Indian Corn: A Fall Favorite

Corn does not grow wild anywhere in the world. Instead, this domesticated plant evolved sometime in the last 10,000 years, through human intervention, from teosinte, a form of wild Mexican grass. Originally cultivated in the Americas, corn was brought to Europe by Christopher Columbus in the late 1400s; thanks to other explorers and traders, it soon made its way to much of the rest of the globe. In America, the early colonists learned how to cultivate it from the Indians, for whom it was a dietary staple.

Flint corn, or Indian corn, is one of the oldest varieties of corn, a type that Native Americans taught the early colonists how to cultivate. Its kernels, which come in a range of colors including white, blue and red, have “hard as flint” shells, giving this type of corn its name. Flint corn kernels contain a small amount of soft starch surrounded completely by a larger amount of hard starch, which means the kernels shrink uniformly when drying and are dent-free and less prone to spoiling (and therefore ideal for autumnal décor). Despite its tough exterior, this type of corn can be consumed by livestock and humans, and is used in such dishes as hominy and polenta.

Want To See Your Picture Above?
Please send MFBF Director of Marketing and Communications Katelyn Parsons a copy of your high-resolution photo(s) (at least 5 MB) via email at katelyn@mfbf.net. If the photo is of high quality, it may be selected for the cover.

AFBF, State Farm Bureaus Call for More Flexible Livestock Hauling Rules

To better address livestock haulers’ unique needs, the American Farm Bureau Federation and several state Farm Bureaus are urging the Department of Transportation’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to be flexible in implementing a split sleeper berth program. The groups are also asking the agency to put in place rules that encourage drivers to avoid fatigue by allowing short rests that do not count toward a driver’s end-of-day rest period.

Current rules require livestock haulers to rest for 10 consecutive hours once they reach the maximum on-duty drive time of 11 hours.

In comments to DOT and FMCSA, the Farm Bureaus explained in detail why the current hours of service framework is incompatible with livestock hauling. For one, the trailer environment has the greatest effect on animal welfare during transport. Animals that don’t get adequate airflow, a common problem when the trailer is stopped, can suffer weight loss, lameness and even death, either in transit or upon arrival at the feed yard.

“The key to safely hauling live animals, especially in times of great heat and humidity, is to stop as infrequently as possible and to keep the trailer moving to provide ventilation,” the groups wrote.

Haulers also can’t simply unload their animals for 10 consecutive hours. Even if there was a place to put the livestock, doing so would raise a whole host of biosecurity concerns. In addition, the acts of loading and unloading are reportedly more stressful than transport itself.

Continued On Page 3
The Annual Meeting Is Upon Us

By: Mark Amato, MFBF President and Verrill Farm Manager

This is the time of year that the farming community comes together to review our successes, both individually and as an industry, and to plan our path forward, which involves addressing the obstacles we see to our future success. I have spent the last several weeks attending as many county annual meetings as an industry, and it was great to see both familiar and new faces. My message to those folks is the same as the message I would like to bring to those of you who could not attend, and that is: Farm Bureau is you.

Farm Bureau is truly a grassroots organization. I know we hear that phrase a lot from other groups but Farm Bureau’s structure is extremely rare. You, the farmers, give us the leadership, our marching orders. You decide the rules by which the group will operate and how they are structured. I cannot over emphasize how much that is respected by outside observers when Farm Bureau leaders and staff approach our elected officials with the group’s concerns. I also cannot overstate the importance of maintaining that grassroots input for our organization.

I know it seems we are busier today than we have ever been. I also know it is very difficult to find the time to continue to volunteer and the resolve to continue, even when the going is slow and difficult. However, onward we must go and the next step in this journey is the annual meeting.

Please join me in Framingham on Nov. 29 and 30 for the 103rd Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation. In addition to the educational and informative seminars that will be held on Thursday, we have several important business-related functions to handle on Friday.

The first is the discussion resolutions that have been, or will be, brought forward, which are designed to address either issues that are new to our industry or to bring a new perspective to issues that have been known for some time and that have not been resolved to our satisfaction. These resolutions are what we call our policy and they are the guiding principles by which Farm Bureau does the work of advocating for you on both Beacon Hill and Capitol Hill.

Developing a policy that reflects the needs and desires of our industry is serious work and I am always impressed by the seriousness with which the delegates approach this discussion. We have several new resolutions to consider and many expiring resolutions to revisit. It is important that we have a thorough and robust debate about the issues that are most important to us as an organization.

The second discussion will occur around changes to MFBF’s Bylaws. The proposal is the result of a review and several months of debate among review committee members. The Board of Directors and I felt it was appropriate to look at operational changes after questions were posed concerning the election process. The committee’s proposal was accepted by the Board of Directors and forwarded to the delegates for their consideration. The board feels this draft is a starting point and fully expects that changes will be made. The delegates will decide what the Bylaws will look like. I anticipate we will have a long, thoughtful and difficult discussion but I also know the result will be the will of MFBF’s delegates in the best interest of our organization.

There are several proposed changes. The first attempts to adjust the definition of a regular member to ensure that farmers who are substantially engaged in agriculture maintain control of the organization. This is a very difficult needle to thread, and the proposal as it is presented may lead to many questions that I hope the delegates will help MFBF answer.

The next proposal contemplates term limits of 10 years for state board members. The review committee was looking for ways to encourage young and/or new leadership opportunities at the state level. However, the proposal raises concerns about loss of institutional knowledge and our ability to surface enough volunteers to fill the positions and will be the subject of significant debate.

Another proposal to change the position of MFBF treasurer from elected to appointed by the Board of Directors will need some explanation and discussion to understand the practical and long-term effects.

Some other less controversial but equally important proposals involve allowing the county presidents to designate a representative to serve on the nominating committee; allowing for nominations from the floor for all elected positions; and changing the way vacancies for both the president and vice president positions are filled.

There are also a few housekeeping changes to be considered concerning how dues are collected and remote delegate voting.

All of the proposed changes are just that, proposed. I cannot stress enough the importance of having a full slate of delegates present for this discussion. If you have been asked to serve as a delegate and accepted, thank you for taking on the responsibility. If you have not been asked and you would like to serve, please reach out to your county president to inquire about the possibility. Some counties have full delegations, but I know there are several counties that need additional volunteers. Serving as a delegate is a good way for counties to get those young or new members involved and frequently leads to more prolonged involvement.

I look forward to seeing you in Framingham.

Mark Amato
mark@mfbf.net

Meet MDAR’s Assistant Commissioner: Ashley Sears Randle

Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) on Oct. 9, filled its assistant commissioner position with Ashley Sears Randle, a Massachusetts native who grew up on a farm in South Deerfield. In her position, she will be the legislative liaison; senior manager of MDAR’s Food Safety program; and oversee policy analysis and development, federal agriculture issues and constituent services.

Randle grew up on her family’s fourth generation dairy farm, Indian Acres, where her family breeds, raises and shows registered Guernsey and Holstein cattle. She was also actively involved in 4-H and 4-H dairy club, Franklin County 4-H.

