

Extension Program

APPROVED as of 04/02/2021

[University of Alaska Fairbanks](#)

Funding Source

Extension Capacity Fund (Smith-Lever 3(b) and 3(c))

Primary Critical Issue

[Agriculture & Food Security](#)

Title

Increasing knowledge and adoption of agriculture and horticulture best practices for northern climates

Start Date

10/01/2020

Project Initiator

Alda Norris

Non-Technical Summary

Issue: Alaska's agricultural opportunities and their relationship to statewide food security are a critical issue because Alaska imports over 90 percent of its food. To become adaptable to economic, climate and other changes, it is critical to provide support to growers and producers within the state. CES and AFES are well positioned to provide Alaskans with information about high latitude agriculture and horticulture.

Statewide Goals

- **Goal 1:** Agronomic crop producers will increase their ability to understand and assess best management practices of crop production.
- **Goal 2:** Livestock producers will increase their ability to understand and assess optimum production practices.
- **Goal 3:** Participants in commercial and home horticulture will adopt best management practices.
- **Goal 4:** Stakeholders will participate in activities that monitor and control invasive species and pests.
- **Goal 5:** Master Gardener trainings will lead to increased community capacity to support local growers.

Target Audiences: Audiences include agronomic crop and livestock producers, commercial and home growers seeking to apply new technology, Alaskans utilizing IPM to control invasive pests, youth involved in agriculture, and any other persons interested in controlled environments, small-scale agribusiness and cultivar testing for climate-adapted crops. Audiences will benefit from increased knowledge and skills; improved yields; and stronger community capacity for locally grown foods.

Expected Outcomes: Information disseminated through presentations will increase awareness and knowledge of best practices. Hands-on presentations will increase skills and enable changes in practice. Training of Master Gardeners will improve community capacity to apply best practices for planting, pest management, harvesting and other major grower concerns. Extension will use feedback tools like post-workshop and post-conference surveys, field visits and Master Gardener volunteer tracking to document agriculture and horticulture outcomes related to outreach education.

Integrated Activities

Extension assists researchers with disseminating project findings to the public. Extension faculty are actively involved in variety trials. Researchers contribute to Extension-sponsored annual conferences, Master Gardener and pesticide applicator courses, outreach workshops and safety trainings. Extension collaborates with researchers on presentations regarding AgrAbility, small scale food production and more.

Multistate Activities

IANRE partners with Western SARE.

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