



The Division of Agriculture Activities

March 08, 2011

Find us on the web at:
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag>

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Director's Note

March is finally here! We have made it through another long Alaskan winter and spring is around the corner. This past winter was definitely challenging: a "100 year storm" in Fairbanks left an inch thick coating of ice, and now hurricane force winds are impacting much of the state! Life in Alaska is always interesting.

This past weekend, Deputy Commissioner Ed Fogels and I traveled to Delta to attend the 2011 Delta Farm Forum. After a white-knuckle landing in Fairbanks Friday night, the Saturday morning drive to Delta was a delight. For some would-be attendees, the weather posed some challenges with fresh snow and high winds, but for those who ventured out it was a worthwhile day. The Deputy Commissioner opened the event with a Department of Natural Resource (DNR) update and DNR's commitment to work with the agriculture industry. The agenda hosted a variety of speakers, on topics from Phosphorus and Potassium Fertilizer Trials to the Flavor of Barley Flour. As always, lunch was delicious, featuring many Alaskan grown products and the company was superb. I would also like to congratulate Brasier Farms for receiving the 2010 Cooperator of the Year award.

As we all know, the legislative session is in full swing. The Division continues to watch the bills mentioned last month; HB18 - "Alaska Public Garden Day"; HB93 - "School Gardens, Greenhouses, and Farms"; and HB97 - "Extending Invasive Plants Law". Other bills of interest include HB 121 which establishes a Commercial Charter Fisheries, Mariculture and the Alaska Microloan Revolving Loan Fund; and SB 68 - "An act relating to the examinations, board, loans, records, and lobbying contracts of the Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank; and providing for an effective date." You can track these or any other bills of interest on Alaska Basis <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/start.asp>.

Please take the time to review the Division Calendar to stay up-to-date on statewide agriculture events. If you would like to be added to our newsletter mailing list, would like to post an upcoming agriculture event on the Division calendar, or have any questions, comments or concerns, please give us a call - (907) 745-7200.

-Franci Havemeister

Marketing Section

Cooperative Marketing Program Grant Applications Due:

Remember that Cooperative Marketing Program (CMP) grant applications are due to the Division of Agriculture by close of business on 3/18/11. Details about this program and application materials are available online, at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/>.

Upcoming Producer Conference:

We hope to see you at the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) conference, March 22nd-24th. This is one of the

largest producer conferences of the year, so be sure to attend. More information is available on the Agriculture calendar.

Alaska Agriculture Day:

Alaska Agriculture Day is right around the corner - Tuesday, May 3rd. Take the time on this day to recognize the contributions of Alaska's farmers and producers to our great State. We also seek to increase awareness and appreciation of Alaskan agriculture through targeted events in schools.

see *Alaskan Ag. Day*, page 2

Agriculture Calendar

Upcoming Events for March, 2011

- 3/10: **Alaska Farmland Trust Open House**, Palmer ([details here](#)).
Info: Margaret Adsit, 745-3336
- 3/11 -
- 3/12: Alaska Botanical Garden presents: **Cultivating Community
5th Annual Spring Garden Conference**, Anchorage ([details here](#)).
Info: Pat Ryan, 230-2328
- 3/23 -
- 3/24: **7th Annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference
& Organic Growers School**, Fairbanks ([details here](#)).
Info: UAF CES, 474-7269
- 3/31: **Board of Agriculture & Conservation Meeting**, Palmer ([details here](#)).
Info: Division of Agriculture, 745-7200
- 4/2: **Kenai Peninsula Ag Forum**, Ninilchik ([details here](#)).
- 4/7 -
- 4/22: **Plant Materials Center Spring Seed Sale**, Palmer ([details here](#)).
Info: Peggy Hunt, 745-8721

As we learn about new agriculture events throughout Alaska, we will add the details to the calendar.
If you have an event that you would like to add, please contact [Lora Haralson](#).



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http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_ms.htm

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Marketing Section

Alaskan Ag. Day

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Could you volunteer a few hours of your day to read to students? Maybe you'd like to have students visit your greenhouse or farm storage facilities? Do you have small animals that you could take to a school for a 'show and tell'? Are you a teacher or parent who would love to get your class involved in Alaska Agriculture Day? The opportunities are endless and the need is profound.

Educating students about agriculture and particularly about where their food comes from is very important. Participating in Alaska Agriculture Day is a perfect opportunity to get involved.

For more information, please contact Vicki Naegele of Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom at 982-2219 or akaitc@alaskaafb.org.

