



SOUTHEAST ALASKA FARMERS SUMMIT

February 23-25, 2023 | Petersburg, Alaska

Organized by Farragut Farm & Spruce Root

seakfarmerssummit.com

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A big thank you to the Farmers Summit Advisory Committee for dedicating their time to this event:

Bo Varsano & Marja Smets, Farragut Farm
Andrea Fraga, Middle Island Gardens
Laura Schmidt, St. Peter's Fellowship Farm
Joe Orsi, Orsi Organic Produce
Deb Hurley, Flower Farm
Sally Boisvert, Four Winds Farm
Darren Snyder, UAF Cooperative Extension Service
Samia Savell, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Participants were kept well fed by generous food donations from the following folks: Sunnyside Farms, Ed's Edible Landscaping, Farragut Farm, Juneau Greens, Middle Island Gardens, Orsi Organic Produce, Down to Earth Garden, Four Winds Farm, Anam Cara Family Garden, Schoolhouse Fish Company, Coastal Cold Storage, Salty Pantry, Hammer & Wikan Grocery, Amalga Distillery, Barnacle, Sentinel Coffee, Coppa, Heather's Choice, & Equal Exchange

And a special thanks to all the wonderful folks who contributed their time, energy & expertise to make this a successful event, including the Spruce Root team (Aldyn, Izzy, & Tripp), Jennifer Nu, Meghan Stangeland, Orin Pierson, Alisa Jestel of Alaska Bound Charters, Shannon McCullough of Ada-Maed, and Ariel Norheim of The Little Shed.

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Welcome!

The Southeast Alaska Farmers Summit brings together growers, entrepreneurs and local food enthusiasts from around the region to exchange resources, share insights & best practices and to collaborate and work towards localizing our food system.

The Summit has been held biennially since 2015, each year being hosted by a different community in an effort to reach as many Southeast Alaskans as possible!

Introducing: SEAK Farmer-to-Farmer Online Forum!

One of the main goals of the SEAK Farmers Summit is to help create a cooperative community of vegetable & flower growers, composters, livestock raisers and local food enthusiasts who support and promote agriculture in our region.

The SEAK Farmers Summit is a great way for us all to get know each other in person, make connections and exchange ideas. But if it only happens every other year how do we keep the ball rolling between Summits?

This year we are launching the SEAK Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) online forum in an effort to maintain and strengthen connections within our community!

The SEAK F2F online forum is a place for everyone to ask questions, provide answers, share ideas and current projects, post photos and keep our connections going between in-person events. It can be found at www.seakfarmerssummit.com.

Join the conversation today!



Guest Speakers



Casey Richart

Casey Richart is a faculty research assistant at Oregon State University working in the Rory Mc Donnell lab where they are developing and implementing novel strategies for the management of pest slugs and snails. He received his PhD in evolutionary biology from San Diego State/UC Riverside working with Marshal Hedin and Cheryl Hayashi. The focus of his dissertation was species delimitation, systematics, biogeography, and taxonomy. His research interests include other species who are often short-range endemics, such as terrestrial gastropods and millipedes. He is an active user on iNaturalist and the administrator of the iNaturalist project Molluscan Mycophagy. He is generally interested in harnessing the power of community scientists to advance research and conservation goals.



Bob Van Veldhuizen

I've been playing in the dirt since the day I was born, much to the consternation of many of the women in my past. I finally got paid to play in the dirt way back in May of 1970 when I was hired on as a student employee in horticulture at the UAF Ag & Forestry Experiment Station in Fairbanks. Along the way, I've managed to actually graduate and work in the fields of forestry and agronomy, specializing in soils and soil/plant nutrition. I've done a lot of soils and crop research and outreach over the past 51 years getting to meet with many growers, farmers and gardeners across a whole lot of Alaska. I've been semi-retired for the past 6 years working as a part-time summer agronomist based out of the UAF Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center and a full-time soils and crops consultant for anyone who would like some help in the interpretation of their soil lab test results.