“Through that I participated in 4-H judging, dairy quiz bowl, and competed on the local, state and national level with my cattle,” Randle said. “That’s really what sparked my interest in pursuing a career in agriculture – both growing up on a farm and my 4-H involvement.”

Following high school Randle attended Cornell University, where she doubled majored in agribusiness and animal science. Her interest was sparked in policy and law, so she attended Western New England College School of Law and focused on sustainability law.

After passing the Bar Exam in Massachusetts, Randle was offered a unique opportunity to work for the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. In this role she worked on a sustainable recognition program. She also managed the Maine Building at the Big E and oversaw the Maine Ag Trade Show.

She stayed in that role for 2.5 years, until she followed her husband to New York state and started working as the member services director for the Northeast Dairy Producers Association. Finally, in October she started her new position as.
I had the privilege of spending a day at the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis. I got to speak with students from across the country on some pressing issues facing agriculture and rural America. The topics we discussed weren’t exactly light—from farm labor, to food waste, to opioid addiction. Still, I couldn’t help but leave the convention on a hopeful note. There are exceptional young people ready to take up the mission of American agriculture: It’s up to us to give them the right tools as they press forward.

As we advocate for agriculture and speak up on our need for new markets and a reliable workforce or access to the latest technology and strong farm programs, we aren’t just looking to answer the challenges of today. We are looking to protect the business of farming for the next generation. We need to think about how we can encourage these bright young people to return to the farm and their rural communities. We need to show them all the opportunities agriculture, and Farm Bureau, have to offer.

I first joined my county Farm Bureau as a young farmer myself, and the leadership training I received is still at the core of our Young Farmer and Rancher program today. Before joining Farm Bureau though, my ag leadership training began with 4-H, and if FFA had been at my school, I would have been a proud member there as well. The FFA theme this year, “Just One,” was an inspiring one—and one we could all take to heart. We all have a voice, and each one of us can make a difference, right where we are. Today a young person’s audience is far larger than ever before, thanks to modern technology and social media.

That makes the training programs Farm Bureau offers all the more important. For FFA and 4-H kids, Farm Bureau membership should be the next step on their journey of ag engagement. I’m excited to see the kids I met this last week attend their first AFBF Annual Convention—maybe even this January in New Orleans!

The next century of Farm Bureau and American agriculture is ripe with opportunity. With a booming population to feed, farmers and ranchers have a big task ahead, but we won’t be able to keep up without more young folks joining us out in the field. Of course, these kids’ wanting to come back home to their rural communities and farms won’t be enough if they don’t have access to the financial tools and technology they need to get started—or to keep the family farming running. Now, more than ever, we need a new farm bill that gives young farmers the opportunity they need to answer the call of agriculture. We need new trade deals across the globe that expand our markets and give us a level playing field to sell our products wherever there is demand for the highest quality food, fiber and fuel in the world. And we must keep moving our ag economy forward and rise to meet the demands of farming in the 21st century by finally getting all of rural America online with high-speed internet. While we can’t take all the risk out of farming, we can ensure the next generation has the opportunity to join in our life’s calling.

Thanks to solid ag education and organizations like FFA and 4-H, hard-working young people across the country are learning about agriculture and excited to do their part. Let’s be sure to give them a thriving industry to come home to when they graduate.

Zippy Duvall
AFBF President
Grant Announcement: Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs (SARA)

The Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) invites responses from Massachusetts farmers who own or operate farm land under the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (“APR”) Program, who wish to participate in Round 7 of the Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs Program ("Program"). The purpose of the Program is to address stewardship or restoration issues on farmland resources in order to maximize productive agricultural use of the protected resource.

Funding of up to $25,000, with a 15 percent match, may be available for identified improvements that will help restore or enhance the protected land resources on an APR farm property.

Eligible uses of funds include contracted labor or equipment rental costs to clear land or reclaim inactive fields back to active cropland use such as: clearing vegetation, removing rocks or stumps, cutting back grown in field edges, or reseeding or applying soil or crop amendments to inactive cropland or pastureland to bring it back into production. Funding may also be used to restore farm resources that have been negatively impacted by flooding, erosion, storms, tornadoes and other natural disasters.

The deadline for applications is Dec. 7, 2018, by 4 PM, and all projects must be completed by June 30, 2019.

Find the application here: www.mass.gov/media/1733661/download.

Remembering Gordon Price

Alexander “Gordon” Price, 87, lifetime resident of Boxford, passed quietly at home, in the loving presence of his family, on Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018. He was the beloved husband of Susan (Manley) Price, whom he met while attending UMass and would be celebrating their 64th year of marriage this Nov. 26.

Born in Haverhill, Feb. 13, 1931, he was the son of the late Alexander Johnson Price and the late Rosamond (Ingalls) Price-Gowen. After graduating from Texas A&M University, Geology from Texas A&M University.

In addition to his wife, Susan, he is also survived by his four children: Alexander Price and wife Kimberly of Suffield, Connecticut, Martha Price Blackburn and husband William May Jr. of Brunswick, Maine, Thomas Price and wife Sheila of Boxford and, Catherine Price Rogers and husband Stephen Rogers of Bradford; his 15 grandchildren: Tyler Blackburn, Kyle Rogers, Hannah Knudsen and husband Marcus, Cory Price, Hillary Rogers, Taylor Price, Hunter Rogers, Alexander (AJ) Price, Tucker Price, Ashley Price, Mikaela Rogers, Seth McLaughlin, Justin Price, Joshua McLaughlin, and Alyssa McLaughlin. Gordon is also survived by his only sister, Anne Myers and husband David of Denver, Colorado, and sister-in-law, Martha Wood of Venice, Florida.

After graduating from Texas A&M University, Gordon spent the next two years serving in the U.S. Army. He was stationed in Munich, Germany, with his new bride, Susan. After his enlistment ended, Gordon and Susan returned home to run Ingaldsy Farm in West Boxford, originally started by his mother Rosamond in 1934. The land was purchased by Gordon’s grandfather, Walter Ingalls, in the early 1900s. Gordon expanded the farm to raise more than 200 acres of corn, green beans and strawberries. He hired many local high school and college aged students throughout the years to help harvest the crops.

Gordon had a great love for the town of Boxford and served on various committees, including the recreation and school committees, assessors department, planning board and the Ingalls Memorial – Boxford Document Center. Over the years, both Gordon and his mother have donated land development rights in Boxford to help maintain its rural character.

Gordon was also active in other organizations and served many years as president of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, director on the Boxford Historic Document Center, Luster-On Products, Farm Family Insurance Company and Massachusetts Department of Agriculture.

With wife Susan always at his side, Gordon had many interests, whether it was socializing with friends over coffee, exploring the islands of Casco Bay on his boat or skiing with the grandchildren in North Conway. He also enjoyed traveling with his sister and husband, always looking for a hotel room overlooking a train station so he could watch them come and go.

He will be remembered most for the special interest he took in his children's and grandchildren's lives; taking them along on trips, attending school activities, discussing their interests and giving advice.

