

Farm to Table

Alaska Agricultural Trivia

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It wasn't until Russians settled in some areas of Alaska that there was an attempt to farm land that for countless years had provided its bounty to the Native hunters and gatherers. When the U.S. bought the rights to Alaska from Russian in 1867, it was called "Seward's Icebox." But some saw the new territory as having a potential for agriculture comparable to Scandinavian countries.

From the establishment of the first agricultural experiment station to the present day, people have sought a way to make agriculture profitable in Alaska. Intrepid Alaska farmers have built an industry based on filling a need.

To learn more about Alaska agriculture, visit the Alaska AITC website and the websites of the Alaska Division of Agriculture, UAF's School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences, and NRCS:

www.agclassroom.org/ak
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag>
www.uaf.edu/salrm
www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov

This activity presented by Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom, a 501c3 educational program of the Alaska Farm Bureau. For the complete deck of Alaska Ag Trivia cards covering a variety of agriculture-related topics, contact Alaska AITC at akaitc@alaskafb.org or call Victoria at 982-2219. The trivia decks made possible by a grant from Monsanto through the National Agriculture in the Classroom Consortium.

Alaska Ag Trivia

1. An Alaska Grown label means what?
2. When was the Alaska Grown logo trademarked?
3. What three colors are the Alaska Grown logo?
4. The stems from barley and oats are cut and baled and used for bedding for farm animals and what non farm animal?
5. Most of Alaska's land in ag production is devoted to the raising of this crop.
6. This is Alaska's No. 1 grain crop and it is used for animal feed.
7. Alaska's first Agricultural Experiment Station was opened where in 1898?
8. What slogans used with the Alaska Grown logo?
9. What are the two grains grown in Alaska on at least 1,500 acres each year?
10. About how many farms were there in Alaska in 2007?

11. About how much land in Alaska is in farms?
12. Which generates more farm income for Alaska, traditional agriculture or aquaculture?
13. After potatoes, which two Alaska vegetable are planted on the most acreage?
14. In terms of cash receipts from farm marketing in Alaska in 2007, which had a higher return, livestock production (including aquaculture) or crop production?
15. Scott Robb of Palmer entered two world-record kale at the fair in 2007. What was the heaviest?
16. One acre of land in Alaska can produce about how many pounds of potatoes?
17. Scott Robb of Palmer weighed in with a world record rutabaga in 1999. What was the weight?
18. One acre of land can produce about how many pounds of Alaska lettuce?
19. Scott Robb of Palmer had the world record weight celery in 2003, how much did it weigh?
20. Dave Iles of North Pole had the largest kale in 2006. It set a world record at what weight?
21. Of Alaska's 365 million acres of surface area, what percent may be considered suitable waterfowl habitat.
22. Do Alaska farmers grow more hay, barley or oats?
23. What portion of Alaska lies within the Arctic Circle?
24. The beginning of what war gave Matanuska Colonist a needed market?
25. About 40 percent of the vegetables grown by Alaska farmers are what crop?
26. In 2007, did Alaska farmers use more acreage for lettuce or cabbage?
27. What area in Alaska grows the most barley: Tanana Valley, Matanuska Valley or Kenai Peninsula?
28. True or false, goats, like moose, have upper and lower incisors.
29. What area grows more hay: Tanana Valley or Kenai Peninsula?
30. What state has the highest per capita consumption of ice cream in the US?
31. What's the average annual precipitation at the Experiment Station in Palmer?
32. What showy, cool-weather perennial is being grown here as a new specialty crop to meet the needs of florists filling orders for late summer/fall weddings?
33. In 2006 and 2007 were there more hogs or more sheep on Alaska farms?
34. In 2007, were there more reindeer (domestic) or cows in Alaska?
35. For what product are yak primarily raised?