Farm to School Spotlight:

Kodiak Farm to School Program

The Division's Farm to School Program is gearing up and there are efforts that have already begun throughout Alaska. Learning about existing operations and programs is an essential step to further the goals of the Alaska Farm to School Program.

To hear more about farm to school activities in Kodiak, the Division of Agriculture (DoAg) talked with Michelle LeBeau, Dis-

trict Manager for Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District. The Kodiak Farm to School program is a community-based effort to connect schools and local farms. Initial program partners include Healthy Tomorrows, FFA, the Kodiak School District, Kodiak Public Health Nursing and the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District.

The goals of the Kodiak Farm to School initiative are to serve healthy meals in school cafeterias, improve student nutrition, support local farmers, and provide education about agriculture, health and nutrition. Their vision is to have Kodiak students eating locally produced vegetables provided from school gardens and local farmers as part of a nutritional school lunch program.

The Division's interview with Michelle LeBeau follows below:

DoAg: *What got you interested in work?*

M.L.: Like many people, I've become interested in where my food comes from, wanting to eat healthy and support sustainable agriculture in my community. Kodiak is an island in a remote state with a short growing season, so it is no surprise that most of our food is imported. However, if for any reason, food imports were suddenly cut off, our local food system may not offer the food security we need.

see **Kodiak Farm-to-School**, page 6

Inspection Section

Potato Late Blight Quarantine

Before springtime planting, the Division of Agriculture would like to remind you of the Potato Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) Quarantine that is currently in effect within the State of Alaska. This quarantine was established in order to prevent commodities infected with Potato Late Blight from entering Alaska. The following regulated articles are prohibited into Alaska except under the following conditions:

- Seed potatoes or potato plants are produced as certified seed potatoes in the state or country of origin and are certified; and are inspected in storage and no late blight is found in the lot; and are inspected at the shipping point and no late blight is found.
- Tomato plants (Tomato seeds are not regulated articles) are grown in a nursery or greenhouse officially inspected and found free of late blight; and are inspected at the shipping point and no late blight is found; and are treated prior to shipment with a registered fungicide for late blight disease control.

In order to verify the above requirements, each shipment of regulated articles into Alaska shall be accompanied by an official certificate issued by the government regulatory agency in the state or county of origin assuring that the conditions of this quarantine have been met.

Also, under Alaska Administrative Code (ACC) 11 ACC 32.040, all seed potatoes sold, offered or displayed for sale must have attached to each container or the display, the applicable seed certification tag issued by the official seed certifying agency of the state or country of origin.



Staff from the Division of Agriculture will be visiting retail locations to verify that the requirements of this quarantine have been met.

Please note: Tomato plants and seedlings that have been grown from seed in Alaskan greenhouses and nurseries are not subject to the above requirements. Alaska seed potatoes are subject to seed certification requirements and must be accompanied by an official 'certified' seed tag.

CERTIFIED SEED



ALASKA SEED GROWERS, INC.
BOX 835, PALMER, AK 99645

MEMBER OF ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL SEED CERTIFYING AGENCIES



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http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_is.htm

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Plant Materials Center

PMC Annual Spring Seed Sale

The Foundation Seed Program at the Alaska Plant Materials Center has announced an open request period for grass, grain and forb seeds. The sale will run from April 7th to the 22nd, and the seed will be available at 5310 S. Bodenbug Spur Rd., in Palmer. Foundation Seed may only be purchased from the PMC during the open request periods each spring and fall.

Part of the Plant Materials Center's mission is to make a supply of high-quality seed available to producers for cultivar seed production. The PMC only sells seed that is well-suited to Alaska's climate and soils and that will produce economic benefits for the growers. Foundation Seed sold by the PMC has been thoroughly tested for viability and purity.

The PMC produces "Foundation" and "Pre-Certified" classes of seed. Commercial growers use this seed to produce 'Certified Seed' which is then sold to farmers, landscaping companies, revegetation or construction contractors. Certification is important to identify that plants have been handled in such a way as to meet high standards of: varietal purity, viability, and freedom from weeds, diseases, and physical damage.

Alaska growers produce about 25 percent of all seeds used in Alaska. While the majority of foundation seed produced by the PMC

is for grasses and forbs native to Alaska – used for landscaping, roadside revegetation and other uses – a significant amount is also used for grains.

Due to growing public sector demand for landscape plants native to Alaska, the quantities of forbs available at the seed sale have increased in recent years.