Gordon wanted to live to 100, but in the almost 88 years of his life, he set a wonderful example for all of us to follow and his family and friends will miss him very much.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Boxford Historical Document Center PO Box 122, West Boxford, MA 01885.

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Raw Milk Legislative Efforts
By: Brad Mitchell, MFBF Deputy Executive Director

Consumers in Massachusetts have become increasingly interested in raw milk (unpasteurized milk) in recent years and are willing to pay a premium for it— as much as $10 a gallon. However, it remains controversial as many public health and regulatory agencies are opposed to raw milk due to concerns about foodborne illnesses. While some dairy farmers see a benefit from selling their milk at a premium, others are concerned that the expansion of raw milk sales could result in illnesses, which would undermine public confidence in the safety of milk.

In Massachusetts, raw milk can only be sold from the farm at which it is produced. As more consumers became interested in purchasing raw milk, this became difficult for many, with some having to drive more than an hour. Informal buying clubs began, with raw milk consumers taking turns doing pickups and delivery to others. A couple enterprising folks began doing this commercially, which led to a resolution being offered at our delegate session and ultimately accepted as MFBF policy, which you can view in the call out box.

This left some raw milk consumers with limited access to the product. Raw milk farmers saw a decrease in their actual and potential customer base. This led to a resolution being offered at our delegate session and ultimately accepted as MFBF policy, which you can view in the call out box.

This resolution was intended to make raw milk more readily available, but also maintain a strong element of safety with oversight.

Working with the Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA) in Massachusetts and Senator Anne Gobi, Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) filed legislation to allow delivery of raw milk with oversight from MDAR. The bill made modest headway during two legislative sessions. This last session, it passed the House and Senate late in the summer. Unfortunately, Governor Charlie Baker sent that section of the bill back with proposed changes. This means the bill did not pass, but the Governor essentially put forward a revised version of the bill, which would meet with his approval. It is a step in a negotiation between the Governor and the legislature.

The fact that the Governor is open to raw milk delivery is a step towards MFBF accomplishing this resolution. However, the focus of his changes was to give oversight of raw milk intended for delivery to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). This included on-farm production of raw milk intended for delivery. Authority over production has always rested with MDAR, and presumably would remain for milk being sold from the farm.

This raised some concerns about how it might work having two agencies overseeing the same activity (on-farm production of raw milk). Would there be different testing requirement relative to frequency and thresholds? Would they put in place requirements that would be cost-prohibitive? Would new, strict requirement spill over and make it harder to sell from the farm?

NOFA, MFBF and other advocates of raw milk delivery met with Senator Gobi to discuss the Governor’s changes. After lengthy discussion the group concluded that 1) the bill is the only realistic chance to obtain raw milk delivery in the foreseeable future; and 2) the group could support the bill so long as MDAR retained authority over production and sales on the farm. Those activities on the other side of the farm could go to MDPH.

Senator Gobi is speaking to the administration to see if these changes are acceptable. If it seems like a go, we will need to move quickly— in the next month. Keep an eye out for alerts asking you to call your legislator or the Governor.

Brad Mitchell
brad@mfbf.net

Meet Ashley Sears Randle
Continued From Page 3

assistant commissioner at MDAR.

“I am excited to connect with Massachusetts farmers and get to know them on a more personal level,” Randle said. “I think Massachusetts is very unique in our direct to consumers sales and also the diversity of agriculture and products that we have. With more than 7,000 farms in the state, there are a lot of unique things taking place and I really excited to work with the farms to continue to promote them and find new areas of opportunity.”

According to MDAR Commissioner John Lebeaux in his column in the October/November Farm and Market Report, “Ashley brings tremendous real on-farm experience along with an equally strong agricultural public policy background to the position which I expect shall benefit MDAR, but much more importantly, all of you.”

Randle is aware that the agricultural economy in Massachusetts has been strained recently but thinks there’s opportunities there. “It’s really an opportunity to look forward and how we (MDAR) can best assist our farmers to be successful in this changing environment,” Randle said. “There’s a changing regulatory framework, changing consumer demands and changing marketing conditions. And I don’t think that those should be looked at as challenges, they should be looked at as opportunities. And I think between the Department, Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) and other state agencies and organizations, we have an opportunity to help our farmers be successful.”

For these reasons, Randle believes the future of agriculture in the Commonwealth is very bright.

“We have a lot of young individuals that are interested in joining the agricultural movement;” Randle said. “Maybe they’re not sure what the opportunities are yet but I think whether it’s a vegetable farm or a dairy farm, or the value-added side of production, there’s an opportunity for our youth. And whether they are a recently 4-H or FFA alumni or someone that’s had a career for 20 years and wants to transition into agriculture, I think we have a lot of those opportunities. And it’s just finding the right niche for them.”

And in order to reach more farmers, Randle is looking forward to partnering with MFBF.

“T I think going forward it presents a new opportunity for the Department and MFBF to strengthen our relationships with our membership and collaborate more— whether it is on the legislative front or member services and needs,” she said. “I think through collaboration we will be able to reach more people and that’s something I’m really looking forward to.”

Outside of work, Randle enjoys long distance running and one day hopes to complete the Boston Marathon. She also enjoys cooking and baking with an emphasis on specialty deserts.

MFBF congratulates Ashley on her new position and is looking forward to working with her, John and the rest of the Department!”

By: Brad Mitchell, MFBF Deputy Executive Director
News and Views November 2018
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Tentative Schedule Of Events and Workshops - Nov. 29, 2018

**Welcome & Registration** - 9 am

**MAC Silent Auction** - 9 am - 5:30 pm

**General Session** - 10 - 11:15 am

New Massachusetts State DOT Markings Regulation and ELD requirements...Do They Affect You?  
*Speaker: Stephen Hanley, FMCSA*

This general session will cover the new regulations for all commercial motor vehicles, including farm plated vehicles, having a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds that is engaged in INTRASTATE commerce were required to have a Federal DOT number. USDOT numbers needed to be filed with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) on or before Sept. 1, 2018. This session will also give a brief update on electronic logging devices (ELD) and how they may impact your business.

Ag Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Train the Trainer Pt. 1  
***1.5 Pesticide Credit Hours***  
*Speaker: Laurie Rocco*

This is one of a two-part pesticide credit workshop. This session will focus on Worker Protection Standards (WPS) that were revised in 2015. Most of the revised WPS requirements were effective Jan. 2, 2017; three requirements went into effect on Jan. 2, 2018. The workshop will also present the EPA approved pesticide safety “train the trainer program” and will provide a brief update on the changes. A certificate of completion will be provided at the close of the session.

Taste of Norfolk & Plymouth County - 2:15 - 3:15 pm  
Join members of Norfolk and Plymouth County Farm Bureaus as they provide samples of the delicious products their farmers grow and raise.

**Workshops** - 3:30 - 4:45 pm

American Farm Bureau Leadership Opportunities  
*Speakers: Nick Smith, Maine Farmer and AFBF YF&R Committee Member, Chris Hoffman, Pennsylvania Farmer and AFBF P&E Committee Chair, John Dougherty, past AFBF equine issues advisory committee member Moderated by: MFBF President and Verrill Farm Manager Mark Amato*

Join this panel for a discussion on the leadership opportunities that exist within American Farm Bureau Federation. Ranging from AFBF’s young farmers and ranchers (YF&R) committee to Promotion and Education committee to issue advisory committees, every member has an opportunity to engage on the national level. These speakers will cover their roles and responsibilities to these committees and how they have helped to shape their Farm Bureau involvement.

