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MASSACHUSETTS FARM BUREAU FEDERATION'S

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NEWS & VIEWS

JAN/FEB 2020

*www.***MFBF***.net*

MFBF Earns Top Farm Bureau Awards

The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) was honored as one of the top Farm Bureaus across the nation during American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF's) Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, when it received the Pinnacle Award and New Horizon Award.

The Pinnacle Award is the highest award a state Farm Bureau can earn for program and membership

achievement. Farm Bureaus compete annually for this award against other state Farm Bureaus of the same-sized membership. This is the tenth time in 11 years that MFBF has received this honor.

To earn this award, MFBF first has to receive Awards For Excellence in four of possible four program activity areas, including advocacy: engagement and outreach: leadership and business

development; and membership value.

The organization also received the New Horizon Award, which recognizes Farm Bureaus that implement innovative, new programs. This year, MFBF received this honor for its fundraising efforts to move the old horse barn at UMass Amherst. Currently, the barn has been renamed MFBF Hall and is used for learning purposes

among students.

"These awards show the dedication of our staff and leaderships," said MFBF President Mark Amato. "And for that I say Thank You! Our members are the backbone of our organization and their efforts and support make these awards possible."

To learn more about the convention, please visit <http://annualconvention.fb.org/>.



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**BRINGING NEWS TO MASSACHUSETTS
FARM BUREAU FEDERATION FAMILIES.**

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Improvements To Hemp Regulation Needed To Support Farmers

Improved testing rules, an expanded testing timeline, and clarity around hemp transportation would help farmers grow and market this new crop, the American Farm Bureau Federation said in comments submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The comments relate to USDA's Interim Final Rule regulating hemp production nationwide.

Earlier this month, farmers and ranchers at AFBF's Annual Convention voted to support an increase in the allowable THC level in hemp up to 1 percent. The vote gives AFBF leaders and staff the flexibility to engage in discussions with regulators and lawmakers about the appropriate legal limit on THC.

Current law limits THC content in hemp to 0.3 percent or below. In addition, regulations require testing to be conducted only on the flower of the plant, despite the

harvesting and use of the entire plant.

AFBF is requesting that USDA allow THC testing of the entire plant, including the flower, leaf and stem, to be averaged together. Since hemp's legalization, there is growing demand for hemp fibers to make everything from clothing to rope and flooring, none of which is impacted by the THC level.

The Interim Final Rule requires the collection of plant samples needed for THC testing within 15 days of the anticipated harvest date. In comments to USDA, AFBF noted this narrow window places an unnecessary burden on farmers,

who risk losing their entire crop if they cannot complete harvest in just 15 days, and fails to consider the potential for delayed test results due to a lack of THC testing facilities. AFBF is urging USDA to extend the 15-day window to 45 days before the anticipated harvest date to remove this unfair and


expensive burden on farmers.

USDA requires that all THC testing labs be certified by the U.S. Drug Enforcement

untested samples across state lines to comply with the regulations. However, if the hemp being transported is above the 0.3% THC threshold, farmers will have shipped an illegal product across state lines, opening them up to potential prosecution.

Many states have used private labs with third-party certifications to conduct THC testing, based on guidelines in the 2014 Farm Bill. These labs are regularly assessed and must meet international performance requirements to maintain certification. AFBF is requesting that USDA allow testing in private labs that have obtained third-party accreditation, to minimize delays and costs to hemp farmers.

Read the full comments filed by AFBF online: <https://www.fb.org/files/Hemp-Comments-1.29.20.pdf>.



Judicial Activism At Its Worst

By: Mark Amato, MFBF President

Arias-Villano v. Chang and Son is an example of judicial activism at its most profound. The consequences of the decision rendered against Chang and Sons Enterprises are likely to be both long lasting and devastating to family farms across our state if we cannot right this wrong. In fact, it is an existential threat to our vegetable growers particularly in the Connecticut River Valley.

It is unfortunate that the circumstances of this case were on the edge of what most of us would think of when we define "farm work." The lower Superior Court sided with Chang and Sons and determined that the work being performed was in fact "farm work" and therefore not subject to overtime. Massachusetts General Law Chapter 151 Minimum Fair Wages is the controlling statute and Chapter 151 Section 2 defines Farm Work as- "the growing and harvesting of agricultural, floricultural and horticultural commodities." The Supreme Judicial Court decided that because workers at Chang

were not involved in the growing or harvesting of the bean sprouts that then cleaning and packaging were not part of harvest. By doing that, the court was then able to arrive at the conclusion that the workers were not involved in "farm work" as defined and so were due overtime. The court also opined that this separation of harvest and post-harvest activities was an intentional act of the legislature.

It was 1967 when the Massachusetts legislature last debated this area of law and amended Chapter 151 of Massachusetts General Law. The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) could not have ruled as it did had the definition of "farm work" in Chapter 151 Section 2 been more closely aligned to the definition as it appears in the U.S. Department of Labor Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 where preparation for market is clearly articulated as being integral to the harvesting process. But, the interpretation by the SCJ is contrary to long

establish precedent, regulatory understanding and in my opinion the intent of the legislature in 1967. Agricultural work includes all the processes necessary to prepare agricultural goods for the first sale and I believe the legislature understood that in 1967, so much so that they felt it was not necessary to more clearly define their intention in Chapter 151 Sec 2. This was, in my opinion, a reflection of their understanding of agriculture and farm work and an oversight and not an intentional deviation.

However, the case stands. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court is the court of last appeals on state matters. There are not any further legal strategies that I am aware of that can be employed at this time. The only remedy at this point is a legislative fix.

Senator Diana DiZaglio of the 1st Essex District made the first attempt by filing Senate Bill 2347. Her bill would substitute the language in Chapter 128 Section 1A for the definition in 151.2. Several of our membership testified in support of the measure on Jan. 27 to the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development encouraging the committee to move the bill to the full legislature for their consideration. At the time I am writing this column, the outcome of that hearing and

the disposition of the bill are uncertain. In the meantime, MFBF Deputy Executive Director Brad Mitchell and I will be meeting with our friends in the legislature to try and find a strategy that will allow us to arrive at an acceptable resolution. Our legislative options are limited, and time is running out in this legislative session which means we have our work cut out for us. I know many of you are asking how there could be any opposition to the critical issue. Please understand that there is in fact strong opposition coming from the worker justice advocate community and their friends in organized labor. Our legislators have constituents in both camps, so it is imperative that you all communicate with your legislators. Expressing the impact that this requirement will have on your individual farms is the best message that you can deliver.

Please keep an eye out for alerts coming from MFBF regarding timely comments so you can contribute at the appropriate times. I heard loud and clear from you, the membership, how critical you think this issue is and I want you all to know that I feel the same way. This issue has my undivided attention.



Mark Amato, who works as a farm manager for Verrill Farm in Concord, is the president of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation.

