$16 Billion Pledged To Farmers; Markets Slump
The latest bailout comes atop $11 billion in aid Trump provided farmers last year
By Paul Wiseman & Christopher Rugaber, Associated Press Economics Writers

President Donald Trump rolled out another $16 billion in aid for farmers hurt by his trade policies, and financial markets shook on May 23 on the growing realization that the U.S. and China are far from settling a bitter, year-long trade dispute. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said that the first of three payments is likely to be made in July or August and suggested that the U.S. and China were unlikely to have settled their differences by then.

“The package we’re announcing ensures that farmers do not bear the brunt of unfair retaliatory tariffs imposed by China and other trading partners,” Perdue said.

Seeking to reduce America’s trade deficit with the rest of the world and with China in particular, Trump has imposed import taxes on foreign steel, aluminum, solar panels and dishwashers and on thousands of Chinese products. U.S trading partners have lashed back with retaliatory tariffs of their own, focusing on U.S. agricultural

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Honoring America’s Heroes

By: Zippy Duvall, AFBF President

You don’t have to travel far into America’s heartland to see how much we love this country. For many of us, that patriotism stretches back generations from sacrifices our fathers and grandfathers and great-grandfathers made to build a livelihood to the sense of pride and ownership in the rural communities we have continued to build and develop across this country.

Rural America also has a long history of answering our country’s call to service. It’s no surprise that many of those brave men and women return home to serve in their rural farm communities. According to the latest USDA Census of Agriculture, 12 percent of all full-time farmers and ranchers are veterans. Yet, for each of these farmer veterans, there is a friend, a brother, a sister who did not come home. In the most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, it’s been estimated that rural casualties were 41 percent higher than those of urban areas because of the proportionately higher number recruits coming from our rural communities. This Memorial Day, and every day, we honor the brave sacrifices our neighbors, friends and family have made for our freedom.

We honor their sacrifice by serving our country in the work we do each day to grow a safe, sustainable food supply. America’s farmers and ranchers see our work as more than a job—it’s a calling. A calling to provide the food, fuel and fiber for our nation. A calling to protect our food supply and the food security of our nation. And a calling to leave the land we farm better than we found it and ready for the next generation to take up our life’s work.

We also honor these heroes by caring for our neighbors and looking out for their fellow soldiers who return safely home. Today, 8 percent of beginning farmers and ranchers are veterans, and we are doing all we can to help more service members return to the farm or get into agriculture for the first time. Thanks to the 2018 farm bill, veterans have greater access to the financial and risk management support they need to get started. This second tour of service is a natural fit for those who have so bravely served our country here and abroad, and U.S. agriculture is honored to have them join our ranks.

The sacrifice of the men and women who have died in service to our country is truly overwhelming. It is my hope and prayer that we all live each day in humble gratitude and that we do all we can to protect the freedom we enjoy because of their sacrifice. Though we can never repay them, we must never forget them.

Zippy Duvall
AFBF President

Massachusetts Employers Need To Prepare As Paid Family & Medical Leave Effective Date Approaches

Last summer Massachusetts legislators passed a bill adding that state to the growing list of locations requiring that employers offer some sort of paid family leave. That bill ultimately was signed by the governor, meaning that Massachusetts employers should be preparing to comply with several provisions of the Massachusetts Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) law, which goes into effect on July 1, 2019. The Massachusetts Department of Family and Medical Leave, which was created to administer the PFML law, recently released revised proposed regulations, which highlight several immediate compliance steps for employers with Massachusetts workers – including both employees and covered independent contractors – to take.

The PFML law creates a state insurance program to provide Massachusetts workers with paid leave to welcome a new child, for their own serious illness or injury, to take care of an ill or ailing relative, or in relation to certain military circumstances. The leave is administered and paid through the state program, which is funded through payroll deductions from covered Massachusetts workers and employers.

While Massachusetts workers will not be eligible to take paid family and medical leave through the state program until 2021, employers of Massachusetts workers will be required to provide notice of the benefits to covered workers in advance of the effective date, to begin making PFML contributions as of July 1, 2019, and to file their first mandatory quarterly reports in October 2019.

Notice Requirements Should Be Met by May 31, 2019

By May 31, 2019, employers should provide written notice to their current work force of PFML benefits, contribution rates, and other provisions. The department has posted form notices for employees and independent contractors, which are available for download here: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/informing-your-workforce-about-paid-family-and-medical-leave/ written-notice-requirements. Or employers can create their own forms as long as the notices meet the minimum requirements set out by the department.

The notice can be provided electronically or in paper form and must include the opportunity for an employee or independent contractor to acknowledge receipt or decline to acknowledge receipt of the information. Employers must collect and maintain acknowledgements in either paper form or electronically. New employees and independent contractors should receive the written acknowledgment within 30 days of hiring.

Before July 1, 2019, employers must also display the Massachusetts Paid Family and Medical Leave poster (found online) at each Massachusetts works location.

Employers that fail to provide the required notice can face a fine of $50 per individual for a first violation, and $300 per individual for a subsequent violation.

Action Items:

- Prepare notices to be distributed to employees and independent contractors regarding PFML deductions, benefits and eligibility. Confer with legal counsel as necessary to review notices if you are not using the department’s forms.
- Create a system for receiving and tracking notice acknowledgment forms.
- Post the required PFML poster in every Massachusetts works location.
- Provide the poster electronically to employees and independent contractors who do not have a specified work location.

Payroll Deductions Begin July 1, 2019

Employers with Massachusetts covered workers will be required to start making contributions to the state paid leave fund on July 1, 2019. The contribution rate for 2019 is set at 0.63 percent of each covered worker’s wages on the first $132,900 of annual gross earnings (this earnings cap is tied to the annual limit for federal Social Security payroll deductions). The contribution rate may be changed annually and will be determined by October 1 for the following calendar year.

The 0.63 percent payroll tax rate will be split between the two leave programs: 0.52 percent for medical leave and 0.11 percent for family leave. Employers can deduct all of the 0.11 percent family leave contribution and up to 40 percent of the 0.52 percent medical leave contribution from wages paid to covered workers. Employers with fewer than 25 covered workers in Massachusetts do not have to pay any employer share of the medical leave contribution, but larger employers will be required to pay the remaining 60 percent of the medical leave contribution rate.

Employers are responsible for remitting the full 0.63 percent contribution to the state paid leave fund, including both the employee portion withheld through payroll deductions and any required employer portion. Contributions for July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019 must be paid through the MassTaxConnect portal by October 31, 2019. Failure to make the required contributions will result in a penalty of 0.63 percent of an employer’s total annual payroll for each year of compliance failure (or fraction thereof), in addition to the penalties noted above.