Preview of Delegate Session Bylaw Changes  
*Speakers: Doug Gillespie, MFBF Executive Director, Warren Shaw, MFBF Board Member & Bylaw Committee Chair*

This workshop will be an overview of the proposed bylaw amendments to be presented at the Voting Delegate session on Nov.30, for deliberation and action.

Farm Labor Forum With The U.S. Department of Labor  
*Speaker: Patrcial Colarossi, Community Outreach and Resource Planning Specialist, US DOL*

Colarossi will host this session to discuss and answer question on federal labor requirements on farms – H2A, interns, volunteer, overtime exemptions, etc. If you plan on attending, and have specific questions, please email them to brad@mfbf.net ASAP.

What To Expect In 2019: Produce Inspections in Massachusetts  
*Speaker: Mike Botelho, MDAR Commonwealth Quality Program Coordinator*

Commencing in the spring of 2019, MDAR’s Produce Inspection Program may conduct an inspection of your fruit and/or vegetable farm for a variety of reasons. These include routine inspections, follow-up inspections and market access support. Inspections are only one part of our Produce Inspection Program related to Produce Safety. The Program will also provide cost-free technical assistance, outreach and education and will continue to work with MDAR’s grant programs to ensure that tools are widely available and accessible for farmers in Massachusetts who are updating and or improving their farm food safety practice.

**Social Hour** - 5 - 6 pm  
*Sponsored by American National/ Farm Family Insurance*

Dinner Banquet - 6 - 9 pm  
*Sponsored by Farm Credit East*

**Young Farmer & Rancher Fundraiser - BINGO**  
Immediately following banquet
MAC SILENT AUCTION
Bid • Donate • Support

MAC To Host Silent Auction On Nov. 29

Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom (MAC) will host a silent auction at the MFBF Annual Meeting with all proceeds going to support MAC programs throughout the Commonwealth. MAC board members and students would appreciate donations from Farm Bureau members for the 2018 silent auction. In previous years, MAC auction goers have enjoyed browsing and bidding on the beautiful baskets made at farm stands, the treasures from the farm house attic and the holiday decorations that are consigned. The auction will be held on Nov. 29 from 9 am - 5:30 pm.

Notice To MFBF Members

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) will be held Nov. 29 and 30 at the Sheraton Hotel in Framingham. Delegates may be asked to vote on proposed amendments to the MFBF bylaws.

Copies of proposed bylaw amendments will be mailed to all elected delegates. They are also online at https://www.farmbureau.co/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/MFBF-Bylaws-Effective-proposed-for-11-30-18-vote.pdf.

Tentative Schedule - Nov. 30, 2018

Welcome Breakasts - 7 - 8:15 am  Spouse Activity - 9:30 am
Delegate Registration - 8:20 - 9 am  Delegate Luncheon - 12 noon - 1 pm
Delegate Session - 9 am - 12 noon  Delegate Session - 1:10 - 3:30 pm

MFBB staff has planned two wonderful meals to tempt your appetite, as described below. Please make your reservation today either by completing and returning the form below -or- registering online at https://www.farmbureau.co/annual-meeting/.

Meal Information

Thursday Lunch- $35
Tour of Italy
• Kale and Romaine Caesar Salad
• Penne with Vodka Sauce
• Florentine Chicken with Spinach and Sundried Tomato
• Roasted Garlic Baguettes
• Broccolini and Carmalized Onions
• Assorted Cannolis and Tiramisu

Thursday Dinner- $42
The Castle Dinner
• Mixed Green Salad
• Pan Seared Chicken Breast with Rosemary and Orange Chutney
• Medallions of Beef with Wild Onion Confit
• Herb Roasted Potatoes
• Roasted Seasonal Vegetables
• Flourless Chocolate Cake
• Seasonal Fresh Fruit and Berries

Registration Form

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Please clip above section and return with your check (made payable to MFBF) via mail to:
Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
C/O Joan Monaco
249 Lakeside Ave
Marlborough, MA 01752
MFBF’s 2018 Annual Meeting
Information Continued

Register Online: www.farmbureau.co/annual-meeting

Reserve Your Stay At The Sheraton - By Nov. 19
Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center
1657 Worcester Rd,
Framingham, MA 01701

Room Rate:
$119.95 per night
(Single or double occupancy)
plus taxes

Reserve Your Room:
508-270-1914 or
888-627-7184

Be sure to mention you are with Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation to get the best rate and avoid additional fees.

Trade Show And Sponsorship Information

Trade Show Booth Information
Trade booth space is being offered again this year. If you are an allied business member of Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, please contact the office for discounted pricing. Trade booth space will be $450.00 for an 8’x2’ booth. Booth space is at a premium and based on prior demand. You should act quickly to reserve a spot.

Sponsorship Opportunities
MFBF is offering annual meeting sponsorship opportunities for the 2018 annual meeting and its activities. There are four levels of sponsorship:
- Platinum Level-$650.00
- Gold Level-$450.00
- Silver Level-$250.00
- Bronze Level-$150.00

Contact Information
Please contact John Conners at 508-481-4766 or email at john@mfbf.net. We have a special offer for those who sponsor at the platinum level. If you contact MFBF before Nov. 17, your sponsorship will include a complimentary booth.

Spouse Activity: Nov. 30 at 9:30 AM
On Friday, Nov. 30, at 9:30 a.m. during the delegates session, there will be a spouse activity, hosted by Sandy Medeiros. Details below:

“Make A Teacup Arrangement”
Friday, Nov. 30 2018, at 9:30 am
All Supplies Included
$12.00 Per Person

Please note that space is limited so make your reservations by emailing: rudymedeiros@outlook.com

Official Annual Meeting Hashtag: #MFBF2018
We've found ourselves in November, approaching Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's (MFBF's) annual meeting, which is a time of change and development. This includes changes and developments with the County Farm Bureaus. Some counties see a change of officers and additional board members and as such, it is the perfect time to start new traditions and productive routines.

For these reasons, I encourage you and your fellow county members to attend MFBF’s Annual Meeting and take advantage of the leadership classes and trainings. If you can’t make Annual Meeting or would like to take this a step further, I highly suggest looking into Farm Bureau University. FBU is a free, online learning tool that has modules on both board trainings and how to educate consumers about agriculture. Here is a link to it: https://www.fb.org/programs/learning-development/farm-bureau-university/.

You may be wondering why I’m suggesting this thorough self-evaluation? I whole heartedly believe that the ability to mentor and be a resource to another professional is dependent on our own self-knowledge and commitment to a cause. Looking toward the future of our organization and health of agriculture in the Commonwealth, we need to accept responsibility ourselves to step up as volunteers and assist with mentoring the next generation of farmers.