36. What area in Alaska grows more potatoes: Tanana Valley, Matanuska Valley or Kenai Peninsula?
37. What region has the most planted acreage: Tanana Valley or Matanuska Valley?
38. For what product are musk ox primarily raised in Alaska?
39. Did the number of sheep in Alaska increased by 55% or dropped by 94% between 1930 and 2007?
40. How many AK acres were enrolled in Natural Resources Conservation Service programs through 2008?
41. For what 3 main uses are Alaska potatoes sold?
42. What area in Alaska raises the most cattle: Tanana Valley, Matanuska Valley, Kenai Peninsula or Southeast and Southwest (combined)?
43. In the early 1930s Alaska made national headlines because of what project?
44. What alternative livestock was being produced in 1950 Alaska that is no longer commercially produced here?
45. What byproduct of another commercial industry is used to fertilize some Alaska fields?
46. What is the average annual precipitation in Kenai?
47. True or False, Moose are ruminants like cows.
48. What percent of Alaska farmland was produced by federal conservation programs in 2002?
49. What is the most common way noxious weeds are spread in Alaska: Recreating people and their vehicles; Birds; After a wildfire; or Sold by nurseries?
50. What is Alaska's land grant university?
51. In 1867, the U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000 or about how much per acre?
52. Is foxtail barley a grain or an invasive weed?
53. True or False: Field bindweed and blue-flowering lettuce may not be brought to Alaska.
54. What agricultural experiment station in Alaska was closed after a volcanic eruption?
55. What percent of Alaskans food is grown or raised in the state?
56. While the amount of barley planted in Alaska has skyrocketed in the last 70 years, this grain has only doubled. What is it?
57. When did Alaska become America's 49th state?
58. Where are the two Experiment Farms in Alaska?

59. Which is NOT an invasive weed in Alaska: a. Canada thistle; b. Bird vetch; c. Fireweed; d. Toadflax
60. Alaska is America's largest state. How many times larger than Texas is Alaska?
61. During the Alaska gold rush, what vegetable was so valued for its vitamin C that miners traded gold for it? It's a top crop here now.
62. What time of year do reindeer deliver their calves?
63. What is the newest breed of barley introduced to Alaska and why is it special
64. What was the average age of a farm operator in Alaska in 2007?
65. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, did more or fewer Alaska farms have Internet access than US farms as a whole?
66. What Alaska waste product makes an excellent compost when combined with peat?
67. Were there more hogs in Alaska in 1950 or 2008?
68. Nearly 5 million acres near what Alaska city are enrolled in a Natural Resources Conservation Service program to improve habitat for the reindeer herds?
69. What board oversee the Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund of the Division of Agriculture?
70. Which Alaska wildflower has potential as a forage crop?
71. What pest spreads potato viruses?
72. In 2007, about what portion of Alaska farms were operated by women, compared to a national figure of 16%?
73. The production of what Alaska grain used for feed multiplied more than 77 times from 1950 to 2007?
74. What do you call plants that require the dark of night (in addition to daylight) to produce?
75. In 1950, what percent of Alaska farms had a freezer?
76. Did the number of cattle in Alaska between 1939 and 2007 quadruple or drop by 50 percent?
77. The Alaska Division of Agriculture is part of what department?
78. How many sanctioned farmers' markets were there in Alaska in 2009?
79. What is the average number of freeze-free days at the UAF Experiment Station in Fairbanks?
80. Where are the two regional offices of the Alaska Division of Agriculture?
81. Of the 525 Alaska farms in 1950, how many had a phone?

82. At 39.2 pounds, Scott Robb of Palmer had a winner and world record in 2004 with what root vegetable?
83. Alaska acreage of this vegetable is more than doubled from 1930, but down from 1950s levels. What is it?
84. What state entity was set up to provide loans to Alaska farmers?
85. Sourdough Bluejoint reedgrass is being studied for its potential as what?
86. In 2009, how many weeds were on Alaska's prohibited noxious weed list?
87. What does Alaska mean?
88. What joint venture do the Alaska Division of Agriculture and Department of Corrections operate?
89. True or False, Dall sheep are related to goats & cows.
90. The very high antioxidant levels in what wild Alaska berry is prompting efforts to manage, not cultivate, this crop for nutraceutical and dietary uses?
91. Matanuska Creamery bought about how many gallons of milk a day from local dairy farmers in 2009?
92. Alaska farmers harvested about how many tons of potatoes in 2007?
93. What is permafrost?
94. What was the total of Alaska's 2007 cash receipts from farm marketing: \$3 million, \$13 million or \$33 million?
95. A 1896 report was filed by Water H. Evans, Benton Killin and Sheldon Jackson following their visit to Alaska. To what group was it submitted?
96. In 1920, the first mill of this type was opened in Alaska, in Fairbanks. For what was the mill used?
97. About how many families were initially brought in as Matanuska Colonists?
98. About how many tons of carrots did Alaska farmers grow in 2007?
99. The UAF Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station operates experiment farms and research sites in what three locations?
100. What botanical garden at UAF is nationally recognized and conducts research projects for northern climates?
101. What percent of food eaten by Alaskans is produced in Alaska?
102. What change in transportation caused the number of dairies in Alaska to drop sharply in the 1950s?
103. What percent of Alaska Grown foods are consumed in Alaska?

