

Subject: Alaska Raises Unusual Livestock

Story Summary: Alaska farmers raise some species of livestock that are unheard of in other states, but well suited to Alaska's far northern climate.

TRT: 1:50

Suggested Lead: Some of Alaska's livestock is far from ordinary. Tom Steever reports on Alaska farm animals that are rare in the "lower 48."

Suggested Supers:

Milan Shipka
University of Alaska Fairbanks
@ :19

Paul Knopp
Alaska dairy farmer
@ :39

Mike Schultz
Alaska barley grower
@ :56

Tom Steever
Reporting
@ 1:15

Alaska Has Interesting Livestock
Tom Steever Reporting
September 27, 2001

<p>Dairy calf at hay bunk</p> <p>Hog</p>	<p>VO/ ALASK FARMERS RAISE TRADITIONAL LIVESTOCK SPECIES AS WELL AS SPECIES THAT ARE RARELY, IF EVER, SEEN IN OTHER STATES.</p>
<p>Musk ox bull roaring</p>	<p>SOT/ HHHWWaugh! (Musk ox bull)</p>
<p>Musk ox</p> <p>Yaks</p> <p>Milan Shipka University of Alaska Fairbanks</p>	<p>SOT/ BOTH THE MUSK OX AND THE YAK, THERE'S NOT ONLY A MARKET FOR MEAT, BUT THERE'S ALSO MARKETS FOR THE FIBER THAT THESE ANIMALS PRODUCE. SO, NOT ONLY DO THEY FIT WELL INTO OUR NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT, THERE ARE MARKETS AVAILABLE FOR THE ITEMS THAT THEY PRODUCE.</p>
<p>Harvesting cabbage</p> <p>Cabbage unto conveyor</p> <p>Cabbage on conveyor</p> <p>Bobcat w/round bales</p> <p>Bobcat w/ bale</p>	<p>VO/ EVEN THOUGH WHAT IS RAISED IN ALASKA ISN'T ENOUGH TO FEED ITS POPULATION MANY OF THE STATE'S FARMING AND LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS CONTRIBUTE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT.</p>
<p>Paul Knopp Alaska dairy farmer</p>	<p>SOT/ WELL, WE RUN AN 80-COW DAIRY HERE. WE RAISE ALL THE FORAGE FOR OUR CATTLE AND PUT IT UP AND MILK THREE TIMES A DAY.</p>
<p>Tilt down trees to barley</p> <p>Mike Schultz pulls barley</p> <p>Chafes barley</p>	<p>VO/ DESPITE ALASKA'S IMMENSE SIZE, ITS LACK OF MARKETING INFRASTRUCTURE BRINGS THE AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY TOGETHER INTO A CLOSE-KNIT GROUP.</p>

<p>Mike Schultz Alaska barley grower</p>	<p>SOT/ DEFINITELY, IT TAKES A MARKET TO KEEP US IN BUSINESS AND THAT'S TRUE WHETHER IT'S HORSES THAT NEED TO BE FED OR DAIRY CATTLE THAT NEED TO BE FED, THEY ALL PROVIDE A MARKET FOR US AND THAT'S WHERE OUR INCOME COMES FROM.</p>
<p>Qiviut scarf Tom Steever Reporting</p> <p>Pan of yaks</p>	<p>VO/ WHETHER IT'S THE FIBER FROM YAKS AND MUSK OXEN OR WHETHER IT'S FOOD, ALASKA PRODUCERS ARE LOOKING FOR INCOME FROM SPECIES THEY CONSIDER TO BE ANYTHING BUT A NOVELTY.</p>
<p>Milan Shipka sot</p> <p>Gil with yak</p>	<p>SOT/ NO, IT'S NOT A NOVELTY, IT'S PEOPLE THAT HAVE SEEN AN OPPORTUNITY THERE AND THEY'RE MAKING A LEGITIMATE ENTERPRISE OUT OF IT AND MAKING THEIR LIVELIHOOD.</p>
<p>Mike Schultz in field</p> <p>C/u Barley</p>	<p>VO/ AND ALASKA PRODUCERS ARE QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT ALTHOUGH IT'S SOMEWHAT ISOLATED, THE LAST FRONTIER IS WELL SUITED TO ECONOMICALLY VIABLE AGRICULTURE.</p>
<p>Schultz sot</p>	<p>SOT/ IT CAN WORK, IT DOES WORK, IT'S GOT ITS OWN CHALLENGES, BUT THERE'S PEOPLE HERE MAKING THEIR LIVING FARMING.</p>
<p>Musk ox bull</p>	<p>VO/ IN ALASKA'S FARM COUNTRY, I'M TOM STEEVER.</p>