

**FORECASTING EGG
CRISIS, SENATE
APPROVES CHANGES
TO VOTER LAW**
Story On Page 2



**LOOKING BACK ON
DOUG GILLESPIE'S
30 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO MA AG**
Story On Page 4



MASSACHUSETTS FARM BUREAU FEDERATION'S

Vol. 29, No. 4

NEWS & VIEWS

JUNE/JULY 2021

www.MFBBF.net

MFBBF Bids Farewell To Gillespie, Welcomes Mitchell

On June 30, 2021, Doug Gillespie, long-time Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation executive director, handed over the organization's reins to Brad Mitchell. Gillespie who started with the organization in 1990, has deep roots within the Massachusetts agricultural community and is leaving behind very large shoes for Mitchell to fill.

"I want to thank Doug for his extraordinary service and dedication to our organization," said MFBBF President Mark Amato. "The past 30 years in

Massachusetts agriculture have been challenging, especially as he was leading a membership-based organization. We've seen farmland in Massachusetts shrink and margins become tight on farms, which has made growing membership very difficult. However, thanks to Doug's expert leadership, MFBBF has continued to flourish, and he is leaving a legacy of calm, patient guidance in the face of challenging times."

To fill the void, MFBBF's Board of Directors has selected Brad Mitchell to serve as executive

director after a nine-month search and interview process. Mitchell has been with the organization for almost 11 years and previously served as the organization's deputy executive director/legislative agent and has worked for other agricultural groups, including the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture.

As executive director, Mitchell will be responsible for carrying out the strategic plan as adopted by membership a few years ago. He will be placing emphasis on expanding the organization's

membership base and revenue sources.

"The strategic plan is a roadmap for the MFBBF's board of directors and its executive director and will assist in making this a smooth transition," Amato said. "Brad has a strong understanding of MFBBF and is dedicated to our mission and vision. The Board feels he will be a strong successor to Doug."

Congratulations, Brad! Thank you, Doug!

INDEX

Across The Nation

I'M PROUD TO FARM FOR AMERICA *Page 2*

WATER RULE REVERSAL A BLOW TO AGRICULTURE *Page 5*

Across The State

SOLVENCY FUND LEGISLATION PROMPTS TWO MONTH EXTENSION OF FIRST QUARTER UI PAYMENT DUE DATE *Page 3*

I'M PROUD TO WORK WITH YOU! *Page 3*

BAKER SIGNS COVID-19 EMERGENCY PAID SICK LEAVE LAW *Page 4*

YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS *Page 7*



Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
249 Lakeside Ave
Marlborough, MA 01752

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit #1
N.Haverhill, NH

**BRINGING NEWS TO MASSACHUSETT'S
FARM BUREAU FEDERATION FAMILIES.**

The Voice of Agriculture in the Commonwealth.

Follow Us On Social Media



I'm Proud To Farm For America

By: Zippy Duvall, AFBF President

As I think about our country's 245th birthday, I thank God for all those who have stepped up to defend our nation, for those who have fought for change and for those who bring communities together to support each other in times of crisis.

Our country was built on a spirit of self-sacrifice, ingenuity and hard work with everyone doing their part. Over the past 16 months, Americans have shown that spirit is still strong. We gave up time with family to keep each other safe. We found ways to serve and connect with our communities in spite of the distance. Others dedicated resources and expertise to create safe and effective vaccines. And as our neighbors were struggling, we came together to make sure everyone had the food they needed.

At the time of our first census in 1790, 95 percent of Americans lived in rural communities, and most families had to grow their own food. Today, less than 20 percent of Americans live in rural communities and only 1 percent are farmers and ranchers. At the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in 2014, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack spoke about freedom. He noted that because 1 percent of the

population chooses to farm, the other 99% are free to pursue their passion.

Everywhere I go, as I travel around our country, I speak with farmers and ranchers who take great pride in their life's work. We enjoy farming because this work is more than a job. It's a calling. We enjoy rising early, getting our hands dirty and putting in a full day's work. We take great pride in caring for our land and animals. And we recognize that through all our country's good times and bad times, it's our duty to make sure Americans have the food, fuel and fiber we need to help keep our country strong. As we gather around picnic tables, pools, and grills this weekend to celebrate our nation's birth, we will once again enjoy a delicious meal produced by America's farmers and ranchers.