ANSWERS

1. *The product was grown or raised in Alaska*
2. *1985*
3. *Green, blue and yellow*
4. *Barley and oats*
5. *Hay on about 23,000 acres (2007)*
6. *Barley*
7. *Sitka*
8. *Fresher by Far, and Be Alaskan, Buy Alaska Grown*
9. *Barley and oats*
10. *660*
11. *900,000 acres*
12. *Aquaculture*
13. *Carrots and lettuce*
14. *Crops at \$26.3 million; \$6.9 million for livestock*
15. *105.9 pounds*
16. *About 39,000*
17. *75.75 pounds*
18. *About 35,000 pounds*
19. *63.3 pounds*
20. *58.6 pounds*
21. *About 50 percent*
22. *Hay (1), barley (2), oats*
23. *Nearly one-third*
24. *World War II*
25. *Potatoes*
26. *Nearly the same*

27. *Tanana Valley grows nearly all of state's barley*
28. *False, they have only lower teeth for cutting browse.*
29. *Tanana Valley*
30. *Alaska*
31. *About 15 1/2 inches*
32. *Peonies*
33. *About 100 more sheep than hogs (1,000 vs. 900)*
34. *Both about 15,000*
35. *Meat (also milk, fiber)*
35. *Matanuska Valley*
36. *Tanana Valley*
37. *Qiviut (hair)*
38. *Meat*
39. *Dropped from 17,076 to 951*
40. *About 5.2 million acres*
41. *Table stock, seed and potato chipping*
42. *Southeast/Southwest*
43. *Matanuska Colony Project*
44. *Fur animals: mink, fox*
45. *Fish processing waste*
46. *19 inches at airport*
47. *True; both have 4-chambered stomach*
48. *3.2 percent*
49. *d. Recreating people*
50. *UAF*
51. *2 cents*
52. *Invasive weed; barley is a crop grown in Alaska*

53. *True; They are on the state's list of prohibited and restricted noxious weeds*

54. *Kodiak*

55. *About 5 percent*

56. *Oats*

57. *1959*

58. *Fairbanks and Palmer*

59. *Fireweed, it is indigenous*

60. *2.5 times*

61. *Potato*

62. *Spring, usually April-May*

63. *Sunshine barley; it is
hulless*

64. *56, up from 44 in 1950*

65. *74% in AK vs. 57% in the US overall*

66. *Fish waste*

67. *1950*

68. *Nome*

69. *Board of Agriculture and Conservation (BAC)*

70. *Fireweed*

71. *Aphids*

72. *About 1/4 (24 %)*

73. *Barley*

74. *Nightshades*

75. *Less than 5 percent*

76. *Nearly quadrupled, from 3,749 to 14,823*

77. *Dept. of Natural Resources*

78. *24*

79. 97

80. *Fairbanks and Palmer*

81. *Only 86 had phones*

82. *Turnip*

83. *Potato*

84. *Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF)*

85. *Biofuel*

86. 14

87. *Alyeska is the Great Land*

88. *Mt. McKinley Meat & Sausage Co.*

89. *True, the Bovidae family*

90. *Blueberries*

91. 1,650

92. *Nearly 9,000 tons*

93. *Soil below freezing for 2 or more years*

94. *More than \$33 million*

95. *Congress*

96. *To mill wheat into flour*

97. *About 200. Later, replacement families were brought in, and there was a new recruitment in the 1950s.*

98. *About 735 tons*

99. *Fairbanks, Delta Junction and Palmer*

100. *Georgeson Botanical Garden*

101. *About 95 percent*

102. *Milk was brought in by airplane from the Northwest*

103. *Nearly 100 percent*