



Alaska Food Policy Council

2020
ANNUAL REPORT

health.
self-reliance.
prosperity.



Alaska Food Policy Council

3734 BEN WALTERS LN.
HOMER, AK 99603

2020 AFPC GOVERNING BOARD

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AFPC IS DEDICATED to making change so our food system works better for all Alaskans.

How we do it:

CONNECT: Engage with Alaskans to get input to strengthen our food system, and to connect them with each other to learn and collaborate.

ADVOCATE: Develop recommendations and share them with policy makers at the local, state, federal, and tribal level.

INFORM: Share information, resources, opportunities and risks with all food stakeholders (everyone who eats!)

AFPC is a coalition of Alaskans who want to improve Alaska's food system.

Our statewide volunteer board of directors represents:

- » FARMERS » FOOD BUSINESSES » GOVERNMENT AGENCIES » SUBSISTENCE USERS
- » FISHERMEN » SCHOOLS » NON-PROFITS » FOOD CONSUMERS OF ALASKA

95%
of our food is
IMPORTED
EXPORTING
\$2B
in food dollars/year



IN ALASKA:
Subsistence
and
personal use
HARVESTS
ARE WORTH
\$900
MILLION
ANNUALLY

1 IN 5
Alaskan kids face chronic
HUNGER

PHYSICAL INACTIVITY & UNHEALTHY EATING
↓↓↓↓↓↓↓ contribute to ↓↓↓↓↓↓
overweight • obesity • chronic diseases
(including some cancers, cardiovascular disease, & diabetes)

web: akfoodpolicycouncil.org facebook: [akfoodpolicy](https://www.facebook.com/akfoodpolicy) instagram: [akfoodpolicycouncil](https://www.instagram.com/akfoodpolicycouncil) email: akfoodpolicycouncil@gmail.com



A MESSAGE FROM OUR (FIRST EVER!) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After 10 years working with producers in Homer, running the local farmers market, and launching the Alaska Food Hub, I joined the Alaska Food Policy Governing Board three years ago, hoping to represent the interests of farmers and fishers on the Kenai Peninsula. In January 2020, I humbly accepted the role of Executive Director. It's truly an honor to be working toward such a worthy goal of food security for all. From the very beginning, starting with the Alaska Food Policy Council's founding in 2011, our mission and focus have remained constant: to create a healthier, more secure, and more self-reliant Alaska by improving our food system. Bringing together diverse voices and ideas from Alaska's food systems - individuals representing federal and state agencies, tribal entities, schools, university programs, farmers, fisheries, food businesses, and really anyone who eats - AFPC seeks to connect, advocate, and inform Alaskans on food systems issues.

Check us out here: akfoodpolicycouncil.org/overview

During the last decade, Alaska's food system has grown tremendously. According to the 2017 USDA Agricultural Census, the number of farms grew 30% in the face of national 3% decrease, we lead in female farmers, and while we desperately need more growers to meet in-state demand, we are trending in the right direction. Farmers markets have doubled in number, workforce and industry development projects are underway, and food access and security have become more important in the hearts and minds of Alaskans. AFPC has helped bring together food systems practitioners through events like our biennial conference. In addition to this event held every 18 months, AFPC is dedicated to digging deep into food systems issues. In the past, we've held workshops on food hubs, farmers market food safety, and accessing aid and grants during COVID-19. This year, we are planning quarterly food system webinars, focused on various topics and concerns voiced at the 2020 AFPC conference. We kicked the series off January 13 with a discussion on transportation and are looking forward to exploring issues and thinking through tangible solutions and actions.

As we start 2021, we look back on a year of tremendous challenge. 2020 was a remarkable year, for better or worse, on many accounts. We started the year with our first ever executive director, and ended with a very successful virtual conference focused on food sovereignty, rural food issues, and food entrepreneurship. In between, we traveled to Juneau to advocate on behalf of a stronger, more equitable Alaska food system. We launched two new working groups: the Indigenous & Traditional Foods and the Food Waste committees. As COVID-19 spread, we worked hard to address pandemic concerns, providing resources to help all links in our food system. This fall we gathered perspectives from state and national leaders to help inform voters with our candidate survey.

