

Currant Affairs

February 7, 2022 Edition

Compiled regularly by Nick Riordan on behalf of Yarcucopia (a program of Alaska Community Action on Toxics) and the Alaska Food Policy Council

****Marks new and updated items in this issue**

WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, & SPECIAL EVENTS

****Febrary 8**

Herbal Salve Making with Common Root using AK Plants. This event will be held at [Blue Market](#) and is part of their weekl pop ups and Tuesday Talk and Tinker series - [RSVP](#)

February 8

From the Ground Up! A class series put together by Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District and the UAF Cooperative Extension Service's next installment is **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Growers.** [More info and registration.](#)

****February 8**

Pollinators and other insects in Alaska's Gardens presented at 7:00 PM by Derek Sikes, from the UAF Museum, and Jozef Slowik, Integrated Pest Management Technician at the Cooperative Extension Service. It's online only and you can get more info and register at www.wise-edu.org/science-lecture-series.html, or contact the WISE office (907) 822-3575 or email contact@wise-edu.org.

February 15

From the Ground Up! A class series put together by Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District and the UAF Cooperative Extension Service's next installment is **Benefits & Usage of Cover Cropping for Soil Enhancement in Alaska.** [More info and registration.](#)

February 17

The **Alaska Farmers Market Association** has partnered with the Washington State Farmers Market Association and other state organizations from Idaho, Oregon, Ohio, and Utah, to put on a 3-day, multistate Farmers Market Manager Bootcamp ([more info here](#)). This training is for new and existing farmers market managers and will occur on three consecutive Thursdays in February, with the final day being a state-specific training. **Join us on February 17th from 8:30-11 AM** to hear from Alaskan agencies and organizations and learn about the rules and best practices for farmers markets in our state. Whether you're an established market manager, a board member, a vendor, or are looking to start a market in your community, you will find valuable information here! [Zoom link.](#)

February 21

Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage Monthly Meeting: Robbi Mixon presents on **The Alaska Food Policy Council**. 7:00 – 8:00 PM.

February 22

From the Ground Up! A class series put together by Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District and the UAF Cooperative Extension Service's next installment is **AK AgrAbility Overview & Resources**. [More info and registration.](#)

February 25

Anchorage Parks & Rec is hosting a class on **Seed and Plant Starting** at the Dr. Lidia Selkregg Chalet from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. \$15. [Register here.](#)

March 1

From the Ground Up! A class series put together by Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District and the UAF Cooperative Extension Service's next installment is **Conservation Programs and Other Resources that Benefit Producers**. [More info and registration.](#)

**March 10

UAF Cooperative Extension is hosting **Food Storage: Making the Harvest Last** from 12-1pm - How can you construct a storage area to keep fresh vegetables and fruits from freezing in fall/winter as well as from spoiling during the hot summer? This class will look at building materials for thermal moisture control, ventilation as well as pest control on helping your harvest to last. [Zoom link.](#)

March 11

Anchorage Parks & Rec is hosting a class on **Tool Selection and Maintenance** at the Dr. Lidia Selkregg Chalet from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Cost \$15. [Register here.](#)

March 11-12

ABG's annual Spring Garden Conference will be held virtually for 2022. Agenda info to come.

**March 17

UAF Cooperative Extension is hosting **Sustainability within your local food system** from 12-1pm - What does it mean to have a sustainable food system? Is it achievable in Alaska? Learn about the potential for sustainability within your local food system and the part you can play to make it a reality – [Zoom link.](#)

March 17

Food for the Rest of Us with **Caroline Cox** (Director) & **Tiffany Ayalik** (Producer) will be

shown as the **Alaska Food Festival & Conference Kick-Off Event**. The feature film presents 4 stories of people living life on their own terms, serving as leaders who are lending their voice to the underdog and leading a revolution to a better world, from the ground up! An Indigenous-owned, youth-run organic farm in Hawaii, and Black urban grower in Kansas City who runs a land-farm at East High School, A female Kosher Butcher in Colorado working with the Queer Community and an Inuit community on the Arctic Coast who are adapting to climate change with a community garden in a small geodesic dome. Time will be announced later.

March 18-19

2022 Alaska Food Festival and Conference – The 6th annual semi-annual conference to talk about all things Alaska and food! There will be an in-person and virtual options of attendance. [Read more at the AK Food Policy Council Website](#). Oh, and they are accepting [session abstracts](#) and [AK Food Hero nominations](#).

March 21

Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage Monthly Meeting: Gino Graziano presents '**Invasive Plants in Alaska and How You Can Help**'. 7:00 – 8:00 PM.

****March 22**

UAF Cooperative Extension is hosting **Food Preservation Basics** from 12-1pm - Why food is preserved, methods of preservation, and causes of food spoilage will be discussed. General tips will also be discussed. [Zoom link](#).

****March 24**

UAF Cooperative Extension is hosting **Ethical foraging** from 12-1pm - Why food is preserved, methods of preservation, and causes of food spoilage will be discussed. General tips will also be discussed. [Zoom link](#).

March 25

Anchorage Parks and Rec is hosting a class on **Compost Made Easy** at the Mann Leiser Greenhouse, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. \$15. [Register here](#).