Mark Amato
MFBF President
mark@mfbf.net

Save The Date: 2020 Massachusetts Agricultural Day Set For Wednesday, March 25, 2020

On Wednesday, March 25, 2020, agriculture will once again take center stage at the State House in Boston. Massachusetts Agriculture Day is the one day a year where farmers come together to focus legislative attention on their industry. On the one hand, it's a celebration that recognizes the hard work and many diverse products produced across the Commonwealth; but it's also an important opportunity for farmers to have their voices heard and make their issues known to the legislative body. Massachusetts


Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) strongly encourages its members to reach out to their local representatives and let them know what matters to them.

How can a farmer become involved?

Please try to join MFBF at Ag Day to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to educate and inform lawmakers about agriculture. There are many volunteer opportunities where MFBF could use help. Keep in mind that this is an event run by agricultural volunteers, and that


many hands make light work.

If you'd like to make a monetary donation, donate produce, meat or an agricultural product, or volunteer your time to assist with set up, break down, or help with registration, please contact the office at 508-481-4766, or by email at info@mfbf.net.



Farm Bureau Mourns Passing of Bonnie Duvall

Bonnie Duvall, wife of American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall, lost her courageous battle with cancer on Jan. 18. The following statement may be attributed to American Farm Bureau Vice President Scott VanderWal.



"It is with deep sadness that I share the news of Bonnie Duvall's passing after a courageous battle with cancer. She was a special member of the Farm Bureau family, from being chosen for the 1982 National Young Farmer and Rancher Award with Zippy, to her travels with him 33 years later

when he was elected president of American Farm Bureau.

"Zippy and Bonnie were partners in every respect for all of their 40 years together. She put her business degree to work keeping the books on their Georgia farm, enabling Zippy to turn his attention to serving his fellow farmers at the county, state and national levels.

"At moments like this our faith consoles us, knowing her soul is at peace, having gone on to our

heavenly Father. We will forever be inspired by her sense of humor, love of farming and optimism in the face of adversity. She taught us all what it means to make every moment count.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Duvall family, including the four children Zippy and Bonnie have always been so proud of, Vince, Corrie, Zeb and Zellie, their dear son- and daughters-in-law, and their five beautiful grandchildren."

USDA Designates Eight New Hampshire Counties As Primary Natural Disaster Areas, Four Massachusetts Counties As Contiguous

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue designated eight New Hampshire counties as primary natural disaster areas. Producers in Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, and Sullivan counties who suffered losses caused by extreme cold and temperature fluctuations resulting in winterkill, that occurred between Dec. 1, 2018, and April 20, 2019, may be eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans.

This natural disaster designation allows FSA to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinance of certain debts.

Producers in the contiguous New Hampshire counties of Rockingham and Strafford, along with Oxford and York counties in Maine; Essex, Franklin, Middlesex, and Worcester counties in Massachusetts; and Caledonia, Essex, Orange, Windham, and Windsor counties in Vermont, are also eligible to apply for emergency loans.

The deadline to apply for these emergency loans is Aug. 17, 2020.

FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of additional programs to help farmers recover from the impacts of this disaster. FSA programs that do not require a disaster declaration include: Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program; Emergency Conservation Program; Livestock Forage Disaster Program; Livestock Indemnity Program; Operating and Farm Ownership Loans; and the Tree Assistance Program.

Farmers may contact their local USDA service center for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at farmers.gov/recover.



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News and Views is published eight times a year, by Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation. Subscription comes with membership. It is received in the homes of almost 6,000 MFBF members.

MFBF’s mission is to strengthen a diverse agricultural community by supporting and advocating for Massachusetts farm families

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter:
@MAFarmBureau.

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
249 Lakeside Ave
Marlborough, MA 01752
www.mfbf.net

You Are Invited To Participate In A
Farmland Discussion!

You are invited to participate in a Listening Session to share your perspective with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) on strategies to preserve and protect Massachusetts’ farms and farmland. Please share this invitation with others!

statewide conservation plan for Massachusetts. Please join the discussion in-person or virtually! Refreshments will be provided.

They are looking for people who can share:

· experiences with farming or farmland

· challenges to preserving and protecting farmland

· ideas and suggestions to support farming and preserve farmland

RSVP for additional information and directions.

• Feb. 11, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, UMass Donahue Institute, 100 Venture Way, Hadley, MA

• Feb. 13, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, Blackstone Heritage Valley Visitor Center, 3 Paul Clancy Way, Worcester, MA

• VIRTUAL OPTION: Participate via Zoom on Feb. 11 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM

To RSVP, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/EEA-Farmland-Discussion-RSVP>

Your input will be critical to designing a

Notice of Public Hearings Regarding
Minimum Wage, Overtime Pertaining
To Agricultural, Farm Work

The Department of Labor Standards shall conduct two public hearings to determine the appropriateness of issuing regulatory guidance in the form of an opinion letter regarding the scope of “agricultural and farm work” within the context of the Massachusetts Minimum Wage and Overtime Laws and in light of the recent Supreme Judicial Court case of Arias-Villano vs. Chang Enterprises, Inc. et al 481 Mass 425 (2019)

(parking at UMass Amherst Parking Garage or for handicap parking Lot 64 between Goodell and South College) and Friday, Feb. 28, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at MassDEP Central Office, 8 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA (parking along building or in back).

Notice is hereby given pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §2, that the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, in conjunction with the Department of Labor Standards (DLS), will hold two public hearings on this matter. The purpose of the informal public hearings will be to receive public comments or questions and to determine if additional guidance from the Department may be beneficial.

The hearings will be held on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the Old Chapel, UMass Amherst, MA, 144 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA

The Department encourages all interested parties, including those who testify at the public hearing, to submit written questions and comments electronically to dlsFeedback@state.ma.us. Please submit electronic testimony as an attached Word document and type “Agriculture and Farming” in the subject line. Kindly include the sender’s full name and address. Parties who are unable to submit electronic comments should mail submissions to: Office of the General Counsel, Department of Labor Standards, 19 Staniford Street, Second Floor, Boston, MA 02114. All written or oral comments submitted to the Department may be posted on the Department’s website and released in response to a request for public records. All written testimony must be received by Monday, March 4, 2020

Christmas Tree Growers Report Good Year

While Mother Nature and the lingering effects of recession created challenges for some New England Christmas tree growers and retailers this year, many experienced an early, brisk business, driven in part by growing demand for an all-natural holiday.

James Horst, executive director of the New Hampshire-Vermont Christmas Tree Association, which represents about 200 primarily wholesale growers in the two states, said it was a good year for the industry.

“We had quite a few calls from customers that weren’t previous customers that were looking for trees,” said Horst, who has 60,000 to 70,000 trees on a farm in Bennington, Vermont. Horst believes most, if not all, wholesale tree growers sold out their crops this year.

Stephen Higgins, president of the Maine Christmas Tree Association, said it was a “seller’s market” this year. Tree shortages in parts of the Midwest and South, created in part by growers who scaled back on plantings after losing business during the recession, had buyers seeking trees in New England and Canada. Considering it can take eight to 10 years to grow a Christmas tree, that contributed to a tighter supply.