During the upcoming year, I encourage you to establish what your priorities are, including those that are off the farm and contribute to our industry. Do you volunteer in your community? Perhaps you attend legislative events, like breakfasts or Ag Day at the Statehouse, or even visit your legislators on your own schedule. What types of activities can you personally invite others to that will help engage them in volunteering for the good of our industry?

Now is the time for us to step up as mentors and make sure that others are getting involved and are invested for our collective future. You can simply ask someone to attend one of these endeavors (whether in person, by phone, mailed note, or email) with you. To be a mentor all you need is a willingness to share skills, knowledge, expertise, and to have a positive attitude. If you aren’t currently able to think of someone you’re already working as a mentor or role model to, I hope you work to find someone that could benefit from your expertise and involvement.

Finally, if you read last month’s column you know that I was going to include a few facts about our involved Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) members. At MFBF’s annual meeting I’ll have sheets folks can fill out with the facts I’ve included in the October and November issues and a random entry will win a prize! Now to learn about a couple of your YF&R members. Katie (Carlson) Hardy just completed her first road race, the Moose Pond Half-Marathon in early November. Heather Bonanno has been to the Arctic Circle and walked across the frozen Yukon River in Alaska. And lastly, Ryan MacKay hoarded peacocks in high school. I look forward to seeing you at annual meeting! Remember the YF&R will host our second annual Bingo Night after dinner on Thursday Nov. 29; we truly appreciate your support and participation in our annual meeting fundraiser!

Heidi Cooper
YF&R State Chair
Cooper.heidi.jo@gmail.com
Cell: 978-489-4860

NEW! Follow Us On Instagram!

The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers committee is now on Instagram! Be sure to follow: @MAFBYoungFarmers to get the latest!

Follow us on Facebook: @MAFarmBureauYFR

Save The Date:
AFBF’s 2019 FUSION Conference
March 15 - 18, 2019
Milwaukee, WI

If interested in attending, please contact:
Katelyn Parsons, MFBF Director of Communications and Marketing at katelyn@mfbf.net or 508-481-4766.
Adams Farm
854 Beardsen Rd
Athol, MA 01331
978-249-9441
Products & Services: Full Service Slaughterhouse For Farmers & Mid-Sized Companies.

Blood Farm
94 West Main Street
West Groton, MA 01472
978-448-6669
Products & Services: We are a 7 generation, family-run, slaughter and processing facility.

Cape Ann Tree Service
Ten Fernwood Lake Ave.
Gloucester MA 01930
978-768-7700
capeanntree.com

Casella Organics
138 N Main St
W Brookfield, MA 01585-3237
508-612-0945
Products & Services: Casella Organics supply a full line of soil amendments, including: Poultry Litter and Wood Ash to help enhance their customers' crops.

Chickadee Hill Farm
Jeffrey Head
366 Central St
Rowley, MA 01969
chickadeehillfarmservices@hotmail.com
978-948-8620
chickadeehillfarmservices@gmail.com
Products & Services: firewood, screened loam and compost, mulch, wood chips, lawn mowing and landscaping, pumpkins, Christmas trees and vegetables.

Eastern Solar
Ken Nelson
P.O. Box 60
Wayland, MA 01778
508-882-0102
easternsolar@easternsolar.com
easternsolar@easternsolar.com
Products & Services: Serving the solar industry for 40 years. Service, maintenance, training and repair of existing solar systems.

Franklin Agway
157 Cottage Street
Franklin, MA 02038
508-528-1333
franklingway.com
franklinurbanfarmstore@gmail.com
Products & Services: Feed & supplies for livestock and pets.

Garden supplies, tools, seeds, plants, fertilizer & chemicals for organic gardening. Homebrew, cheese-making, canning and beekeeping supplies.

Harness / Horsemans Association of New England
POB 1811
Plainville, MA 02762
508-918-8852
cmalcolm@hhane.com
Products & Services: We are a nonprofit membership association for harness horsermen and women. We promote harness racing both in Massachusetts and nationally.

John S. Lane & Son
730 East Mountain Road
Westfield, MA 01086
www.jslane.com
jaslonor@jslane.com
Products & Services: Aggregates including crushed stone, gravel & sand

Major Landscaping
626 Lindsey Street
Attleboro, MA 02703
508-431-4336
majorlandscaping508@gmail.com
Products & Services: Landscaping & construction

Massachusetts Nursery & Landscape Association
P.O. Box 387
Conway, MA 01341
433-369-4731
http://www.mnla.com
mnlaoffice@aol.com
Products & Services: MNLA is a statewide association dedicated to advancing the interests of “green industry” professionals.

Meatworks
287 State Rd
Westport, MA 02790
774-319-5616
Products & Services: An animal-welfare focused slaughter & processing facility for Southern New England

Mulch By The Yard
Stoughton and Cape Cod MA
781-341-2275
jphorgan@me.com
Products & Services: Klin dried bagged hawings trailer loads US made. 60 days free storage on trailer.

Otis Poultry Farm
1570 North Main Rd
Otis, MA 01253
413-269-4438
www.otispoultryfarm.com
Products & Services: Selections of chicken & turkey pies with & without vegetables in assorted sizes. They have a large selection of sheepskin slippers & sugarfree candy.

Paul Massad Landscaping
336 Turnpike Road
Westborough, MA 01581
508-869-6977
www.paulmassadlandscaping.com
info@paulmassadlandscaping.com
Products & Services: We are a full service design-build landscape and nursery company, who supplies specialty trees, shrubs, boulders and granite pieces.

Pop Energy
Doug Pope
42 8th Street, #413B
Boston, MA 02129
617-337-0199
doug.pope@popenergy.com
Products & Services: ag solar development

Progressive Grower Inc.
81 Charlotte Furnace Road
West Wareham, MA 02576
508-273-7358
www.progressivegrower.com
Info@ProgressiveGrower.com
Products & Services: The company carries a full line of chemicals and fertilizers at competitive prices and an extensive stock of farm equipment, tools and clothing.

Resource Management, Inc.
1171 NH RT 175
Holderness, NH 03245
603-536-8900
www.mirecycles.com
RMII@Mirecycles.com
Products & Services: We provide responsive, innovative and high quality organic residuals and recycling services to address our customer interests and needs.

Rice Fruit Farms
757 Main St
Wilbraham, MA 01095
413-596-4002
info@ricefruitfarm.com
Products & Services: bakery, fruits and vegetables, coffee, homemade ice cream, milk, eggs, local products, honey and olive oil.

Rusty’s Tree Service
539 Hudson Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
978-621-4939
kbent1@verizon.net
Products & Services: Rusty’s Tree Service is a Sudbury-based landscaping firm offering tree surgery, maintenance and removal services.

SEMAP, Inc.
P.O. Box 80625
South Dartmouth, MA 02748
508-524-2601
www.semaponline.org
kschwab@semaponline.org
Products & Services: local food promotion, sustainable farming education and healthy food initiatives.