Far North Fungi

Far North Fungi is a gourmet and medicinal mushroom farm located in Anchorage, Alaska. Founded in 2017 by Allison Dunbar and Gabriel De-Gange. FNF is currently a seasonal operation with plans to extend the season year-round in the future. We began with the cultivation of Blue Oyster Mushrooms, and have since added Lions Mane, Shiitake, Golden Oyster, Pink Oyster, King Oyster, Beech and Chestnut Mushrooms to our gourmet lineup over the years. In addition to gourmet mushrooms, we cultivate medicinal mushrooms such as Reishi, Lions Mane, Turkey Tail which are then processed into potent medicinal powders and tinctures. We also take part in wild foraging, educational outreach, and cultivation classes throughout the year.

Vendor Info

Vendor tables will be located in the Fellowship Room and will be available during all breaks and meal times.

Name	Product/Service	Contact Information
Ed's Edible Landscaping	Locally grown seeds and starts	edbuyarski@hotmail.com
Sunnyside Farms	Locally grown vegetables	svhansen@aptalaska.net
Far North Fungi	Medicinal Mushroom Tinctures, Medicinal Powdered Mushroom Blend, Gourmet Mushroom Powder, Mushroom Salt, etc.	info@farnorthfungi.com
Salt & Soil Marketplace/ Ecotrust	Information for farmers interested in selling through a regional online marketplace	mstangeland@ecotrust.org
Down to Earth Farm	Lori Adam's instructional book, "How to Grow Vegetables in Sitka, Alaska"	downtoearthupick@gmail.com
Alaska Farmer's Market Association	Information about AFMA's Young and Beginning Farmers Network	info@alaskafarmersmarkets.org; kyra@alaskafarmersmarkets.org
University of Alaska Fairbanks	Information & brochures about extension service programs	dgsnyder@alaska.edu; sarah.lewis@alaska.edu
Natural Resources Conservation Service	USDA program information, including the EQIP High Tunnel Initiative	samia.savell@usda.gov
Totemic Solutions	Composting equipment and food waste reduction strategies	tgilardi@totemicsolutions.com, jonathan@totemicsolutions.com
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	Information on the Produce Safety Program and other outreach materials	dena.cologgi@alaska.gov; sarah.coburn@alaska.gov
New Earth Fungi	Mushroom tonics, stickers and pamphlet information	newearthfungi@gmail.com
UAF CES Integrated Pest Management Program	Integrated Pest Management information for farms, gardens & homes	camatney@alaska.edu
Alaska Villages Initiatives	Agriculture Education, Building Financial Sustainability & Ag-In-A-Box Traveling Classroom Programs	jstoneking@akvillage.com
Spruce Root	Information about regional small business development and programs	grow@spruceroot.org
Farm & Garden Book Swap	Free farm & garden books - bring one to share, take a new one home to enjoy!	

Thursday Agenda

Registered participants only. All meals will be served at the ANB John Hanson Hall. Please see the map on page 15 for directions

