



AFPC February Newsletter

Hello Friend, we're happy to share our February newsletter with you!

This month was busy busy. We worked with partners to have an epic Food Security Week in Juneau mid month. We cohosted gatherings, gave [testimony](#) in both House and Senate, and collectively spoke to nearly all of our State Legislators. It was truly an inspiring week and we are ready to keep the momentum going as we move quickly into spring and the growing and harvesting seasons. We are excited about what we can grow together, literally and figuratively!

AFPC Updates



FOOD SECURITY WEEK FLY-IN RECAP

Juneau witnessed a powerful gathering of food advocates, as dozens of individuals from across the state converged upon Alaska's capitol building to champion the cause of food access and security. Under the banner of **"Everyone Eats! Food Security Week,"** these advocates brought a resounding message of support and encouragement to legislators embarking on the state budget process and engaged in policy making.

[Read the full blog>>](#)



SNAP Backlog's Effect on Our Communities

GUEST BLOG FROM THE BOARD!
Alaska is one of the most expensive states to live in. With our vast lands and remote communities, food can be costly or scarce and many Alaskans struggle to meet basic needs. About 1 in 10 Alaskans live in households that are food insecure – without adequate access to good nutrition. Learn more about how the SNAP backlog is affecting our communities and our anti-hunger programs.

[Read more about the backlog >>](#)



How Policy Can Build A Better Food System

On Wednesday, February 14th, AFPC staff along with staff and farmers from the Farm Bureau of Alaska, testified before both the Senate and House Resources Committees. We were there providing feedback on both the Governor's CROP Act (HB296/SB211) and efforts to date of the Alaska Legislative Food Strategy Task Force. Our Regional Food Business Center Co-Director Colin Peacock explains the key pieces of his testimony.

[Read the full blog >>](#)

AFPC Announcements



Annual Report is Live!!

[Check Out the 2023 AFPC Annual Report](#)

We are thrilled to share with you our 2023 Annual Report. Each year we have seen incredible work happen with the support of our Board and supporters like you and in 2023 our growth was exponential. Hiring a full staff to ensure we keep having Alaskan voices at the decision-making table around food policies is going to be game changing.

Thank you all for everything you made possible in 2023.



Our 2024 Policy Priorities

One of the most important tools for building a thriving food system in our state is policy that works with and for ALL ALASKANS. Through collaboration with over 175 agencies and individuals representing federal and state agencies, tribal entities, schools, university programs, farmers, fisheries, and food systems businesses we have developed our [2024 Budget Priorities](#), [Policy Priorities](#) and a list of [Bills to Watch](#). We hope you find these advocacy tools helpful and, as always, we will keep you up to date.

[Read More About Our Advocacy >>](#)

AFPC Presents:

Community Cafes



AFPC Community Cafe Events!

"Community Cafe" is a FREE community event that will be happening in three locations throughout the state! The series of events was organized by Public Health AmeriCorps Member Summer Sweet. These events will include lessons and demonstrations on home gardening, nutrition and cooking locally grown foods. Each participant will be able to create and take home their own seed starters as well as informational packets that include nutrition and cooking tips!

Light hors d'oeuvres will be offered.

- Anchorage: 3/23 11:30a-1:30p at the UAA Student Union
- Talkeetna: 3/30 11:30a-1:30p at the Denali Education Center Talkeetna Campus
- Homer: 4/6 11:30a-1:30p at the Kachemak Bay Campus

Watch your inboxes for updates!!



Anchorage 3/23
Talkeetna 3/30
Homer 4/6

Food Security Week In The News



[My Turn: We need to make food security a priority in Alaska's 2024 legislative session >>](#)
(OpEd from AFPC)

[Food security task force calls for new state ag department >>](#)

[Alaskan anti-hunger leaders discuss challenges facing state food security with legislature>>](#)

[SNAP Benefits Update As Eligibility Could Be Expanded in One State>>](#)

[Food banks advocate for food security>>](#)

[Food assistance advocates seeking substantial fixes as record demand, food stamp problems persist >>](#)

Upcoming Events



2024 AFMA Virtual Summit

The 2024 Alaska Farmers Market Association (AFMA) Summit and Annual Meeting will take place on **Friday, March 22nd and Saturday, March 23rd** via ZOOM.

Event will include Panel discussions, keynote speakers, workshops, virtual meet-ups and so much more.

[Register for Free Online>>](#)



Delta Farm Forum

This annual event brings together agriculture specialists from Alaska and federal agencies as well as from around the state to discuss topics of interest to Delta Junction and Interior Alaska.

Save the date: March 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Delta High School Small Gym.

For more information, contact Kaspari, pnkaspari@alaska.edu or Eve Karczmarczyk, eekarczmarczyk@alaska.edu in the Delta Junction CES office, [907-895-4215](tel:907-895-4215).

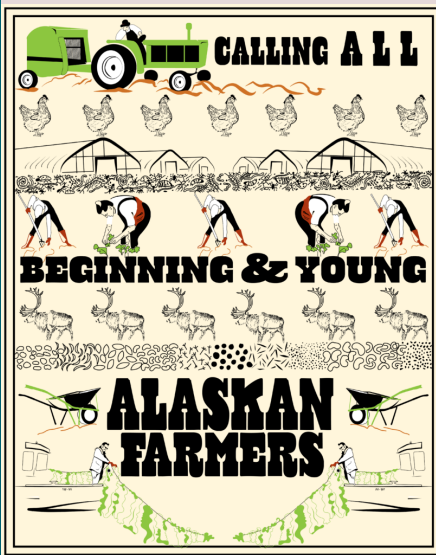


Storage Crops and Modern Root Cellar

Mar 7, 2024 06:00 PM
Guest Speaker: Sam Knapp

Join AFMA and Beginning and Young Farmers Network for a short presentation from Sam regarding his storage crops and modern root cellar. This session is all about participation so bring your questions and experience and share with the Beginning & Young AK Farmers Network!

[Register Online>>](#)



Farm Spreadsheets, Formulas, and Crop Planning

Mar 14, 2024 06:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Brandi Jo Petronio Nyberg

Join AFMA and Beginning and Young Farmers Network for a short presentation from Brand Jo where she shows how she stays organized and plans for the growing season by utilizing spreadsheets. Look over your own crop plans and business structure and bring your questions and experiences and share with the Beginning & Young AK Farmers Network!

[Register Online>>](#)



21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge

Food Solutions New England will host it's 10th annual 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge from **April 1, 2024 to April 21, 2024**.

The FSNE 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge is simple! You commit to deepening your understanding of, and willingness to confront, racism for twenty-one consecutive days in April.

[Learn More>>](#)



Beginning Farmer Training for Rural Communities

Led by Indigenous farmers in partnership with Calypso Farm in Fairbanks, this hands-on program will teach participants how to grow vegetables in a way that is transferable to village communities.

2024 Program Dates:

- **Option #1:** June 10th-13th, 2024
- **Option #2:** July 1st-3rd, 2024
- **Option #3:** (Native Plants Session): August 12-14th, 2024

[Get more details >>](#)

Informational Resources



NOAA Fisheries: New State of Alaska Aquaculture Report

The State of Alaska Aquaculture report is a first-of-its-kind overview of the aquaculture industry in Alaska, revealing the state's opportunities and challenges to date. Marine aquaculture in Alaska contributes to economic opportunities for coastal communities through the farming of shellfish and seaweed. Research is increasingly showing the ecological benefits of aquatic farming.

[Read the report >>](#)



Urban Traditional Foods Security in Anchorage, Alaska Findings from planning discussions

Read the summary of findings from discussions led by researchers from University of Alaska Anchorage, Southcentral Foundation, and Penn State University. These discussions focused on challenges in and recommendations for urban traditional foods security in Anchorage.