On behalf of the entire Alaska Food Policy Council, thank you, to each and every one of our members, supporters, event attendees, funders, critics, and beyond. We have several new initiatives planned for 2021, including our USDA funded Regional Food Systems Partnership project, focused on creating statewide networks, as well as building up our working committees - membership is open to anyone, so please consider joining. YOU are the Alaska Food Policy Council. Together we can build a better, more resilient tomorrow, for all Alaskans.

Robbi M. Mixon

Robbi Mixon, Executive Director
Alaska Food Policy Council



advocacy EFFORTS



The AFPC Advocacy Committee follows issues important to building a more sustainable food system in Alaska, and engages with policymakers and the public to increase awareness of these issues. The committee submits recommendations to the Governing Board on what AFPC's priorities should be for the year, works on policy comments or suggestions to submit on these issues, and works with other organizations to coordinate efforts in Juneau for Food Security Week. The Advocacy Committee has also taken on distributing and compiling a candidate survey to provide a perspective to voters on their candidates' stances about food system issues.

FOOD SECURITY WEEK IN JUNEAU

In February, the Alaska Food Policy Council traveled to Juneau for legislative meetings, lunch and learns, and strategic planning around food systems advocacy. We partnered with other groups representing various sectors of the Alaska food system, including:

- **Food Bank of Alaska + Alaska Food Coalition** (multiple food banks and pantries from around the state)
- **Alaska Farm Bureau**
- **Alaska Farmland Trust + farmers**
- **Alaska Farmers Market Association** + market managers

This week has been dubbed "Food Security Week," as we explored food systems priorities of the group around increasing food production, increasing food access, and reducing food waste. Here are some highlights from the week:

- We held a series of three well-attended Lunch and Learns at the Capitol on "Food Production Successes in Alaska," "Improving Access to Food in Alaska," and "Innovative Efforts to Reduce Food Waste."
- We met with nearly all of our state legislators, as well as the Governor's staff and state administrative officials.
- We presented to the House Resource Committee on our three priority areas: increasing food production, increasing food access and reducing food waste.
- We held a meeting with the other food and agriculture organizations in Juneau to increase understanding for each group's issues.



Photo credit Max Romey

2020 ADVOCACY FOCUS AREAS



FOOD PRODUCTION

PRIORITY AREAS:

- Support protection of agricultural lands
- Enhance farmer training/education
- Improve market access for locally grown food

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUPPORT:

- Incentivize local areas to offer farmland property tax exemptions
- Improve access to ADEC permitted kitchens for food processing
- Enforce statutory product preference program for local grown foods



FOOD ACCESS

PRIORITY AREAS:

- Connect low-income Alaskans with healthy produce
- Frame hunger as a health issue
- Improve the SNAP customer experience

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUPPORT:

- Support efforts to connect low-income Alaskans with produce (GusNIP grant; Subsidized produce boxes in rural areas)
- Encourage food insecurity screening and referrals in health care settings
- Implement technological advances for SNAP including an online application



FOOD WASTE

PRIORITY AREAS:

- Encourage consumers to take action
- Promote institutional efforts to reduce food waste
- Collaborate with food-related businesses such as restaurants and grocers to look for ways to reduce waste

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUPPORT:

- Discuss and implement best practices for avoiding food waste in institutions such as schools, hospitals, etc.
- Coordinate media campaigns that encourage and teach food waste best practices
- Develop local composting programs



buy local CAMPAIGN

AFPC partnered with Alaska Farm Bureau, Alaska Farmers Market Association, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, Homer Farmers Market and Alaska Food Hub to design a 30-second TV ad and 15-second digital ad promoting Alaska agriculture.