A list of seed varieties available at the April open request period has been posted to the PMC website, at <http://plants.alaska.gov>. Another open request period will be held in August. For more information, contact the PMC, at (907) 745-4469.



Alaska Plant Materials Center 2011 Foundation and Pre-Certified Seed Sale			
Forb	Artemisia tilesii	Tilesii's Wormwood	Caigluk
Forb	Solidago multiradiata	Northern Goldenrod	King Salmon
Forb	Potentilla bimundorum	Staghorn Cinqufoil	Mentasta
Forb	Astragalus alpinus	Alpine Milkweetch	Norton Sound
Forb	Hedysarum alpinum	Alpine Sweetvetch	Paxson
Forb	Achillea millefolium borealis	Boreal Yarrow	Twenty Mile
Forb	Ligusticum scoticum	Scottish licorice-root	Casco Cove
Forb	Cnidium cridifolium	Jakutsk snowparsley	Tok
Forb	Iris setosa	Beachhead Iris	Knik
Forb	Oxytropis deflexa foliolosa	Nodding locoweed	Franklin Bluffs
Forb	Oxytropis campestris	Field locoweed	Black Rapids
Forb	Artemisia stelleriana	Dusty Miller	Shemya
Forb	Polemonium pulcherrimum	Jacobs Ladder	Butte
Grain	Avena sativa	Common Oat	Nip
Grain	Avena sativa	Common Oat	Toral
Grain	Triticum aestivum	Common Wheat	Nogal
Grain	Triticum aestivum	Common Wheat	Vigal
Grain	Hordeum vulgare	Common Barley	Weal
Grain	Hordeum vulgare	Common Barley	Woodling
Grass	Arctagrostis latifolia	Polar Grass	Alyeska
Grass	Festuca rubra	Red Fescue	Arctared
Grass	Leymus innovatus	Downy ryegrass	Cantwell
Grass	Beckmannia syzigachne	American Sloughgrass	Egan
Grass	Arctagrostis latifolia	Polar Grass	Kenai
Grass	Deschampsia beringensis	Hairgrass	Norcoast
Grass	Deschampsia caespitosa	Hairgrass	Nortran
Grass	Calamagrostis canadensis	Bluejoint reedgrass	Sourdough
Grass	Bromus inermis pumpellianus	Pumpelly's brome	Polar
Grass	Leymus arvensis	Sand Ryegrass	Reeve
Grass	Elymus macrounus	Tufted wheatgrass	Solomon
Grass	Hordeum brachyantherum	Meadow Barley	Lowell Point
Grass	Poa arctica	Arctic Bluegrass	Council
Grass	Poa alpina	Alpine Bluegrass	Groening
Grass	Poa alpina	Alpine Bluegrass	Teller
Grass	Elymus trachyaulus	Slender Wheatgrass	Wainwright
Grass	Poa glauca	Glaucous Bluegrass	Tundra
Grass	Poa glauca	Glaucous Bluegrass	Nome
Grass	Poa pratensis	Kentucky Bluegrass	Nugget
Grass	Poa macrocalyx	Largeglume Bluegrass	Andrew Bay
Grass	Trisetum spicatum	Spike Trisetum	Neichina

Plant Materials Center

<http://plants.alaska.gov/>

Main Phone: 907-745-4469

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Case Studies Sought for Interior Revegetation & Erosion Control Guide

The Plant Materials Center recently completed the [Coastal Revegetation and Erosion Control Guide](#) that covers the regions of the state covered by coastal zone management. The PMC is now developing a Guide for Interior Alaska, with detailed information on plant species adapted for use in interior Alaska. Techniques and methods appropriate for the extreme temperatures and arid environment of this region will also be covered in this publication.

A large portion of the Interior Revegetation & Erosion Control Guide will be dedicated to 2-3 page case studies highlighting past revegetation or restoration projects. Each case study will include an description of the objective and methods, and species used, as well as analysis of results and lessons learned. Pictures

documenting the project from beginning to completion are most helpful, and will be included wherever possible.

Areas of interest include the Minto Flats, the Tanana Valley, the Yukon Flats, the Copper River Valley, and the Kuskokwim Mountains.

If you have participated in or know of others who have been involved with revegetation or erosion control projects in the interior, please consider sharing your experience. If you are interested in helping to develop this resource, or have questions about the guide, please contact Phil Czapl at 745-8747 or email Phil.Czapl@alaska.gov.

All material provided will be referenced and the provider will have a chance to review the case study before anything is published.

