

**Subject:** Farming Alaska

**Story Summary:** Producing agricultural commodities so close to the Arctic Circle has its challenges, but most producers wouldn't have it any other way.

**TRT:** 1:58

**Suggested Lead:** Migration to Alaska has been for more than just gold. The state's abundant land and long sunlight have attracted many that are finding success in farming. Tom Steever reports.

**Suggested Supers:** Milan Shipka  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
@ :13

Paul Huppert  
Alaska Farmer  
@ :46

Ben VanderWeele  
Alaska Farmer  
@ :59

Ed Bostrom  
Alaska farmer  
@ 1:21

Bob Franklin  
Alaska Farm Bureau President  
@ 1:34

Tom Steever  
Reporting  
@ 1:52

**Farming Alaska**  
**Tom Steever Reporting**  
**August 23, 2001**

<p>Z/o of pipeline</p> <p>Mountains</p> <p>Z/o of crane reveal workers</p>	<p>VO/          THOUGHTS OF ALASKA MIGHT BRING TO MIND THE PRODUCTION OF GOLD AND PETROLEUM ALONG WITH MAGNIFICENT LANDSCAPES FEATURING ABUNDANT WILDLIFE. BUT THE LAST FRONTIER ALSO HARBORS A GROWING AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY.</p>
<p><b>Milan Shipka</b>  <b>University of Alaska Fairbanks</b></p> <p>Pan of barley field</p>	<p>SOT/          ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE SUFFER FROM IN ALASKA IS THAT PERCEPTION THAT AGRICULTURE DOESN'T BELONG IN THE NORTHLAND. WE'RE AN INDUSTRY, THOUGH, THAT IS IN OUR INFANCY, BUT WE'RE GROWING.</p>
<p>Z-out of broccoli field</p> <p>Huppert</p> <p>Huppert daughter</p> <p>Huppert granddaughter</p> <p>Huppert great grandchild</p>	<p>VO/          SOME OF THESE VALLEYS HAVE BEEN FARMED SINCE THE 1930'S. THEIR PRODUCTIVITY ATTRACTED PAUL HUPPERT FORTY YEARS AGO. HE'S THE FIRST GENERATION IN THIS ALASKA FARMING FAMILY FOLLOWED BY A SECOND...A THIRD...AND NOW A FOURTH GENERATION THAT SEEMS TO THRIVE ON ALASKA'S ABUNDANT SUMMER SUN.</p>
<p><b>Paul Huppert</b>  <b>Alaska farmer</b></p> <p>Cuts/lifts/trims lettuce</p>	<p>SOT/          WELL ACTUALLY, WE HAVE DAYLIGHT PRACTICALLY ALL THE TIME FROM MID-JUNE ON, BUT WE GOT TWENTY TO TWENTY-TWO HOURS OF SUNLIGHT AND CONSEQUENTLY THAT PLANT DOESN'T TAKE A REST AT NIGHT, IT JUST KEEPS GROWING.</p>

<p><b>Ben VanderWeele</b> Alaska farmer</p>	<p>SOT/ WE CAN GROW A CROP OF HEAD LETTUCE IN SIXTY DAYS AND THE SAME CROP OF HEAD LETTUCE, SAME VARIETY, SAME EVERYTHING, TAKES NINETY DAYS IN THE SALINAS VALLEY IN CALIFORNIA, WHICH IS SUPPOSEDLY THE BEST OF THE BEST.</p>
<p>Farmer looks at barley C/u of barley/hands</p> <p>Bostrom picks berries Picking berry</p>	<p>VO/ SOME OF THOSE THAT HAVE COME TO ALASKA TO FARM HAVE DONE SO FROM AN AGRICULTURAL BACKGROUND IN THE SOUTH 48, WHILE OTHERS HAVE COME FROM UNRELATED CAREERS.</p>
<p><b>Ed Bostrom</b> Alaska farmer</p>	<p>SOT/ FARMING IS SO DIFFERENT HERE, YOU'RE REALLY BETTER OFF TO LEARN FROM THE GROUND UP IN THIS ENVIRONMENT, RATHER THAN BRINGING A LOT OF INFORMATION FROM FARMING IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.</p>
<p>Farm Bureau vest</p> <p>Brett scooping ice cream</p>	<p>VO/ FOR SEVERAL YEARS ALASKA FARMERS HAVE HAD THEIR OWN FARM BUREAU TO HELP THEM SOLVE PROBLEMS AND TO KEEP THEM CONNECTED TO PRODUCERS IN OTHER STATES.</p>
<p><b>Bob Franklin</b> Alaska Farm Bureau President</p> <p>Tractor scraping Scraper</p>	<p>SOT/ WELL I THINK THEY NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE POTENTIAL OF ALASKA AGRICULTURE IS HUGE. WE HAVE A LOT OF RAW LAND, A LOT OF REAL ESTATE IN ALASKA TO BE DEVELOPED INTO FARM LAND.</p>
<p>Hog <b>Tom Steever reporting</b> Farmer's Market</p> <p>Farmers Market interior</p>	<p>VO/ ALASKA FARMERS' MOST COMMON CONCERN IS THE NEED FOR A GREATER MARKETING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THEIR LIVESTOCK, GRAIN AND</p>

Blossoming potato field

VEGETABLES. FROM ALASKA'S  
INTERIOR FARM COUNTRY, I'M TOM  
STEEVER.