Synergy Gardens – Photo by Obidiah Jenkins



Board members with Senator Dan Sullivan, taken during the 2019 semi-annual conference

AK FOOD CONFERENCE ADVOCACY SESSION

At our annual conference, we held an interactive session to solicit ideas and feedback on our broad policy priorities. What issues should AFPC be working on in the coming year? What are the barriers to improving outcomes around our priority areas? If we did one thing this year to increase production, fight food insecurity, and reduce food waste, what should it be? Here are some ideas shared around areas of future opportunity during the session:

PRODUCTION

"Funding for training, education, start-up and maintenance"

"Use state land to create incubator farms"

"Farmer and gardener training"

FOOD INSECURITY

"Ensure access to SNAP and WIC benefits"

"Teach proper harvesting and gardening"

"Invest in local farm subsidies and cost share programs that support farmers and consumers alike"

FOOD WASTE

"Invest in cold storage facilities in rural communities"

"Do all we can to increase local production. So much food waste is from imported food."

"Invest \$\$\$ towards infrastructure, the works!"

One thread that ran through all three buckets was the role that transportation plays in Alaska's food system. Bypass mail and the ferry system both came up as important avenues for transporting food around the state, and both could be strengthened and improved. This discussion was one of a few that prompted AFPC to host a webinar looking at the role of these transportation systems in our food system. That webinar ran on January 13, and will hopefully be the first discussion among many more on this topic.

ADVOCACY DURING COVID

COVID has created an unprecedented need for food assistance, as well as highlighted many vulnerabilities in the food supply chain. Through multiple calls, emails, and sign-on letters to our congressional delegation, we were able to help ensure that the COVID relief packages focused on food production and getting more food to those who need it. AFPC participated in calls with the Governor to discuss the importance of a strong local agricultural system, and explore options to strengthen Alaska's food system.

2020 ALASKA food hero AWARDS

Each conference, the Alaska Food Policy Council recognizes individuals and organizations with the "Alaska Food Hero Award." Selection is based on work they have been involved with over the past 18 months.

Awardees demonstrate a substantial impact on Alaska's food system, transform an aspect of their community's food system, and make a difference for Alaska's prosperity, health and self-reliance.

This year's honorees are:

- Native Village of Savoonga Reindeer Crew
- Marsh Skeele (Sitka Salmon Shares)
- Chef Amy Foote, pictured below (Alaska Native Medical Center)





Anchorage Muni Solid Waste Services (SWS) was awarded a \$90,000 grant in August from the USDA for a compost feasibility study and organics collection expansion project. The SWS project includes a feasibility study and implementation plan for a municipal-scale composting operation at the Anchorage Regional Landfill. The grant also provides funding for an education campaign in partnership with the Alaska Food Policy Council, Alaska Waste, and Central Recycling Services.

SWS has been expanding composting and food waste reduction programs since 2016. Currently SWS partners with private entities for composting, however, none of them have facilities within the Municipality. That makes transportation the biggest cost and largest hurdle in expanding composting programs in Anchorage. By completing a feasibility study, residents will get a better sense of what we need to do to responsibly grow composting programs in Anchorage.

Developing composting programs is a top priority for SWS. Establishing robust collection of food scraps and yard waste in commercial and residential sectors could potentially divert over 90,000 tons of material out of the landfill per year (for comparison, Anchorage disposes 300,000 tons of trash annually). Keeping organics out adds capacity to the landfill, reduces methane emissions caused by landfilling organics, and provides economic opportunities for farmers, landscapers, residents and other entrepreneurs looking to make or use compost.