Pest Detection Section

Highlighted Pest: Asian Longhorn Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*)

Asian longhorned beetle

(*Anoplophora glabripennis*)

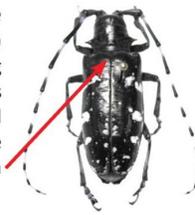
¾ – 1½ inches long

Shiny black, bright white spots

Long antennae, banded

black and white

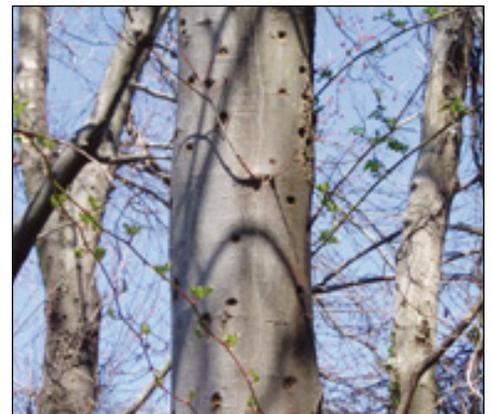
Black scutellum



The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) is an exotic wood-boring beetle that is native to China and Korea and was first detected in the United States in New York during August of 1996. Two years later, as a result of outreach information that had been distributed about the pest, it was discovered in a neighborhood of Chicago. The Asian Longhorned Beetle was detected in New Jersey in 2004 and in Worcester County, Massachusetts, in August, 2008. It has also been discovered in southern Ontario and Nova Scotia, Canada, as well as in England, Austria, France, Poland, and Germany.

All of the first U.S. detections have occurred because of discoveries made by private citizens who reported finding the beetle to the appropriate officials.

Signs of an ALB infested tree include dime sized exit holes that are perfectly round; holes oozing sawdust, sap, and frass; oviposition sights that appear as small divots in the bark; yellowing and drooping of leaves caused by an interruption of the flow of nutrients and water; suckers sprouting at the base of the tree signaling the tree is under stress (epicormic shooting); increase in woodpecker activity feeding on beetle larvae under the bark; and eventual decline and death of the host trees.



There is a look-alike longhorned beetle that does occur naturally in Alaska, and it is quite beneficial to the forest ecosystem. It is the White Spotted Sawyer, *Monochamus scutellatus*. *Monochamus* beetles are often attracted to fresh paint and generally only attack and breakdown dead or dying trees, thereby returning nutrients to the soil.



ALB probably made its way from China to the U.S. on solid wood packing material (wood pallets and crates). Once present, it spread domestically via the movement of infested material, mainly firewood, wood pallets, and nursery stock. If ALB were to become established in Alaska, timber, syrup, landscape and nursery, and tourism industries could all be negatively impacted.

In many communities where infestations have occurred, removal of infested trees followed by chemical treatments has been the only means of eradication control. In most cases, the trees removed were doomed to die anyway.

Trees at risk in Alaska include Ash, Birch, European Mountain Ash, Maple, Poplar (Aspen, Cottonwood), Willow, and Elm.



Whitespotted sawyer

(*Monochamus scutellatus*)

¾ – 1 inch long

Dull or bronzy-black, may be

mottled with whitish patches

Long faintly banded antennae

White scutellum

Because our North American tree species did not co-evolve with the Asian Longhorned Beetle, they were unable to develop any natural immunity or defense mechanisms to survive this insect. Also, benefiting by not having any natural enemies to control its population growth, ALB attacks healthy trees as well as trees that are under stress, dying, or dead.

If you should find what you think is an Asian Longhorned Beetle in Alaska, please contact the Alaska Division of Agriculture, Northern Region Office, at (907) 328-1950.



Fairbanks Office

907-328-1950

Charlie Knight -
Northern Region Manager

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Marketing Section

Kodiak Farm-to-School

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In Kodiak, increasing interest in using High Tunnels or greenhouses to extend the growing season has produced fresh, local, high quality food; enough to supply a farmer's market this past summer. This is a big step toward reducing the distance from farm to plate and creating a local food system. We have a huge opportunity to create jobs, get healthy, and become more secure and self-sufficient by producing more food in Kodiak. I want to be a part of that.

DoAg: *How do you envision farm-to-school working in Kodiak?*

M.L.: The Kodiak program is still in the very beginning stages of development, but we are leveraging off the success of a Fish to School program implemented this past year in Kodiak by the Healthy Tomorrows coalition. We envision starting small, with some raised beds maintained by students and community organizations, and harvesting in the fall with hopefully enough produce to incorporate into a "Tasting Day" at the high school.

