

ALASKA STATE GRANGE
RESOLUTION 2011-01
(Sponsored by the Northland Pioneer Grange No.1)

REQUESTING THAT THE FEDERAL BUDGET INCLUDE FUNDING FOR
THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS) IN ALASKA

WHEREAS, the 2012 funding for Alaska's ARS program has been deleted from the proposed congressional budget; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's ARS program addresses research needs specific to Alaska's climate and environment; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's ARS program also develops information vital to the Arctic and Subarctic areas of the world; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's ARS program addresses a number of concerns related to global warming; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's ARS program maintains a national gene pool of Subarctic plants, such as rhubarb, important to plant breeding and commercial production; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of the funding for the Alaska ARS program in the federal 2012 budget has already driven many of the staff to request transfers to other locations; and

WHEREAS, success of the University's other research would suffer since ARS funding helps share overhead costs that currently benefit all research there; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Alaska State Grange requests that funding for Alaska's ARS program be included in the federal 2012 budget.

John Poirrier, President Date

Nancy Graff, Secretary Date

ALASKA STATE GRANGE
RESOLUTION 2011-02
(Sponsored by the Northland Pioneer Grange No.1)

SUPPORTING A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AS
PRESENTED IN ALASKA HOUSE BILL 191

WHEREAS, currently, statutes and regulations that govern food, food products, land sales, loans, land development and animals are spread between the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Conservation; and

WHEREAS, HB 191 is an effort to streamline government by bridging agriculture and agricultural food products under the purview of one department; and

WHEREAS, a Department of Agriculture would allow for a singular focus that would enhance agriculture and food security in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, HB 191 would support the goals of broadening the economic base of the state through agricultural production, stabilize real food cost by increasing local food, provide alternative job opportunities through expanded agriculture and improve rural life by developing an economic base through agriculture; and

WHEREAS, agricultural policy has been inconsistent and prone to changes with new administrations, retirements, or economic changes; and

WHEREAS, this ever-changing policy has hampered the development of a strong agricultural economy and increased food security for Alaska; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Alaska State Grange supports a Department of Agriculture and Food as presented in Alaska House Bill 191.

John Poirrier, President Date

Nancy Graff, Secretary Date

ALASKA STATE GRANGE
RESOLUTION 2011-04
(Sponsored by the Northland Pioneer Grange No.1)

SUPPORTING AN AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY &
ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE CENTER

WHEREAS, the Alaska Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (AFES) is administered by the University of Alaska Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS, the station includes the Fairbanks Experiment Farm and the Palmer Center for Sustainable Living (Matanuska Experiment Farm); and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks Experiment Farm is adjacent to the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus with several large auditoriums and meeting halls; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska Experiment Farm is adjacent to the Matanuska-Susitna College both of which lack a large conference center; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska Experiment Farm encompasses approximately 1000 acres, and is at the heart of Alaska's population center with the cities of Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla and Houston within a 35 mile radius; and

WHEREAS, many annual agricultural, forestry and environmental conferences and conventions that originate in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley must be held in Anchorage which adds to higher traffic congestion, increased fuel consumption and does not allow for field trips to view crops, dairies, timber, farming techniques and research products; and

WHEREAS, the Grange supports development at the Matanuska Experiment Station that supports agricultural, forestry and environmental study; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Alaska State Grange supports the establishment of an Agricultural, Forestry and Environmental Conference Center at the Matanuska Experiment Farm.

John Poirrier, President Date

Nancy Graff, Secretary Date

ALASKA STATE GRANGE
RESOLUTION 2011-03
(Sponsored by the Northland Pioneer Grange No.1)

SUPPORTING A STATE OF ALASKA FARM LAND PRESERVATION
FUND THROUGH AN ANNUAL ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
MATCH FOR COMMUNITIES THAT ALSO PROVIDE FUNDING

WHEREAS, it is Grange policy to promote development of agriculture as an industry throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the development of agricultural resources is an integral element in the diversification of Alaska's economic base; and

WHEREAS, the market value of agricultural production in Alaska is approximately \$57 Million; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 686 farms in Alaska on which nearly 2,000 employees work; and

WHEREAS, agricultural land is limited in Alaska to 881,585 acres out of a total 375 Million acres; and

WHEREAS, agricultural land throughout the state is being lost to residential and commercial development at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, the cost of clearing and starting new farms is nearly cost prohibitive; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is currently producing only 5-10 percent of its own food; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's food supply would last between one week and 10 days if support and supply chains were disrupted; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Alaska State Grange supports the establishment of an Alaska Farmland Preservation Fund that can be used to match federal, borough and city contributions to the same cause; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Alaska State Grange supports capitalizing the Fund by an amount equal to or greater than \$500,000 annually which is an amount calculated to meet the current annual match needed in Alaska's farmland conservation programs.

John Poirrier, President Date

Nancy Graff, Secretary Date

Resolution 2-2012
North Pole Grange # 6
Revised for State Meeting in May

ALASKA STATE GRANGE
RESOLUTION 2012-xx
(Sponsored by the North Pole Grange #6)

**A RESOLUTION CHANGING STATE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE FROM MAY TO
OCTOBER, BEGINNING IN 2013**

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Grange bylaws currently set the annual meeting date to occur on the 1st weekend of May each year; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's growing season is short, and those who are actively involved in agriculture need every precious day of the early part of the snow free period to prepare for the coming season; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska legislative session ends just prior to the State Grange Meeting date and any resolutions passed to influence State Legislative action would be more effective if acted upon while Legislators are preparing for the next session which begins in January; and

WHEREAS, the National Grange meets in November and the Alaska State Grange could be more effective by focusing its annual effort to having membership current prior to the National meeting and having timely resolutions prepared to submit prior to National meeting; and

WHEREAS, the summers are short and Alaskans tend to spend much time outdoors through the end of moose hunting season; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska State Grange will conduct its Annual Meetings on the first weekend of October each year beginning in the year 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Grange, through the Executive Committee and the bylaw review committee, make changes to the bylaws as necessary to accommodate this change.

John Poirrier, President

Date

Nancy Graff, Secretary

Date

Resolution 3-2012
North Pole Grange # 6
Revised for State Meeting in May

ALASKA STATE GRANGE
RESOLUTION 2012-xx
(Sponsored by the North Pole Grange #6)

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Grange bylaws currently acknowledge an Associate Membership category with non-voting rights with dues set at \$100 annually for businesses; and

WHEREAS, the North Pole Grange has encountered a need for, and is changing its membership categories to allow for an individual nonvoting Associate Membership category with a dues rate equal to the Individual Membership rate; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Grange may benefit by receiving dues in this category; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska State Grange will recognize a category for individual Associate Members at a rate equal to individual membership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Grange, through the Executive Committee and the bylaw review committee, make changes to the Alaska State Grange bylaws as necessary to accommodate this change.

John Poirrier, President

Date

Nancy Graff, Secretary

Date