

FOOD SECURITY TALK
COMMONWEALTH NORTH
November 28, 2018

What is Food Security? Commercial Ag & Subsistence

95% of the \$2.5b in food we consume is imported.

commercial agriculture, subsistence, fisheries and seafood, emergency supply
Security in time of emergency

Gov Parnell's Alaska Food Resources Working Group, AO 265, Rep Bill Stoltze

- Walker—reframed it to include subsistence
- Rep Tarr's Food Security Subcommittee of HRES
- AK Food Policy Council, Strategic Plan, Ken Meter's reports
- Inuit Circumpolar Council, Alaska Inuit Food Security Conceptual Framework

In my local grocer, Jewell Lake Carrs:

- Carrots and potatoes.
- Not much else

Do we have enough farms? How much ag land do we have?

Land required to produce all of Alaska's demand (2014 consumption), Ken Meter 2014

- Potatoes: 4,700 acres
Carrots: 200 acres
- Cabbage: 200 acres
- Lettuce: 600 acres

Since 1978, DNR has sold about 180,000 acres of Ag land (160,000 of that in the first 10 years).
Currently, 200,000 acres available. Will need better soils data and plan changes to get more.
Much of that is in Nenana Totckaket area, best soils in state.

POSITIVES:

produce in stores, notably carrots and potatoes.

Number of farms increasing, farmers markets increasing (40 statewide, one of best in nation)

More small farms selling direct to consumers (AK one of top states in nation, 13 times national average).

DoAg \$5/week each, \$188 m in sales.

NEED GOVERNANCE

- Bundle of recommendations

- Common themes: land, storage, education, access to subsistence resources
- Identify Government obstacles and path to remove them

OBSTACLES:

- High input costs, fuel, fertilizer, transportation
- Loss of workforce—need to reestablish the culture of agriculture in AK. Meter recommends Incubator Farms with leasable state land
- Lack of infrastructure. Food Production Nodes, washing, packing, distribution. Storage facilities, freezers
- Lack of farmland?

RECOMMENDATIONS

REP TARR'S FOOD SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE OF HRES

An initial list of potential priorities to be considered included the following:

1. Workforce Development Through Farming on State Lands 2.
2. Food Storage in Climate-Protected Food Caches Across the State 3.
3. Increased Alaska Food Procurement by State Agencies 4.
4. Rebuilding the State's Dairy Industry 5.
5. Devising a Long-Term Strategy for Preparedness 6.
6. Job Creation 7.
7. Food Freedom — for Farmers Selling Direct to Household Consumers 8.
8. Shared Community Kitchens for Creating Value-Added Products

ALASKA INUIT FOOD SECURITY CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Recommendations:

- Better baseline data and monitoring, with IK blended with science. Health of population, id important subsistence areas, pollutants,
- Better Passage of Knowledge, education, methods and means, traditional recipes, etc.
- Sharing systems like community freezers.
- Change laws and regulations to prioritize subsistence, amd remove barriers from use of traditional foods, such as education institutions, hospitals, management of changing fish and wildlife populations.
- Ensure priority of access to subsistence resources for residents.
- Improve habitation, housing, sanitation, etc.
- Document and monitor potential disturbances, development, shipping, etc.
- Create Inuit Food Security Board
- Good job of addressing subsistence security, but still a need for improved non-traditional foods.

ALASKA FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

- Consumer Marketing and Education. Eat 5, Buy 5 Program, AK Grown program
- Storage: encourage community storage programs
- Land—new programs to encourage new and young farmers, develop Nenana Totchaket
- Teach northern growing methods.
- Alaska Food Resources Working Group
- Educate students
- Source more AK food in state procurement processes
- Incentives for small businesses, state loan programs, etc.
- Traditional foods in school, senior facilities, etc.

KEN METER

- Foster Subsistence Harvesting and Related Skills
- Build Personal Capacities in Agriculture: educating our youth, cultivating a food culture

- Expand Agricultural Production and Gardening: improve soil quality with organics, more funding for greenhouses and high tunnels
- Infrastructure: Food Storage and processing nodes
- Adopt State Policy that Supports Local Food Production
- Continue funding Nutritional Foods In Alaska Schools Program and farm to school programs
- Grants and loans for agriculture and renewable energy leveraged projects
- Set aside food production lands near communities
- Develop Nenana Totchaket=
- Focus consumer attention on staying local to Alaska Grown
- Expand food processing and manufacturing for in-state markets: revise food safety regulations to enable more local food production, fund community kitchens, loans and other assistance for community-based food initiatives
- Strengthen internal food distribution networks: fund distribution infrastructure
- Strengthen statewide transparency and coordination