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Agritourism Study Committee Soon Underway
By: Brad Mitchell, MFBF Deputy Executive Director

Massachusetts farmers face some of the highest costs of production in the world. Coupled with a short growing season and unpredictable weather it can be difficult to survive and flourish as a farm in the Commonwealth. To combat these challenges, Massachusetts farmers have found many ways to capture more value for their product – direct sale farm stands, pick-your-own, farmers markets and CSAs (community supported agriculture).

Increasingly, farmers have captured value from their farms rather than just their farm products. Agritourism, once limited mainly to pick-your-own and corn mazes, has grown exponentially in the last decade. Common agritourism activities include weddings, bachelorette parties, birthday parties, charity races, farm festivals and other events. The phenomenon of agritourism only seems to be growing, with more and more consumers wanting to spend time on farms in a variety of ways.

Unfortunately, as is often the case, the law does not keep up with the marketplace. There have been a fair number of cases where laws pertaining to agriculture – such as zoning, public health, nuisance, taxes, APR (agricultural preservation restriction), etc. – do not address agritourism. This has created confusion, conflict and delays around proposed agritourism activities and events. In some cases, this resulted in agritourism activities being prohibited.

Questions such as when agricultural law applies to agritourism are often valid. For instance, state law allows agriculture to occur in any locations regardless of local zoning. However, it's questionable whether the intention was to allow wedding bands to play into the wee hours of the morning in a residential zone every weekend. Such conflicts have also led to the question of when an operation is a farm conducting agritourism events, and when it is an event venue with an agritourism theme.

In too many cases, these questions and ambiguities have become a barrier to farms beyond being able to host agritourism events. Legislation filed by the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) passed last session to establish an Agricultural Study Commission to explore these issues and make recommendations on how the state government can address these conflicts and bolster this rapidly growing sector of the tourism industry.

The Commission is chaired by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) and is made up of representatives of the farming community (including MFBF), municipal government, legislators, tourism officials and health officials. Final recommendations are due at the end of this year.

MDAR is working to pull the Commission together and the first meeting is expected to be announced relatively soon. These are open, public meetings. It will be important for farmers to attend. The Trade Council has the benefits of agritourism, those who have experience problems with agritourism and those who want to do more with agritourism – it is important you share your experiences and plans with this Commission.

Keep an eye on the Weekly Update (sent via email) for notices of Commission meetings. If you do not receive our Weekly Update, please contact MFBF's Director of Marketing and Communications Katelyn Parsons at katelyn@mfbf.net or with your preferred email address.

Brad Mitchell
Deputy Executive Director
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products in a direct shot at the American heartland, where support for Trump runs high.

William Reinsch, a trade analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a former U.S. Trade Representative, said the administration’s aid package for farmers “is a fairly overt political ploy.”

“It’s not economics,” Reinsch said. “Trump wants to win the farm states again in the 2020 election, and he’s got members of Congress beating up on him to resolve the trade conflicts.

Financial markets slumped May 23 on heightened tensions between the U.S. and China. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 286 points, or 1%, to 25,490. It had been down 448 points earlier in the day.

U.S. crude plunged 6% on fears that the trade standoff could knock the global economy out of kilter and kill demand for energy.

Economists at the New York Federal Reserve, meanwhile, estimated the latest round of tariff hikes will cost the typical U.S. household $831 a year. “In sum, according to our estimates, these higher tariffs are likely to increase economic distortions and reduce U.S. tariff revenues,” the New York Fed economists wrote.

Talks between the world’s biggest economies broke off earlier this month with no resolution to a dispute over Beijing’s aggressive efforts to challenge American technological dominance. The U.S. charges that China is stealing technology, unfairly subsidizing its own companies and forcing U.S. companies to hand over trade secrets if they want access to the Chinese market.

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to discuss the standoff at a meeting of the Group of 20 major economies in Osaka, Japan, next month. There are no current plans for talks to occur before then.

Speaking to reporters on May 23, Trump suggested that he might be willing to make the embattled Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei part of the trade talks with China. His administration put Huawei, which it has called a threat to national security, on a blacklist that effectively barred U.S. firms from selling the Chinese company computer chips and other components without government approval. The move could cripple Huawei, the world’s largest manufacturer of networking gear and second-biggest smartphone maker.

“I can imagine Huawei being included in some form of a trade deal,” Trump said. He offered no details but said any arrangement “would look very good for us, I can tell you that.”

Briefing reporters on the farm aid package, Perdue said he doubted that “a trade deal could be consummated before” the first payments to farmers in July or August.

The second payment will be made around November, and the third likely in early 2020. USDA officials said, unless a trade deal has been reached by then.

The direct payments will make up $14.5 billion of the $16 billion package and will be handed out on a county-by-county basis. The amounts will be determined by how much each county has suffered from the retaliatory duties imposed by China, as well as previous tariffs put in place by the European Union and Turkey.

The rest of the package includes $1.4 billion to purchase surplus food commodities from farmers and distributor them to U.S. schools and food banks, and $100 million to help develop new export markets overseas.

The payments will go to farmers producing roughly two dozen crops, including corn, soybeans, cotton, canola, peanuts, cotton and wheat. Dairy and hog farmers are also eligible.

“Farmers want trade, not aid, but this will be helpful,” said Republican Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

U.S. soybean exports to China have been hit particularly hard, falling from $12.3 billion in 2017 to just $3.2 billion last year.

The aid offsets some of the losses. But farmers are worried about the future and whether they can win back lost sales in China, a market they’ve spent years breaking into. “I don’t think any kind of bailout package, even if it was permanent, would substitute for the loss markets,” said Rufus Yerxa, president of the National Foreign Trade Council and a former U.S. trade official.

Trump has said that China is footing the bill for the farm bailout by paying the tariffs. But tariffs are paid by U.S. importers, and studies have shown that American consumers and businesses usually end up absorbing the higher costs.

Perdue acknowledged that the tariffs, regardless of who pays them, are sent to the Treasury Department and not earmarked for the relief program. But he said that China is “indirectly” paying for the aid.

“The president feels that China is paying for this program through the tariffs,” Perdue said.

Trump has imposed 25% tariffs on $250 billion in Chinese imports and is planning to hit another $300 billion worth, a move that would extend import taxes to just about everything China ships to the United States.
Surge of Ticks Expected In The Northeast, Mid-Atlantic States Due To Wet, Mild Winter

Record setting precipitation combined with mild temperatures this winter are setting the stage for an explosion in the tick population this spring, according to researchers at Rutgers University.