Sirum Equipment Company
310 Federal Street
Montague, MA 01351
413-367-2481
sirumequipment.com
Products/Brands Sirum Equipment
carries: LS Tractors, Ferris, Simplicity, Snapper, Stihl,
Patz, Kuhn, Woods, Landpride,
Arien, Gravelly

Soares Flower Garden Nursery
1021 Sandwich Rd
East Falmouth, MA 02536
508-548-5288
www.soaresflowergarden.com
soaresfgn@gmail.com
Products & Services: retail greenhouse featuring locally grown annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs and shrubs, as well as a landscape design, build and maintenance firm.

SouthCoast Ag Consulting LLC
South Dartmouth, MA 774-269-6062
southcoastconsulting.com
Products & Services: Certified Crop Adviser and Technical Services Provider/NRCS. Providing complete and comprehensive nutrient management and crop consulting for all agronomic crops.

The Big E
1305 Memorial Ave.
West Springfield, MA 01089
413-205-5011
www.thebige.com/p/agriculture
info@thebige.com
Products & Services: fairgrounds & annual fair

World Farmers Inc.
769 Main St
Lancaster, MA 01523
978-706-7935
www.worldfarmers.org
info@worldfarmers.org
Products & Services: education, beginning farmers and ranchers.

***Due to space limitations, products and services listings will be limited to 20 words or less.***
Smolak & Vaughan Attorneys At Law Is Pleased To Announce Francis A. Di Luna, ESQ. Has Become Of Counsel To The Firm

Frank Di Luna has devoted a significant portion of his practice to representing the agricultural community. His focus primarily being in connection with federal, state, and local regulation compliance concerning agriculture, land use, marketing, acquisition, and sale of agriculture facilities. A substantial part of Frank’s practice involves municipal land use permitting and environmental issues including, but not limited to: wetlands, hazardous materials, and the use of such materials. For the past 30 years, Frank has been in private legal practice with a large regional law firm and is also experienced in processing trademark applications before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Frank’s municipal law experience includes: serving in the City Solicitor’s Office in Woburn, Massachusetts; later serving within the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs for the legal division of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife (now Department of Fish and Game); and also as counsel with the Department of Food and Agriculture of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (now Department of Agricultural Resources). Frank has also served as an adjunct professor of law at Southern New England School of Law (now University of Massachusetts School of Law) as well as at Boston College Law School.

MFBF Seeking Applicants For UMass Public Overseers Board

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) is seeking for members who are willing to serve on UMass’s Public Overseers Board. The UMass Extension Board of Public Overseers was created in 1997 to give stakeholders in UMass Extension areas a formal advisory role.

If you are interested, please contact MFBF’s Executive Director Doug Gillespie by email at doug@mfbf.net. He will forward your name to MFBF’s Board of Directors for consideration and approval. If approved, your name will then be forwarded to the appropriate contact person for appointment consideration.

Celebrating The Seasons Of Massachusetts Ag Calendar

The annual Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar is an excellent resource that serves as an educational tool for teachers, legislators and the public. The calendar provides an attractive daily reminder of the diversity of agriculture across the state. It includes monthly educational/teaching tips, special ag-related days and website links on each page.

The calendar is a collaboration between the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Massachusetts State Grange and Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom (MAC). Proceeds from the Calendar help with MAC’s programs.

Each calendar month features one full-size photograph portraying a Massachusetts farm or farm product. The photographs for each calendar month are winners that were selected from the annual photo contest.

Calendars can be ordered online at the MAC website: www.aginclassroom.org.

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Mail order form and check payable to “MAC, Inc.” to:
MAC/Bobbie Oles
P.O. Box 12
Wrentham, MA 02093
massaginclassroom@gmail.com
The Many Benefits Of Farm Bureau

MFBF Members Enjoy Discounts and Services From Our Business Partners

Please visit www.mfbf.net for more information on these discounts.

Farm Family Insurance offers special rate plans for MFBF members on personal auto, business owners policies, SFP-10 and Country Estate insurance.

The personal auto special rate plan will represent a 5% savings on your Farm Family personal auto policy if it’s associated with an active MFBF membership. The business owners policy special rate plan will save up to $100 off your business owners policies if associated with an active MFBF membership. The SFP-10 and Country Estate special rate plan will afford about a 3% savings on your Farm Family farm policy if it’s associated with an active MFBF membership.

Visit farmfamily.com to find your local agent.

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation members can save up to $2,500 on eligible Cat* machines. On top of that, members receive an additional $250 credit on work tool attachments purchased with new Cat machines.

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation member prices on selected product category and supplies from Grainger, PLUS get standard ground shipping on all standard Grainger products*.


*FREE standard shipping* on all orders shipped ground transportation. Other freight charges will be incurred for services such as expedited delivery, special handling by the carrier, sourcing orders and shipments outside the continental United States.

John Deere now offers GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards to members of Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation. Farm Bureau members receive discounts, special low rate financing and all other benefits associated with GreenFleet Platinum 2 status.

It’s easy to become a GreenFleet member too! Just sign up for John Deere GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards program using a valid member ID and zip code for membership verification and become a Platinum 2 level by visiting www.JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau.

Osterman Propane offers a discount on propane to the members of Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation.

Tier pricing base on annual consumption:
- 1000-3000 gallons $0.50 over cost
- 3000-7000 gallons $0.35 over cost
- 7000 plus gallons $0.25 over cost

Osterman will swap out your old tank with their own at no charge. 7000 plus gallons $.25 over cost

Osterman Propane on the web at: www.ostermangas.com

Contact: Colleen Gilpin at 508-341-9775 (cell) | 508-234-9902 or visit Osterman Propane on the web at: www.ostermangas.com

Call: 508-839-7926

*Tufts University is a referral medical facility and should not replace your primary veterinarian service. This program is only for pre-qualified medical services provided at Tufts University’s Large Animal Hospital when referred by your veterinarian.

MFBF members receive $300-$500 off Farmall, Maxxum and more! Visit http://www.farmbureau.co/member-benefits/ and enter your membership ID number and zip code to print a certificate to use towards your next Case-IH purchase. Please print before heading to your local dealer.

Whether you are looking for an upscale hotel, an all-inclusive resort or something more cost-effective, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts has the right hotel for you! As a Massachusetts Farm Bureau member, you will save up to 20% off the Best Available Rate* at over 8,000 participating hotels worldwide. Discover the benefits of booking your vacation with Wyndham Hotels & Resorts as a Massachusetts Farm Bureau member. Our vast portfolio of hotels and resorts offer a variety of accommodations to meet your travel needs. Wherever people go, Wyndham will be there to welcome them.

To take advantage of this valuable travel discount rate please call 877-670-7088 to connect with a dedicated travel expert and be sure to mention you are a Farm Bureau member or go to www.wyndhamhotels.com/farm-bureau to book.

Massachusetts Farm Bureau members save 20% off published at almost 5,000 Choice Hotels Worldwide! Save 20% off when renting from BUDGET. Farm Bureau members also enjoy exclusive

Go to www.AVIS.com/mafb

Use Avis Worldwide Discount code: A298821

Visit: www.budget.com/mafb

Call 1-877-202-2594

MFBF members enjoy exclusive savings when renting from AVIS.

