

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO FARM EDUCATION

FUTURES OPEN



THE IMPORTANCE OF AG. ED.

- ▶ Childhood obesity rates are rising—over one third of children are overweight.
- ▶ Processed foods are endemic and contribute to nearly all of our modern diseases.
- ▶ Farms aren't what they used to be; the modern agricultural movement is out to change that.
- ▶ Provides opportunities for all students.



SUMMER SCIENCE PROGRAM

- ▶ Summer science program offers opportunity for credit recovery
- ▶ District tuition requirement defrays costs
- ▶ Vegetable sales provide additional program income



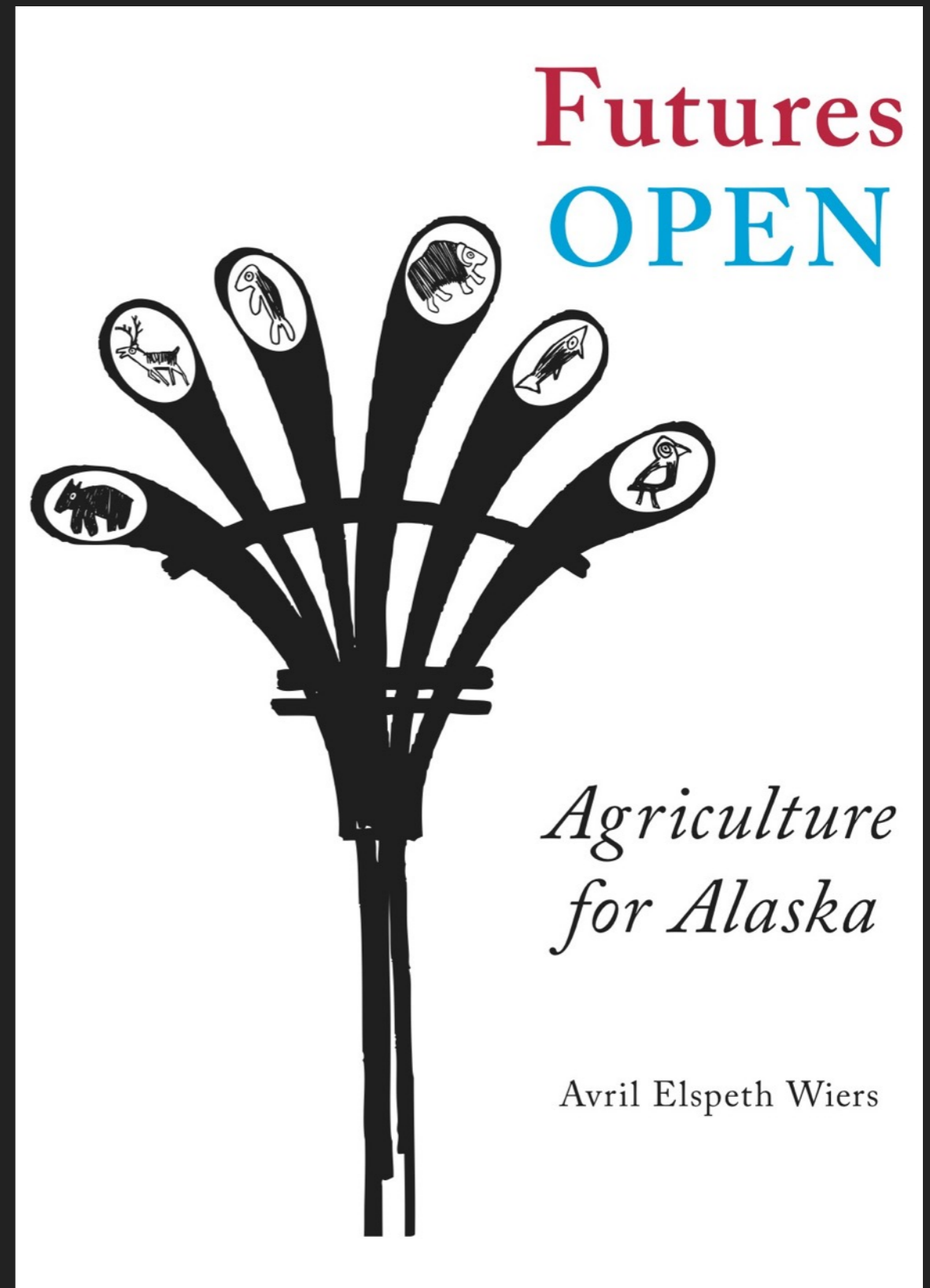
HOSTING OUTSIDE PROGRAMS

- ▶ Partnership with UAF's Alaska Summer Research Academy
- ▶ Building infrastructure, like chicken tractors
- ▶ Raising awareness for The Farm at EKECCS
- ▶ Growing future agriculturists



STANDARDS-BASED CURRICULUM

- ▶ Collection of activities that correlate to the Fairbanks' Natural Resource Technology: Biology and Chemistry standards
- ▶ Activities are project-based, appeal to many learning styles
- ▶ Easily integrated into existing science curriculum



DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURE

- ▶ Short Alaskan growing season requires ingenuity
- ▶ Integration of hydroponics, livestock, and value-added goods



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

- ▶ FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America) Program provides career skills
- ▶ Classroom-based lessons, FFA involvement, and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE)
- ▶ Career skills development



LEADERSHIP

- ▶ FFA students stand out as leaders in their schools—not only in involvement in FFA, but also in terms of community service, other organizations, etc.
- ▶ Provides scholarship money to deserving students





Meeting the national NEA President, Lily Eskelsen Garcia.

NUTRITION INTEGRATION

- ▶ Let's Move salad bar to incorporate school garden grown produce
- ▶ Likert Scale for summer program suggests that curriculum was successful in changing attitudes towards food
- ▶ Reading books like "Chew on This" and "Omnivore's Dilemma"
- ▶ Anecdotal evidence for changing food habits



FARM TO SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

- ▶ Mini-grant from Alaska Farm to School provided funding to meet DEC requirements
- ▶ ServSafe Food Protection Manager certification allows for food preservation
- ▶ Local foods allocation pays for school garden produce



TIPS FOR CREATING PROGRAMS

- ▶ Start with needs assessment—how can agricultural education meet the needs of the school?
- ▶ Identify roadblocks and address them one by one—don't give administration a reason to say no!
- ▶ Find community support and partners who will speak up for you



Futures OPEN



*Agriculture
for Alaska*

Avril Elspeth Wiers

Food Science Project Rubric

Your assignment is to make an info-graphic that depicts one method of food preservation. All of our projects will be put together to make a comprehensive timeline of food preservation methods.

Here are your grading criteria:

Greenhorn	Hobby Farmer	Second Year Farmer	Sourdough Farmer
Black and white graphic, hurried execution, many spelling/grammar issues	Partial-color graphic, shows some effort, many spelling/grammar issues	Full-color graphic, shows moderate effort, a few spelling/grammar issues	Full-color graphic, clearly shows effort put into it, no spelling/grammar issues
Recipe for food preservation is missing or inadequate	Recipe for food preservation is disorganized or does not use vegetables from our garden	Recipe for food preservation is somewhat organized and uses vegetables from our garden	Recipe for food preservation is well-organized and uses vegetables from our garden
History of food preservation technique is missing	History of food preservation technique is incomplete	History of food preservation is somewhat complete, but does not include origin	History of food preservation method is complete including origin
Historical graphic is missing	Historical graphic is inaccurate and doesn't show method	Historical graphic is somewhat accurate or does not show method	Historical graphic is accurate and shows preservation method

<http://lulu.com/avrilcultural>



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