7:15 - 8:15 am			BREAKFAST
7:45 - 8:45 am	Doors Open, Check In	Participant registration.	
8:45 - 9:30 am			Conference Welcome
9:30 - 10:10 am <i>(Available via Zoom)</i>	30 Inch Bed Systems: Tools & Techniques for Intensive Production Emily Garrity, Twitter Creek Gardens	Learn about intensive vegetable production in small spaces using a 30 inch bed system. Emily will cover the hottest new tools designed expressly for this system and explain why setting up your farm with standardized beds makes for a more efficient, productive and successful farm.	
10:10 - 10:40 am			Break
10:40 - 11:40 am <i>(Available via Zoom)</i>	Potential for Commercial Fruit Production in Southeast Alaska Rob Bishop, Alaska Apple Farm & Chris Austin, Game Creek	Can tree fruit really be grown commercially in Southeast Alaska? Two seasoned growers from Hoonah discuss the challenges and successes they've encountered in their journey to create a commercial orchard in our region.	
11:40 am - noon			Break
noon - 1:00 pm			LUNCH
1:00 - 2:00 pm <i>(Available via Zoom)</i>	2023 Featured Alaska Farmers Gabe DeGange and Allison Dunbar, Far North Fungi	This year's "Featured Alaska Farmers" hail from Anchorage; Gabe & Allison will share the ins & outs of their unique mushroom growing operation including how they grow and market their products.	
2:00 - 2:10 pm			Break
2:10 - 2:55 pm <i>(Available via Zoom)</i>	Raising Livestock in Southeast Alaska: What I've Learned So Far Tabitha Nelson, Alaska Wild Acres	In Point Agassiz, near Petersburg, Tabitha & her family have spent years experimenting with raising a wide variety of livestock including goats, chickens, rabbits, pigs, turkeys & quail. Hear about her challenges and successes, and learn tips for reducing the cost of bringing in feed & supplies from down south.	

THURSDAY CONTINUED

2:55 - 3:05 pm	Food Safety on Your Farm Dena Cologgi & Sarah Coburn, Alaska DEC	Learn how to access important information & deep dive workshops that instruct how to keep your farm fresh produce safe and clean for your customers!
3:05 - 3:30 pm		Break
3:30 - 4:10 pm	Small Group Roundtable Discussions	An opportunity to have an intimate discussion with a small group of fellow farmers. Topics will include composting, high tunnels, growing flowers, soils & amendments, small farm tools, hydroponics, mushroom cultivation and more!
4:10 - 4:30 pm		Break
4:30 - 5:10 pm	Small Group Roundtable Discussions	See above description.
5:10 - 5:30 pm		Break
5:30 - 7:00 pm DINNER		
7:00 - 8:00 pm	Economics behind small scale farming in SEAK - (Real Costs and Potential Earnings) Local Farmer Panel (moderated by Marja Smets)	What is the economic reality of farming in Southeast Alaska? A large panel of local farmers offer up real numbers from a recent season. By sharing our successes and failures we can learn from one another and help aspiring farmers understand what the reality of running a small farm in our region looks like today.
8:00 - 10:00 pm		Open Social Time

Small Group Roundtable Discussions

These intimate workshops (Thursday and Saturday afternoon) offer an opportunity to speak with specialists and fellow farmers in a small group setting. Questions are encouraged, as well as sharing your own personal experience as it relates to the topic of discussion. Groups will be limited in size, so be sure to sign up ahead of time to secure your spot. Sign-ups will be available in-person on Day 1 of the Summit. Topics will include composting, high tunnels, growing flowers, soils & amendments, small farm tools, hydroponics, mushroom cultivation and more!



Friday Agenda

All presentations are FREE and open to the public today!

7:15 - 8:00 am		BREAKFAST
8:00 - 8:15 am		Welcome & Intro to the Day
8:15 - 9:15 am <i>(Available via Zoom)</i>	SEAK Farmer Snapshot Presentations: Steller Botanical Health, Gustavus + Tenakee Springs Agricultural Roundup, Juneau	Hear and see what agriculture currently looks like across our region! Local farmers offer “farm tours” via photos & videos, including details of what they grow, their production methods and marketing strategies.
9:15 - 9:25 am		Break
9:25 - 10:25 am <i>(Available via Zoom)</i>	SEAK Farmer Snapshot Presentations: Down to Earth Farm, Sitka + Ed’s Edible Landscaping, Juneau	Hear and see what agriculture currently looks like across our region! Local farmers offer “farm tours” via photos & videos, including details of what they grow, their production methods and marketing strategies.
10:25 - 10:45 am		Break
10:45 - 11:30 am <i>(Available via Zoom)</i>	Shiitake Cultivation on logs Gabe DeGange and Allison Dunbar, Far North Fungi	Our rainforest climate provides ideal conditions for production of shiitake mushrooms using hardwood logs. Learn about site considerations, log inoculation techniques, and other important information on how to produce commercial quantities of shiitake mushrooms.
11:30 - 11:40 am <i>(Available via Zoom)</i>	SEAK Mushroom Cultivation Feasibility Study Angie Mendbayar, Integrative Mushroom Solutions LLC	Ever considered growing & marketing mushrooms in the fungal heavens of Southeast Alaska? Hear about a 2022 study funded by the USDA’s Specialty Crop Block Grant Program that investigated the feasibility of fungi farming in our region.
11:40 am - noon		Break
noon - 1:00 pm		LUNCH