[Read the report >>](#)

Funding Resources



Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP) Applications Open Till May 14

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has unveiled a \$26 million fund for the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP). The initiative aims to support local and regional food entities in expanding producer-to-consumer marketing, local food markets, and enterprises. The program includes Farmers Market Promotion, Local Food Promotion, and Regional Food System Partnerships, fostering community prosperity and sustainability.

[LEARN MORE>>](#)



Value Added Producer Grants

Paper applications due April 16
Electronic applications due April 11

The Alaska Division of Agriculture has been awarded \$2,217,448.20 from USDA AMS to award competitive grants to Alaska food and farm businesses and other eligible entities.

[LEARN MORE>>](#)



Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grants Request for Applications is NOW OPEN

Complete applications and supporting documentation due March 15

The Alaska Division of Agriculture has been awarded \$2,217,448.20 from USDA AMS to award competitive grants to Alaska food and farm businesses and other eligible entities.

[LEARN MORE>>](#)



Orchards and Food Forests (GROW-OFF) Grant Program

Proposals due March 14

Exciting news! Thanks to support from The Forest Service, RurAL CAP is offering grants of \$40,000-\$60,000 to 8-10 disadvantaged Alaskan communities. It's all about creating community orchards and food forests for better food security and sustainability. If you're in one of these communities, don't miss out on this chance to grow and thrive together! [Check out the details >>](#)

Food Jobs

Community Agriculture Technician – Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

This position will be based in Anchorage with regular travel to the Native Village of Tyonek. This person will work closely with me and the Tyonek Grown Program to implement a seasonal crop plan and support the day-to-day operations of the 1 acre farm, including planting, weeding, harvesting, sales, and various farm improvement projects. [LEARN MORE>>](#)

Spring Creek Farm Internships - Alaska Pacific University

They are hiring full and partial-season interns, with preference for those who can work the entire period. This internship aims to offer a paid training opportunity to those interested in gaining a season's worth of experience on a small, organically run farm. In addition to hands-on learning and training, the internship includes guided educational opportunities such as field walks, weekly reflections, take-home readings, and exercises.

[LEARN MORE>>](#)

Seasonal Program Assistant- Alaska Harvest Collaborative Program (AHCP)

The Georgeson Botanical Garden is hiring a seasonal program assistant for the Alaska Harvest Collaborative Program (AHCP). The AHCP is a collaboration among five entities in Fairbanks, Alaska and is seeking someone to assist us in keeping it all running smoothly. **Location: Fairbanks**

[See position details>>](#)

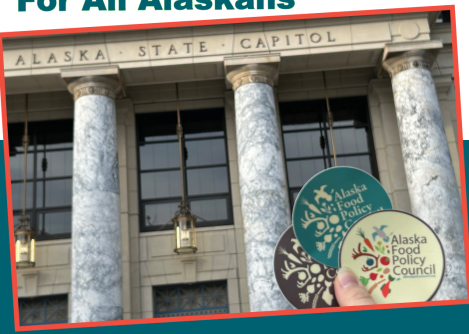
Please send any questions to Katie at kmdicristina@alaska.edu

Food News

- [Ketchikan grocery store collaborates with artist and culture bearers to cut down on plastic>>](#)
- [Capitol Corner: Sen. Jesse Bjorkman — Looking at food security, supporting public workers >>](#)
- [Peltola counts FTC action against supermarket merger as a win for bipartisanship >>](#)
- [As millions wait on food stamp approvals, feds tell states to speed it up >>](#)
- [Agriculture Department commits to big purchase of Alaska salmon and pollock for food programs >>](#)
- [Alaska must face food stamp litigation after a year of stays, court says >>](#)
- [Alaska seafood shippers to pay \\$9.5M in Jones Act settlement over 100-foot rail track >>](#)

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Policy That Works
For All Alaskans



It's Time for Pick.Click.Give.

We strive to be a resource for all parts of our food system. If you like receiving content like this, access to engagement and advocacy opportunities, and updates on food policy across the state, **please consider making a gift. We are in this together!!**

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Read Our Blogs!

2023 Festival Merch

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