****March 29**

UAF Cooperative Extension is hosting **Food Dehydration Basics** from 12-1pm - One of the oldest food preservation methods, dehydration is an excellent way to extend your wild or garden harvest. In this class you will learn about equipment and techniques for drying meats, vegetables, fruits, and herbs for use in your home cooking throughout the year. [Zoom link](#).

****March 31**

UAF Cooperative Extension is hosting **Chicken University** from 12-1pm - A backyard flock is fun & a great way to include Alaskan food security and sustainability. This class will enable a

novice to start their first flock. Breed selection, incubation, nutrition, coop design, disease management, cold weather tips & even chicken psychology will be covered. [Zoom link](#).

PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

****Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association** is hiring a **Youth Agriculture Project Manager** in Emmonak this summer. [Check out the job description for more info](#).

****USDA Urban Agricultural Advisory Committee** was [founded on February 1st](#). There will be opportunities to speak at public meetings, [funding and tech support](#). More info to come.

****Alaska Botanical Gardens** has listed their summer term positions in Horticulture and Education [on their website](#) - Be a part of the team during our peak bloom season!

Blue Market in Spenard is kicking off a **Talk and Tinker Series** and hosting regular pop-ups by local vendors. Currently featuring visits from **Farm 779, Raven's Creek Farms**, and **Common Root**. More to come. [See their events page for up-to-date details](#).

APU's Spring Creek Farm is hiring for two positions: **Assistant Production Manager** and **Farm Intern**. They are a non-profit educational farm and are looking for individuals who want to learn about agriculture in AK and are ready to work hard. Summer positions include on-farm housing. Apply on the APU website: <https://www.alaskapacific.edu/careers/>

The Harvest of Hope Memorial Garden is seeking to fill volunteer roles: a grant writer, blogger, and volunteer coordinator. The grant writer would look for grant opportunities and write up proposals, the blogger would assist with posting and updating the existing blog, and the volunteer coordinator would coordinate activities like garden tours and enlisting volunteers. If interested, please contact Don Bladow at (907) 830-5723 or email him at dfbladow@gmail.com.

Camp Counselor/Farm Education Intern at **Calypso Farm & Ecology Center** in **Fairbanks** for summer 2022. Apply now to be a Camp Counselor at Calypso's summer Farm Camps! Develop your leadership skills, learn techniques for working with children and youth, and learn all about (and practice!) principles of hands-on, outdoor education. **Application Deadline: March 1**. For more information, contact Leila at leila@calypsofarm.org Details and Application Instructions are at <https://calypsofarm.org/employment/>

Alaska Seeds of Change has many volunteer opportunities this winter. Many of their summer interns and employees head back to school in the fall/winter, so it's a good time to step up to help this great organization. Sign up for a shift using [Seeds Sign Up Genius](#) here, or if it's your first-time volunteering, email volunteer@akseedsofchange.com for an orientation.

Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage and the **Alaska School Garden Network** compile a list of public garden projects and volunteer opportunities – [you can view it here](#).

FOOD PANTRIES, WINTER GROWERS, & SHOPPING LOCAL FOODS

A List of Anchorage Food Pantries can be found at [AnchorageFood.org](#) (Address, hours, etc.)

****Support Alaska's American Indian Producers** - <https://www.indianagfoods.org/alaska-1> & check out Ag Alaska's list of AK farms - <https://agalaska.org/alaska-farms/>

Arctic Harvest has an [online winter farm stand](#), sells all sorts of veggies, meats, milk, eggs from growers in the Valley and further afield in AK. Submit your order from 3 pm Friday to 9 pm Sunday for pickup/delivery next week.

Blue Market carries lots of locally grown and fermented foods throughout the winter. You can find **Happy Mushrooms**, **Common Root** kimchi and curtido, greens from **Seeds of Change** & much more.

City Farms is an indoor hydroponics farm in Anchorage. Their veggies can be found at New Sagaya, Natural Pantry, Fred Meyer, and Walmart. <https://www.cityfarmsalaska.com/>

Local Greens sell hydroponically grown veggies year-round in Anchorage. [Get a weekly or every-other-week subscription](#), and pickup at Double Shovel Cidery at your convenience

Far North Fungi grows and sells fresh and dried mushrooms in Anchorage and teaches fungi cultivation. They'll be at...

Anchorage Greens sells direct to consumers through a weekly Green Bag subscription as well as folks who stop by for on-site ala carte purchases. <https://www.anchoragegreens.com/>

Alaska Sprouts sells sprouts and microgreens online for pickup in Anchorage - <https://www.alaskasprouts.com/> . Read more about their story in a [2017 issue of Edible Alaska](#)

Space Farming Institute has an [8-week microgreens subscription](#) and sells hydroponic towers for growing your own plants at your school, home, office, etc. This is a wonderful non-profit and whether you're buying greens or a tower garden, well worth a visit to their Living Lab. Lots more info about their many programs and resources at <https://www.agronauts.org/>

To **RECEIVE** Currant Affairs, suggest items to **ADD, CHANGE EMAIL ADDRESS** or **UNSUBSCRIBE**, contact Nick Riordan at riordannk@gmail.com.