FRIDAY CONTINUED

<p>1:00 - 2:00 pm</p> <p><i>(Available via Zoom)</i></p>	<p>Slug control: Current Approaches & Novel Tools</p> <p>Casey H. Richart, Ph.D. Faculty Research Assistant Oregon State University</p>	<p>Tired of slugs ruining your otherwise perfect produce? Casey Richart, a gastropod expert, will share on-going research on slug deterrents and offer up creative ideas for how to keep slugs from destroying your vegetables, including new, highly effective slug control methods that are currently being utilized in Europe.</p>
<p>2:00 - 2:10 pm Break</p>		
<p>2:10 - 3:10 pm</p> <p><i>(Available via Zoom)</i></p>	<p>Using Local Amendments to Improve Your Soil</p> <p>Bob Van Veldhuizen, semi-retired agricultural consultant & UAF researcher</p>	<p>Southeast Alaska provides a plethora of nutrient-rich amendments for farmers to use to improve their soils. We'll take a close look at many commonly available materials including seaweed, fish carcasses, crab/shrimp shells and "shell sand", and learn how to best use them to improve the health of our soils.</p>
<p>3:10 - 3:40 pm Break</p>		
<p>3:40 - 4:20pm</p> <p><i>(Available via Zoom)</i></p>	<p>An Introduction to Hugelkultur</p> <p>Sarah Wagstaff, SUOT Farm & Flowers</p>	<p>Hugel-what? You may never have heard of it, but your farm might be transformed after learning about this centuries-old, traditional way of building growing beds from rotten logs and plant debris!</p>
<p>4:20 - 4:30 pm Break</p>		
<p>4:30 - 5:30 pm</p> <p><i>(Available via Zoom)</i></p>	<p>Perennial Crops Farmer Panel: Berries and Culinary/ Medicinal Herbs</p> <p>Ed Buyarski (Ed's Edible Landscaping), Jen Landry (Steller Botanical Health) (moderated by Laura Schmidt)</p>	<p>Learn tips & tricks for successful production of a variety of perennial crops from experienced local farmers.</p>
<p>5:30 - 6:00 pm Break</p>		
<p>6:00 - 8:00 pm</p>	<p>Local Foods Inspired dinner & potluck (at ANB/ANS John Hanson Hall)</p> <p>Open to the entire community -- bring a dish to share!</p>	
<p>8:00 - 10:00 pm</p>	<p>Kiss the Ground Documentary Screening</p>	<p>Kiss the Ground is a full-length documentary narrated by Woody Harrelson that sheds light on a "new, old approach" to farming called "regenerative agriculture" that has the potential to balance our climate, replenish our vast water supplies, and feed the world.</p>

Saturday Agenda

Registered participants only.