Our economists at the American Farm Bureau crunched the numbers – with the help of some Farm Bureau price checkers around the country – and found that the average cookout basket for 10 people will cost \$59.50. The price

of your July 4th cookout is down 1 percent from last year but is still an 8% increase from 2019. This fully loaded basket comes with ground beef, pork chops, chicken breasts, potato salad, chips, beans, cheese, hamburger buns, strawberries, lemonade, and, of course dessert, chocolate chip cookies and vanilla ice cream.

Even with the slight decrease in cost as the market continues to adjust from the pandemic, farmers see slim margins on the food dollar. U.S. farmers and ranchers get about 14 cents of every dollar consumers spend on food, which adds up to around \$8.33 from the summer cookout basket.

While farming is more than a job, that doesn't mean we don't worry about finances. We have families to support and a farm we want to leave in better shape for our children. It is easy to take the food in the grocery store for granted, but when shelves were

empty at the beginning of the pandemic, Americans became more concerned about where their food would come from and whether there would be enough. Of course, farmers and ranchers were #StillFarming like we do every day. We worked with our partners in the food supply chain to restock shelves, fill food banks and made sure Americans knew we were still on the job.

Part of that job is ensuring we have a stable and secure domestic food supply, so we don't have to rely on other countries for our food. The increased public interest in our food supply brings new opportunities to highlight not only the commitment of farmers, but also the fact that food production is a matter of national security. In times of crisis, like the onset of a global pandemic, we all want to be sure that our families will be fed, and America's farmers are doing just that.

So as you gather together with family, friends and neighbors for a barbeque, a parade or a day on the water, know that America's farmers and ranchers are proud to supply the food in your coolers and picnic baskets.

Zippy Duvall
AFBF President

Forecasting Egg Crisis, Senate Approves Changes To Voter Law

State senators in June approved a bill tweaking a 2016 ballot law around animal welfare standards, in hopes of staving off what one supporter described as a coming "egg-mageddon."

"Put simply, this bill is about happy chickens and happy consumers," Sen. Jason Lewis said as he introduced the bill.

Lewis, a Winchester Democrat, said that standards and practices affecting egg-laying hens have evolved in the five years since Massachusetts voters approved new animal welfare rules for the farms that produce eggs, pork and veal.

Passed with more than 77 percent of the vote, the law sets standards for how much space is required for pigs, calves and egg-laying hens.

Specifically, it requires enough room for hens that the birds are capable of "fully spreading both wings without touching the side of an enclosure or other egg-laying hens and having access to at least



1.5 square feet of usable floor space per hen." It takes effect in about six months, on Jan. 1, 2022.

Lewis said many egg producers are now using vertical aviaries -- instead of horizontal ones, with the birds all enclosed on a single level -- that provide hens with room to fly upwards, perch and roost.

The Senate bill (S 2481), approved on a voice vote, would allow one square foot of space per bird in aviaries that allow "unfettered vertical access," Lewis said.

"If we don't take action, there will be very few egg producers who will actually be in compliance with the standard as established in the ballot question, and that is not enough egg producers

to meet demand here in the commonwealth -- in fact far from it," he said. "So, we would be facing an egg-mageddon come early next year, where there would be very likely a severe shortage of eggs and therefore, likely we could see very significant price increases, price spikes, which of course would be bad for consumers in Massachusetts and would have a disproportionately negative impact on lower-income consumers."

The bill needs approval from the House and Gov. Charlie Baker to become law. At a May hearing, groups representing animal welfare advocates and commercial farmers -- two opposing sides during the ballot campaign -- both testified in support.

Sen. Anne Gobi, a Spencer Democrat, said egg producers in Massachusetts "have already made the necessary investments" to comply with the ballot law's original standards.

"The so-called agreement only benefits out-of-state producers, not Massachusetts," she said,

adding that the members of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation oppose the bill.

She said she did not personally support the ballot question but respected the results and wanted to "speak for the voters."

"At a time when voting rights are being attacked, we should not be taking any action to subvert the vote of the people," Gobi said.

Lewis said he believes the legislation is "fully consistent" with the will of the 2016 voters.

Lawmakers rewrote another measure passed at the ballot that year, first delaying parts of and then overhauling the voter-backed law legalizing and regulating marijuana.

"We should be, and we are, very careful about revisiting any laws that were approved at the ballot," Lewis said Thursday. "However, that said, there are circumstances where it is appropriate to revisit a law as passed at the ballot because circumstances have changed over time."

I'm Proud To Work With You!

