



Alaska

Capital: Juneau
Population: 655,435
 (Population density is about 1 person per square mile)
Founded: January 3, 1959 (49th state)
State Bird: Willow ptarmigan
State Fish: King salmon
State Tree: Sitka spruce
State Flower: Forget-me-not
State Animal: Moose
State Gem: Jade
State Soil: Tanana, found in the Fairbanks area
Largest City: Anchorage **Population:** 272,687
Areas: 16 Boroughs and 11 Geographical Census Areas

A Look at Alaska Agriculture



Climate



- Alaska's temperatures vary widely.
- The coastal areas range in temperature from 60.6°F to 28.9°F, while the inland areas average is more extreme from 72°F to -1.5°F.

Crops



- Summer days of nearly constant daylight allow some crops to be nurtured to enormous size. Jumbo crops include a world-record 19 lb. carrot, a 76 lb. rutabaga and a 106 lb. cabbage!
- Barley was planted on 4,600 acres in 2004, with production for grain at about 145,000 bushels.
- Hay is planted on the most Alaska acreage: 21,000 acres.
- Alaska harvested about 17.7 million pounds of potatoes in 2004.
- Greenhouse and nursery crops are the fastest-growing segment of Alaska's agricultural industry.

Soil



- Alaska has 318 different soil types.
- Permafrost is more than 2,000 feet deep on Alaska's North Slope.
- An estimated 15 million acres of soil in Alaska is suitable for farming.

General



- Alaska's oil production is 25% of the total U.S. production.
- Alaska is one-fifth the size of the contiguous U.S.; 488 times larger than the state of Rhode Island.
- 90% of Alaska is owned by the U.S. Government.
- The Tongass National Forest, at 16.9 million acres, is the largest national forest.
- Alaska is divided into boroughs, instead of counties or parishes. There are 16 organized boroughs and 246 recognized tribal governments.
- Total cash receipts from farm marketing in 2004: nearly \$53 million.
- There are about 900 farms in Alaska.
- Other world record vegetables:
 - 39 pound turnip
 - 63 pound celery
 - 65 pound cantaloupe

Animals



- Alaska leads the nation in quantity of commercial seafood landings. In 1990, almost 160 million salmon were harvested.
- Alaskans rely on the sale of cattle, pigs, sheep, reindeer, milk, wool, antlers and velvet, bison, yak and elk.
- Alaska is the largest state (365 million acres), but fewer than 1 million acres are farmed.



Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom
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