



## Alaska Food Policy Council

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Alaska Food Policy Council releases inaugural annual report *2020 highlights include hosting annual conference, advocating for food security***

**(HOMER, Alaska)** — The Alaska Food Policy Council has released its inaugural annual report. The report highlights activities from 2020 during a pandemic, such as hiring the AFPC's first executive director and hosting a virtual Alaska Food Festival and Conference, as well as a few items from the tail end of 2019. The report also includes ways Alaskans can help support the state's food system. The 12-page annual report can be downloaded at <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/annual-reports>.

The Alaska Food Policy Council was created in 2011 as a way to find ways to improve Alaska's food security. This includes finding ways to increase the amounts of Alaska grown and harvested foods in the diets of Alaskans (we only spend about 1.5-2 percent of our food dollars on Alaska food), how to improve transportation and storage systems, and how to educate residents about the importance of Alaska food.

The AFPC is open to anyone interested in improving Alaska's food systems — agencies and individuals representing federal and state agencies, tribal entities, schools, university programs, farmers, fisheries, and food systems businesses. The role of the AFPC is to:

- **CONNECT:** Engage with Alaskans to get input to strengthen our food system, and to connect them with each other to learn and collaborate.
- **ADVOCATE:** Develop recommendations and share them with policy makers at the local, state, federal, and tribal level.

- **INFORM:** Share information, resources, opportunities and risks with all food stakeholders (everyone who eats!)

"If you eat food, you have a vested interest in policy, business, and agriculture," AFPC co-chairs Rachael Miller and Ryan Wiswesser said. "We welcome you to join our 2021 Discussion Series, an AFPC Committee you read about in this report, or to start your own food security initiative. How can we help?"

"YOU are the Alaska Food Policy Council. Together we can build a better, more resilient tomorrow, for all Alaskans," AFPC executive director Robbi Mixon added.

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- *The Alaska Food Policy Council* (website <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/>, Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/akfoodpolicy>) is a statewide nonprofit organization whose diverse membership works to engage Alaskans to make positive changes for the state's food system, and to create a healthier, more prosperous and more secure future for all.