By: Brad Mitchell, MFBF Executive Director

I started working in agriculture in the early 1990s when I went to work for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). I began as staff toxicologist and went on to oversee MDAR's regulatory programs. One of the proudest moments of my career was when I was offered the government affairs position at the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF). I'm even more proud to be your executive director. The trust the farming community has put in me (especially as a former regulator!) means a lot to me. Thank you for that trust and your support.

One of the things I learned early in my career is that to get anything done of significance, it typically takes a lot of people working together. We have many things we need to get done at MFBF – most of them significant. And while staff can do a lot of the work, we can't do it without the help and support of our members. Not just the board of directors, but really all of our members.

One of the key things we need to do is to increase our membership. Our membership numbers influence both the funding we have for various efforts, as well as how much influence we have on Beacon and Capital Hills. There are a lot of farmers out there who are not Farm Bureau members. The board of directors and state office will be rolling out some membership marketing initiatives in the coming year. However, MFBF members are our boots on the

ground and Farm Bureau needs your help recruiting new members. When it comes to promoting membership, no one has more credibility than an existing farmer

Community Solar. Under this agreement, for every person who signs up with Clearway through MFBF, the organization receives \$150. Those who sign up get a 7



member. So, if you're at the coffee shop or a barbeque and there's another farmer there who isn't a member, that's a good opportunity to try to get them to join. If you need some help with your pitch, please contact the state office at 508.481.4766 or info@mfbf.net.

We also need to increase and diversify our revenue stream. Farmers are businesspeople, so you all know it's a bad idea to rely on one product for your income. Presently, MFBF relies too heavily on membership income to support our efforts. Again, the board of directors and MFBF office will be coming out with some new initiatives – almost all of which rely on members to work.

A good example of a way to diversify membership is our recent relationship with Clearway

percent discount on their electric bill and help to support local, renewable energy. Unfortunately, the response from our membership has been underwhelming. Our next step on this is help you market Clearway's service and discount to you customers, with the idea that many who put a priority on local food will also put a priority on local, renewable energy. To learn more about the Clearway partnership and how you can participate go to <https://mfbf.net/clearway/>.

I'm looking forward to the challenges that come with being executive director. I'm proud to work for you. I'm most excited to be working with you.

Brad Mitchell
MFBF Executive Director
brad@mfbf.net

Solvency Fund Legislation Prompts Two Month Extension of First Quarter UI Payment Due Date

State officials have again extended the due date for first quarter unemployment insurance payments from Massachusetts employers. Originally extended by the Department of Unemployment Assistance to June 1, the deadline for employer payments has again been pushed out another two months to Monday, Aug. 2. Aug. 2 is also the due date for second quarter employment and wage detail filings and contributions.

The delay comes as the legislature and Baker administration work to pass legislation designed to address the unexpected solvency assessment increases recently experienced by employers in their Q1 bills. Currently on the Governor's desk awaiting approval, the legislation proposes shifting pandemic-related unemployment claims, currently charged to the solvency fund, into a new COVID fund which will be amortized over a 20-year period through bonding. The move is designed to provide employers with short-term relief from the solvency assessment spikes, however the burden of paying off the program's \$7 billion deficit over the 20-year period will remain squarely on the shoulders of the Commonwealth's employers.

Bay State Savings Bank



Your dream. Our expertise.

Whether you're purchasing a country home, small farm or expanding your existing farm, our lenders are equipped with practical knowledge to offer financing options for properties with special features including extra land, sheds, barns, or other special use buildings.

Call Bay State Savings Bank and speak with one of our lenders today.

508-890-9050 | baystatesavingsbank.com | NMLS#: 402171 | Member FDIC Member DIF



Massachusetts Farm Bureau
Federation, Inc.
1-508-481-4766

MFBF Board of Directors

Officers

President.....Mark Amato
Vice PresidentLaura Abrams
TreasurerWayne Smith
Imm. Past President Edward Davidian

County Directors

Berkshire Bob Kilmer
Bristol..... Skip Vadnais
Cape Cod & IslandsDavid Ross
Essex.....Barbara Rogers-Scharneck
FranklinLenny Roberts
HampdenRichard Woodger
Hampshire..... Alan Everett
Martha’s Vineyard Dan Martino
Middlesex..... Warren Shaw
Norfolk.....Rudolph Medeiros
Plymouth.....Charles (Jim) Hayward
WorcesterRyan MacKay