Some choose-and-cut farms in New England had to close early because they ran out of trees this year.

That part of the industry has been growing, Horst said, because cut-your-own Christmas tree farms have become part of the push for natural and organic products, which “includes a fresh Christmas tree and the experience of going to a farm.”

Dave Morin, past president of the Massachusetts Christmas Tree Association, said most of the tree farms in his state sold out by the second weekend after Thanksgiving.

“We can’t grow them fast enough, is the problem. ... Once your bigger trees are gone,

Continued on page 5

Hearings On Overtime Compliance

By: Brad Mitchell, MFBF Deputy Executive Director

In March 2019, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) found that workers performing farming activities outside of production and harvest were not exempt from overtime pay. This conflicted with what the farming community and labor regulators had understood for nearly 50 years. All had been under the impression that post-harvest and market preparation activities were exempt from overtime in Massachusetts, just as they are under federal law and most states.

The SJC ruling resulted from a lawsuit against a farm where sprouts were grown indoors. The details of the ruling regarding non-exempt activities were very narrow and specific to the sprout farm. However, the implications of



Brad Mitchell is MFBF's deputy executive director. the ruling are very broad and apply to all farms in the Commonwealth. As such there are a lot of questions on how the ruling applies to many farm activities which may not fit so neatly into the category

production or harvest. The Massachusetts Department of Labor Services (DLS) is the state agency charged with interpreting the law. The Attorney General's Wage and Hour Division Enforces the law. Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) has been working with both since last spring to get guidance to farmers on how to comply with the ruling. We collected more than 80 questions from farms which we submitted to the agencies in the fall. However, they feel they need more information to make sound policy on what farmers need to do to comply.

DLS has scheduled two hearings to hear from farmers so that they can put together better guidance. The hearings will be held on Thursday,

Feb. 27, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the Old Chapel, UMass Amherst, MA, 144 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA (parking at UMass Amherst Parking Garage or for handicap parking Lot 64 between Goodell and South College) and Friday, Feb. 28, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at MassDEP Central Office, 8 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA (parking along building or in back).

See page 4 of this edition *News and Views* for the hearing notice.

It is important that farmers attend these meetings to educate DLS on your challenges. In order to make educated decisions, DLS is asking you to help educate them about what you do. Please do your best to attend. You can also send written comment and questions as detailed in the hearing notice.

MFBF Now Accepting Applications For Horse Farm Of Distinction 2021

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) is currently accepting applications for its Horse Farm of Distinction honor for 2021. This honor is meant to recognize and publicize horse farms and stable operations that set high standards and achieve a level of excellence in overall animal health, farm management and compliance with

public safety. The farms are judged upon the following criteria: horse health management, including appearance of the horses and the equine health program; farm management, including overall condition of the farm and facilities, condition of stalls, turnouts, pastures, riding surfaces, tack and

equipment; and public standards compliance. Those that score 85 percent or higher are considered a "Horse Farm of Distinction" and receive this award. Please note that applicants must be regular members of MFBF in good standing. The deadline to apply for the honor is May 31, 2020.

Judging is expected to take place in June through August of 2020. Evaluations are completed by qualified equine professionals. Award winners will be notified in December 2020. The application is available online at: https://www.farmbureau.co/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Hfd_2021_WEB.pdf.

USDA Announces Designates New York Counties As Agricultural Disaster Areas

On Jan. 30, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a primary agricultural disaster designation for counties in

New York. Under this disaster designation, producers in contiguous counties in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Vermont also qualify for benefits.

Berkshire County has been designated. Additional information on USDA's disaster assistance program, including county lists and maps, can be found at <http://>

disaster.fsa.usda.gov. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact USDA's Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 720-7095.

Christmas Tree Growers Report Good Year

Continued from page 4

customers are not happy and they go somewhere else," he said. At Noel's Tree Farm in Litchfield, New Hampshire, owner Paul Lemire said sales doubled this year from 7,000 to 14,000 trees. On the first weekend of sales, Lemire sold 2,300 trees. Some of that surge was because Lemire sold trees for the first time from other New England farms. But he also said he saw many younger families looking for the "Christmas experience." "We are getting a lot more people wanting to cut their own trees. They just want to have a real tree," Lemire said. The only hiccup, he said, was the

weather. Several feet of snow followed by rain made for muddy conditions and resulted in the farm having less parking for customers. In Connecticut, it was more than a hiccup for many farmers, who had to deal with snow and ice, as well as predictions of bad weather. "We got hit with kind of a double whammy this year, between the shortage, between the impending snowstorm — people came flying out that (first) weekend because they hyped up that snowstorm for days," said Kathy Kogut, executive director of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association and co-owner of Kogut's Hemlock Hill Farm in Meriden.

While sales were brisk post-Thanksgiving weekend, Kogut said, a lot of farms closed several days later because of an ice storm, which made the fields treacherous and the trees too brittle to be wrapped with netting. "It was too dangerous for the help to cut the trees. It was too dangerous for people to walk out on the farms," she said. "You know, they're handling saws. You just don't want anybody to get hurt." Despite the nasty weather, Kathy Angevine said, it was still a good year for her family's Christmas tree business at Angevine Farm in Warren, Connecticut.

"We made it through, and the sun is out today and it's going to be out tomorrow, and we just pick up the pieces and go one day at a time," said Angevine, who was still selling cut-your-own trees as late as Christmas Eve. Kogut said many cut-your-own farms in Connecticut probably did enough business that first weekend, but some probably lost out on additional sales, including wreaths. "Mother Nature really controls our business and it does any agricultural business," she said. "And this year, we got hit pretty hard by it."

American Farm Bureau Establishes 2020 Policies



Farmer and rancher delegates to the American Farm Bureau Federation's 101st Annual Convention today adopted policies to guide the organization's work in 2020 on key topics ranging from dairy to labor and climate change to conservation compliance.

"Delegates from across the nation came together today to look ahead at issues and opportunities facing farms, ranches and rural communities," said American Farm Bureau Federation Vice President Scott VanderWal. "The 2020 policies ensure we are able to continue producing safe and healthy food, fiber and renewable fuel for our nation and the world."

Delegates also re-elected American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall and Vice President Scott VanderWal for their third terms. VanderWal served as chair of the meeting on behalf of Duvall, who is grieving the loss of his wife, Bonnie.

Delegates updated labor and immigration policies, emphasizing that farmers must see significant changes to the H-2A program. While AFBF has long had policy in place to ensure an accessible, competitive guest worker program, the updates address problems with the adverse effect wage rate and emphasize the importance of year-round program access to all of agriculture. AFBF looks forward to working with Congress on efforts that align with these policy objectives.

After a year-long process to review ways to modernize Federal Milk Marketing Orders, AFBF's delegates voted to support giving individual dairy farmers a voice by allowing them to vote independently and confidentially on rules governing milk prices. The opportunity to

vote on milk pricing rules, along with other proposed changes to marketing orders will form a strong foundation to guide the organization during future reform efforts to better coordinate milk supply and demand in the U.S. Delegates also voted to support the creation of a flexible, farmer- and industry-led milk management system.

