

Spring
2008



Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District

590 University Ave. Suite B Fairbanks, Alaska Margie Lienhardt, District Assistant Main #: 479-1213
Joni Scharfberg: 479-3159 x 117 George Hitz: 479-3159 x 104 Tami Seekins: 479-3159 x 116

We are currently working on our webpage. It should be up and running by the end of March!

ATTN: FARMERS

If you are a producer, Alaska DNR has asked that you go online to

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/ag>

And fill out a questionnaire regarding your products. If you have any questions—please contact Patricia O’Neil @ 907-761-3858 or email her @

Patricia.O’Neil@alaska.gov

Calendar of Events:

Tanana Chiefs Conference:

3/11/08—3/14/08

SARE Conference: *March 21 & 22*

Home show: *March 28th—30th*

Enviro-thon: Chena Hot Springs

April 23-24. Contact Al Poindexter at 907-235-8177 ext. 4 for more information.

2008

Speech & Poster Contest



“**Water is Life**” is the theme for this year’s contest. The Poster Contest is open to grades K-12.

The Speech Contest is open to grades 7-12.

Prizes for the poster contest range from \$25-\$75 and the speech contest prizes range from \$25-\$200.

If more information is needed, please contact Tami Seekins @ 479-3159 x116 or education@gci.net

Delta Farm Forum Set for Saturday, March 1st

From the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Cooperative Extension Service. This annual agricultural event will be held at the Delta High School small gymnasium on Saturday, March 1st beginning at 9:00 a.m. and adjourning at 3:00 p.m.

AERATOR
is coming—
should be here by the end of March!

FSWCD's Annual Tree & Shrub Sale

will be held this year on May 31st from 10am to 4pm. Native trees and shrubs will be for sale as usual, as well as some ornamental varieties suitable for Alaska's harsh climate. We will have pre-ordering available as last year; look for the order forms in your mail and on our website sometime in March.

Contact us if you have any items that you’d like to sell during this event. Last year was quite successful... let’s make this year even better!

If you have any other questions, you can contact Darcy at darcyetcheverry@gmail.com

USDA Rural Development announced today the availability of \$18.4 million in grant funds nationally for value-added product development for agricultural producers (copy of

notice attached). Farmers, ranchers, foresters & fishermen may receive USDA Rural Development matching grants for either planning or working capital purposes to implement value-added ventures - i.e., for marketing or processing projects that will add value to the commodities they produce or for on-farm renewable energy generation projects. The goal of the program is to increase the producer’s share of revenue from the commodities they produce.

Applicants may apply for up to \$100,000 to conduct planning efforts such as feasibility studies, market studies and business plans -or- up to \$300,000 in working capital for implementation. 50% matching funds are required for these grants. Examples of Washington Value-Added Producer Grant projects have included assessing the feasibility of wind power, digester and biodiesel projects, and marketing salmon, shellfish, biodiesel, egg, apple, dairy, wheat, lavender and mulch products.

The application deadline is March 31, 2008, and applications are to be sent to:

Attn: Business Programs,
State Office
USDA Rural Development
1835 Black Lake Blvd SW,
Suite B
Olympia, WA 98512

If you know of an agricultural producer(s) who could benefit from this program, please have them contact the Business Programs Specialist who serves their area to discuss their potential project and for application assistance: contact jo.lynne.seufer@rma.usda.gov

Cooperator Updates

Erica Tomsha, one of our cooperators daughters, is 24 years old and has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Please check out her website @ www.ericatomsha.blogspot.com for ways to donate.

Dan McCartney (cooperator from Yak Farm on Chena Hot Springs Road) passed away. Our prayers go out to his family!



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Margie Lienhardt, District Assistant
Main Phone: 479-1213
Fax: 479-6998

Email: fswcd@gci.net

Web page: <http://home.gci.net/~fswcd>

Our phone numbers have changed,
Please Note:

Joni Scharfenberg, District Coordinator:
479-3159 ext. 117

George Hitz, Natural Resource/Technical
Advisor: 479-3159 ext. 104

Tami Seekins, Education Assistant:
479-3159 ext. 116

FSWCD Board of Supervisors:

Jerry Norum—Board Chair
Email: jwnorum@alaska.com
Phone: 488-1717

Tony Gasbarro—Vice Chair
Email: tonygasbarro@yahoo.com
Phone: 455-6287

Tim Hammond—Secretary/Treasurer
Email: tim@bthphoto.com
Phone: 490-4464

Randy Scharfenberg
Phone: 488-9202

Stu Davies
Email: rsdavies@starband.net
Phone: 490-6485

FSWCD Welcomes our newest board member—Stuart Davies

Stu is originally from Idaho, but moved to Alaska in the 1970's. He has a degree in psychology and worked for the State of Alaska for many years in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. In 2000 he began farming land in the Eielson Agricultural project. Currently he's growing grass seed, barley, and hay.

The Fourth Annual Statewide Sustainable Agriculture Conference & Organic Growers School is set for March 21-22 (Easter weekend) at the Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge.

Cost is \$50 per person for both days (\$40 for FSWCD Cooperators) for \$30 per person for one day. Please register before March 14th to UAF Cooperative Extension Service. Phone: 907-474-1530
Fax: 907-474-6885 or email @ ffmah@uaf.edu

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE Natural Resources Conservation Service – AK

Well here we are again, the days are getting longer, the weather is warming (slightly), and we are thinking and hopefully planning for the up and coming growing season. One very important resource that is often over looked in the planning process in Interior Alaska is the forests. While some people tend to think that managing forests is often only related to timber resources, there is a multitude of other very important factors that can and should be taken into consideration. Whether it be the looming fear of a repeat fire season similar to 2004, or planning for a sustainable supply of firewood for years to come; these situations and others can be managed with proper planning.



The NRCS and the Division of Forestry (DOF) have recently come to an agreement on working together to assist private forest land owners. DOF has agreed to prepare Forest Stewardship Plans for land owners interested in NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Having a Forest Stewardship Plan and owning at least 7 acres of forested land, makes one eligible for EQIP. At this time NRCS is continually taking applications and will be submitting them for funding as they are received. If you would like more information about forestry options and/or forestry planning contact NRCS Fairbanks Field Office – Joanne Kuykendall District Conservationist (479-2657 ext. 110) or contact the DOF - Kathryn Pyne (KT) Stewardship Forester (451-2668).

Written by: Cassidee Hall-Plunkard
Soil Conservationist Technician