Budget Committee Members

Charles Proctor
Steve Ward
Will Pickard

At-Large Directors

Alex Dowse
Meghan Gennings
Heidi Cooper

Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee

Heather Bonanno BakerChair

MFBF Staff

Executive DirectorBrad Mitchell
Gov. & Public Affairs Director ..Katelyn Parsons
Office Manager.....Joan Monaco
Database AdministratorKim Ashe

MFBF Committee Chairs

Apiary: Crystal Card
APR: Mark Amato
Cannabis: Vacant
Equine: John Dougherty
Fruit & Vegetable: Vacant
Investment: Alex Dowse
Livestock: Ryan MacKay
Membership: Laura Abrams
Promotion & Education: Meg Gennings
YF&R: Heather Bonanno Baker

News and Views is published six 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

Baker Signs COVID-19 Emergency
Paid Sick Leave Law

On May 28, 2021, Governor Baker signed legislation establishing a COVID-19 Emergency Paid Sick Leave program in the Commonwealth. Effective immediately, all Massachusetts employers must grant up to 40 hours of emergency paid leave for full time employees, and prorated emergency paid leave for part time employees, for certain COVID-19 related purposes.

Employers are eligible for reimbursement for the cost of providing the required paid leave through a new \$75 million state fund created by the law, unless the employer is otherwise eligible for reimbursement from the federal COVID-19 emergency sick leave tax credit program established under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Employers must make the required leave available through Sept. 30, 2021, or until the state fund is



exhausted. The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development has issued preliminary employer guidance to facilitate implementation of the new law. The guidance provides important details pertaining to eligible reasons for taking leave, calculating leave amounts, written leave requests, and the law’s non-retaliation provisions. Additional guidance will be issued in the coming weeks, and is expected to include model employee notification and written request for leave forms, as well as information on how employers may apply for reimbursement from the state. In the interim, employers may use this preliminary guidance document to provide required employee notification, and should adopt a written request for leave policy that follows the process outlined in the Employees Request for Leave section of the guidance.

Looking Back On Doug Gillespie’s
30 Years Of Service To Massachusetts
Agriculture

Long-time Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation Executive Director Doug Gillespie handed over the organization’s reins to Brad Mitchell on June 30, 2021. Gillespie started with the organization in 1990, has deep roots within the Massachusetts agricultural community and is leaving behind very large shoes for Mitchell to fill.

“I want to thank Doug for his extraordinary service and dedication to our organization,” said MFBF President Mark Amato. “The past 30 years in Massachusetts agriculture have been challenging, especially as he was leading a membership-based organization. We’ve seen farmland in Massachusetts shrink and margins become tight on farms, which has made growing membership very difficult. However, thanks to Doug’s expert leadership, MFBF has continued to flourish, and he is leaving a legacy of calm, patient guidance in the face of challenging times.”

Prior to becoming MFBF’s executive director, Gillespie served as Massachusetts Agriculture Commissioner under Governors Jane Swift and Mitt Romney.

“I first met Doug Gillespie in 2004 when he was

serving as Massachusetts Ag Commissioner and Governor Romney appointed me to the Board of Food and Agriculture. I learned a great deal from him then both about the agency, and various aspects of the ag economy with which I was unfamiliar,” said MDAR Commissioner John Lebeaux. “His ‘toolbox’ approach resulted in many programs which still benefit Massachusetts ag today.



“When I joined MDAR, I was delighted to have the opportunity to again work with Doug in his capacity of MFBF executive director, and from my perspective it’s been a very positive relationship. I’ve always counted on Doug for his informed candor. His support of a concept or program was an excellent indicator that we were on the right path; but maybe more importantly, he never hesitated to tell me if he questioned something we were doing. Best wishes on a long, happy and healthy retirement to my friend Doug, who has admirably served all of Massachusetts ag throughout his career!”

Gillespie also was served as assistant executive director for MFBF for 12 years before becoming commissioner. His deep knowledge of the organization, its staff and membership allowed him to be successful

Continued on Page 9

MFBF’s Vision Statement

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.

MFBF Launches Co-Hort Program For Non-Traditional Members

The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) is now accepting applications for its first-ever, non-traditional membership scholarship, which is available on www.MFBF.net. The intent of this scholarship program is to receive input into the organization's policy development program from commercial farmers who are not traditionally members. Examples of non-traditional members include urban farmers, new entry farmers, immigrant farmers and more.

"Farm Bureau membership has always been open to everyone, however, one of the biggest barriers to joining can be approaching a group of people where you know no one," said MFBF President Mark Amato. "By creating this scholarship program and in turn a cohort program for the recipients, we hope to break down those walls and introduce non-traditional members to our current members in an environment where the new people are comfortable. In turn, we hope to see the scholarship

recipients bring in other, non-traditional members to provide input on our policy process and expand our membership."