There are significant new policies on conservation compliance. Delegates called on USDA to significantly improve program transparency and due process for farmers. They specifically prioritized changes in USDA's processes for wetland delineations and the appeals

process. Delegates also adopted a new policy supporting the repeal of Swampbuster provisions. The changes highlight growing frustration with conservation compliance practices within the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Delegates voted to support allowing a higher THC level in hemp, giving AFBF staff the flexibility to engage in discussions with regulators about the appropriate legal level, and to increase the window of time farmers are allowed to conduct THC testing, acknowledging the many questions about how the testing process will work and the potential for backlogs.

New policies are on the books supporting science-based climate change research and the documentation of agriculture's tremendous advances toward climate-smart practices. Delegates also made clear they want federal climate change policy to reflect regional variations, and they oppose a state-by-state patchwork of climate change policies.

Beyond policy changes, delegates also elected members to serve on the AFBF board of directors and national program committees.

David Fisher, president of New York Farm Bureau (Northeast Region); Shawn Harding, president of North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation (Southern Region); and Randy Kron, Indiana Farm Bureau (Midwest Region) were elected to fill one-year terms on the AFBF board of directors.

Thirteen other state Farm Bureau presidents were re-elected to two-year terms to represent their regions on the board.

Midwest Region

Carl Bednarski, Michigan
Blake Hurst, Missouri
Steve Nelson, Nebraska

Northeast Region

Rick Ebert, Pennsylvania
Ryck Suydam, New Jersey

Southern Region

Mark Haney, Kentucky
John Hoblick, Florida
Harry Ott, South Carolina
Jimmy Parnell, Alabama
Wayne Pryor, Virginia
Rich Hillman, Arkansas

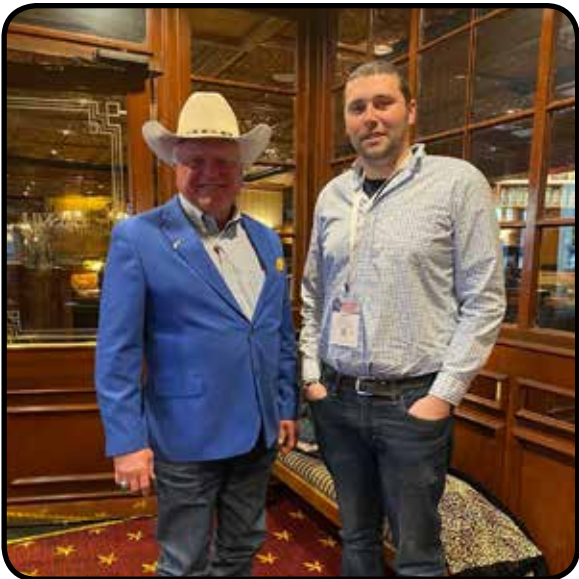
Western Region

Bryan Searle, Idaho
Ron Gibson, Utah

National Program Committees

Morgan Norris of Florida was elected as the new chair of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee for a one-year term. She will also serve a one-year term on the AFBF board of directors.

Vickie Bryant of Kentucky, Dotty Jensen of Utah and Margaret Gladden of Indiana were elected to two-year terms on the Women's Leadership Committee. Jennifer Cross of Maryland was re-elected to a two-year term.



MFBF's Mission & Vision Statement

Mission Statement: Strengthen a diverse agricultural community by supporting and advocating for Massachusetts farm families.

Vision Statement: Massachusetts Farm Bureau envisions a world with plentiful high-quality agricultural products, productive open land, and a robust and prosperous farming community. We are committed to working with like-minded groups to achieve these goals.

Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee Happenings

Learn more about YF&R at www.MFBF.net!
Or follow us on social media -
Facebook: @MAFarmBureauYFR & Instagram: @MAFBYoungFarmers.



Three Farmers Awarded MFBAPF John & Liolia Schipper Grants

Following a competitive selection process, the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Agricultural Preservation Foundation (MFBAPF) selected three farmers to receive grants from the John & Liolia Schipper Grant program. These grants are focused on assisting Massachusetts farmers in becoming more economically viable and sustainable. Additionally, an emphasis was placed on new farmers facing challenges.



"We are able to offer these grants through a generous bequest from the late John and Liolia Schipper," said Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) President Mark Amato. "We had 13 excellent applications and unfortunately were only able to choose three finalists. We hope the interest in this program will continue and that the Foundation will continue to offer these grants to deserving farmers."

- Grant recipients include the following:
- Grant Family Farm, an egg producer based in Essex County
 - Milkmaid Farm, a meat producer based in Worcester County
 - Small Farm, a vegetable farm based in Middlesex County

Applications for the 2020 grant program will be available next fall with a deadline of Nov. 1, 2020. Applicants must be a regular Farm Bureau member in good standing (or be sponsored by a regular member).

Congratulations to this year's recipients!

Get Involved. Be Committed.

By: Heidi Cooper, MFBF YF&R Chair

Traveling to AFBF's Annual Convention is an annual tradition for my family. National conferences for both the organization as a whole and those of specific committees afford us the opportunity to become even deeper involved, further educated, and continually developed in skills and knowledge.

This year, while in Austin I had the chance to attend the full day of delegate session and immerse myself in the experience with participation. This type of day may not be up everyone's alley, but I was absolutely engulfed in learning about each area of policy in the AFBF policy book. It's likely not all 400 pages of this document are of interest to you, but after a full day of experience I think reviewing our policy books, both state and national, is a duty each

member owes to themselves and the organization as a whole.

This past year our state decided to take our resolutions that are added, amended, and adjusted each year and our staff compiled them into our own state policy book in narrative format. If you have not asked to view that book, I strongly encourage you to. Same goes with the AFBF policy book. You may not have interest in what we support and do not support in terms of sugar, the postal service, or commodity promotion, but I can guarantee there are at least a dozen areas of interest that would apply to you at the national level.

So why is it important to know what our organization stands for as a whole? Because it's important to know if we as a state or county are in line with these written beliefs.

Change and movement forward only happen in an organization when their members are involved and passionate about the direction in which it moves ahead.

I encourage you all to look at these policy books, and if you need help getting ahold of them feel free to get in touch with me. As I write this the state's policy book is about to be finalized by our state board, and we can obtain a copy of the national book as requested as well. Whether you're just involved or fully committed, your participation is needed.

"The difference between involvement and commitment is like ham and eggs. The chicken is involved; the pig is committed."
-M. Navratilova

Heidi Cooper
YF&R Committee Chair

Apply 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 (MFBF's) Information & Public Relations Director, a religious and devoted family man, who died of a heart attack in 1983 at the age of 55.

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 or 508-481-4766.