7:15 - 8:00 am		BREAKFAST
8:00 - 8:10 am		Welcome & Introduction to the day
8:10 - 8:40 am <i>(Available via Zoom)</i>	The Rhubarb Project David Love, RootSeller Farm	Four farms across Southeast spent 3 years participating in a Rhubarb Variety Trial sponsored by a USDA Specific Crop Block Grant. David will present the study's findings, which paint an interesting picture of rhubarb production in our region.
8:40 - 9:40 am <i>(Available via Zoom)</i>	Growing Carrots in SEAK Scott Hansen, Sunnyside Farms + Bo Varsano, Farragut Farm	Carrots are almost always the most popular veggie at market -- Scott & Bo will share the nitty gritty of carrot production on their farms, including tips on seeding, weeding and harvesting this tasty and iconic crop.
9:40 - 10:10 am		Break
10:10 - 10:55 am <i>(Available via Zoom)</i>	"Reducing/Eliminating Plastic on Your Farm" Martin Dearaway, Juneau Greens + Joe Orsi, Orsi Organic Produce + Jen Landry, Steller Botanical Health (moderated by Samia Savell)	Tired of all the single-use plastics in your life and more specifically on your farm?? Join three local farmers as they discuss their strategies for reducing and eliminating plastics on their farms.
10:55 - 11:05 am		Break
11:05 - 11:50 am <i>(Available via Zoom)</i>	"Farmer to Farmer (F2F) Online Forum Launch and Trivia Game" Bo Varsano (Farragut Farm) & Izzy Haywood (Spruce Root)	Learn about a brand new online forum on the SEAK Farmers Summit website that will serve as an easy and efficient way to communicate with fellow farmers across the region 365 days a year.
11:50 a.m. - noon		Break
noon - 1:00 pm		LUNCH

SATURDAY CONTINUED

<p>1:00 - 2:00 pm</p> <p><i>(Available via Zoom)</i></p>	<p>Local Slug ID Workshop</p> <p>Casey H. Richart, Ph.D. Faculty Research Assistant, Oregon State University</p>	<p>Knowing how to ID pests is the first step in successful pest management. Using photos submitted by local farmers, Casey will walk us through the steps for proper slug identification and provide info about the specific slug varieties found here in Southeast.</p>
<p>2:00 - 2:30 pm Break</p>		
<p>2:30 - 3:15 pm</p> <p><i>(Available via Zoom)</i></p>	<p>Perennial Flowers for the Small Scale SEAK Grower</p> <p>Sarah Wagstaff, SUOT Farm & Flowers</p>	<p>Make your flower production more efficient and less labor intensive by focusing on perennials! Learn tips for which varieties work well for each type of marketplace and bump up your flower game next season.</p>
<p>3:15 - 3:50 pm Conference Evaluations + Break</p>		
<p>3:50 - 4:35 pm</p>	<p>Small Group Roundtable Discussions</p>	<p>An opportunity to have an intimate discussion with a small group of fellow farmers. Topics will include composting, high tunnels, growing flowers, soils & amendments, small farm tools, hydroponics, mushroom cultivation and more!</p>
<p>4:35 - 4:45 pm Break</p>		
<p>4:45 - 5:30 pm</p>	<p>Small Group Roundtable Discussions</p>	<p>See above description.</p>
<p>5:30 - 7:00 pm DINNER</p>		
<p>7:00 - 8:00 pm</p>	<p>My biggest mistake & Lessons learned</p> <p>Moderated Audience Sharing by Darren Snyder, UAS Cooperative Extension Service</p>	<p>A fun and light-hearted opportunity to learn from one another by sharing the mistakes we've made and the lessons we've learned on our farms. Bring your stories to share and be prepared to laugh and commiserate in good company.</p>
<p>8:00 - 8:15 pm Conference Close</p>		



Use this map as a guide for navigating Petersburg. The Summit will be held at the Holy Cross House of the Petersburg Lutheran Church, 406 Excel Street, (the big red X). SEAK Farmers Summit meals (for “all-inclusive” ticket holders only) will be served at the ANB John Hanson Hall (corner of 1st & Gjoa). Please check with local businesses for up-to-date hours and availability.



THANK YOU!!

Thanks for joining us for the 2023 Southeast Alaska Farmers Summit in Petersburg! We look forward to seeing you again in 2025!

This project was funded in part by the State of Alaska's Division of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.