Scholarship recipients will receive a scholarship membership into the organization (valued at \$225) for one year and will be expected to complete an orientation webinar, a mid-year survey, and participate in one county-level policy event.

"The feedback that we get during the Farm Bureau policy development process can have


national impact," Amato said. "We need all types of farmers involved in this process and value all input. I'm looking forward to seeing this scholarship bring new ideas to the table."

The deadline to apply is July 31, 2021, and applications will be reviewed by a committee of MFBF board of directors. This scholarship was made possible through a grant from American Farm Bureau Federation.

Apply online at www.MFBF.net!

Have A Chonky Barn Cat? Enter Them In MFBF's Barn Cat Photo Contest

Do you have a barn mouser who has a larger than life purr-sonality? Here is your opportunity to enter them in the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) inaugural barn cat photo contest!



before the Aug. 31 deadline!

"This contest is meant to bring awareness to the farm cat population in the Commonwealth," said MFBF President Mark Amato. "They support our farmers through rodent control and their aloof companionship. They have also

become an iconic tradition for farms across the country with most farms supporting a small population of barn cats."

A panel of MFBF members will serve as judges to determine winners in each category. There is room on the online submission for three photos, please be sure to submit a photo where the barn is shown in a "working" capacity or barn setting. This contest is meant to honor barn cats, not house companions.

For farmers who are looking to adopt barn cats, here is a list of links to shelters with a barn cat adoption program:

- https://www.mspca.org/animal_care/barn-cat-program/
- <https://monadnockhumanesociety.org/adoption/barn-cat-program/>
- <https://www.dakinhumane.org/barn-cats.html>
- <https://www.plymouth-ma.gov/animal-control/pages/barnworking-cat-program>
- <https://www.catsontheweb.org/feralcatrescues.htm>

Water Rule Reversal A Blow To Agriculture

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) announcement of its intention to reverse the Navigable Waters Protection Rule.

"The American Farm Bureau Federation is extremely disappointed in the Environmental Protection Agency's announcement of its intention to reverse the environmentally conscious Navigable Waters Protection Rule, which finally brought clarity and certainty to

clean water efforts. Farmers and ranchers care about clean water and preserving the land, and they support the Navigable Waters Protection Rule.

"Administrator Regan recently recognized the flaws in the 2015 Waters of the U.S. Rule and pledged not to return to those overreaching regulations. We are deeply concerned that the EPA plans to reverse the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, which puts the future of responsible protections at risk. We expected

extensive outreach, but today's announcement fails to recognize the concerns of farmers and ranchers.

"This is an important moment for Administrator Regan and will be pivotal to his ability to earn the trust of farmers on this and other administration priorities. He must keep his word to recognize the efforts of agriculture and not return to flawed, overly complicated and excessive regulations.

"We call on EPA to respect the

statute, recognize the burden that overreaching regulation places on farmers and ranchers, and not write the term 'navigable' out of the Clean Water Act. On this issue, and particularly prior converted croplands and ephemerals, we also urge Secretary Vilsack to ensure that we don't return to the regulatory land grab that was the 2015 WOTUS Rule.

"Clean water and clarity are paramount, and that is why farmers shouldn't need a team of lawyers and consultants to farm."

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.

P&E Committee Update

*By: Meg Gennings, P&E
Committee Chair*

Happy Summer!

The P&E Committee is happy to be working on a few projects that will be landing this fall including our Ag Learning Boxes and representation at The Big E on Massachusetts Day. I know we are all enjoying summer but who can't wait for fall season!?

Be sure to take part in our barn cat photo contest. There are different cat-egories and prizes from The Pet Food Institute to win. Entries are due Aug. 31 and you can find the entry form on MFBF.net.

If your farm business utilizes social media for consumer engagement, AFBF P&E may have the info graphics and published posts you need to spread the accurate message on ag practices. Feel free to reach out to me, Meg Gennings at mgennings@gmail.com for resources.

Have a safe rest of the summer!

Meg Gennings
mgennings@gmail.com

State Public Health Officials Confirm Season's First West Nile Virus-Positive Mosquito Sample

Residents urged to use bug spray when outdoors

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that West Nile virus (WNV) has been detected in mosquitoes in Massachusetts for the first time this year. The presence of WNV was confirmed by the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory in a mosquito sample collected on June 29 in the town of Medford in Middlesex County. No human or animal cases of WNV or Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) have been detected so far this year. There is no elevated risk level or risk-level change associated with this finding.

