

Joe Schmidt

Commissioner

P.O. Box 112000

Juneau, AK 99811-2000

www.corrections.state.ak.us



Richard Schmitz

Special Assistant

907.465.4640

cell: 907.209.5245

richard.schmitz@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 08-091

December 8, 2008

POINT MACKENZIE PRISON FARM HARVEST TOPS 1 MILLION POUNDS; 75,000 POUNDS SENT TO FOOD BANK

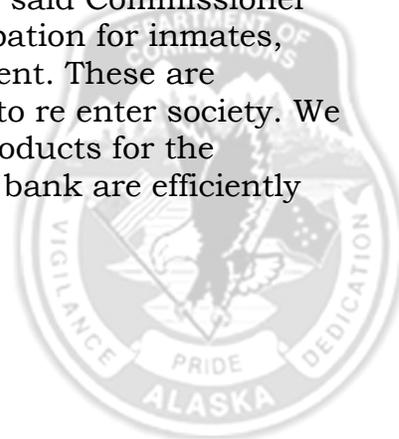
(JUNEAU) – For the third year in a row the Point Mackenzie Correctional Farm has taken in a harvest greater than one million-pounds. Included are vegetables including potatoes (366,000 pounds), bales of hay (370,000 pounds) and meat products including pork, chicken and turkey. Total harvest at the end of the growing season was 1,023,348 pounds.

Close to 75,000 pounds of produce was given to the Alaska Food Bank, including a shipment of 50,000 pounds of potatoes, 15,000 pounds of cabbage, plus lesser amounts of cauliflower, zucchini, pumpkin, turnips and apples.

Most of the produce is used to provide nutritious meals to inmates housed in DOC facilities, including 87,000 pounds sent to the Anchorage Complex, 28,000 pounds to Fairbanks, 30,000 pounds to Mat-Su Pretrial, 6,000 pounds to Spring Creek and 22,000 pounds to Wildwood in Kenai.

Most crops were field harvested, however tomatoes, celery, cucumbers, currants, lettuce, and raspberries were harvested from greenhouses.

“The community and the department each benefit,” said Commissioner Joe Schmidt. “The correctional farm provides occupation for inmates, whether its food processing or maintaining equipment. These are valuable skills when the time comes for a prisoner to re enter society. We are able to provide healthy and inexpensive food products for the prisoner population, and our donations to the food bank are efficiently distributed to those in need.”



Total harvest figures in pounds:

Apples 1,770	Beef 41,715	Broccoli 25,605
Brussels sprouts 11,854	Cabbage 99,853	Carrots 99,853
Cauliflower 9,022	Celery 205	Chicken 15,619
Chives 14	Cucumbers 602	Currants 20
Hay (baled) 370,000	Kohlrabi 778	Lettuce 2,675
Peas 562	Pork 21,416	Potatoes 366,000
Pumpkin 1,210	Radish 2,034	Raspberries 100
Green squash 21,926	Turkey 3,773	Rhubarb 1,627
Strawberries 725	Turnip 7,220	TOTAL 1,023,348