Use Budget Customer Discount Number: Y775721

Visit: www.budget.com/mafb

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation members enjoy exclusive savings when renting from BUDGET.

*Tufts University is a referral medical facility and should not replace your primary veterinarian service. This program is only for pre-qualified medical services provided at Tufts University’s Large Animal Hospital when referred by your veterinarian.
Join Us Today!

• Not a member?
• Know Someone Who Should Be A Member?

Farmers, gardeners, local food consumers, nature fans, teachers, property owners and anyone who enjoys open space in Massachusetts are the kinds of people involved in Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation.

Definitions of each membership level is available online: http://www.farmbureau.co/become-a-member/. Please select the category that best describes you and/or your business when applying for membership.

Use the application on this page below, or sign-up online: http://www.farmbureau.co/online-application/.

Support Massachusetts Farmers - Join MFBF

Name: ____________________ Farm Name: ____________________ Date: / / /
Address: __________________ City, State, Zip: __________________
Phone: ____________________ Email: ____________________ DOB: / / /
Referred by: ___________________

I hereby make application for an annual membership in the __________________ County Farm Bureau and Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, whose purpose is to promote, protect, and represent the economic, social and educational interests of Massachusetts’ farmers, as well as encourage the protection of agricultural areas and rural interest within the state. I understand acceptance or denial and classification of my membership are determined by the County Farm Bureau.

Contributions, gifts or membership dues to a County Farm Bureau, or MFBF, are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. However, they may be tax deductible under other provisions of the IRS code. Membership dues are non-refundable and non-returnable.

A service fee of $15 may be assessed for a returned check.

Signature: ________________________________

Method of Payment

Credit Card:
0 American Express
0 Visa
0 MasterCard
0 Discover

CC#:__________________________ CVV:__________ Exp. Date:__/____

Signature: ________________________________

Mail completed application and payment to:
Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
249 Lakeside Ave
Marlborough, MA 01752

Have A Farmer Friend? Bring Them To Annual Meeting

By: Katelyn Parsons, MFBF Director of Marketing and Communications

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation’s Annual Meeting is your opportunity to meet with old friends, network with new friends and learn about issues impacting farmers in the Commonwealth. While MFBF has been hosting additional workshops and webinars outside of the annual meeting, this meeting is the go-to place for information. As such, we want to encourage you to bring a farmer friend.

For just $99 (for 6-months), this friend can join MFBF as an introductory regular member and attend annual meeting.* This category uses the same definition of membership as a regular member, so please review the bylaws before recruiting. During the 6-month period, these farmers will receive all the benefits of a regular Farm Bureau member. After 6-months, they will be invoiced for the full, $225 per year, regular membership.

This membership level is an excellent opportunity for new and beginning farmers to learn about our organization at a slightly reduced rate. The annual meeting is a great place to start as it demonstrates MFBF’s strengths and provides many networking opportunities.

Anyone who brings a farmer friend to the annual meeting will also meet their obligations to the 1 For 1 Membership Challenge. This challenge encourages members to go out and recruit one new member of any level. If everyone did this, our numbers would double.

This opportunity to invite someone to the annual meeting, would be a great way to discuss membership with your neighbor. If you need any recruitment materials, please let the office know and we will send you brochures and more, at no cost.

I hope some of you will invite farmers you know to our annual meeting and I look forward to seeing many of you there!

*Please note that the individual will still be responsible for the lunch and dinner fee to help cover costs.

Katelyn Parsons

AFBF’s PAL Program

The American Farm Bureau Federation’s Partners in Advocacy Leadership (PAL) program is designed to help today’s agricultural leaders accelerate their engagement abilities and solidify their role as advocates for agriculture. The PAL program equips agricultural leaders with executive-level skills to become exceptional advocates.

This program focuses on taking farmers and ranchers who have already begun their personal development journey and moving them to the next level. The curriculum is designed to be an executive-type program that is quite challenging and a lot of hard work. The core competencies for the program are: self-awareness, industry knowledge, message development, policy delivery, policy engagement and interpersonal skills.

If you are interested in applying for PAL Class 10, please let Doug Gillespie, MFBF executive director know by contacting him at doug@mfbf.net or 508-481-4766

Congratulations!

In October, the following members successfully recruited at least one new member:

• Richard & Gayle Bouchard,
• Rudy Medeiros,
• Jim Dunn,
• Jaime Wagner, and
• Thomas Lane.
Recipe: Cranberry Pumpkin Pie
Courtesy of Joan Monaco

Ingredients
• 1 cooked pie shell
• 1 can pumpkin
• 1 envelope gelatin
• ¾ cup evaporated milk
• ¾ cup brown sugar
• ¼ tsp ginger
• ¼ cup cold water mixed into gelatin to soften
• ¾ cup toasted coconut
• ½ tsp vanilla
• 2 eggs
• ½ tsp cinnamon
• ¼ tsp nutmeg

Toppings (optional)
• Whipped cream
• Toasted coconut

How to make
Combine in double boiler: Combine 1 can mashed pumpkin, ¾ cup evaporated milk, ½ cup water, 2 egg yolks (slightly beaten) ½ cup brown sugar, ½ tsp nutmeg, ¼ tsp cinnamon, ¼ tsp ginger.

Cook over boiling water 10 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in softened gelatin until dissolved. Chill until slightly thickened.

Beat 2 egg whites until stiff. Add ¼ cup brown sugar. Continue beating until stiff. Fold into pumpkin mixture with ½ tsp vanilla and ¾ cup toasted coconut. Pour into shell.

Cover with whipped cream sprinkled with toasted coconut. Best not to put on until ready to serve.

Want to see your recipe featured here? Send it to MFBF’s Director of Marketing and Communications Katelyn Parsons at katelyn@mfbf.net.

Apples, Cranberries, Grapes & Peaches

Sales Closing Date for Crop Insurance - Nov. 20, 2018

It's that time of the year when you need to review your crop insurance options! A crop insurance policy is a tool that may get you through an extreme weather event. These policies have a variety of options on both price and yield. A grower can insure 50% to 75% of her/his average yield and 55% up to 100% of the established price. Growers, working with their crop insurance agent, can develop a policy that works for them.

Crop insurance is sold by private crop insurance agents and is subsidized by USDA to make them affordable to growers. You can find an agent www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.

If these policies are not available in your county you can request coverage via “written agreement” or you can get coverage through the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) which is sold by the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Growers can also contact the UMass Extension Risk Management Education team for assistance in understanding these programs.

Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Insurance

Sales Closing Date: Nov. 15, 2018

A new crop insurance policy can provide livestock and hay producers with protection against drought. The Pasture, Rangeland and Forage insurance is a single peril policy that is designed to provide protection based on rainfall near your farm in two month periods. The grower can insure up to 100% of his pasture and hay acres at a productivity factor from 60% to 150% of the county base value. This production will be distributed in two month intervals as determined by the grower. If precipitation falls below the selected trigger level in a two-month period, your crop insurance company will issue an indemnity payment based on the percent of production selected for that period.

The grower does not have to keep records, report production, losses etc.

