

IANRE has made improvements to making all reasonable efforts to raise awareness about its educational resources to a wide variety of Alaskans. IANRE continued its website redesign, resulting in improved digital Alaskans.

for a professional development opportunity the following summer that would not only expose the youth of Bethel to youth development professionals from across the United States, but also ~~to~~

Evaluation of the adult participants, the national experts, and Alaska staff also showed positive outcomes. All Alaska staff involved reported that they had an opportunity for professional growth, learned how positive youth development principles could be applied to the youth they serve, and experienced appropriate methods of adapting curriculum for their particular cultural and geographic needs. Here is what the staff involved reported learning:

"How to assess the effectiveness of the Bethel 4-H Program through participant and volunteer feedback, program evaluations, and outcome measurements. We can use this feedback to identify areas for improvement and implement changes to enhance program quality and impact."

"I learned that music has a unique way of fostering self-expression, boosting confidence, and developing important life skills such as teamwork, discipline, and perseverance."

"I absolutely love the idea of exploring outside cultures (maybe culture isn't the correct word, but just the world outside of Bethel)."

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Prior to my involvement with the project, Alaska was not represented within the project. Since my involvement, the western region has expanded to include Alaska data and perspectives. In working with the co-lead on the project (Jim Ippolito), we have successfully organized the participants to inventory available soil health datasets that can help us address our objectives. According to the project proposal, we are on schedule toward our goals and objectives.

Two nurseries were set up during the 2023 cropping season in Alaska to assess the germplasm. One was located at the Fairbanks Agriculture Forestry Experiment Station (AFES), located in the interior of Alaska, while the other was established at the Matanuska AFES, located in Southcentral ne was

Saturday" event where the Variety Trials had a table with Extension publications on growing garlic and provided research-based information to attendees who were interested in growing garlic. Another partnership included the Alaska Harvest Collaborative (formerly the Harvest Project Collaborative) which experienced continued support from the Variety Trials program by providing opportunities for UAF students to gain experiential learning opportunities pertaining to agricultural production at Variety Trial site, and provided produce donations for the student-run Food Pantry and weekly Produce Stand. Finally, this project continued to support the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District's, Alternative Fairbanks Farm Educational and Cooperative Training Program (AFFECT) program (USDA NIFA grant no. ~~2020-3380~~-0

Research findings were also shared with stakeholders through: detailed Technical Notes with harvest data through AFES website; An updated Cooperative Extension publication entitled, "Recommended Varieties for Interior Alaska" (HGA-00032); A new YouTube video on the history and purpose of the AFES variety Trials which is available on the UAF Extension Channel and has over 285 unique views (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j84Lm7BZcE>), and; social media posts to the UAF Extension accounts with topics on different vegetable and berry crops including tips on growing, harvesting and use.

As a result of the numerous ways different stakeholders groups were reached and engaged, many stakeholders experienced an increase in knowledge about what kinds of crops can, and are being successfully grown in Alaska, and in some instances were able to participate in hands-on learning which allowed them to learn how to start seeds and maintain certain crops, while others were able to taste and learn how to use the produce that is being grown as part of the AFES Variety Trials. Of note, many participants often comment that they "feel inspired" in some way with regards to the information that is presented to them on the variety trials. This includes examples of individuals exclaiming they "didn't know all these different things could be grown here [in Alaska]" after visiting the demonstration plots in the GBG, or "I can actually go home and grow this [vegetables] for myself now, and actu

cooperative agreement - in order to address programmatic needs of multiple projects, and reduce survey fatigue among stakeholders. The NWCH Fellow, ARS sta , and PI Gannon will continue to work collaboratively on building and launching a survey that benefits all collaborating agencies/ programs in FY24.

Project team members will continue to work to incorporate and collaborate with other researchers both at UAF and elsewhere to increase the scope and relevance of the research we are currently performing at the AFES in order to reach a broad cross-section of stakeholders.

wheat also increase Alaska food security and safety. Feed barley has been grown in Alaskacuri



EFNEP builds community capacity as paraprofessionals work with multiple community partners including women's shelters, school districts, food banks, and more. EFNEP also maintains inter-organizational relationships with the Dept. of Education, Dept. of Health, Head Start, WIC, State Dietetic Association and other important community supports.

The EFNEP series of classes has changed people's nutritional behaviors in a positive way. Pre and post assessments given to participants show that 32% more youth participants in grades 3-5 report eating vegetables as a snack, including at lunch, 34% improved in their response to whether or not they read nutrition facts labels, and 40% increased their physical activity duration. They also improved their food safety practices, with about a third of respondents overall indicating they improved in washing fruits and vegetables, washing their hands, and returning cold foods to the refrigerator. For youth in 6th-8th grade, about a third of youth improved their consumption of fruits, vegetables and whole grains. Over a third improved the number of days they were active at least one hour, and almost a third learned food management practices including following recipes and measuring ingredients. Youth in 9th-12th grade showed the most improvement in healthy eating, with at least 50% increasing their recent consumption of vegetables and fruit.

One school teacher reported that the children in her class, after participating in an EFNEP series, were more open to eating different types of fruits and vegetables at lunchtime. Women participating in EFNEP classes at a rehabilitation center have been much more conscious of the foods they feed their young children, steering away from



One phase of this project conducted recreation visitor surveys with over 3,pr

about outdoor experiences and race or ethnicity. This

wishes. The broader public will likely benefit from improvements to safety, accessibility, a sense of welcome for many kinds of people, and the inclusion of the wisdom and creativity of new members of the public feeling welcome and valued in recreation resource planning and decision-making.

attempted erasure of Indigenous culture in Alaska and to support up-and-coming Elders to continue the practice of intergenerational transmission of culture and language for the benefit of future generations.

We further built capacity for rural community development and student research in partnership with communities by supporting two mentors and counselors for the UAF Summer Rural Alaska Honors ~~1/1~~ ^{1/1}pm

for youth and a workshop on sustainable agriculture for community members. Impacts include advancing community-driven solutions to revitalize cultural food traditions, resulting in improved health and food security.

Partnership with the Alaska Fire Science M