“Ticks, like most small organisms, are very sensitive to dry weather. It kills them,” said Dina M. Fonseca, a Rutgers entomology professor and director of the Center for Vector Biology. “But we have been experiencing exceptionally wet seasons. It slows down their decline in number. So we could end up for a very large population this year.”

The Northeast and Mid-Atlantic experienced above average precipitation and temperatures during the winter months leading to this spring. According to New Jersey State climatologist David Robinson, the Garden State averaged 64.8 inches of precipitation in 2018 — the wettest year on record — followed by a winter featuring the 13th-most precipitation since 1895.

Ticks are known for spreading a host of diseases like ehrlichiosis, tularemia, and Lyme Disease, but the Lone Star Tick is also known to cause alpha-gal syndrome where one develops an allergy to a sugar found in red meat and in some medications.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides the following advice for preventing tick bites:

**Before You Go Outdoors**

Know where to expect ticks. Ticks live in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas, or even on animals. Spending time outside walking your dog, camping, gardening, or hunting could bring you in close contact with ticks. Many people get ticks in their own yard or neighborhood.

Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5 percent permethrin. Permethrin can be used to treat boots, clothing and camping gear and remain protective through several washings. Alternatively, you can buy permethrin-treated clothing and gear.

Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaraidin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), para-methane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone. EPA's helpful search tool can help you find the product that best suits your needs. Always follow product instructions.

- Do not use insect repellent on babies younger than 2 months old.
- Do not use products containing OLE or PMD on children under 3 years old.

**Avoid Contact with Ticks**

- Avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter.
- Walk in the center of trails.

**After You Come Indoors**

Check your clothing for ticks. Ticks may be carried into the house on clothing. Any ticks that are found should be removed. Tumble dry clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors. If the clothes are damp, additional time may be needed. If the clothes require washing first, hot water is recommended. Cold and medium temperature water will not kill ticks.

Examine gear and pets. Ticks can ride into the home on clothing and pets, then attach to a person later, so carefully examine pets, coats, and daypacks.

Shower soon after being outdoors. Showering within two hours of coming indoors has been shown to reduce your risk of getting Lyme disease and may be effective in reducing the risk of other tickborne diseases. Showering may help wash off unattached ticks and it is a good opportunity to do a tick check.

Check your body for ticks after being outdoors. Conduct a full body check upon return from potentially tick-infested areas, including your own backyard. Use a hand-held or full-length mirror to view all parts of your body. Check these parts of your body and your child's body for ticks:

- Under the arms
- In and around the ears
- Inside belly button
- Back of the knees
- In and around the hair
- Between the legs
- Around the waist

Chester E. Goodfield Scholarship

One or more scholarships may be awarded each year in memory of Chester E. Goodfield of Hardwick, Massachusetts, a long time dairyman, community and civic leader. Any resident of Massachusetts is encouraged to apply for this $1,000.00 scholarship under the following guidelines:

High school seniors are eligible for this scholarship, but preference will be given to students that have successfully completed at least one year of study in a 2 or 4 year degree granting program.

Selection is based on academic standing and leadership qualities.

Preference will be given to students majoring in production agriculture, agri-business, forestry or the environmental or biological sciences.

Each year the scholarship is presented at the Hardwick Community Fair.

The deadline to apply is July 1, 2019. The application may be obtained by calling Robert Bottomley at 413-477-6518 or writing to PO. Box 16, Hardwick, MA 01037. The Paige Agricultural Trustees of Hardwick will make the final decision. The scholarship will be paid directly to the student.
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total amount of the benefits paid to covered individuals for whom no contributions were made.

Action Items:

• Work with your payroll department or payroll provider to set up payroll deductions to begin July 1, 2019.
• Ensure you are registered with MassTaxConnect and make payments for the first quarter contributions (for July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019) by no later than October 31, 2019.

First Mandatory Quarterly Report Due in October 2019

Employers are required to submit the first mandatory quarterly report through the MassTaxConnect portal in October 2019. Specific reporting and documentation guidelines will be announced by July 1, 2019, but employers should expect quarterly reports to include the following information for employees and 1099 workers: the name, Social Security number, and wages paid or other earnings for each employee and 1099 worker.

The department will use the quarterly report to determine the total quarterly contribution owed, which must be paid through MassTaxConnect within 30 days after the end of the quarter.

Action Item:

• Check the department’s website or confer with your legal counsel in June to confirm specific reporting requirements.

Employers Can Apply for Exemption for Private Plan

If you already provide employees with a paid leave benefit, you can apply for an annual exemption through the MassTaxConnect portal beginning April 29, 2019. A private benefit plan, whether self-funded or through a third-party insurer, must be at least as generous as the benefits provided by the PFML and cannot be more expensive for an employee than the contributions allowed under the PFML. Applications for exemptions will be reviewed and acceptance conveyed on a rolling basis, will be effective for one year, and may be renewed annually.

Action Item:

• Consider whether your private leave benefit plan might qualify for an exemption and, if it does, apply for the exemption as soon as April 29, 2019.

As a reminder, when PFML benefits become available, covered workers will be eligible for the following annual benefits:

• Up to 20 weeks of paid medical leave related to a worker’s own serious health condition that prevents him or her from working;
• Up to 12 weeks of paid family leave related to the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child;
• Up to 12 weeks of paid family leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition;
• Up to 12 weeks of paid leave related to a qualifying exigency due to a family member being on or being called to active duty in the armed forces; and/or
• Up to 26 weeks of paid family leave to care for a family member who is a covered service member with a serious health condition.

Total annual benefits for all qualifying reasons will be capped at 26 weeks per year. All types of paid leave benefits will be available to covered workers on January 21, 2021, except leave related to care for a family member with a serious health condition, which will be available on July 1, 2021.

Tell-Tale Signs Of A Mental Health Crisis For Farmers
By Julie Murphree and Liz Foster
Reprinted from American Farm Bureau Federation's Focus on Agriculture

A strong majority of farmers and farmworkers say financial issues, farm or business problems and fear of losing the farm impact farmers’ mental health, according to a national Morning Consult research poll sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation in recognition of May as Mental Health Month.

With these pressures as a backdrop, there are clear signals to identify potential mental health crisis situations for farmers and ranchers, said Robin Tutor-Marcom, with North Carolina Agromedicine Institute. Her list of signals to be on the lookout for are below.

