



Join Us On Tuesday, March 27, In Boston For Ag Day

General Information

Please join us this Tuesday, March 27 in Boston for Ag Day at the State House. This annual event brings together farmers and agricultural organizations to showcase locally-grown food and farm products and to have their voices heard by legislators about issues impacting the agricultural community.



The tentative schedule of events for the day is as follows:

- 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Registration, Bartlett Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Farmer Orientation on Agricultural Issues, Nurses Hall
- 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. Farmer/Legislator Visits
- 10:30 - 11:30 am Youth Reception, House Members Lounge
- 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Speaking Program, Nurses Hall
- 12:00 p.m. Taste of Massachusetts Reception & Exhibits, Great Hall & Grand Staircase Area

Please RSVP



If you are planning to attend Ag Day as part of Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) group, please respond back to this email address.

If you want a brief rundown on the issues at the start of this event, please make plans to attend MFBF's webinar on March 19 at 6-6:30 pm.

To join the webinar, you can log in

using this link: <https://mfbf-net.highfive.com/mfbfmembershipwebinar>. Additionally, YF&R Chair Heidi Cooper and YF&R Vice Chair Chris Grant will be present to answer

any questions you may have.

You are welcome to schedule your own meeting with legislators or if you want to see a group in action before speaking to your legislators, please contact Katelyn at katelyn@mfbf.net. She will arrange for you to tag along with another group of Farm Bureau members during their legislative visits until you are comfortable speaking with your legislators.

This event is your time to communicate with legislators. In order for you to be prepared for this event, we have included some pertinent information and tips below to help make your visit to Beacon Hill more productive.

Prepare For Ag Day

Preparation Step 1: Identify Your Legislators & Bills You Want To Advocate For

Please take the time to identify your Representatives and Senators. You can easily find out who your legislator is at <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>. Simply type in your address and it takes you to a page with a profile for both your Senators and Representatives.

Please also take time to identify the active bills in legislature that you want to advocate for. To find which bills are active, please visit: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/Search>.

Preparation Step 2: Review MFBF's White Paper

Please review MFBF's white paper, which outlines the bills that have been filed that the organization supports, by clicking [here](#). The document also contains brief talking points on these bills that can help you during your legislative visit.

Preparation Step 3: Dress Appropriately

Ag Day is the time to dress to impress, which means you should be in professional dress. For men this means wearing dress slacks, a dress shirt, belt and tie. For women this means dress pants, a blouse, cardigan, a business dress, long skirt and comfortable dress shoes that are not open toed.

Legislative Visit Tips

- Breathe - Just take a few deep breaths before meetings and during stressful situations. It will help you to relax and collect your thoughts. Bring a bottle of water to keep you cool and hydrated.
- Be Reliable - When you make an appointment with a legislator, keep it. Be punctual. If you need to cancel an appointment, call the legislator's office (have a phone number with you) as soon as you know. When you tell a legislator, you will send information, do so promptly.
- Don't Be Timid or Awestruck - These are your elected representatives who also happen to be human. As a constituent, you shouldn't allow a legislator to dominate



the conversation or give speeches. Courteously, but forcefully, make your points and ask your questions. Try to get the member "back on point".

- End Your Visit With a Question - Ask how they'll vote on an issue (something many constituents forget to do) or ask if you can send additional information. If the legislator hasn't taken a position on your issue yet, offer to respond to any concerns he/she may have with follow-up information.

To learn more about MFBF's YF&R programs and upcoming events visit mfbf.net

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