By Suzanna Caldwell, *Solid Waste Services*,
Municipality of Anchorage



Gearing up for four days' worth of meals distribution. (Photo credit Sitka School District)

PANDEMIC FEEDING OUTREACH

School nutrition professionals across Alaska have been in the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 16, 2020 when school sites were closed by Health Mandate 1. In an average day, schools in Alaska serve approximately 48,000 lunches; a quarter of those are to children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Across the state schools knew the impact closure would have on families. Throughout the closure in the spring, school districts were able to continue to feed students through various models including meals-to-go, bus route stops, and even home delivery in some cases.

USDA has issued many state and national waivers to support district nutrition programs, including parent pick-up meals, meal pattern waivers, meal service time waivers, and the allowance of weekend meals. The waivers provide flexibility for school districts to determine how best to serve the children in their communities based on their capacity; many factors must be considered for each district such as personnel, inventory, costs, as well as community COVID status.

The partnerships between student nutrition and education has been paramount; some Alaska districts provide daily education plans with the meals, at some districts the nurses home deliver meals to check on students who need medical attention, and at others free libraries are available for the students to take home with their school lunch.

In the spring and summer, districts who lack the resources to sustain long-term meals-to-go systems for their districts had the option to take part in a USDA

pilot project called Meals to You (<https://mealstoyou.org>) which mailed children shelf-stable meals for a full week at a time meeting USDA requirements. This is a partnership with the Texas Hunger Institute at Baylor University and USDA. Through this initiative more than 200,000 individual meals were received by more than 1500 students in Alaska who did not have access to school meals or summer meal programs.

Concurrently, USDA also approved Alaska to issue Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) to families of children who attended schools in the spring who would have had access to free school meals due to individual eligibility or school eligibility. The spring P-EBT benefits assessed at the rate per meal missed mid-March thru mid-May for a maximum benefit of \$458 based on eligibility. These benefits were issued by the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Assistance based on student eligibility data provided to the Department of Education & Early Development, Child Nutrition Programs by participating school districts.

When school year 2020-2021 began, USDA extended many of the waivers issued in the spring to allow school districts options and flexibility to operate with social distancing, meal service simplifications, planned and unplanned school closures, and delivery options. As each district makes the decisions on how to best serve the children in their communities, the USDA nutrition programs have provided opportunities for local decision makers to provide food security in a way that makes sense community by community.

JOIN AN AFPC COMMITTEE TODAY!

“Committees undertake much of the board’s work. Committees work in smaller groups that provide an environment that’s conducive to productivity. During committees, members perform research and make recommendations to the board for actions and decisions so that the board can better focus on more pressing matters.”

—BOARDEFFECT

A benefit of your membership in the Alaska Food Policy Council is the opportunity to contribute your talents by actively participating on a committee or working group to help us move our statewide mission forward. This is a good way to learn more about the topics the AFPC is working on and is a pathway to becoming a governing board member. Board membership isn’t required though—help out as long as you’d like! Typically, each committee meets via Zoom or teleconference monthly, along with email communications.

Learn more at: akfoodpolicycouncil.org/working-groups



ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

This committee follows issues important to building a more sustainable food system in Alaska and engages with policymakers and the public to increase awareness of these issues. The committee submits recommendations to the Governing Board on what AFPC’s priorities should be for the year, works on comments or suggestions to submit on these issues, and works with other organizations to coordinate efforts in Juneau for Food Security Week. Advocacy Committee has also taken on developing a candidate survey to use as a way to let voters know how their candidates feel about food system issues.



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for outreach and the outward facing communications of the AFPC. Members work together to aggregate content and create newsletters, create and post social media content on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, oversight and recommendation of AFPC web pages including writing blogs or recruiting for contributions, draft and distribute press releases, promote the Alaska Food Festival and Conference and other special events and create and maintain the AFPC Annual Report.

If you are creative, enjoy writing and making social media posts, this committee is for you.



CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The Conference planning committee helps to plan the semi-annual Alaska Food Festival and Conference, one of AFPCs key-outreach and networking events that allow us to connect, educate and advocate on the food system. Committee work includes choosing

a venue, working with catering, recruiting and coordinating presenters, promotion of the conference, recruiting sponsors, soliciting silent auction donations, coordinating volunteers and much more! It is somewhat demanding committee work, but enriching—you will be part of something that you can be proud of. If you like figuring out the little details, coordinating people, and creating special events, this committee is for you.



INDIGENOUS FOOD COMMITTEE

This year a new and much needed working group was born, focusing on Indigenous and traditional foods. The working group is still in its infancy, meeting with various members throughout Alaska’s communities. We are working on our mission and have established three goals: 1) advocacy, 2) provide networking opportunities, and 3) provide support for food system assessment and planning.

We are working to further food security with Alaska Native/American Indian communities, food sovereignty, and advocating for policies that affect the production, sale or trading of traditional foods.

One of our biggest accomplishments for the committee this year was recruiting speakers for the 2020 Alaska Food Festival and Conference with the goal of focusing on Indigenous voices and projects. Although we were unable to meet face-to-face, having a virtual conference offered the chance to hear voices from all over the state, country and world and allowed global participation. The message from all of our Indigenous speakers and groups was the same...Indigenous foods are a vital part of Alaska’s food system. It is important we work to further food security and sovereignty throughout Alaska

and advocate the importance of Indigenous foods.



FOOD WASTE COMMITTEE

One of our top priorities is to help reduce food waste. During the Juneau Food Security Fly-in, AFPC sponsored two lunch and learn presentations for legislators and the public to learn about food waste. The first was by Suzanna Caldwell, Anchorage Muni, about composting in the city, and another by Andrew Mergens from the Anchorage School District on reducing food waste at schools. These are positive, and possibly replicable, examples of two programs in Anchorage working to reduce food waste in the Muni.

Our partnership with Anchorage Solid Waste Services will continue as we work together to support increased compost production and more food waste reduction in Anchorage. AFPC prioritized efforts to tell more Alaskans about the project and encourage other communities to compost and reduce food waste.

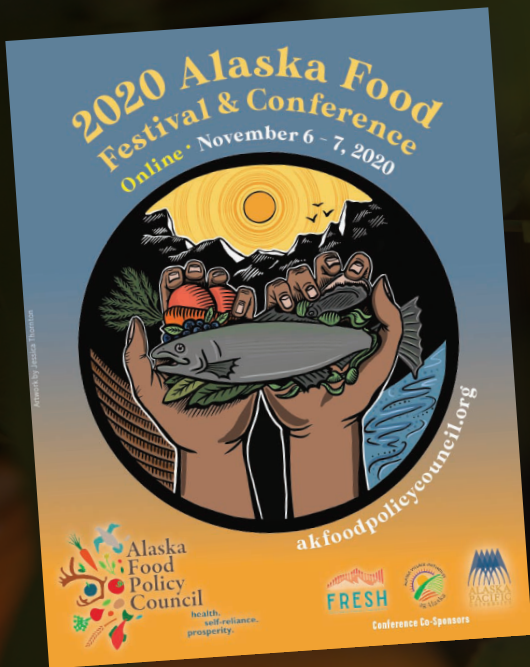
Food waste is a constant challenge for this planet’s population. Last year, this committee was initiated and we have three goals: 1) compile food waste information and policies, 2) find activities for people to reduce food waste, and 3) encourage food waste reduction locally.

In 2021 we plan to: 1) acknowledge current projects reducing food waste in our state, 2) provide guidance and helpful tips through the AFPC web portal, and 3) host a free webinar in the fall season.

We are looking for additional committee members who are energetic and have ideas and solutions to address this common topic in their local communities. We meet monthly via Zoom.

VISIT [AKFOODPOLICYCOUNCIL.ORG/WORKING-GROUPS](https://akfoodpolicycouncil.org/working-groups) TO LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED!