• Decline in care of crops, animals and farm
• Deterioration of personal appearance
• Increasing life insurance
• Withdrawing from social events, family & friends
• Change in mood and or routine
• Increase in farm accidents
• Family shows signs of stress
• Increase in physical complaints, difficulty sleeping
• Increase in drug or alcohol use
• Giving away prized possessions, calling or saying goodbye
• Feeling trapped (no way out)
• Making statements such as “I have nothing to live for” and “My family would be better off without me; I don’t want to be a burden”

Tutor-Marcom, during a recent national conference of Farm Bureau safety and health coordinators, listed the most commonly diagnosed issues: relationship problems with spouses, parents and children (40%); adjustment problems such as anxiety and depression due to stress (24%); and anxiety disorders including excessive worry and panic (11%).

Farmers and ranchers, according to research, typically manage their stress in one of four ways.

• Figure, reassess and reassure: Always figuring out how to make ends meet. If they can convince themselves it’s going to be OK, they can convince family and loan officers.
• Distraction: They go get parts, ignore troubling issues, take the day off.
• Repression: Eat, drink or do drugs.
• Broaden and Build: Build positive reserves. When times get bad remember the good or fun times (go fishing or camping, participate in other recreational activities).

While some ways to manage stress are positive, others will obviously have a long-term negative impact. And, if a family member recognizes some telltale signs, the experts suggest a few ways to positively improve the situation.

• Listen, don’t blame. While time to talk on the farm may be rare, it’s important, so listen to what needs to be said and show empathy. Many experts suggest that listening non-judgmentally with care and concern may be most of what’s needed.
• Recognize the problem, don’t avoid it. Family members can give encouragement and provide resources for help.
• Cultural and religious beliefs can have a positive impact. For many people, faith is the strongest hope to hang on to.
• Keep resources handy, especially during May, which is Mental Health Month and provides a legitimate excuse to talk about the issue. For example: Employee Assistance Program, www.workhealthlife.com; National Alliance on Mental Health, www.nami.org; Make It OK, https://makeitok.org/resources; and National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255.

American Farm Bureau Federation is advocating for programs that provide America’s farmers and ranchers with critical support and mental health resources and is urging Congress to fund $10 million for the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, the level authorized in the 2018 farm bill.

Julie Murphree is outreach director at Arizona Farm Bureau. Liz Foster is executive director of Maricopa County (Arizona) Farm Bureau. This column was adapted from “Tamping Down the Stress Level on the Farm,” a blog post published by Arizona Farm Bureau.
Overweight Permits, MA Farm Plates

Over-weight permits are allowed on farm plates only for reducible loads.

A reducible load is a load that can be reduced to legal size or weight, or that is practically divided in a way that does not diminish value or inhibit its intended purpose. An example would be a hauler moving potatoes.

To obtain an overweight permit for your farm plated vehicle contact MassDOT at 781-431-5148 or visit them at 668 South Ave, Weston, MA.

*If you are applying for a permit on a farm plated vehicle you will need a copy of your Section 6 FAN Decal Compliance Form that lists all the vehicles, VIN numbers and title numbers. The overweight permit vehicle specific and will list the VIN on the permit, the permit needs to be with the vehicle at all times.

When is a permit for an overweight reducible load is required?

A permit is required to carry any load which together with the vehicle is in excess of the weight allowed by M.G.L. c. 90, § 19 or 19A and M.G.L. c. 85, §§ 30 and 30A.

In general, a permit is required in the following instances:

1. A permit is required to travel on state highways or ways determined by the Department to be a through route for any motor vehicle having two axles which together with its load weighs more than 46,000 pounds, or for any motor vehicle, trailer, semi trailer, or semi trailer unit having three or more axles which together with its load weighs more than 80,000 pounds.

2. In addition, notwithstanding anything provided in 700 CMR 8.04(1) and (2), a permit is required for any motor vehicle, trailer, semi trailer or semi trailer unit which has a weight on any axle, measured on the ground, of more than 22,400 pounds, or if the axles are spaced less than six feet apart, more than 18,000 pounds.

3. In addition, notwithstanding anything provided in 700 CMR 8.04(1) and (2), a permit is required for any motor vehicle, trailer, semi trailer and semi trailer unit where the overall gross weight on a group of two or more consecutive axles exceeds the gross weight (W) produced by computing the formula:

\[ W = \frac{800 - (N \times 12 + 38)}{46} \]

(W = overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles, and N = number of axles in group under consideration, except that two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each providing the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more).

4. Notwithstanding 700 CMR 8.04(1) through (3), the following vehicles may travel on a way while engaging in hauling construction materials, liquid petroleum products or bulk feed without a permit, provided that the gross vehicle weight at which they operate complies with the weight restrictions contained in M.G.L. c. 90, § 17A, does not exceed the gross vehicle weight rating established by the original manufacturer of the chassis and does not exceed the weight for which the vehicle is duly registered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

(a) a construction type motor vehicle with two axles;
(b) a motor vehicle carrying bulk feed;
(c) a construction type semi-trailer or tandem unit or motor vehicle having three axles carrying construction materials;
(d) a semi-trailer unit or motor vehicle having three axles carrying liquid petroleum products;
(e) a motor vehicle having three axles and designed and used for hauling refuse.

Permits will be issued on an annual basis unless otherwise indicated on the permit, but the Department specifically reserves the right to revoke any permit or class of permits, notwithstanding any expiration date contained on the permit to the contrary, when in its judgment and discretion public safety or sound engineering judgment warrants.

FVAC Chapterland Recommended Value For FY 2020
Per Acre Range of Values

- **Cropland Harvested** – This land represents the highest use of land in the agricultural enterprise. All land from which a crop was harvested may be cut, in the current year falls into this category. This includes the land in vegetables, sod, nurseries, orchards, vineyards, other perennial plantings, and greenhouses.

- **Dairy, Beef and Hay; Cropland Pastured, Other Cropland & Permanent Pasture** – Cropland used for pasture or grazing or land considered as tillable but is elected to be fallow or in cover crops. It can and often is used to produce crops, but its maximum income may not be realized in a particular year. This category also includes land planted in crops, which were to be harvested after the census year, and land is typically not tillable, best suited for grazing or possibly part of an erosion control program, plus necessary and related lands.

- **Nonproductive Land** – The land on the farm which is nonproductive primarily due to slope, drainage capacity, soil type or topography.
Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee Happenings

Learn more about this committee at www.MFBF.net! Or follow us on social media - Facebook: @MAFarmBureauYFR & Instagram: @MAFYBYoungFarmers.

