

FOOD SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS



INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Without infrastructure, there is only a certain amount of growth in food production Alaska will realize.



STORAGE

Cold, dry, frozen storage facilities would assist in increased production and extending availability to products. Rural communities need temperature-controlled storage facilities to improve access to fresh foods.



PROCESSING/MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

A facility that processes meat and veggies to a prepackaged, ready-to-go meal will be more enticing to many consumers and provide more Alaska Grown food year-round. Also, this could provide ready-to-go meals for institutions and local, healthy foods with a longer storage life and easier shipping to rural communities.



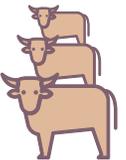
SHARED KITCHEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Investment into community buildings with rentable kitchen space that includes manufacturing equipment, cold and dry storage, and public-facing retail to create entrepreneurial opportunities.



POULTRY

Egg and meat chicken production would provide quick turnaround proteins developed in-state. Poultry farmers rely heavily on USPS to get chicks. Incentives for building infrastructure around in-state hatcheries and poultry processing units would increase the production of healthy foods.



IMPORTING LIVESTOCK

High fees for federal veterinary inspections of imported livestock is a barrier to significant increases in livestock in Alaska. Establish a fund to help with vet fees for 2021/2022 imports and encourage USDA to find lower-cost methods for inspections.



INCREASED ACCESS TO BROADBAND/POWER

Many rural areas in the state (even on the road system) do not have 3-phase power, or reliable access to internet/cell coverage. Alternatives to these are more expensive (generators, satellite phones, etc.). Expanding sustainable power infrastructure will lower expenses for farmers.

FOOD SYSTEM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Many farmers and fishers depend on seasonal workers from outside the state, who often leave with new skill sets. Processors and value-added manufacturing require specialized skills, which tend to be acquired by on-the-job training. Partnering with educational institutions to build programs that meet the needs of our Alaskan food system, we can create career pathways and a long-term workforce.



TRANSPORTATION

Alaska is a large state, and it is inefficient for every sector of our food system to have to transport everything (supplies, products, etc.). There are also big problems with transportation to the off-road communities.



ON-ROAD SYSTEM

Coordination with existing companies with temperature-controlled trucks—i.e., fish processing facilities. Explore what's available and how to better utilize it. Develop a rail system.



OFF-ROAD SYSTEM

Need to continue to be able to transport food around the state while also expanding local production/harvesting in communities. Continue funding for ferries, bypass mail, etc., and other systems crucial for distributing food to rural communities. Consider supplemental transportation funding to food banks to help equitably distribute nutritious food throughout the state.

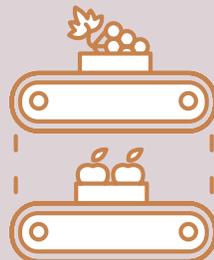
LOCAL FOODS PURCHASING PROGRAMS

Guaranteed markets will give farmers security in expanding operations and will help address the heightened levels of hunger Alaska has seen in the past year.



LOCAL FOOD TO FOOD BANKS

Funding program for Food Banks to purchase local foods and distribute to families in need.



INSTITUTIONAL PURCHASING

Get the Product Preference Program working for local food purchases

INCENTIVE PROGRAMS FOR LOW-INCOME ALASKANS TO SHOP AT FARMERS MARKETS, FARMSTANDS, FOOD HUBS:
 "Double bucks" program for SNAP, WIC or voucher system similar to senior farmers market coupons