Upcoming YF&R Tour

Chris Grant's & Alice Tonry's Farms

Make plans to join us for a tour of Grant Family Farm and Tonry Christmas Tree Farm on Feb. 18 at 1 p.m. This tour is open to any young farmer and their family, including children. Following the tour, the group will host a potluck. Please bring a dish to share!

Background on Grant Family Farm:
Grant Family Farm is a small, diversified farm that grows vegetables, ethnic crops, cut flowers and pastured raised eggs and poultry. Currently, their

products are available at farmers markets, specialty food stores, food cooperatives, restaurants and occasionally right at the farm. Recently, Chris Grant has purchased a new farm in West Newbury and is in the transition of expanding the operation back to fruits and vegetables and is considering opening a farm stand.

Background on Tonry Christmas Tree Farm:
The Tonry Tree Farm, in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, is a family owned and operated farm

offering 100 acres of cut-your-own Christmas trees. We have trees of all shapes, sizes and varieties like concolor, spruce, and balsam. We sell wreaths and a variety of decorations and greens, and everyone's favorite birch reindeer.

Meeting Location:
866 Main St
West Newbury, MA

Time: 1 p.m.

RSVP: Please let katelyn@mfbf.net know if you are planning to attend!

County Legislative Breakfasts

Friday, Feb. 14	Berkshire County Farm Bureau's Legislative Breakfast Co-Sponsored by Berkshire Grown Ioka Valley Farm's Calf-A 3475 Hancock Road, Rte.43, Hancock, MA 01237 Breakfast: 9:00 a.m. Cost: \$12 per person RSVP by Feb. 7 to (413) 528-2368 or belairfarm@gmail.com	Thursday, March 19	Essex County Farm Bureau's Legislative Breakfast Topsfield Fairgrounds – Coolidge Hall 207 Boston Street (Rte. 1), Topsfield, MA 01983 Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. RSVP by March 13 to (978) 887-5000 or joy@topsfieldfair.org
Friday, March 6	Bristol County Farm Bureau's Legislative Breakfast The Jockey Club 115 New State Highway, Rte. 44, Raynham, MA 02767 Breakfast: 8:30 a.m. RSVP by Feb. 28 to (508) 822-6635 or lopesfarm@comcast.net	Friday, March 20	Middlesex County Farm Bureau's Legislative Breakfast Concord Colonial Inn 48 Monument Sq., Concord, MA 01742 More details to follow
Friday, March 13	Plymouth County Farm Bureau's Legislative Breakfast Lakeside Villa 550 Monponsett Street, Halifax, MA 02338 Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. RSVP by March 6 to (508) 866-9150 or plymouth_county_farm_bureau@yahoo.com	Friday, March 27	Worcester County Farm Bureau's Legislative Breakfast Hollis Hills Farm 340 Marshall Road, Fitchburg, MA 01420 Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. RSVP by March 20 to (978) 489-4860 or cooper.heidi.jo@gmail.com
Friday, March 13	Hampshire, Hampden & Frnaklin County Farm Bureaus' Legislative Breakfast Bluebonnet Diner 324 King Street, Northampton, MA 01060 Brunch: 11:00 a.m. RSVP by March 6 to (413) 218-2695	Friday, March 27	Norfolk County Farm Bureau's Legislative Breakfast Cracker Barrel Restaurant 1048 South Street, Wrentham, MA 02093 Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. RSVP by March 20 to (508) 541-7201 or smithtekk1234@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL BULL RIDERS



WORCESTER RUMBLE

FEBRUARY 22

SATURDAY | 7PM



ticketmaster®





Saturday, March 21st: Meet Your Local Farmers Event

You're invited to the 11th Annual "Meet Your Local Farmers" event (free & open to the public) to kick-off the 2020 growing season, meet local farmers from around Cape Cod, and learn more about locally grown products. Join us Saturday, March 21st (noon – 3:00 p.m.) in the gym at the Harwich Community Center.

Farmers will be selling all sorts of interesting (and delicious) items. And a handful of farms will be offering Consumer Sponsored Agriculture (CSA) opportunities where folks can buy a subscription that allows access to farm fresh produce from May to October.

This fun event is brought to you by Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) and the Cape & Islands Farm Bureau. For more information, please visit: <http://harwichconservationtrust.org/march-21st-meet-your-local-farmers-event/>

Reminder: Paid Family and Medical Leave Contributions Due Jan. 31, 2020

MFBF members are reminded that initial contributions for the newly established Massachusetts Paid Family and Medical Leave program are due on Jan. 31. Collected contributions for the first quarter of the program are to be submitted through the Department of Revenue's MassTaxConnect portal. Businesses will report contributions in Box 14 (Other) for Form W-2 and Box 16 (state tax withheld) for Form 1099-MISC. The contribution line for both items should read MAPFML.

Members are urged to visit the Department of Revenue's PFML information page for ongoing updates and guidance materials. This includes a MassTaxConnect screenshot with further clarification on where to insert information on the W-2 and 1099-MISC, video tutorials on registering and reporting, and an extensive list of FAQs which are updated as information becomes available.

To read the employers' guide, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/employers-guide-to-paid-family-and-medical-leave>

MASSACHUSETTS FARM BUREAU FEDERATION WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU HAVE A CENTURY FARM?



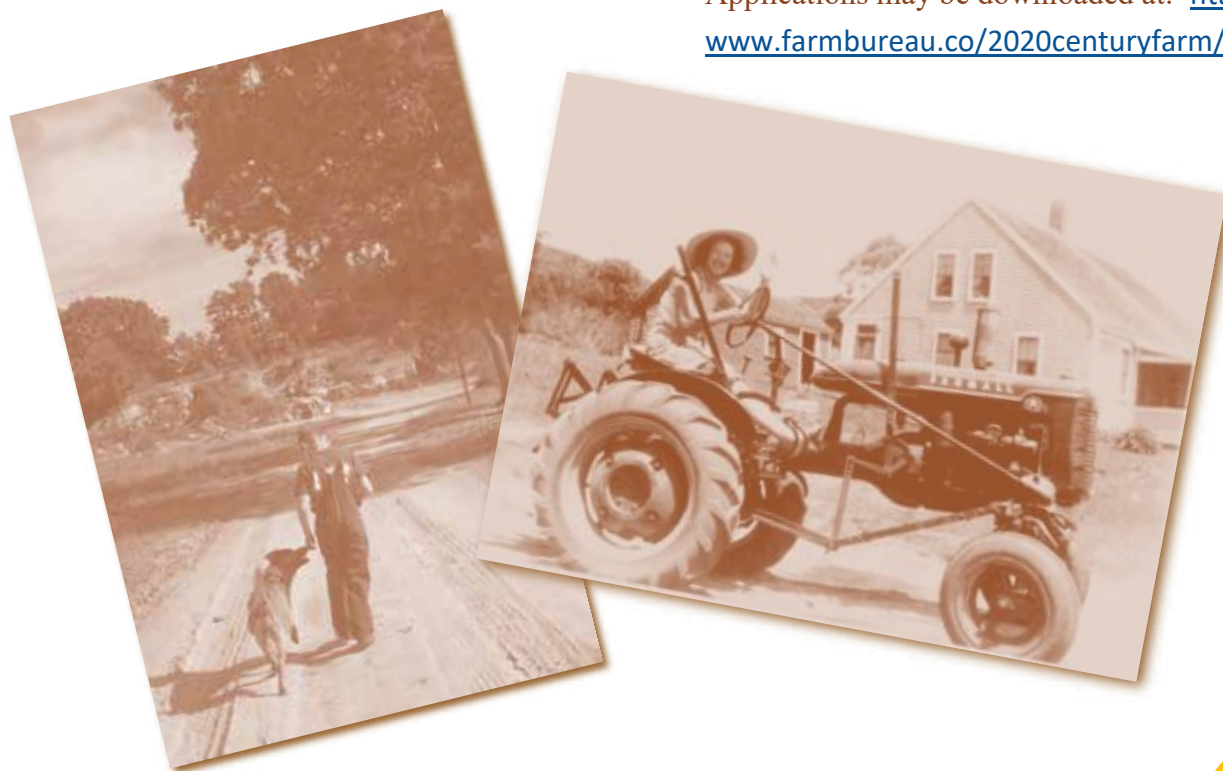
MFBF and the Massachusetts Grange are partnering once again to celebrate Massachusetts farms that have been family-owned and operated for 100+ years.

