



health.
self-reliance.
prosperity.

AFPC January Newsletter

Hello Friend and welcome to our first newsletter of 2024!

This is already turning out to be a big year for us! We are busy preparing for a Fly-in week in Juneau next month and working on building out our educational and advocacy assets so we can all stay engaged as the new **Legislative Session** unfolds.

We have a new contract position open and we are working hard to build out our Regional Food Business Center while wrapping up our 2023 Annual Report. We will be keeping you updated!

We are very excited for what the year will bring us as we work to build a strong food network and food system for all Alaskans. Thanks for your support!

AFPC Updates



AFPC Visits Nome, Alaska

This past November, AFPC staff traveled to Nome, Alaska, as invited presenters for the annual [Kawerek Reindeer Herders Association](#) (RHA) meeting.

We presented on emerging projects, including the [Islands & Remote Areas Business Center](#) and a potential Alaska food system-focused [AmeriCorps program](#), as well as highlighting our Indigenous Foods and Advocacy [working groups](#).

[Read the full blog >>](#)



AFMA Programs Support Our Food System From Producer to Consumer

Exciting things are happening in Alaska's farmers markets. In 2023, [the Alaska Farmers Market Association](#) (AFMA) introduced two impactful programs: the **AFMA Market Match Program**, and the **Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Program**. These programs have helped make our farmers markets and food hubs more than a space for fresh produce and community building, but also a pivotal player for community food security and bolstering local agriculture.

[Read more about these programs >>](#)



A Missed Opportunity With Summer EBT

In January, Alaska decided not to participate in the [2024 USDA Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer \(EBT\) program](#), citing administrative costs that would outweigh the benefits. This decision poses a risk to the food security of Alaskan children and misses a chance to infuse nearly \$7 million into the state's economy.

[Read more about the economic impact >>](#)

AFPC Announcements



JOIN OUR TEAM! APPLY TODAY!

CONTRACT: Technical Assistance and Research: Oregon Tilth: NW Transition to Organic Partnership
The Alaska Food Policy Council (AFPC) seeks a consultant to plan, research, and lead a short-term study on Rhodiola organic certification.
Deadline to apply is February 26th.

[For Full Job Description and How to Apply Click HERE>>](#)



NEW REPORT RELEASED!!

[Food Security and Sovereignty in Alaska Native Communities: Recommendations for Improving Language and Inclusivity in Food and Agriculture Programming.](#)

"Special thanks to the Indigenous Foods working group as part of the Alaska Food Policy Council, as well as the Native American Agriculture Fund."

AFPC In The News

We had a lot of great momentum early this month advocating for **full funding of the WIC program!** Check out the [blog here](#) explaining how these funding cuts will hurt our families.



Letter to the Editor, Peninsula Clarion: [Do what's right for Alaska's families — Support WIC funding](#)

Letter to the Editor, ADN: [Support WIC funding](#)

Opinion, Alaska Current: [We must fully fund WIC in Alaska](#)

Upcoming Events



Mariculture Conference

February 26–29, 2024

The Mariculture Conference of Alaska, is where industry leaders, experts, and professionals will converge to explore the latest innovations, sustainable practices, and growth opportunities in the field of mariculture.

[Registration is open >>](#)

CONFERENCE
February 26–29, 2024



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>>](#)

Resources



Pollinator Steward Certification

Topics include an introduction to the wonderful world of pollinators, how they live and thrive, threats to pollinators, and how we all can help. Details will be provided on habitat creation for pollinators in many landscapes including parks, rights-of-way, urban gardens, and farms. Additional information on pollinator identification and how to spread your knowledge will be provided.

This course is ideal for home gardeners, land managers (large and small), farmers, and anyone that wants to do more to support pollinators. [LEARN MORE>>](#)

NEW GRANT!
**RESILIENT
 FOOD
 SYSTEMS
 INFRASTRUCTURE
 PROGRAM**

ALASKA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

- Processing
- Manufacturing
- Storing
- Transportation
- Wholesaling
- Distribution

VISIT dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_grants.htm

Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grants Request for Applications is NOW OPEN

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.

The purpose of the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) program is to build resilience in the middle of the food supply chain, to provide more and better markets to small farms and food businesses, to support the development of value-added products for consumers, fair prices, fair wages, and new and safe job opportunities.

[LEARN MORE>>](#)

**SPECIALTY CROP
 BLOCK GRANTS
 2024 APPLICATION
 PERIOD**

ALASKA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

Webinar
 Jan. 30th @ 12:00 PM

Letter Of Intent
 Due Feb. 9th

CONTACT mary.cowland@alaska.gov

Specialty Crop Block Grant Request for Applications is NOW OPEN

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program seeks to increase production, consumption, access, knowledge and sustainability of Alaska Grown specialty crops, sustain farmers' livelihoods, and strengthen local communities. Specialty crops include fruits, vegetables, kelp, floriculture, nursery and horticulture crops. Grant projects must benefit the specialty crop industry as a whole and enhance the competitiveness of Alaska Grown specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets. For additional information about this grant, the grant application, and a complete list of eligible crops, [check out the website >>](#)



The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program – Produce Prescription Program

The primary goal and objective of the GusNIP Produce Prescription Program is to demonstrate and evaluate the impact of projects on (1) the improvement of dietary health through increased consumption of fruits and vegetables; (2) the reduction of individual and household food insecurity; and (3) the reduction in healthcare use and associated costs. Total awards are \$500,000. Applications may only be submitted by government agencies and non-profit organizations. Award recipients may sub-award to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. [LEARN MORE >>](#)

GROW YOUR OWN FRESH FRUIT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Funding Opportunity: Build an Orchard or Food Forest in your Community

USDA RurAL CAP

This project is made possible with funding from the USDA Forest Service and the Inflation Reduction Act. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Orchards and Food Forests (GROW-OFF) Grant Program

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

Research Assistant Professor – Weed Science

This position is located on the Troth Yeddha' campus in Fairbanks Alaska. This is a full-time, exempt 9- month faculty position complete with both a competitive salary and full employee benefits package.

[LEARN MORE>>](#)

Project/Site Manager- Kachemak Kelp Hub, Saltwater Inc.

Position's primary duties are to lead the implementation of the applied research plan, which includes all on-site seaweed processing activities. Contact Kathryn.carovano@saltwaterinc.com for more info.

Native Plant Program Seasonal Technician - Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District

The Native Plant Program Technician will play a critical role in the development of Alaska's native plant production and ASWCD's program development. [See full Job Description>>](#)

Program Associate, Farm to Early Care and Education- Farm to School

NFSN seeks a Program Associate to implement Farm to Early Childcare and Education (ECE) programming by uniting ECE stakeholders, fostering leaders, and movement building. Responsibilities include resource creation, project implementation and evaluation, networking and facilitation, and partner capacity building. [LEARN MORE >>](#)



Photo from AFMA

Food News

- [Homer Farmers Market makes fresh produce more accessible in the southern Kenai Peninsula >>](#)
- [Anchorage business Blue Market wins golden carrot for epic Alaskan-grown campaign >>](#)
- [WIC Shortfall Could Leave 2 Million Women And Children Hungry >>](#)
- [The number of Alaskans who use food aid has dropped as state works to reduce backlog >>](#)



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!!**

Consider AFPC This Year for Your Pick.Click.Give.

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2023 Festival Merch

Imagine a healthy, nourished, food-secure Alaska.

That's our vision.



PLEASE JOIN US IN **CREATING OUR VISION**
BY DONATING TODAY!



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