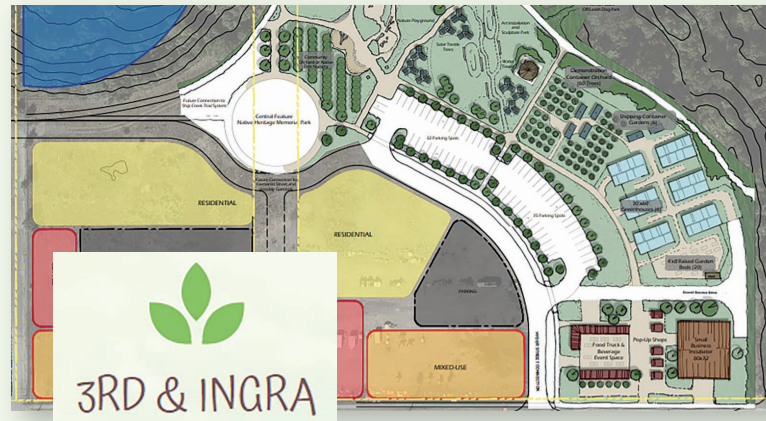


2020 ALASKA food festival & CONFERENCE

For more than a year, the AFPC Conference Planning Committee worked diligently to create an inclusive, informative, and engaging experience for conference attendees. This conference edition had the added challenges of presenting a virtual event while navigating new technology during the COVID-19 pandemic. This challenge also provided new virtual opportunities for both presenters and attendees to participate, removing barriers like travel costs. In fact, we had over 275 attendees and presenters, representing 59 unique communities: 39 within Alaska alone, 9 states and the Virgin Islands.

This fifth semi-annual event previously took place in Anchorage in 2014 and 2016, in Fairbanks in 2017 and Homer in 2019. This year, the conference was scheduled for Anchorage before going virtual due to the pandemic.

2018 & 2019 *City of Anchorage* LOCAL FOOD MINI GRANTS



ANCHORAGE URBAN SUSTAINABILITY FARM & NATIVE HERITAGE GARDEN

AFPC is joining other partners, including the Municipality of Anchorage and Seeds of Change, to revitalize a long-neglected parcel of land on 3rd Avenue in Anchorage and demonstrate how urban vacant lots can be used to increase Alaska food security. Once the site of the Alaska Native Medical Center, these 15 acres along Ship Creek currently lay bare and underutilized. We want to demonstrate how urban food production can beautify a neglected site, bring community together, and ultimately contribute to increased availability of healthy foods.

Over the past few years, with early support of local government leadership, a working group of neighborhood, university, and non-profit volunteers have dedicated themselves to both short- and long-term planning efforts, including drafting a vision for food production and community programming at the site, obtaining permits to grow food there, and participating in Municipality stakeholder meetings.

AFPC and the working group received a Local Foods Local Places technical assistance grant through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As part of this grant, a community visioning workshop was held in August 2018, which has informed plans for moving the Downtown Urban Farm Project forward. See the plan here: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/LFLPAnchorageAK.pdf>.

In 2020-2021 AFPC continues to move forward, building more community partners, and seeking foundation funding to achieve our vision of innovative Arctic urban food production and a Native Heritage memorial on this site.



AFPC partnered with the Mayor's Office at the Municipality of Anchorage to distribute small grants to organizations for community garden and food security projects. Our goal was to support efforts to increase food production and local food access in the community.

Projects ranged from school gardens, to community gardens, to food-focused, community-engaged educational programming.