Growing Interest In Our Organization: It's Not What It Used To Be

It is no secret that our organization has some work to do concerning the future of our membership. Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) remains at the forefront of legislative success and protecting as well as representing farmers in the Commonwealth, but unfortunately that just does not always resonate all on its own. We have a myriad of benefits and reasons to be a part of our 6,000-member organization. However, that “sales pitch” is not usually the way to get a new, especially younger, member to join or to stay involved.

Instead of focusing on our state-based benefits, we should all take a look at what our individual counties are offering our members. Most counties host a legislative event in the spring as well as an annual meeting in the summer/fall, but that is about it as a standard. If you are taking the time to read this article, you are the type of member I am looking to reach. You can stop up and work with or on your County Board of Directors to organize something more within your county.

Berkshire County has taken the step to make changes in their county and I think we should all follow their example. They are hosting open events every other month for members of all levels to come, engage and provide an opportunity to be involved. If you have not caught details in the Weekly Update email, here is a little snippet:

“Berkshire County Farm Bureau is taking a strategic approach to building and improving communication among farmers regarding legislative and community efforts that support agriculture. An essential piece of this is ensuring that farmers know what resources are available to them and what our region’s organizations are doing to promote agriculture. It is in this spirit that Berkshire County Farm Bureau hope you can join them at their meeting. They have invited representatives from a variety of local organizations that promote agriculture…. Berkshire County Farm Bureau hopes to see you on the 9th for a robust conversation and a bit of socializing. Refreshments will be provided.”

I am fortunate to be a member of the Worcester County Farm Bureau Board of Directors in addition to my role with the young farmers and ranchers (YF&R) committee. With a higher-than-average percentage of “below average age” farmers, Worcester County Farm Bureau is working to make a few additions to our own county benefits. On June 20th we are hosting a free picnic for all membership levels at Tougas Family Farm in Northborough. We have crafted it to be a laid-back, simple event but hope it will offer something for every member from farm tours, food and drink, to a family-friendly atmosphere which is incredibly important in gaining interest in my own age group. My husband James and I have three small children and having an event that we feel we can bring our whole family to and participate in is important to our values in this organization.

What does your county do to encourage active involvement? If there is something you are doing and would like to share, please let me know. It is time we step up and be active within our counties and share successes with each other. Attending an annual meeting or breakfast once a year just is not enough. It is time to step up.

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Cooper.heidi.jo@gmail.com

MFBF Set To Host Livestock On Common

Young farmers will bring their livestock to the Boston Common to discuss farm policy with legislators and consumers on June 5, 2019. This annual event, known as Livestock on the Common, is sponsored by Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation’s (MFBF’s) Young Farmer and Rancher (YF&R) committee and allows both legislators and the public to get up-close and personal with farm-raised livestock and farmers to discuss policies that could impact farms.

As legislators venture to the Common, YF&R committee members will speak to them about two bills of importance to the farming community. Those include: H.B. 868, an act to establish a commission on livestock shelter requirements and S.B. 1268/H.B. 1856, an act relative to agricultural commission input on board of health regulations.

“Common sense laws and regulations are a must for farmers,” said MFBF President Mark Amato. “Both of these bills are meant to create workable regulations for farmers that would not overburden their businesses with red tape. For example, S.B. 1268/H.B. 1856, would allow agricultural commissions to have input on changing local regulations related to agriculture. As many municipal boards of health have no expertise around farming but can make regulations that could impact the viability of local farms, having farmers’ input makes sense.”

H.B. 868 would create a commission of humane, veterinary and farming representatives charged with creating guidance on livestock shelter needs to direct farmers and regulators in ensuring proper shelter for livestock. This is in response to recent legislation that attempted to create a “one-size-fits-all” requirement for livestock. As shelter needs for livestock vary with specie, age and condition of the animal, a “one-size-fits-all” strategy is not possible. This board would help create guidelines for different kinds of livestock. Both bills would allow farmers to have input on creating workable regulations and standards and MFBF’s YF&R is looking forward to discussing them with legislators. Additionally, this committee will be looking forward to great discussions with consumers during their day on the Boston Common.

“We are proud that our committee has hosted this event successfully for six years and are excited to sponsor it a seventh year,” said MFBF YF&R Chair Heidi Cooper. “We have expanded the event to draw in consumers and allow anyone who is walking by the Boston Common on June 5 to stop in. Social media ‘selfies’ with the animals are encouraged and we are more than happy to answer any questions that consumers have.”

P&E Resources: Children’s Activity Booklets!

The Promotion and Education Committee is pleased to present members with a booklet that can be distributed at local fairs for children to complete and another booklet that can be distributed at local farmers markets. The purpose of these booklets are to teach children about agriculture and create awareness of MFBF.

To download a complete file of the fair booklet for printing, please visit: http://files.constantcontact.com/ac569F37001/3060b1a2-3518-4ad6-ac6e-73e11da6d089.pdf. To download a complete file of the farmers market booklet for printing, please visit: http://files.constantcontact.com/ac569F37001/521a4870-a5d-43fa-a449-f610215b38fa.pdf.
From guard duty to herding livestock, canine companions play an integral role in daily farming operations.

Name: Buddy
Owner: Chris Grant
Farm: Grant Family Farm

Name: Wyatt
Owner: Ryan MacKay
Farm: Lilac Hedge Farm

Name: Thor
Owner: Heidi & Jimmy Cooper & Family
Farm: Lilac Hedge Farm/Davidian Farm

Name: Louie
Owner: Heather Bonanno-Baker
Farm: Pleasant Valley Gardens

Name: Dino
Owner: Meg Gennings
Farm: Lilac Hedge Farm
Lazy Stallion Friesians
by Alessandra Mele
Reprinted with permission, April/May Massachusetts Horse, mahorse.com

We’ve all got a story that begins with, “I went to Equine Affaire and came home with…” Maybe it was that new saddle you just couldn’t pass up, or the pink blanket for your gelding. We’re certainly all guilty of yet another saddle pad.

William “Billy” Piazza and his wife Caren have a good chuckle when they recall a particular Equine Affaire about 15 years ago, from which a certain purchase changed the course of their lives. “Billy went down to West Springfield with a friend, interested in Rocky Mountain horses,” Caren says, smiling. “But it was there that he first saw Ytsen, a magnificent Friesian gelding, and we ended up taking him home along with two others. That’s how our love for Friesians started.”

That trip to Equine Affaire led to a life devoted to the majestic breed, many unforgettable horses, and the creation of what is Lazy Stallion Friesians in West Bridgewater.

