Farming in our Salmon Landscape

Why Now?
Alaska's agricultural industry is growing:
- The number of farms in Alaska grew 30% over the past 5 years.
- The number of small farms (1-9 acres) is up 73% since 2012.
- Alaska is #1 in the nation for new farmers.

For example, in the Puget Sound where salmon populations have declined:
- Industrial agricultural practices are degrading water quality
- Animal manure and commercial fertilizers were identified as the two largest nutrient sources.
- Nearly half of all waters have been affected by fecal bacteria contamination.

Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food
Conversation Starters:
- Is your farm located in a salmon watershed?
- What is the closest salmon stream to your farm?
- What kinds of fertilizer do you use?
- How do you manage weeds/pests?
- What is your main water source?
- If you have livestock, how do you handle animal waste?
- What salmon dishes would go best with the produce you have available?

We have the responsibility now to create a healthy relationship between farms and streams to ensure local foods and fisheries are abundant for all Alaskans!

1. Conserve water to limit water withdrawals
2. Minimize erosion, compaction, and loss of vegetation from livestock
3. Keep water free from pesticides/fertilizers/manure
4. Maintain stream buffers of native vegetation
5. Keep stream channels open from obstructions
6. Support and enhance biodiversity

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