The program recognizes those farms and farm families that have done so much to contribute to our rural heritage and traditions.

All qualifying farms will be recognized in a commemorative book, and those that are new to the program will receive a sign to display at their farm.

There's no cost to participate; just complete the Century Farm application and return it by May 31, 2020.

Applications may be downloaded at: <https://www.farmbureau.co/2020centuryfarm/>



For more information, email: liz@mfbf.net

Allied Business Directory

Adams Farm

854 Bearsden 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 Ser

Ten Fernwood Lake Ave.
Gloucester MA 01930
978-768-7700
capeanntree.com
capeanntree@gmail.com
Products & Services: We improve the outdoor living spaces of our clients- from tree work, to lawn care, masonry to landscape design and installation... we can do it all.

Chickadee Hill Farm Services

Jeffrey Head
366 Central St
Rowley, MA 01969
chickadeehillfarmservices@hotmail.com
978-948-8620
chickadeehillfarmservices.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
easternsolarservice.com
easternsolarservices@hotmail.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
franklinagway.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 / Horseman's Association of New England

POB 1811
Plainville, MA 02762
508-918-8852
www.hhane.com
president@hhane.com
Products & Services: We are a non-profit membership association for harness horsemen and women.

We promote harness racing both in Massachusetts and nationally.

Heritage Hemp

99 Industrial Dr
Northampton, MA 01060-2359
(800) 674-3671
jgoodyear@heritagecbd.com
www.heritagecbd.com
Products & Services: Industrial hemp CBD genetics including premium seeds, clones and seedlings; hemp CBD processing, drying, extraction and lab testing services.

Hyperion Systems, LLC

100 University Drive
Amherst, MA 01002
413-549-2900
www.HyperionSystemsLLC.com
Products & Services: Dual-use agricultural solar project development and research company. Funded by NREL and in collaboration with UMass Amherst.

John S. Lane & Son

730 East Mountain Road
Westfield, MA 01086
www.jslane.com
jsalvon@jslane.com
Products & Services: Aggregates including crushed stone, gravel & sand

M5 Landworks

1 Mathewson St
Plainville, MA 02762
508-510-2004
M5Landworks1@gmail.com
Products & Services: We specialize in undergrowth brush clearing and mowing.

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
413-369-4731
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
jphorigan@me.com
Products & Services: Kiln dried bagged shavings 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

338 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.

Pope Energy

Doug Pope
42 8th Street, #4413B
Boston, MA 02129
617-337-0199
doug.pope@popeenergy.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.

Structures of New England

155 Millenium Cir
Lakeville, MA 02347-1248
(508) 946-5555
gwatka@rsogne.com
www.rsogne.com
Product & Services: RSNE custom fabricates and installs energy efficient, high quality walk-in coolers and freezers and insulated doors.

Resource Management, Inc.

1171 NH RT 175
Holderness, NH 03245
605-536-8900
www.rmirecycles.com
RMI@RMIrecycles.com
Product & 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
www.ricefruitfarm.com
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
kschwalbe@semaponline.org
Products & Services: local food promotion, sustainable farming education and healthy food initiatives.

Sirum Equipment

310 Federal Street
Montague, MA 01351
413-367-2481
sirumequipment.com
Admindept@sirumequipment.com
Product/Brands Sirum Equipment carries: LS Tractors, Ferris, Simplicity, Snapper, Stihl, Patz, Kuhn, Woods, Landpride, Ariens, Gravely

Soares Flower Garden Nursery

1021 Sandwich Rd
East Falmouth, MA 02536
508-548-5288
www.soaresflowergardennursery.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
southcoastagconsulting.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.thebig.com/p/agriculture
info@thebig.com
Products & Services: fairgrounds & annual fair

World Farmers Inc.

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

Three Request for Responses: Energy, Cranberry, Compost



AgEnergy

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is now accepting applications from agricultural operations who wish to participate in the Department’s grant program made possible by recent MA Legislation as part of the MA Supplementary Budget.

Funding will be provided for agricultural energy projects that are geared toward (i) capital infrastructure improvements that promote energy efficiency; (ii) the purchase or expanded use of renewable energy technologies; (iii) tools to address barriers to economic growth, including business management technical assistance and the purchase of more efficient equipment and technology; or (iv) tools and technologies to facilitate sustainability and new product development; all in an effort to improve energy efficiency and to expand the use of renewable energy technologies.

Agricultural Energy Grant FY2020 (ENER)

Reimbursement grants are available for the following priority energy efficiency and renewable energy categories and projects, meeting the recent legislation scope:

- Heat Recovery for Anaerobic Digesters (ADs)
- New High Efficiency, Single or Multi Temperature, Walk-In Coolers
- Agricultural Solar Tariff Generation Unit (ASTGU)

Research Projects

- Zero Net Energy Greenhouse
- Zero Net Energy New or Renovated Building Construction
- Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Projects Utilizing Eligible Technologies

Grant applications are due Feb. 28, 2020 and awarded projects must be completed by June 30, 2020 – please see the Request for Responses (RFR) for more details on the completion timeline. Grant maximum amounts vary by project category and vary from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

For more information contact Gerry Palano at (617) 626-1706 or at Gerald.Palano@mass.gov

The links to the Agricultural Energy Grant FY2020 are:

Commbuys: www.commbuys.com/bso/external/bidAck.sdo?bidId=BD-20-1002-1003-001-47487&parentUrl=activeBids

MDAR website: www.mass.gov/service-details/agricultural-energy-grant-program-ener

ACEP

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is now accepting applications from agricultural operations who wish to participate in the Department’s grant program made possible by recent MA Legislation as part of the MA Supplementary Budget.

