

# DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## STATE OF ALASKA

PO BOX 112000,  
Juneau, Alaska, 99811-2000  
PHONE: (907) 465-4652  
FAX: (907) 465-3390



## PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Richard F Schmitz, Communications Special Assistant  
Office: (907) 465 4640  
Mobile: (907) 321 0040

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### **POINT MACKENZIE CORRECTIONAL FARM RECORDS FIRST MILLION-POUND HARVEST**

JUNEAU – Despite a cool, rainy summer, the Point Mackenzie Correctional Farm has recorded its first million-pound harvest, with a total farm output of 1,064,007 pounds as of Oct. 1, said Superintendent Joe Schmidt. The produce is used to feed inmates at the state correctional facilities in Anchorage, Palmer, Eagle River, Seward and Fairbanks. The farm also sends produce to the Food Bank of Alaska.

Point Mackenzie harvested 305,000 pounds of garden and greenhouse vegetables, 320,000 pounds of potatoes and 400,000 pounds of timothy hay (8,500 bales). The farm processed 12,762 pounds of beef, 5,586 pounds of pork, 6,775 pounds of turkey and 12,177 pounds of chicken (consumable weight).

Inmates plant, tend and harvest vegetables by hand during the summer growing season, while produce such as lettuce and tomatoes are grown indoors all year, Schmidt said.

Included in the total was 114,751 pounds of cabbage, 46,000 pounds of yellow and green squash, 23,000 pounds of Brussels sprouts, 14,000 pounds of turnip greens, 19,600 pounds of cauliflower, 13,500 pounds of broccoli, 6,000 pounds of peas and a single pound each of thyme, sage and rosemary.

“Our turkey operation is seasonal so we still have approximately 6,000 pounds of consumable turkey meat yet to harvest, and our chicken, beef and swine production will increase by year’s end as well,” Schmidt said.

“These are impressive numbers,” said Corrections Commissioner Marc Antrim. “The correctional farm provides meaningful employment for inmates, and the results of that labor result in a cost saving to the state while at same time nutritious meals are provided to inmates at other facilities.”

In addition, the department looks to purchase Alaska-grown produce whenever it is available at a competitive price, the commissioner added. “There are ‘Alaska-grown’ provisions in our contracts with food distributors. The cost must be competitive, but our contracts require our vendors to seek Alaska-grown products when available and competitively priced.”

Point Mac has steadily increased the amount of land under cultivation and has installed a new blast freezer and cold storage unit as well as processing equipment. For the freezer, surplus equipment was put to use with on-site expertise and labor.

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PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY.