush!
 - Sitka USDA Experiment Farm established
 - Active until 1931
 - Henry Clark - Skagway's "Rhubarb King"
 - 1898-WWII
 - Haines
 - Fort Seward (1904-1945)
 - Charles Anway (strawberries, apples, sweet cherries etc.)

Anway Strawberry



“Anway strawberries were huge, averaging 12-15 berries per quart. The largest berries measured 7 inches in circumference.”

-Sheldon Museum, Haines

Henry Clark's Rhubarb



Photo courtesy of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park

Where we are, where we are going;

- Today's Southeast Alaskan farms
- Challenges
- Current activities
- Outlooks

Today's SEAK farms and supports

- Example farms
 - Farragut Farms - Middle Island Gardens
 - Orsi Organics
 - Root Sellers
- Supportive orgs
 - Foundroot Seed Co.
 - AFPC (Statewide studies)
 - SAWC (online market, food catalysts, SE Producers Conference)
 - SLFN (St. Peters Fellowship Farm)

Farragut Farm - Marja and Bo

Farragut Bay, Petersburg

- one acre,
- 4 rolling high tunnels,
- one stationary high tunnel,
- two smaller greenhouses.



Farragut Farm - Marja and Bo

Farragut Bay, Petersburg

- 2019 was 10th season as a farm and biggest season ever
- Direct to consumer farmer's market sales in Petersburg been increasing steadily,
- Sold over 2,000 pounds of carrots to the Juneau School District in the fall
- Ran a Healthy Foods=Healthy Families program where 15 families in need received free mixed veggie bags 2x per month from May through October!

Farragut Farm - Marja and Bo

Farragut Bay, Petersburg

2020 and beyond!

- 10,000 heads of garlic currently in the ground.
- Building a bigger boat in order to be able to safely deliver increasing vegetable output.
- Fingers are crossed for more regular rains this summer, otherwise will have to think about expanding outdoor irrigation — something that normally isn't an issue in rainy Southeast!

Farragut Farm - Marja and Bo

Farragut Bay, Petersburg



Farragut Farm - Marja and Bo

Farragut Bay, Petersburg



Root Sellers Farm - Nikki and Dave Gustavus and Juneau

- Demand is high
- Regularly sell out of everything grown. “We are aware that we sell out because supplies/ suppliers are few.”



Root Sellers Farm - Nikki and Dave Gustavus and Juneau

The outlook;

- From surveys done by RSF, “buyers have told us that chemical free produce is as important as produce that is grown locally. - and that buyers are willing to pay more for organic and local produce compared to simply local produce.”

Root Sellers Farm - Nikki and Dave Gustavus

The outlook - challenges;

- Transportation, both in cost and availability. Without the ferry service we may not be able to bring produce to market.
- Availability of affordable ag land. If we could afforded land in Juneau we may have grown (in Juneau).



Sunnyside Farms - Scott Hansen and family

Haines

- currently selling potatoes and carrots harvested in fall 2019.
- In three growing areas: produced 8,000 lbs of potatoes and 4,000 lbs of carrots, along with root vegetables and greens sold in regional markets throughout the summer.
- “we believe we have been able to contribute significantly to strengthening area local food market volumes. We are also increasing capacity by improving mechanical processing to produce the highest-quality produce possible for Northern Southeast Alaska. Also, everyone working with us is gaining valuable life experience together.”





since 1917



JUNEAU AREA LOCAL PRODUCE DEMAND ANALYSIS



AUGUST 2017

PREPARED FOR:

SUSTAINABLE SOUTHEAST PARTNERSHIP
SOUTHEAST ALASKA WATERSHED COALITION



PREPARED BY:

McDowell
GROUP

Findings from Juneau Demand Analysis

- significant potential growth (Local is <1% of fresh market)
- direct marketing warranted
- promising crops include; garlic, carrots, greens (esp kale and lettuce), peas, beets cukes, squash, herbs and potatoes.
- pricing determination is difficult (high prices are currently acceptable)
- Many constraints exist; ie price of land, price of labor, transportation, cost of living...

Outlooks

- Continuing challenges; Costs of Land, Transportation, Living, Labor...
- more coalitions and collective efforts
 - multiple orgs, municipalities, individuals
 - ie SLFN, Juneau Food Production Group
- Demand for locally grown products is strong





Questions?

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