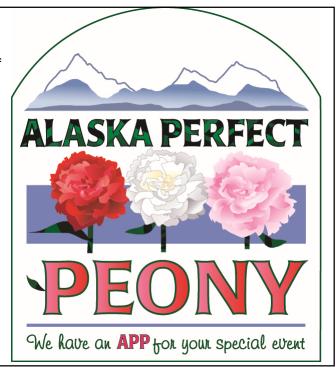
# Fifty years experience in economic development of Homer

First Subdivision with all underground utilities-Meadow Wood Place

Land acquisition for High School Post Office College Hospital

Built Office Building now City Hall

4 Generations here now ETC











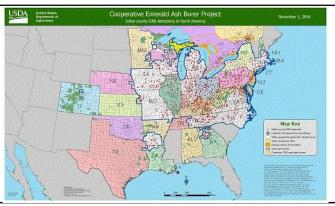
Project

or

Policy

### **Open Mind**

Agriculture impacts Economics in many ways



# Emerald Ash Borer Infestations in the US Causing devastating urban tree loss

# Criminal activities increased with loss of trees

Significant increase in theft, breaking and entering, and property crime incidents, felony and small increases in felony assaults and violent crimes

Recommendation by Cincinnati Crime Experts

Add planting trees to city crime-fighting plans in addition to street lights, neighborhood watch groups and police patrols.

Crime deterrent = budget reduction

# Statistics from 2012 Census

Western Kenai Peninsula

With only a tiny percentage of farm acreage compared to rest of state, we comprise 34% of farms selling food direct to consumer and 30% of the peony industry

Between 2007 and 2012 farms selling food direct to consumers and peony farms more than doubled

Flowers have overtaken hay as the Peninsula's most valuable crop, with the top category nursery, greenhouse and flowers followed by hay, livestock and vegetables.

Peonies and vegetables are the fastest growing sector.

Increase in # farms selling food direct to consumers 111%
Increase in # farms growing flowers/nursery crops 156%
30,000 acres in Farming on Peninsula

### **UPDATE INDICATES HUGE INCREASES**

- 2015 Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District Survey
   Indicated food producers including fruit, mushrooms, and honey, had increased sales and
- Value added products like salsa, jams and jellies also had increased sales and were making plans to further expend their businesses in 2016.
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) have increased dramatically
- Sales to restaurants have increased dramatically
- Increase in # farms from 2007-2012 more than doubled
- Food Hub 2016 Established
- Homer Farmer's Market sold \$80,000 in Market Coins 2016



# What will you find at the Homer Farmers Market? Sprouts/Shoots Arrowhead Cabbage Shitake Mushrooms Arugula Silver Beet Spaghetti Squash Asian Greens Mix Garlic Beet Greens Spinach Squash Strawberries Savoy Cabbage Mizuna Zucchini Blossoms Morels AND MORE...

# The Kenai Peninsula Food Hub: Pilot Year 2016 An online Farmers Market Producers post online, consumers order online Once a week producers deliver to drop-off location where customers pick up order Drop-off locations in Homer and Soldotna \$20 membership for customers \$40 membership for producers Benefits for producers include sale verified before

harvest and group marketing

 Benefits for consumers include ease of shopping from home and quick and easy pick-up





# KENAI PENINSULA FARM BUREAU 2016 Activities

• Fairgrounds at Ninilchik \$1,000

Support FFA and 4H

Homer, City of Peonies \$1,000

• Alaska Farm Bureau 400 members

\$200,000 budget





# Revitalization of Pioneer Avenue, Peonies on Pioneer Supported by:

- \*City Of Homer
- \*Bunnell Art Community
- \*Homer Economic Development
- \*Homer Chamber of Commerce
- \*Parks and Recreation
- \*Council on the Arts

Peony Festival July 4th 2017 will be in Visitor's Guide Web site (3 reserved URL's including City of Peonies) Signage representing Homer, City of Peonies

\*\*Continuation of project started in 2013

# New 4 Way stop

Duncan House 48 Peonies 46 Perennials

Why Important to Economic Development Visitors













30 Peonies Various Perennials

• 2016 addition



Aurora Gems and Homer Council on the Arts

125 Peonies Various Perennials











### **Eleven Gardens Completed**

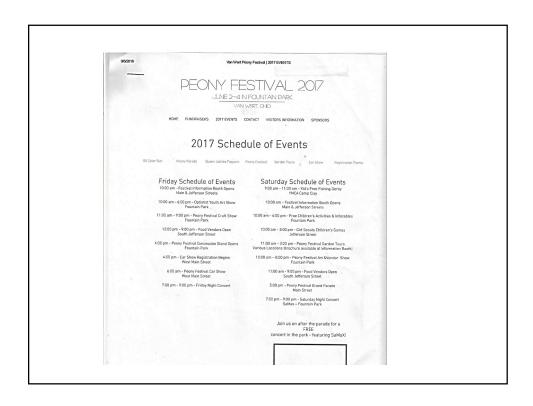
Eleven Private Gardens Completed

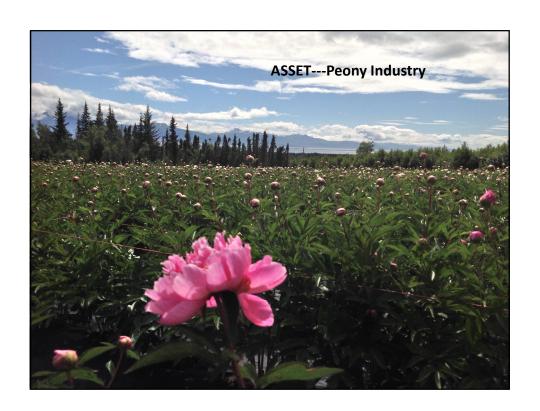
Legislative Office Duncan House College Theatre Aurora Gems Homer Council On The Arts Grog Shop Homer Jeans

City of Homer planted 250 peonies On Public grounds













# Kenai Peninsula Farm Bureau

# Suggested topics/speakers for meetings

Farm Insurance

Ag in the Classroom

Farm to School Programs

Certified Naturally Grown Certification Information

Farm Bill

FFA and 4H

Farm accounting and taxes

Land tax exemptions

NRCS and their services

Using Pesticides—rules

Growing Asian vegies (high ticket vegies)

### Subjects of interest (immediate action)

Video conferencing

Educating restaurants on how to buy from the farms

Building a Grower co-op for the Peninsula (vegies)

Keeping Ranchers connect with the modular slaughter house and MMM

Support for farmers being threatened with Annexation

Become more involved with input for the Borough Comprehensive Plan

# **PROJECTS**

## **USDA GRANTS**

Not available directly to end users but available for credited organizations such as Economic Development Homer EDC could oversee disbursal etc. for Agriculture related uses

- Public Gardens On City Land
- Sponsor Educational offerings such as Taxes, Accounting, Marketing and other business management subjects for farmers
- Training for forming co-ops—working with restaurants
- (ask your Mayor)

Supporting agriculture through **POLICY** OPPORTUNITIES

example

Today farmers can obtain a Farm Use Assessment for reduction in property taxes

Excellent program except if the land ever changes use from farm to anything else, all reduced taxes as a result of the Farm Use Assessment must be paid back. Even if it is 100 years from now.

Support for farmers being threatened with Annexation Become more involved with input for the Borough Comprehensive Plan in relationship to zoning to protect farm lands

# My Goal

**Expand Your Horizons** 

Introduce a **Project**or
Stimulate a **Policy** Interest