The three-acre property is a haven for the training, breeding, and shear enjoyment of Friesians, providing top care with an interest in preserving the integrity of the breed. Many fine examples of these graceful black horses have come through the Piazzas’ gates, but it all goes back to Ytsen, whose recent passing has left a powerful void in the farm. “He was drop dead gorgeous,” Caren says. “It’s in Ytsen’s memory that Caren and Billy continue to bring out the best of this special breed at Lazy Stallion Friesians.

Built with Each Horse in Mind
Ytsen may have gotten the Piazzas hooked on Friesians, but it was a Quarter Horse who really started it all. In 2002, the Piazzas had just purchased a horse in West Bridgewater, where Billy ran Suburban Insulation Company, the company his father started in 1958. There was a neglected horse nearby that Caren took notice of — she knew he needed a loving home. His name was Bo.

“The owners wouldn’t surrender him so we bought him and took him home,” Caren says. “We didn’t have a barn yet, so we put all house renovations on hold and started construction on the barn. We ended up making a stall in the garage where Bo lived for a little while, but soon he had a two-story stall barn all to himself!”

The stalls weren’t empty for long though, as Billy would soon take that fateful trip to Equine Affaire and bring home three more Friesians. The beautiful facility attracted other Friesian lovers in the area, and the farm opened its doors to boarders. At one point 21 horses, most of them Friesians, called Lazy Stallion Friesians home.

The name Lazy Stallion is a relic from Billy’s teenage years. He grew up with it and still drives a horse for his Alpaca ranch with the ladies. “Billy was drop dead handsome,” Caren says, blushing. “The girls chased him relentlessly but he always ran the other way! So his brother called him the Lazy Stallion, and many years later I brought it a fitting name for our farm.”

Looking at the property today, however, “lazy” is simply not an adjective that comes to mind. The place is meticulous, and has been built to best accommodate the horses that live there, as well as the people that care for them. It’s hard to believe the setting is only three acres, as the Piazzas have designed it to allow for ample turn-out, complete training, and peaceful enjoyment of the natural beauty surrounding the horses.

The original main barn holds 12 rocky stalls, and in 2013 a spacious round pen with a handle for carriage driving was constructed, with a four-stall barn attached. Round pens and paddocks have been added — Billy’s always looking to make improvements. Lazy Stallion Friesians has been named a Massachusetts Farm Bureau Horse Farm of Distinction multiple times, and the happy attitudes and sheer magnificence of the place live there reflects that accolade.

The people engaging with the horses regularly can attest to that. Gina works at Lazy Stallion Friesians and thoroughly enjoys the daily days she spends at the stables. “Caren and Billy are really great people,” she says. “They love their horses and you can see that in the way they take care of them and the property. Even if it’s a rainy day and the horses are stuck in their stalls, they’re so friendly and pleasant to be around. You can just tell they’re very happy horses. That’s because here they’re loved like family and are given the best care.”

Monica Southwick keeps her three thoroughbreds at Lazy Stallion Friesians, and has been working with the Piazzas and their horses for years.

“One of the things I love about this place is the individual attention we receive from Caren and Billy. ‘The facility is set up perfectly for that. I started working as a groom here years ago, and it’s been so nice to see the facility grow over time. It’s clear Billy and Caren are willing to invest in the particular details that make a barn comfortable for both horse and rider. It’s a gorgeous facility, and it’s also very practical, which is an important balance.’

A Love for Friesians
As beautiful as the facility is, it’s the horses living at Lazy Stallion Friesians that truly make the place feel like home. When Billy and Caren first became interested in Friesians, the breed was coming out of a period of near-extinction, and there were few farms in the area catering to the romantic black horses. “There was only one farm we knew of focusing on Friesians at that time in Massachusetts, which is where our original three Friesians came from,” Caren says. “She remembers seeing Ytsen for the first time, just after his appearance at Equine Affaire. ‘I said to Billy, ‘I like this horse.’”

Billy enjoyed the Friesians he and Caren had opened their home to so much that he became interested in breeding as a means of preserving the integrity of the breed. Lazy Stallion Friesians has welcomed nine foals since it first started breeding, and the Piazzas take great joy in seeing the foals grow and reach their full potential. They have sold most, but keep the ones that they have deep connections with, like Giselle, a filly out of Billy’s favorite driving mare, Mitsuko, a.k.a. Mitzy. He’s currently working with the young man in harness,2019, that she was groomed indoor arena awaiting fresh carriage tracks to fields with grazing youngsters, Lazy Stallion Friesians achieves the perfect balance of a gorgeous and practical farm, and Caren and Billy continue to thrive in that that it's become. “It’s home,” Caren says, simply.

Alessandra Mele is a freelance writer and designer in Wilbraham. She enjoys spending time with the horses on her family’s farm, especially riding her Quarter Horse, Jolo. To see more of her work, visit thehomegrownstudio.com.

Lazy Stallion Friesians received Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation’s 2019 Horse Farm of Distinction award. Applications for the 2020 award closed on May 31, 2019. Stay tuned for next year’s award winners!
Flax Pond Farms
by Bonnie Soule
Reprinted with permission of Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association, cranberries.org

Carver, Massachusetts has many dirt roads that lead one off the beaten path to the beautiful, and sometimes hidden, scenery of cranberry bogs. One such dirt road recently brought CCCGA to Flax Pond Farms and a visit with Jack and Dot Angley at their home overlooking the bogs.

Jack Angley grew up in Pembroke and was on the path to becoming a physician like his father when he graduated from Notre Dame heading to UVM Medical School. He never went and, well, let's just say that his path turned a different direction and the cranberry industry ended up the eventual beneficiary of that change in course.

Jack's adventures in cranberrying began in 1967 when he bought 25 acres of bogs at Flax Pond in Carver with the help of his father. At the time he was in the construction business building houses so had the equipment to work the bogs. Since purchasing the 25 acres, Jack has added an additional 10 acres and grows Early Blacks and Howes varieties.

His new business venture that brought him to Carver also brought him to Dot. Dot was born and raised in Carver and has a longer history in cranberries than Jack. Her parents used to help pick during harvest when she was around 4 years old. In 1975 Dot was working in the Town Hall and that's where she met Jack. He was building a house and had to visit the Town Hall offices frequently. They were married soon after and will be celebrating their 44th wedding anniversary this August!

Due to the lack of water available, Jack has always dry picked his 100 year old bogs. Back in 1967, the first year Jack harvested his bogs, Ocean Spray had just opened their new facility in Middleboro and closed the Hanson location. Jack recalls not many neighboring growers were dry picking at that time. Several thought they'd like to try it but didn't want to do the picking. Up until 5 years ago, Jack spent many years taking a crew of workers to dry pick for other growers too. While he says it wasn't a very profitable venture for him, he is proud that he kept a lot of people working over the years.

