



Alaska Ag Day is May 2, 2006

a project of Alaska Ag in the Classroom

Alaska Ag Facts (2004 information; most recent available)

Agriculture is a small but vital industry for Alaska.
Number of farms and ranches: 620

Average Farm Size in Acres: 1,452

Average Net Cash Farm Income: \$15,790

Alaska ranks 49th among the states for agricultural production

Did you know?

Some Alaska products are highly sought after because of the low use of chemical herbicides and pesticides here.

Nursery and greenhouse crops had a value of sales in 2004 of \$14.6 million, up from \$12 million in 2002.

The value of agricultural products sold in Alaska in 2004 reached nearly \$53 million.

Less than one half of 1 percent of the land in Alaska is used for farming (including pastures, farmsteads and woodlots). That is about 900,000 acres — compared to 15 million acres estimated to be arable and about 365 million acres total in the state. (An acre is about the size of a football field, without the end zones.) In 2002, about 98,131 acres in Alaska were cropland.

The number of farms in Alaska increased from 291 in 1974 to 574 in 1987 to 620 in 2004. That's an increase of 113 percent from 1974 to 2004. However, the amount of land in farms has not substantially changed during those 20 years. In many cases, smaller specialty farms are replacing traditional large-acre farms, resulting in the increase in numbers of farms.

Alaska farmers and ranchers commercially product a wide variety of products: animal feed crops (like barley and hay); root crops (like carrots and potatoes); cole crops (like cabbage and broccoli); greenhouse crops (like tomatoes and cucumbers); other trucks crops (like lettuce and about 40 other vegetables); nonfood crops (like bedding plants and grass seeds); dairy products (milk products); and meat (everything from beef and pork to reindeer and bison).

In 2004, 31,312 acres were planted to crops in Alaska. Nearly three-quarters of this acreage was devoted to hay production. Grain crops (primarily barley and oats) accounted for nearly 22 percent of this total acreage planted to crops. The remainder was devoted to vegetables.

Statistics from Alaska Ag Statistics 2005, published by National Agricultural Statistics Service (Alaska office) and Alaska Division of Agriculture.

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Alaska/index.asp#.html

Alaska Ag in the Classroom is part of the USDA's national agricultural literacy effort begun in 1981. Each state has an Ag in the Classroom program. In Alaska, that program is part of the Alaska Farm Bureau. Alaska AITC offers lesson plans for teachers and teacher training through its website, workshops, in-service programs and online classes. It is a volunteer organization. For more information, contact Victoria Naegele, Alaska AITC, akaitc@alaskafb.org; 746-2172

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