

University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service Strategic Plan 2007-2011

- Mission:** Interpret and extend relevant research-based knowledge in an understandable and usable form; encourage the application of this knowledge to solve the problems and meet the challenges that face the people of Alaska; and, bring the concerns of communities back to the university.
- Vision:** Develop and deliver programs to better respond to the current needs of community through expanded collaborative efforts within and between Extension program areas, University of Alaska Fairbanks resources, and community agencies and organizations; create and improve effective and efficient use of financial and educational resources; employ technology as a cost-effective means of community assessment, research, planning, and instruction; ultimately having Cooperative Extension Service recognized as the premiere outreach and engagement vehicle for UAF.
- Values:** UAF Cooperative Extension Service is committed to the sustainability and economic security of individuals, families and communities. We promote practical, non-formal education services to foster the wise use of natural resources, respect for cultural and ethnic diversity, and responsive grassroots programming based in theory and research for developing and conducting programs that are applicable to Alaskan needs and interests.

Plan of Work Priorities:

- **Agriculture and Horticulture**
- **Invasive Weeds, Noxious Plants and Pest Management**
- **Natural Resource Stewardship**
- **Positive Youth Development**
- **Sustainable Individuals, Families, and Communities**

Programming Priorities for Agriculture and Horticulture

Animal agriculture

Production animal agriculture

Home animal production

Companion animals

Agronomy

Cereal grains

Forages

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land management

Agro-forestry

Christmas tree production

Livestock-related forestry uses

Food production through forest and woodlot management

Commercial Horticulture

Fruit and vegetable production for sale off-farm

Nursery production of woody and herbaceous ornamentals

Greenhouse production of bedding plants, hanging baskets and potted plants

Landscape installation and maintenance services

Golf course turf management

Commercial lawn maintenance

Sod production

Consumer Horticulture

Home and community gardening

Homeowner Landscaping and lawn maintenance

- Partner with university, agencies, organizations and individuals to mitigate threats from invasive weeds, noxious plants and pests. (Invasive Pest Management)
- Expand involvement in eXtension as part of a national network for frequently asked questions about home gardening applicable to Alaska. (Urban and Consumer Horticulture)

- Integrate surface water and groundwater protection topics into Master Gardener training to increase practice into gardening. (Urban and Consumer Horticulture)
- Teach gardening in rural Alaska to increase availability of fresh produce, reduce expenditures and supplement income. (Food Production)
- Provide organic production information for Alaska vegetable growers. (Food Production)
- Change the nutrient application practices of producers to improve efficiency of fertilizing, reduce input costs and protect the environment from nitrate leaching. (Sustainable Agriculture)
- Provide education for rural communities on niche gardening opportunities. (Sustainable Agriculture)
- Provide small land owners in Southcentral, Western and Copper River Basin areas of Alaska information on sustainable use of forest resources for a positive economic return that also protects quality of life. (Sustainable Agriculture)

Programming Priorities for Invasive Weeds, Noxious Plants, and Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Pest management

Educational outreach

Programming Priorities for Natural Resource Stewardship

Natural Resource Issues

In forestry

In mining

In water quality

In rural communities

In urban areas

- Identify and promote opportunities associated with mining development that maximize local capture of economic benefits while managing risks. (Mining)

- Develop and coordinate five short courses for an Alaska Prospectors Certificate Program for rural Alaskans. (Mining)
- Provide education to secondary processors of forest resources to improve operating efficiency and income. (Environmental Quality and Sustainability)
- Provide education for rural communities to identify and mitigate wildfire hazards to residences and communities. (Environmental Quality and Sustainability)
- Provide education to septic system owners and realtors on operation and maintenance to reduce failure rates and subsequent groundwater pollution. (Environmental Quality and Sustainability)
- Assist local watershed groups to develop watershed plans to protect proper functioning condition of riparian systems and their resources. (Environmental Quality and Sustainability)
- Coordinate with other university faculty, agencies, organizations and individuals to identify and mitigate water and other environmental threats. (Environmental Quality and Sustainability)

Programming Priorities for Sustainable Individuals, Families, and Communities

Health, Nutrition and Foods

Food preservation

Food safety

Food preparation

Food product development

Alaska indigenous foods

Exercise and fitness

Healthy lifestyle choices

Nutrition

Diet and nutrition issues

Human Development

Lifespan development

Transitions

Grief and Loss

Caregiver Training

Consumer Resource Management

Estate planning

Budgeting

Financial management

Time management

Stress reduction

Home and Energy

Indoor air quality

Home maintenance and repair

Building science

Energy use

Emergency Preparedness in Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters

- Provide training for rural residents to develop small businesses based on Alaska native grown foods. (Jobs and Workforce Readiness)
- Provide training on personal and emergency safety skills, food preservation, fire readiness, 3-day emergency kit preparation, family and pet emergency plans. (Emergency Preparedness)
- Prepare Extension to assist local communities and emergency management offices with expertise in response to local, regional and statewide emergencies. (Emergency Preparedness)

- Assist rural communities in developing community energy assessments, evaluating renewable and alternative energy resources, and achieving energy security. (Energy Extension)
- Expand practical housing curricula and cold climate research in order to build energy-efficient housing and commercial buildings. (Energy Extension)
- Provide education for clients and their families on life transitions, family dynamics, and improved quality of life. (Human Development)
- Partner with organizations and provide parents and child care providers education on early childhood development, preparing for pre- and primary school and parenting skills. (Human Development)
- Provide youth, low-income clientele and those involved in bankruptcy the financial literacy and management skills that include budgeting, consumer credit, interest rates, and other information that prepares them to manage their finances. (Financial Management)

Programming Priorities for Positive Youth Development

Mission Mandates in Agriculture and Environmental Issues

Science

Engineering

Technology

Healthy Lifestyles

Human health and well being

Citizenship

Essential Elements of Youth Development

4-H Clubs

School enrichment programs

After-school activities

Summer camps

- Expand positive youth development opportunities that incorporate the eight essential elements that are the foundation of 4-H programming (Youth Development)
- Develop summer youth work programs for 15-18 year olds. (Youth Development)
- Provide entrepreneurial skill training for youth-based enterprises. (Youth Development)
- Use the contextual framework that includes generosity, belonging, independence, and mastery