From the New Kenai Peninsula Borough
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

OUR VALUES

“Everything important to me is here: it is my home”

“The Kenai River provides us with fish all summer long”

“Peace and quiet, and the freedom to do what you want”

Rural, small-town lifestyle

Strong community connections

Beautiful scenery & wildlife

Economic opportunity

Abundant natural resources

“We all help each other out, it’s a close community”

“There are a lot of activities, recreation options in summer and winter”

“It’s a beautiful place: mountains, wilderness, water…”
OUR VISION: WHAT IS OUR FUTURE KENAI PENINSULA?

Keep the Kenai Peninsula a unique, prosperous, vibrant and attractive place to live.

- Expand and diversify economic opportunities
- Support local food, agriculture and industry
- Balance economic benefits of tourism with residents’ quality of life
- Protect our most important natural resources
- Promote fiscally responsible government
- Maintain our infrastructure and services
Kenai Peninsula Agriculture Initiative
A land use project of the KPB Land Management Division
Agriculture Trends in the Kenai Peninsula Borough

• More Farms
• Smaller Farms
• More High Tunnels
• More Market Connections
• More Product Variety & Quality
• More Interest in Food Security, Local Foods, Food Stories & Farm Tourism
Farming Opportunities

• Unique growing conditions = unique crop selection
• People are interested in food systems
• Land available
• Market development potentials
• Compliments existing infrastructure and economic anchors
• Compliments local values
Farming Challenges Here

- Cost of start-up and individual risks
- Poorly defined farm system infrastructure
- Equipment, Supply, & Input availability, Costs
- Starting with a boreal forest and cold acidic soils
- Processing and storage infrastructure is lacking
- Competing with highly subsidized and low margin products
- Growing conditions vary each season- Low predictability per crop
The Borough has Land
Agriculture from borough land

• How?
Agriculture from borough land

- How?

   Identify Local Agriculture Goals
   
   CONTRACT TERMS
   
   OFFERING METHOD
   
   DESIGNATE LAND
   
   CONNECT WITH CAPABLE PEOPLE
   
   Set Out to Achieve Local Agriculture Goals
White Paper: Response
• KPB Ag Initiative White Paper
• Ag Groups Host Discussions
• Letters of Interest
Food Systems; Local Product Systems
SMALL, BUT MIGHTY.

The number of small farms (1-9 acres) is up 73%. It doesn't take a lot of space to grow food in AK!

THE NUMBER OF ALASKA FARMS GREW 30% OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS.

This goes against the national trend of a 3% decrease in the number of farms - but we're growing!
Average farm size of the 39 producers surveyed: **0.7 acres!**

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Number of farms on the Kenai Peninsula grew 60%!
Producers: Obstacles to Growth

- Cold storage
- Labor costs
- Transportation costs
- Access to capital
- On-farm infrastructure

(Figure 39: 32 respondents)
39 Producers: Direct to Consumers

THE VALUE OF FOOD SOLD DIRECTLY TO CONSUMERS INCREASED FROM $2.2 MILLION IN 2012 TO $4.5 MILLION IN 2017
6,266 lbs
The average combined monthly amount of lettuce and baby greens used (by the roughly 79% of buyers who reported monthly produce usage)
34 Restaurants
2 Grocery Stores
2 Institutions

Estimated annual expenditures
on produce: $674,450
(on information from 16 buyers)
on meat and eggs: $883,376
34 Restaurants
2 Grocery Stores
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Interest in Non-Vegetable Local Products
34 Restaurants
2 Grocery Stores
2 Institutions

Considerations that Factor in on Decisions about Local

- Delivery: 76%
- Duration of availability: 71%
- Reliability of crops when expected: 68%
- Better shelf life of freshly harvested: 66%
- Knowledge of point of origin: 61%
- Packaging consistency: 40%
- Uniformity of vegetables or size: 34%
- Availability of processed products: 18%
34 Restaurants
2 Grocery Stores
2 Institutions