The Angleys love to talk to people from all over the world who come visit Flax Pond. They have contracted with several tour companies since 2000 and have a great relationship with all. When the buses arrive, Jack climbs right in and introduces himself and Flax Pond Farms before inviting the visitors to explore the bogs and the shop. In addition to the scheduled tours, many times they get last minute requests form the bus company to come up from Cape Cod when their tours experience bad weather and can't take the ferries to the island. Jack says they can take 50 people at a time and conduct tours throughout spring, summer and fall. The Angleys say in the fall they have 2 to 4 tours visiting daily.

Away from Flax Pond, Jack and Dot have been active with CCCGA through the years. Jack served as President in the mid-90's and is currently on the Marketing & Promotions Outreach Committee. Dot ran the Promotions Committee for several years and loved working with people. She recalled cooking contests at Edaville in the early 70's and bringing the world of cranberries to Eastern States Exposition (the Big E as we commonly know it today) in the 80's. Jack was the Association's "PR guy" during the 80's as well. He would do speaking engagements throughout the area and received an invitation for CCCGA to exhibit at the MA Horticultural Society's Flower Show in Boston. He remembers the year they setup a whole bog with 3 working water pumps. They were right in front and had a lot of TV coverage. While Jack says PR is one of the toughest businesses in the world because there is no direct measure of success, it's obvious that he greatly enjoyed his time promoting the cranberry industry to the public.

An avid musician, Jack plays the piano and for over 30 years was part of a trip that played regularly at PJ's Country House in Scituate. He currently serves as his church's organist and choir director. He also has served as Carver Selectman, President of the Plymouth County Farm Bureau and, until recently, was the country representative to the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Jack and Dot, both in their 80's, have had some recent struggles with health and getting farm help. Because of this, 2018 was the first harvest in 51 years that saw his bogs partially wet picked. After dry picking 13 acres of Early Blacks, he told us some friends came to his aid. Makepeace let them use his neighbor's water source and, with a moveable pump he owns, fellow growers came and helped him get the rest of the harvest in.

After all these years, Jack and Dot still enjoy being cranberry growers. The freedom to do your own thing and be your own boss without having to go to an office everyday is what has kept Jack cranberrying year after year. Dot, when asked what her favorite thing about growing cranberries is, told us "looking out my window at the view"... and it is a marvelous view indeed.

Bonnie Soule works as the CCCGA special projects coordinator.
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Please visit www.MFBF.net for more information.

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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.

Visit www.farmbureau.co/member-benefits/ for more information.

MFB 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.

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.

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts

Wyndham 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. Whether 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.

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**Tufts University in North Grafton will apply**

10% discount to all Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation members in good standing.

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*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.
Letter to the Editor

O

Dec 1, 2016, at an MFBF Annual Meeting, a packed room of farmers gathered to talk to the MDAR Commissioner, legislators and the MFBF membership to address their deep concerns with the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program. As a new member to the Governor’s Board of Agriculture at that time, I took the concerns to heart and they inspired me to push for greater transparency and for a review of the program with the Board of Agriculture.

The problems with the APR program have been there for many years without adequate attempts to remedy them. The injustices and the problems with the program became known to the general public, when two farming families on the South Coast became involved in a bureaucratic snare. One family tragically had to sell an APR farm to settle medical liens and other bills of a parent. The other family, who was standing by his decision. “He had the power to do this and he did it” he told the Commissioner that farmed of their choice, they were reached out to the Commissioner and told by the Commissioner that they were going to lose their farm and the “Option at Ag Value,” all for a transaction, left the buying farm home owners. “Accordingly, the APR program has for about the last 25 years been the sustenance for land trusts. Many trusts were started by farmers, but many have changed as their membership and boards have become more interested in politically correct options for the land. In my opinion, now is the time to return the program back to the original 1974 intent and to use all tools necessary, including the full power of MDAR’s objectives that are included in the public, Board of Agriculture or the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee, despite legislative mandates for the Committee and Board to work together.

The APR program has for about the last 25 years been the sustenance for land trusts. Many trusts were started by farmers, but many have changed as their membership and boards have become more interested in politically correct options for the land. In my opinion, now is the time to return the program back to the original 1974 intent and to use all tools necessary, including the full power of the Boards and Committees established by Legislators for agriculture. The Board of Agriculture and the Board’s legislative charge of “Supervision and Control” of the Department, as stated in M.G.L. Chapter 20 Section 1, have not been used to the greatest value in supporting commercial farmers, but instead have been used to “rubber stamp” MDAR’s objectives and leaning to more regulations for commercial farmers. The Board has had the power to address the program problems all along, but without strong leadership in the chairmanship, that power has been wasted for the farming community.

Two new seats on the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee are directly connected to land trusts and organizations completely behaving to MDAR funding. Farm Bureau has been the key to supporting APR farmers and to farmers considering the program in the future, but we must unite the voices representing MFBF on this program and on other MFBF priorities, and not send mixed messages, especially to legislators by Farm Bureau.

Farm Bureau’s May 7th letter of response to the APR regulatory revisions - 330 CMR 22.00 was very well written to highlight the problems with the “Option at Ag Value” “Right of First Refusal” and other problems with the program and the pending regulations. I encourage you to read it and to support it.

I want to thank MFBF President Mark Amato and Executive Director Doug Gillespie for standing strong in their response letter to the pending regulations for APR transfers, for Brad Mitchell fighting for us on the Hill.

Submitted by Laura Sapienza-Grabski, Essex County Farm Bureau member

This letter to the editor represents the opinions and views of the author, and not necessarily the policies of Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation.

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Support Massachusetts Farmers - Join MFBF

Name: ________________________ Phone: ________________________
Farm Name: __________________ City, State, Zip: __________________
Date: __/__/____
Referral by: ____________________

Please indicate which commodity areas best fit the product(s) you produce:

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

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

Thank you for your support!
Recipe: No Bake Strawberry Cheesecake Desert

**Ingredients**
- 2 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs, divided
- 1 stick butter, melted
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 (8-ounce) containers frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16-ounce) container fresh strawberries, divided

**How to make**

1. In a medium bowl, combine 2 cups of graham cracker crumbs and melted butter.
2. Firmly press into a crust in the bottom of a 9x13 glass or porcelain dish, let it chill in the freezer for about 10-15 minutes to firm up.
3. In a large bowl, combine the softened cream cheese, powdered sugar, and 1 container of the whipped topping. Stir well to combine. Spread the mixture evenly over the cooled crust.
4. Set 5-6 whole strawberries aside for decoration.
5. Wash, hull, and slice remaining strawberries. Layer the berries evenly on top of the cream cheese mixture.
6. Top with the remaining container of whipped topping. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours, preferably overnight.
7. Top with the remaining whole and chopped strawberries, and sprinkle with graham cracker crumbs (you may not use it all), before serving.