Funding to implement practices that demonstrate an innovative

approach to enhance environmental benefits and encourage increased economic activity in the cranberry sector. By providing reimbursement directly to agricultural operations that implement eligible projects that are geared toward: (i) capital infrastructure improvements that promote energy efficiency; (ii) tools to address barriers to economic growth, including the purchase of more efficient equipment and technology; or (iii) tools and technologies to facilitate sustainability the program will achieve its purpose and goals of demonstrating an innovative approach to enhancing environmental benefits, encouraging increased economic activity in the cranberry sector, and fulfilling recommendations as outlined in the Cranberry Revitalization Task Force Final Report.

Agricultural Cranberry Enhancement Program Grant FY2020 (ACEP)

Reimbursement grant project examples are listed below. These are not the only projects that are eligible under the program. Projects that still meet ACEP goals but are not listed below will be considered in the review process.

- Harvest Equipment/ Fruit Containment Booms
- Irrigation Upgrades
- Fertilizer Equipment
- Fruit Handling & Screening Technology
- Spraying Rigs
- Bog Efficiency Upgrades (ramps, ditch alteration, routing pipes, etc.)

Grant applications are due Feb.

28, 2020 and awarded projects must be completed by June 30, 2020 – please see the Request for Responses (RFR) for more details on the completion timeline.

Grant maximum funding amount is \$50,000.00.

For more information contact Laura Maul at (617) 626-1739 or at Laura.Maul@mass.gov.

The links to the Agricultural Cranberry Enhancement Program Grant FY2020 are:

Commbuys: www.commbuys.com/bso/external/bidAck.sdo?bidId=BD-20-1002-1003-001-47489&parentUrl=activeBids

MDAR website: www.mass.gov/how-to/agricultural-cranberry-enhancement-program-acep

ACIP

Ag Composting Improvement Program (ACIP). The program provides funding for equipment or projects which improve overall management of agricultural composting, or facilitate on-farm compost use.

Grant maximum funding amount is \$75,000, 25% match required. Feb. 14, 2020 deadline for response.

For more information contact Sean Bowen (617) 626-1724, Sean.Bowen@mass.gov.

The link to the Ag Composting Improvement Program (ACIP): www.mass.gov/how-to/agricultural-composting-improvement-grant-program-acip

2020-2023 Needs Assessment For Tri-State SARE Project


The Tri-State SARE Professional Development Program is planning activities for the next three years – through 2023. This project will focus on training agricultural service providers as well as farmers in CT, MA and RI on sustainable livestock production practices. Specific content areas will be determined based on the feedback and needs of those who participate in this survey and attend the workshops.

Although voluntary, the organization would appreciate

your completing this 5 to 8 minute anonymous needs assessment by Wednesday, Feb. 12. Please reach out to Rachel Bspuda directly (rachel.bspuda@uconn.edu) with any questions or comments. Thank you for your time!


Follow this link to take the survey: https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9N3D1CvUaBRtSUB?Q_CYrTcQ3VFH_9N3D1CvUaBRtSUB_MLRP_bwwteOokgT2doYB&Q_CHL=email

HOME FOR SALE



175 Justice Hill Rd.
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This beautiful 1899 Victorian Farmhouse has 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms, approximately 3400 square feet of living space and sits on 7 acres of land in Sterling MA. The view is breathtaking and overlooks Hy Crest Pond. \$589,900



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MFBF Members Enjoy Discounts From National & Local Business Partners

Please visit www.MFBF.net for more information.

American National 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 American National 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 you Farm Family farm policy if it's associated with an active MFBF membership.

Visit americannational.com to find your local agent.

Massachusetts Farm Bureau members now receive a \$500 Bonus Cash offer from Ford Motor Company or \$750 Lincoln Motor Company on a purchase or lease of a new qualifying vehicle. You must be a Farm Bureau member in Massachusetts for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase or lease.



Visit fordfarmbureauadvantage.com or LincolnFarmBureauAdvantage.com or see your authorized Ford or Lincoln Dealer for qualifications and complete details.

Ford Program Disclaimer:
Farm Bureau Bonus Cash is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. This incentive is not available on Shelby GT350®, Shelby GT350R, Mustang BULLITT, Ford GT, Focus RS and F-150 Raptor. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company and Lincoln Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase and take new retail delivery from dealer by January 2, 2020.



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 <http://www.farmbureau.co/member-benefits/> for more information.

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.

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.



Massachusetts Farm Bureau members save 20% off published at almost 5,000 Choice Hotels Worldwide! Save 20% off at participating Comfort Inn®, Comfort Suites®, Quality Inn®, Sleep Inn®, Clarion®, MainStay Suites®, Suburban Extended Stay®, Rodeway Inn® and Econo Lodge® hotels. Call 800.258.2847 and mention your Massachusetts Farm Bureau ID or go to choicehotels.com and enter your Massachusetts Farm Bureau ID to book online (*if you don't know the MFBF ID call our office today at 508-481-4766).





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.



Osterman Propane is pleased to offer a discount to any MFBF member when you become a new customer.

If you currently use propane, but are with a different supplier, then contact Osterman today for special rates. Being a member gives you the buying power to great pricing. When switching to Osterman, they will swap out your tanks at no charge At this time a safety and pressure test will also be performed at no charge.


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

Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in North Grafton will apply a10% discount to Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation regular members in good standing. 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 enjoy exclusive savings when renting from AVIS. Use Avis Worldwide Discount code: A298821 Visit: www.AVIS.com/mafb



Farm Bureau members also enjoy exclusive savings when renting from BUDGET. Use Budget Customer Discount Number: Y775721 Visit: www.budget.com/mafb



Foundation for Agriculture Announces 13th ‘Book of the Year’

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture presented its 13th “Book of the Year” award to Peggy Thomas for “Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car.” The book describes Henry Ford’s drive to incorporate soybeans into every part of his life.

After the Great Depression, the famous carmaker and businessman wanted to support ailing farmers.

Researching ways to use farmers’ crops at his Ford Motor Company, Ford and his team discovered that the soybean was the perfect answer. Soon, Ford’s cars contained many soybean plastic parts. His commitment to soybean farmers didn’t stop there though. Ford not only ate soybeans, he wore clothes made of soybean fabric as well.

Thomas lives with her husband and two children in Middleport, New York. She is the award-winning author of several non-fiction and fiction books for children, including “Thomas Jefferson Grows a Nation” and “Farmer George Plants a Nation.”