Stay home if you're sick, have traveled or have been exposed



Cover your nose & mouth



Follow signage



1 shopper per household: shop quickly



Wash or sanitize hands



Maintain social distance



Wash produce at home



Leave pets at home

Graphics created by the Alaska Farmland Trust

FARMERS MARKET COVID WORKSHOP

In April 2020 AFPC partnered with the Alaska Farmers Market Association, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Food Safety and Sanitation and Produce Safety Programs and Alaska Cooperative Extension to provide a "Farmers Market COVID-19 Guidance and Food Safety Training." Workshop objectives included sharing COVID-19 guidelines and recent best practices from organizations across the country and the Centers for Disease Control to protect consumers and vendors and basic market food safety practices. The workshop had ~100 attendees including market managers and vendors. The collaboration produced several outreach documents including:

- Market operation protocol
- Public outreach signage
- Operation protocols
- Co-branded website resources
- Market managers safety checklist

AFPC is planning on collaborating with AFMA, DEC and Extension again this spring on a pre-season market managers food safety and best practices workshop.

Interior Alaska Food Network



INTERIOR ALASKA FOOD NETWORK

The Interior Alaska Food Network, IAFN, is a group dedicated to food security in Interior Alaska. The group formed in March of 2016 after a request to AFPC by some Fairbanks community members looking to start a local food group. AFPC supports this group as its umbrella organization so that it can run without the need to create yet another 501c3. With AFPC supporting IAFN as its umbrella organization, IAFN can accept donations and small grants towards projects it develops.

The group has met once a month for almost 5 years at the Fairbanks Community Food Bank, and most recently online. Their first major project was developing the Golden Heart Grown program, developed to help the local farmers to identify their produce as truly local. The local Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation manages the program.

The group was the co-sponsor for the 2017 Alaska Food Policy Councils Food Festival and Conference. Other projects the IAFN has done have included Taste of Golden Heart Grown events at the Tanana Valley State Fair, an Alaska Grown Day at the Georgeson Botanical Garden, and most recently this summer a \$5 Golden Heart Grown Challenge encouraging folks to support the local farmers by buying at least \$5 of local products every week. None of these projects would have been possible without the support of the Alaska Food Policy Council.

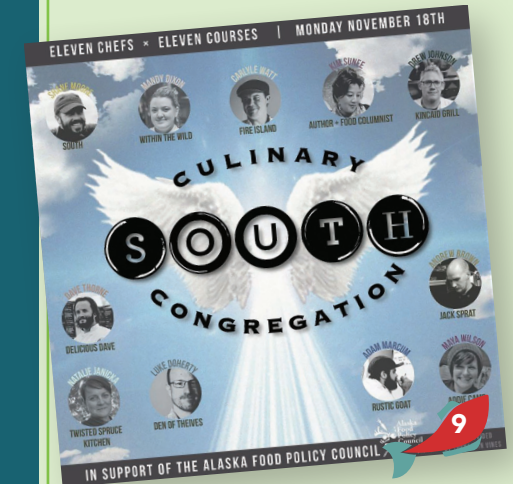


chefs for CHANGE

In November, 2018, AFPC held a fundraiser at South Restaurant in Anchorage. 10 chefs donated 10 dishes for over 30 diners for a delicious event.

Contributing chefs included: Delicious Dave, Kim Sunée, and chefs from Jack Sprat, Kincaid Grill, Fire Island, Addie Camp, Den of Thieves, Tutka Bay Lodge & La Baleine Cafe, Twisted Spruce Kitchen, and South Restaurant and Coffeehouse.

All of these chefs understand how important restaurants can be in strengthening Alaska's food system and hope to work with us in the future.



LOOKING *forward*



2020 was dubbed many things...

"UNPRECEDENTED"... "THE WORST"..."CATASTROPHIC"..."A DISASTER"...

This year challenged communities and strained our food systems. We saw disruptions at every stage of food production, processing, storage, transport, sale, waste disposal and even cultural norms. We heard apocalyptic observations such as "the food supply chain is breaking" from global corporate leaders. Nationally, farms had to rapidly dump crops, milk, and animals, restaurants closed, front line workers and healthcare workers risked their safety to continue serving the public.

In addition to a global public health crisis, the United States experienced the long-time-coming reckoning of racial justice, which put farm and food workers squarely at the forefront of food security and workforce equity. The fight continues for fair wages and safe working conditions in a system that incentivizes efficiency but doesn't always value the *humans* who make that happen.