*If your strawberries aren’t sweet enough, add 1/4 cup of sugar and 1 Tbsp of lemon juice in a bowl with your sliced strawberries. Mix well and set aside. Do not forget to drain the strawberries, before you place them on.

**Attention College Students: Apply Today For MFBF’s Gregory Finn Scholarship**

The Gregory Finn Scholarship was established in loving memory of a good friend to agriculture, Gregory L. Finn. Finn was Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation’s Information & Public Relations Director, a religious and devoted family man, who died of a heart attack in 1983 at the age of 55.

Born in Hyde Park, Finn attended Boston College, Suffolk Law School and Leland Powers Broadcast School. He hosted WBZ “Countrieside” program since its inception and was an announcer for WBET in Brockton and WORL in Boston. On air, he was the high-energy host responsible for introducing the latest hit music as well as news broadcasts, “live advertisements” and on-air interviews with a long list of movie stars, pop-stars and celebrities.

Though not a farmer himself, Finn possessed a unique ability to bridge the gap between agriculture and suburbia. He was a natural at interpreting and conveying the problems facing farmers in a way that non-agricultural communities could understand. Finn was aware that a whole generation had grown up without exposure to perhaps the single most vital industry in the Commonwealth...Agriculture.

This scholarship is awarded in Finn’s memory to foster an understanding and perhaps help to close the gap between the farm community and suburban Massachusetts.

Applicants must be a child or legal dependent of a MFBF regular member in good standing. Applicants must be at least in their junior year of college when the scholarship is awarded. Applicants must be majoring in communications, journalism, music or an agriculturally related field.

Application must be submitted to “The Greg Finn Scholarship Fund” by Aug. 31.

Application must be accompanied by a sealed official copy of the applicant’s college transcript; and a 250 word statement on why the applicant has chosen this particular field of study and projected career goals.

To request an application please contact MFBF at info@mfbf.net.

**Are You Interested In Serving On One Of MFBF’s Advisory Committees? Learn More!**

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation has a number of committees that provide leadership and staff with guidance and assistance throughout the year. Many of these committees meet on an as-needed basis, however, some meet more often.

These committees include:
- Apiary
- Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)
- Cannabis
- Equine
- Fruit and Vegetables
- Livestock
- Membership
- Promotion and Education
- Resolutions
- Young Farmers and Ranchers

Are you interested in serving on one of these committees? Please get in touch with your county Farm Bureau president to see if there is an opening.

**Leopold Conservation Award Comes To New England**

A prestigious award program that celebrates voluntary conservation by farmers and forestland owners is coming to New England.

The Leopold Conservation Award recognizes landowners who inspire others with their dedication to ethical land, water and wildlife habitat management on agricultural land.

Sand County Foundation will present the annual award in partnership with New England Forestry Foundation and American Farmland Trust-New England.

New England’s first award recipient will receive the $10,000 award later this year.

The Leopold Conservation Award is given to farmers, ranchers and foresters in states across the U.S. in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold. In his influential 1949 book, “A Sand County Almanac”, Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage.

Applications for the first New England Leopold Conservation Award are now being accepted. Owners of forestland and farmland in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont may apply for the award themselves or be nominated by another party. Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel of agricultural and forestry conservation leaders.

The application is found at: https://sandcountyfoundation.org/our-work/leopold-conservation-award-program/state/new-england-region.

Applications must be postmarked by July 15, 2019 and mailed to: Leopold Conservation Award c/o New England Forestry Foundation P.O. Box 1346 Littleton, MA 01460

“Leopold Conservation Award recipients are at the forefront of a movement by America’s farmers, ranchers and foresters to simultaneously achieve economic and environmental success,” said Kevin McAleese, Sand County Foundation’s President and CEO.

FOR SALE: 1980 Ford F-350 Box truck, rollup rear door, V8 engine, 4-speed manual transmission on floor, needs some body work on cab, 82,325 ORIGINAL MILES, good strong farm truck, runs great, started out as equipment truck for Boston Red Sox, $950 or B.O. Call 508-496-9873.


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, $2.50 each, volume discount available. Assorted pallets .50 each & 4-way cherry pallets $1.00 each. Please text or message: 978-660-0980.


FOR SALE: Horse – 1st, 2nd no dust guaranteed. Wholesale & retail. Lg. Square or Round upon request. Now taking orders 100% all natural cuts of pork, beef, lamb, goat & poultry. Homestead Farms 774-259-6960.


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Farm Animal Excise: FY 2020

The Commissioner of Revenue, under the provisions of General Laws Chapter 59, section 8A, has determined the value of farm animals for the purpose of the Farm Animal Excise, as of January 1, 2019 for fiscal year 2020 to be as follows:

**MULES** $100.00

**HORSES (BREEDING AND WORKING)**
- Prize Horses $5,000.00-$10,000.00
- Horses $1,000.00
- Ponies $500.00
- Miniature Horses $700.00

**DAIRY CATTLE**
- Cows - Over two years $700.00
- Bulls - Over two years $700.00
- Yearlings - < two years $400.00

**BEEF CATTLE**
- Cows, Bulls, and Steers $700.00
- Yearlings $400.00

**OTHER LIVESTOCK**
- Swine $80.00
- Sheep $100.00
- Goats $35.00
- LLAMA & ALPACA $800.00
- MISCELLANEOUS $250.00-$700.00

**DOMESTIC FOWL**
- Chickens $2.00
- Ducks $2.00
- Geese $2.00
- Turkeys $5.00
- Ratites (Emu, Ostrich, Rhea) $100.00

**MINK** $35.00

In the day-to-day, your people are your business. And maintaining timely and compliant payroll is critical to keeping your organization healthy for the long haul. Learn how we can help you keep your business strong at the roots with payroll services from Farm Credit East.

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DAYVILLE 800.327.6785 | ENFIELD 800.562.2235
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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.

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**YOU KNOW YOUR BUSINESS WE KNOW HOW TO HELP YOU INSURE IT**

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American National is a group of companies writing a broad array of insurance products and services. Products and services may not be available in all states. Terms, conditions and eligibility requirements will apply. Property and casualty products and services may be underwritten by Farm Family Casualty Insurance Company, Glenmont, New York.