

Office of the Chancellor

320 Signers' Hall, P.O. Box 757500, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-5000

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 14, 2014

Date Revised: October 29, 2014

To: Nettie Labelle-Hamer, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
John Blake, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
Kelly Drew, Professor, IAB Biomedical and Health Sciences
Jennifer Harris, Executive Officer, School of Fish and Ocean Sciences
Arleigh Reynolds, Associate Dean, Veterinary Medicine
Milan Shipka, Professor of Animal Science
Steve Sparrow, Interim Dean, School of Natural Resources and Extension
Cameron Wolford, Senior Project Manager
Ruth Prato, Instructor, School of Management

From: Brian Rogers, Chancellor

Re: UAFFarms and Large Animal Care Special Program Review
Revised to include Ruth Prato

Background

UAF has been engaged in agricultural teaching and research since its inception in 1917 as the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines. The College was selected in part to enable relocation with the Fairbanks federal agriculture experiment station established in 1906. Both the Fairbanks experiment station and the Matanuska experiment station were transferred to the college in 1931.

Over the years, UAF animal research broadened to also include laboratory animal and wildlife research. Today UAF operates several facilities for agricultural and animal research. Some of these facilities are used for multiple purposes, and research of a type might be conducted in multiple facilities.

Some of UAF's larger facilities used for multiple agriculture/animal research purposes are:

- x Fairbanks Experiment Farm: 260 acres of cropland and 50 acres of forest land. The property has 17 buildings with about 45,000 square feet. Currently supports a reindeer herd. Also includes the Georgeson Botanical Garden, which is an attraction for both community events and for tourists, and a visitor's center.
- x Delta Junction Field Research Site: 360 acres, 2 buildings, mostly used for agronomic and forestry research, but also has been used by some external agencies for projects.

- x Matanuska Experiment Farm located in Palmer, 260 acres of cultivated land and 800 acres of forest land and several buildings designed for a range of purposes. Some moose diet research is currently being conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- x R.G. White Large Animal Research Station (LARS) site comprises 134 acres, approximately 50% pasture and 50% boreal forest. LARS has 11 different buildings with about 10,000 square feet of space. LARS currently has animal colonies consisting of muskox, caribou and domestic reindeer. The animals are a tourist attraction and the facility sells qiut.
- x Biological Reserve Animal Facility The Biological Reserve is located on the north campus portion of the Fairbanks campus. It has, over the years, supported reindeer and winter bears. The facility is currently inactive.

UAF currently maintains the following animal research facilities:

- x Fairbanks Experiment Farm (Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station)
- x Matanuska Experiment Farm (Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station)
- x Biological Research and Diagnostics (BiRD) Building (Animal Resources Center)
- x Irving I Animal Facility (*to be decommissioned in 2015*) (Animal Resources Center)
- x R.G. White Large Animal Research Station (LARS) (Animal Resources Center)
- x Biological Reserve (*inactive*) (Animal Resources Center)
- x Toolik Field State Winter Laboratory (Institute of Arctic Biology)
- x Arctic Health Research Building Fish Lab (School of Fish and Ocean Sciences)
- x Lena Point Laboratory (School of Fish and Ocean Sciences)
- x Seward Marine Center (School of Fish and Ocean Sciences).

UAF's current agriculture and wildlife research is limited, partly because agriculture is a small segment of Alaska's economy and partly because federal research funding has declined. FY 2014 Planning and Budget Committee was tasked with identifying spending reduction and revenue enhancement steps that could be implemented to address UAF's budget gap. In its final report, the Board recommended a few steps for near-term budget reductions between the Fairbanks Experiment Farm and LARS. The Board indicated that assessments of the following facilities are needed:

