

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 8, 2016

State seeks nominations for 2016 Farm Family of the Year

(Palmer, AK) – The Alaska Division of Agriculture invites the public to submit nominations for the 17th Annual Farm Family of the Year award. The award is sponsored by Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union and will be presented during the Director's Reception at the Alaska State Fair's opening day on August 25.

The Alaska State Fair established the award in 2000 to honor an Alaska farm family that epitomizes the spirit of the industry and to show appreciation for hardworking Alaskans committed to agriculture and aquaculture.

The Farm Family of the Year selection committee is comprised of representatives from the USDA Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Natural Resources and Extension, Alaska State Fair, and the Division of Agriculture.

Nominations should include details about the family and how they fulfill the following criteria:

- Production of quality Alaska Grown products (not based on quantity)
- Community involvement (civic organizations, school, sports, church)
- Involvement in agricultural industry organizations (local, state, and federal)
- Overall farm family image, farming history, and unique or special production

Nominations are due by June 30 and can be submitted by mail, email, or fax to: Kim Allen – Farm Family Alaska Division of Agriculture 5310 S. Bodenburg Spur Palmer, AK 99645 <u>kim.allen@alaska.gov</u> Fax: (907) 746-1568

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