The Tasting will offer students an opportunity to eat what they grew, prepared by cafeteria staff a number of different healthy ways. Nutritional information will also be provided and incorporated into as many lessons as possible. The program will expand in subsequent years, by growing a larger variety of vegetables, expanding to the community Farmers Market, including more in-class and field trip learning opportunities and more.

DoAg: *How are kids involved?*

M.L.: Kids will have many opportunities to get involved. Kodiak Farm to School will offer comprehensive educational opportunities

such as nutrition lessons coordinated with the fresh produce being served for lunch, the inclusion of Ag-in-the-Classroom curriculum, school gardens, food tastings and cooking classes, indoor learning labs, and farm/farmers market visits, all of which get students excited about healthy food and understanding where their food comes from.

DoAg: *What kinds of involvement from the community would be helpful?*

M.L.: We want as much community involvement as possible in this program and are actively building more partnerships. There are a variety of opportunities for individuals, community groups, local businesses and agricultural producers to get involved.

We are looking for volunteers to help build and maintain the garden, donations of gardening materials such as seeds, tools and soil, and local agricultural producers interested in participating in educational programs such as field trips or in-classroom programs. We are also looking to connect interested agricultural producers with the school district purchasing program to encourage local food in the school lunch program.

DoAg: *How do you envision the Alaska Farm to School Program helping your efforts?*

M.L.: We are happy to have the support of the Alaska Farm to School Program and look forward to the statewide program offering assistance in linking our program with others around the state, assisting with funding, and offering technical resources to support our program.

If you would like to feature a farm to school effort in your area, please contact Johanna Herron, the Alaska Farm to School program coordinator at Johanna.herron@alaska.gov or (907) 374-3714.



Land Sales & Grazing Leases

http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_sales.htm

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Opportunities

Sign-up period for 2012 EQIP funding is now through June 15th, 2011

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign-up period for fiscal year 2012 funding is now through June 15, 2011. These funds have been used to fund installation of seasonal high-tunnels at many locations in Alaska.

By capturing solar energy, seasonal high tunnels create favorable conditions enabling

farmers to grow vegetables, berries and other specialty crops in climates and at times of the year in which it would otherwise be difficult. Farmers who sell their high tunnel produce locally benefit from the extra income, and the community benefits from the availability of fresh, locally grown food.

see **High Tunnel Funding**, page 7



Opportunities

High Tunnel Funding

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Seasonal high tunnels are manufactured kits made of metal pipe and covered with UV resistant 6 mil plastic. Easy to build, maintain and move, they provide an energy-efficient way to extend the growing season. Unlike greenhouses, they require no energy, relying on natural sunlight to modify the climate inside to create favorable conditions for growing vegetables and other specialty crops.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing financial assistance for seasonal high tunnels as part of a three-year trial to determine their effectiveness in reducing pesticide use, maintaining vital soil nutrients, and increasing crop yields.

For information on how to apply for EQIP funding, visit the NRCS Mat-Su Service Center at:

1700 E. Bogard Rd.
Suite 203, Building A
Wasilla, AK 99654

Or call (907)373-6492 ext. 101.



Photo: UAF Cooperative Extension Service

Public Notices

Properties for sale by the Board of Agriculture and Conservation (BAC):

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources is offering two properties for sale.

513 South Valley Way, Palmer

Former Matanuska Maid Manufacturing Facility: Real Property and Improvements

This property sits on 3 acres in downtown Palmer, bounded by E. Dogwood Ave, Dahlia Ave, and Denali St.



ARLF LAND SALE #09-01

Over-The-Counter Offering:
Purchase Price \$975,000.00.



7411 Kenai Spur Highway, Kenai

7.4 acres of commercial zoned land, between the cities of Kenai and Soldotna.
Lot dimensions: Approx: 330 ft. x 1900 ft.

This parcel is being offered "AS IS, WHERE IS, W/ NO IMPLIED OR EXPRESSED WARRANTY OF CONDITION WHATSOEVER."



ARLF LAND SALE #11-01

Over-The-Counter Offering:
Purchase Price \$14,000.00.

Properties are offered as fee-simple real estate, surface estate only. Financing from the Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund may be available, but is not guaranteed. For more information on these OTC offerings, please visit dnr.alaska.gov/ag/.

Questions or comments regarding the sale process may be directed to Director Franci Havemeister, at 761-3867 or by email to Franci.Havemeister@alaska.gov.