One thing is clear – the global food system wasn't perfect before 2020 and the gauntlet of shocks we recently experienced further highlighted areas of weakness.

And yet – communities rallied.

The humbling work done by so many individuals and grassroots organizations across the state demonstrated the power of neighbors, consumers, and small-scale agriculture. Demand for local food skyrocketed! Local networks of seed savers, gardeners, new farmers, and new value-add food businesses blossomed in the face of unknown risk. Businesses pivoted both to stay afloat and help those most in need.

The Alaska Food Policy Council made enormous strides this year in building our capacity to amplify and contribute to the amazing work being done across the state. This work was made possible by those members current and past, who have been at it since 2011 to build a state-wide organization for a more robust and resilient food system. Perhaps most visible is the fact that we, for the first time ever, hired a part-time executive director, Robbi Mixon. Robbi has already proved this to be a critical role, earning the AFPC grants from the USDA, the Alaska Community Foundation and Anchorage Muni Stabilization Grant. Funds from these grants will be used to build a network of regional food systems partnerships, host educational events, and more. Looking forward, we see opportunity, hope, and a lot of work to do.

If you eat food, you have a vested interest in policy, business, and agriculture. We welcome you to join our 2021 Discussion Series, an AFPC Committee you read about in this report, or to start your own food security initiative. How can we help? Much work remains to be done, and we stand ready to assist however we can. We thank our fellow Governing Board Members of the Alaska Food Policy Council who make time to do this work, often spending much more time on AFPC projects than is outlined in our bylaws.

Alaskans are resilient. Alaskans know how to rally. We know how to show up for each other. May 2021 demonstrate that more than ever.

Yours in good food and good health,

Rachael Miller, AFPC co-chair
Ryan Wiswesser, AFPC co-chair



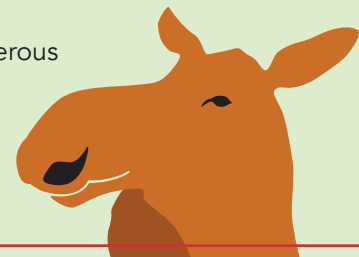
HELP US MEET OUR MISSION TO: CONNECT, ADVOCATE, AND INFORM ALASKANS ABOUT OUR FOOD SYSTEM.

CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER OR MAKING A DONATION.

AFPC membership is open to anyone interested in improving Alaska's food systems—agencies and individuals representing federal and state agencies, tribal entities, schools, university programs, farmers, fisheries, food systems businesses and consumers. Contributions through AFPC membership help build and support a more robust and secure Alaska food system. Membership and sponsor support is critical to our ability to do our work. Recent contributions have been used to support:

- Continued community-focused programs like our recent mini-grants initiative, that granted funds to startup food projects.
- Developing recommendations and sharing them with policymakers at the local, state, federal and tribal levels; and to share information, resources, opportunities, and risks with all food stakeholders (anyone who eats!).
- Hosting the semiannual Alaska Food Festival and Educational Conference to bring together individuals, organizations, and agencies to connect and to educate each other, and act as a “food system think tank” regarding the work that is being done in Alaska.
- Special events such as the Farmers Market COVID-19 workshop and the new Quarterly Food Systems webinar and quarterly webinars

Thanks to our Funders, Community Supporters, and Organizational Partners! Our work is only possible thanks to the generous support of many organizations, agencies and individual donors.



A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT AFPC is through **PICK.CLICK.GIVE.**

Each year while Alaskans apply for their Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) they can choose to make a tax-deductible donation to a non-profit. In 2020, AFPC joined the program and we're back for 2021. Donating through Pick.Click.Give is a simple and easy way to donate—and one that will make a big impact in your community.



Alaska Food Policy Council

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VISIT US AT [AKFOODPOLICYCOUNCIL.ORG](https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org)