Thomas said, “It’s a great honor to have ‘Full of Beans’ recognized by the Foundation. This book has come full circle from an idea shared with me at an agricultural conference five years ago to

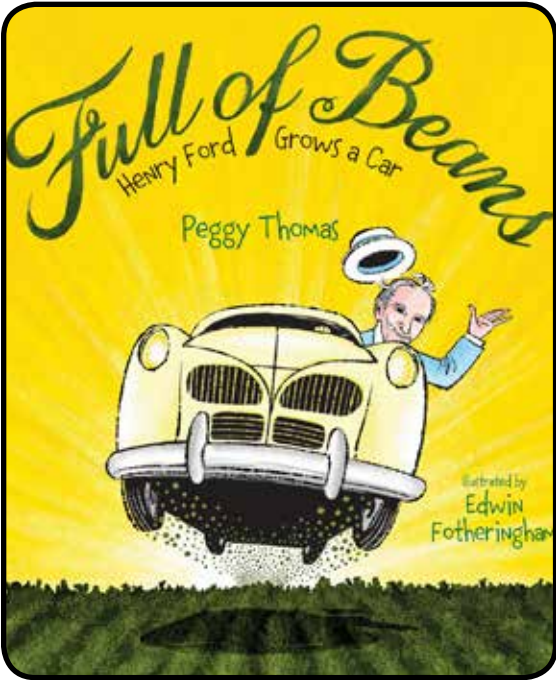
this award. Writing about our agricultural history has truly been a privilege. It is an important part of American history, and without the Foundation’s continued advocacy in children’s literature, publishers would not be aware of the need for these stories, and children would not read them. For that I am forever grateful.”

The “Book of the Year” award springs from the Foundation’s effort to identify “Accurate Ag Books,” a collection of nearly 500 books for children, teenagers and adults that accurately cover agricultural topics. Book of the Year selections

are educational, help to create positive public perceptions about agriculture, inspire readers to learn more and touch their readers’ lives as well as tell the farmer’s story. The Accurate Ag Books database is available at: <http://www.agfoundation.org/recommended-pubs>.

To accompany “Full of Beans,” the Foundation has created an educator’s guide.

In honor of Thomas’ award and Austin, the host city of the American Farm Bureau Federation’s 101st Annual Convention, the Foundation will donate 100 books and a \$1,000 ag literacy grant to the Austin Public Library.



P&E Resources

MFBF’s promotion and education (P&E) committee has compiled two children’s activity booklets for farmers to use at farmers’ markets and at local agricultural fairs.



NEW! The P&E committee has also compiled a success guide for county Farm Bureaus to use when planning their legislative breakfasts.

Finally, on Tuesday, Oct. 22, the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation’s Promotion and Education Committee hosted a webinar covering pesticide issues with Natalia Clifton, UMass Extension Pesticide Education Program. A PDF copy of her PowerPoint presentation is available.

For electronic PDF copies of these resources, please contact MFBF’s office at info@mfbf.net.

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: _____

Membership dues (please select one):

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- ☐ Regular Member: \$225 for 1 year
- ☐ Gold Member: \$350 for 1 year
- ☐ Platinum Member: \$500 for 1 year
- ☐ Introductory Regular: \$99 for 9 months

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

- ☐ Ag/Open Space Supporter
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- ☐ Forestry
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Method of Payment

Credit Card:

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Make checks payable to:
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Mail completed application and payment to:

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
249 Lakeside Ave
Marlborough, MA 01752

Thank you for your support!

Need Membership Brochures?

Contact the office for marketing materials at 508-481-4766 or info@mfbf.net

Recipe: White Cheddar and Bacon Quiche

Ingredients

- 4 slices bacon, cooked and roughly chopped
- 8 eggs
- 1 C milk
- ¼ C minced green onion
- 1 t salt
- 1 t pepper
- 8 oz sharp cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 unbaked 9 inch pie crust



How to make

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, milk, onions, salt, and pepper.
3. Stir in the bacon and cheddar.
4. Pour the mixture into the pie crust. Place the pie on a rimmed baking sheet to prevent the filling from spilling over into your oven. (Its so much easier to clean a baking sheet than the bottom of your oven!)
5. Bake until the quiche is golden and set in the center, about 45 minutes.
6. Remove from the oven and let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

From: <https://www.theginghamapron.com/white-cheddar-and-bacon-quiche/>



Drones Effective Tools For Fruit Farmers

People have used the phrase “drone on and on” for a long time. Webster’s dictionary defines this figure of speech as “to speak for a long time in a dull voice without saying anything interesting.” Yet, in agriculture, drones aren’t dull, at all!

Farmers use drones to be more efficient. Drones help farmers improve yields and stay ahead of

pounds of apples produced per year.¹

Walsh’s research team focused on applying UAV technology to fruit trees. Her previous work has been with wheat and other crops. “We know drones can be used in orchards,” says Walsh. “But there aren’t any grower recommendations regarding what data needs to be collected



problems before they become too big.

Olga Walsh, University of Idaho, is researching the use of drones for fruit trees. Most of the agricultural applications for drones – or, more technically unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) – have been on grain crops like wheat, corn and soy.

“Adoption and use of crop sensors in production agriculture saves thousands of dollars every year in many crops,” says Walsh. “Crop sensors also help to significantly improve the efficiency of agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers and water. Finally, drones can minimize negative impacts of agricultural activities on environmental quality.”

In Idaho, the fruit industry grows grapes, cranberries, apples, and even alternative fruits like Asian pears. Apples are the largest fruit crop in Idaho, with over 60 million

and what kind of data is most useful, depending on the grower objective.”

The most promising ways the drones could be employed for the orchards and tree nurseries are:

- taking inventory of tree height and canopy volume;
- monitoring tree health and quality;
- managing water, nutrients, pests and disease in-season;
- estimating fruit/nut production and yield; and,
- creating marketing tools (videos for promotion of the orchard, or sale of trees and fruit).

Like with other uses of drones in agriculture, Walsh’s work helps to collect detailed information about the crops, faster than humans could by physically “scouting” the fields. “The UAVs are capable of acquiring images with high resolutions that are ideal for detecting various crop issues,” says

Walsh. “The UAV systems allow scanning the crops from above. They obtain high quality images and high-resolution spectral data. This is correlated with plant growth, health, water and nutrient status, and can be used to estimate biomass production.” All are indicators of potential yield.

It’s not just about the speed of scouting a field. “Sensors can function within regions of the electromagnetic spectrum where human eyes can’t,” says Walsh. “Sensors are much more reliable and objective than visual assessment. They provide quantitative information (numeric data that can be measured and compared) versus qualitative information (descriptive data that can be observed).”

Team members also perform outreach. “We conduct grower education on the use of remote sensing and using UAVs for crop monitoring,” says Walsh. “We do demonstration flights and produce publications to boost grower adoption of precision agriculture methods.”

“The overall goal of this work is to strengthen sustainability and competitiveness of Idaho fruit tree producers,” says Walsh. “Our findings increased awareness, knowledge, and adoption of crop sensors and UAVs.”

And, that’s not dull at all!

Walsh presented her work at the November International Annual Meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America in San Antonio. Funding for this project came from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture Nursery Advisory and Florist Advisory Committee.

¹. <https://agri.idaho.gov/main/about/about-idaho-agriculture/idaho-crops/>

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. Call MFBF’s office at 508-481-4766 for your president’s contact information.

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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 page 13, or sign-up online: <http://www.farmbureau.co/online-application/>.



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