The Rainfall Index uses NOAA data for a 17 X 17-mile grid that encompasses your farm. You can review the performance of this program at this website http://maps.agforceusa.com/prf/index/

Crop insurance is sold and delivered through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers or on the RMA website at: https://prodwebnblb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/.

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American Lamb Board Appointments

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue recently announced the appointment of four members to the American Lamb Board (ALB).

Tom Colyer from Hubbardston, Massachusetts, has been reappointed to represent producers with 500 or more head of lambs. Gwendolyn Kitzan from Nisland, South Dakota, has been reappointed to represent producers with 500 or more head. Brad Anderson of Greetley, Colorado, has been reappointed to represent first handlers. These three members will be serving their second three-year term. Rob Rule of Hawarden Iowa has been appointed to represent feeders and will serve his first three-year term starting at the Annual Meeting in January 2019.

Gwendolyn Kitzan is a fourth generation South Dakota sheep producer who raises registered ewes along with a small sheep feeding operation with her husband, Dwight, son and daughter-in-law. In addition to serving a second term on the ALB, she currently is on the South Dakota Farm Service Agency Board, and a member of the South Dakota and Wyoming Sheep Growers.

Tom Colyer and his wife, Andrea, raise Merino sheep and sell yarn, sheepskins and lamb from their farm in Massachusetts. Colyer has been the director of the American Sheep Industry Association, representing Massachusetts, for more than 20 years and has served two terms on the executive board of American Sheep Industry Association (ASI).

Brad Anderson who begins his second term on the ALB representing first handlers, is the Vice President of Procurement and Operations for Mountain States Lamb Cooperative, one of the two largest lamb plants in the nation. Brad has worked for the Coop for eight years.

Rob Rule a fourth generation sheep producer, runs an operation of feeding and breeding ewes. Rule also farms more than 400 acres. He is a member of the National Lamb Feeders Association and on the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Advisory Board.

The Secretary of Agriculture works to ensure that the Board represents the diversity of the American Lamb industry. The 13-member American Lamb Board represents all sectors including six producers, three feeders, three first handlers and one seedstock producer. Two producers appointed to the board must own 100 or less head of lambs annually, one producer must own 101 to 500 head of lambs annually and three producers must own more than 500 head of lambs annually. At least one feeder must feed less than 5,000 head of lambs annually and at least one must feed more than 5,000 head of lambs annually.

Board Members are nominated by certified industry organizations and are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Any producer, feeder or first handler within the United States who owns or purchases lambs can be considered for nomination. For more information contact the American Lamb Board’s office in Denver, CO at 303/759-3001 or megan@americanlamb.com or visit ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/research-promotion.
FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Small farm for daughter to keep horse, garden etc. in N.E. Worcester or Middlesex County. Call anytime 508-943-6520.

FOR SALE: Hereford Calves for Sale: hand raised and tame, both steers & heifers, for your feed lot or pasture. Call 617-840-2074.

FOR SALE: Walk in freezer box 7'x10' $1,200 - PTO driven Win Power Generator 12000 kw $800- John Deere 1010 Bulldozer as a parts machine $800 - John Deere tracks & blade for 1010 bull dozer $800 - 1200 Gallon Sap Tank 57 ½ " wide x 42” high x 11’10 ½ “ long $500 - Assorted stock tanks (125-300 gallons) $50. Call 413-357-8829.

FOR SALE: PIGLETS. Good Quality Hay and a Fisher Snow Plow with tracks & blade for 1010 bull dozer parts machine 800- John Deere 1010 Bulldozer as a parts machine 800 - John Deere tracks & blade for 1010 bull dozer $800 - 1200 Gallon Sap Tank 57 ½ “ wide x 42” high x 11’10 ½ “ long $500 - Assorted stock tanks (125-300 gallons) $50. Call 413-357-8829.


FOR SALE: Hay 1st and 2nd cutting. 4’ X 5’ round and small square bales. Conway Farms, Lakeville, MA. 508-821-0149.

FOR SALE: Apple/vegetable bulk bins (15-bushel size) in good condition, always housed $4 each, volume discount available. Assorted pallets .50 each & 4-way cherry pallets $1.00 each. Please text or leave message: 978-660-0980.


FOR SALE: Hay 1st and 2nd cutting. 4’ X 5’ round and small square bales. Conway Farms, Lakeville, MA. 508-821-0149.

FOR SALE: Diesel Mechanic: Farm & Industrial Equipment Full Time (5-6 days/week, 45-50 hours), Wilson Farm, Lexington, MA, is adding an experienced mechanic position to our maintenance team to service tractors, farm equipment, trucks & other equipment repairs.

Description:

- Responsible for prioritizing work performed on company owned vehicles. This includes hands-on troubleshooting, diagnosing, repairing or performing preventative maintenance checks (oil changes, tire rotations etc.) and service as scheduled on a variety of vehicles and equipment for farm operations. Additionally, the mechanic is responsible for all relationships with external vendors, suppliers and offsite equipment maintenance as needed. A working knowledge of diesel and gas engine diagnosis, repair and maintenance is required as well as an understanding of electrical, hydraulics, DOT inspections. Computer skills and some software knowledge helpful for researching repair protocols and parts.

- Qualifications:
  - 8+ years’ experience as a Diesel Mechanic with a CDL license
  - Diesel Certification is highly desired
  - Ability to lift up to 50 pounds
  - Ability to pass a background check & drug test
  - Must be over 18 years of age

The position is full time, year-round and offers competitive wages based upon experience. Full benefits including health insurance, life insurance, paid time off, 401k plan with match. Housing is a possibility. All employees offered discount in our retail store! Come and join the great crew at Wilson Farm!

Contact: Cindy McAuley, Wilson Farm, Inc., 10 Pleasant Street, Lexington, MA 02421. (781) 862-3900 Office (781) 863-0469 Fax cindym@wilsonfarm.com

Applications may be submitted by email as attachments. Wilson Farm, Inc. is an E/O/E.

HELP WANTED

SERVICES


SERVING THE FARMERS IN MASS: Helping farmers keep what they make. Experienced in dairy, beef, fruit & vegetable farming; experienced with APR, retirement planning, estate planning & taxation, tax free exchanges. Contact Donald E. Graves, CPA, MST, MPFP, or Alexander V. Siano, CPA, at: Donald E. Graves, CPA, LLC 377 Main Street, Suite 1, Greenfield, MA 01301-3332, 1-800-286-6036, info@donaldegravescpa.com

REAL ESTATE APPRAISER/CONSULTANT: Valuations and consulting for estate planning/ gifting, buying/selling, APR/CR, Chapter 61, 61A, 61B tax appeals. William King 508-867-2600 or whking2005@gmail.com
Whether you own a cattle ranch or a dairy farm, specialize in horses or llamas or grow cash crops — you recognize that a one-size-fits-all insurance policy isn’t the smart way to run a business. **YOUR OPERATION IS UNIQUE AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT.**

Our agribusiness insurance can provide you with a flexible farm package that allows you to customize a policy to match your specific needs. For more information, contact a local agent.