"The first WNV infected mosquito of the season is always a signal that it is time to start taking steps to avoid mosquito bites," said DPH Acting Commissioner Margret Cooke. "WNV is part of summer in Massachusetts and as we head into this long holiday weekend, it is important to remember that while WNV can cause serious illness, there are simple things that you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones."

WNV is usually transmitted to

humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. There were 8 human cases of WNV in 2020. In 2018, there were 49 human cases of WNV infection acquired in Massachusetts - the greatest number of cases the Commonwealth has ever had in a single year. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe disease. Most people infected with WNV will have no symptoms. When present, WNV symptoms tend to include fever and flu-like illness. In rare cases, more severe illness can occur.

“These simple actions can help protect you from mosquito bites and the diseases they can cause,” said Dr. Catherine M. Brown, State Epidemiologist. “The tools for prevention include using a mosquito repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient according to the directions on the label, wearing clothing to reduce exposed skin when weather permits, draining standing water to prevent mosquito breeding, and repairing window screens to keep mosquitoes out of your home,” she said.

More information, including all

WNV and EEE positive results, can be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page at Mosquito-borne Diseases | Mass.gov, which is updated daily, or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.

To Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply Insect Repellent When Outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient (DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535) according to the product label instructions. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

Wear Appropriate Clothing to Help
Continued on Page 8

Special Announcement: New Partner & Member Benefit

It's been a remote year. Remote work, remote sports. Now, there's remote solar! You see, Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) members can now go solar, no roof required by subscribing to an offsite solar farm. MFBF has partnered with Clearway Community Solar to further our collective mission of supporting renewable power in the Commonwealth. When you



join a Clearway Community Solar Farm, you can support locally-produced solar energy for the Massachusetts power grid, and receive a savings guarantee on energy costs. Through our special partnership with Clearway, there is no sign up cost, no cancellation fee, and for every MFBF member that joins, Clearway will donate \$150 to the MFBF to support our programming. It's a great new way for our members to help reduce


the dependence on fossil fuels and support a greater contribution of renewable power to our local grid. And while you're helping the planet, you'll save along the way.

To learn about supporting


renewable power and Clearway's savings guarantee, please visit www.clearwaysolarfarm.com/MFBF. Use promo code: MFBF and enroll online in just 5 minutes. Or, call 1.866.520.0748 to speak to an energy consultant. No home

audits are required and there is no rooftop installation.

Terms & conditions apply. Please see the Clearway Customer Agreement for details.



Mosquito-Borne Disease



IS YOUR HORSE PROTECTED?

Mosquitoes across Massachusetts and in surrounding states spread Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV).

In 2019, eight horses in Massachusetts died from EEE. In 2020, interventions including vaccination eliminated cases of EEE in horses!

Vaccination can prevent EEE and WNV in horses. Protect your horses!

Call your veterinarian to schedule this life-saving vaccination.

MA residents: Can't afford this vaccine? Ask your vet if MDAR can help.

Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee Happenings

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



Are You A Young Farmer? Attend Our Social on Sept. 25 at Hollis Hills Farm in Fitchburg!



Live Music!
Good Food!
Great Company!

Time: 6 - 9 p.m.
Location: 240 Marshall Rd,
Fitchburg, MA 01420
Registered attendees will receive a
voucher for \$8 worth of food/drink!

Register to Attend Online: <https://mfbf.net/mfbf-yfr-social-event/>

Do You Have An Internship Opportunity?

The UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture requires an internship for students to graduate. To connect students with internship and job opportunities, the school has created a job board that students use to identify and apply for these jobs. If you have an opportunity, you can submit it online to their website:
<https://stockbridge.cns.umass.edu/node/add/career-opportunity>.

2022 Farm Bureau® Ag Innovation Challenge Application Open

The American Farm Bureau Federation, in partnership with Farm Credit, has opened online applications for the 2022 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge. This national business competition showcases U.S. startup companies that are providing solutions to challenges faced by America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities. Farm Bureau will award \$165,000 in startup funds provided by sponsors Farm Credit, Bayer Crop Science, Farm Bureau Bank, Farm Bureau Financial Services, FMC Corporation and John Deere.

Launched in 2015 as the first national competition focused exclusively on rural entrepreneurs, the Challenge continues to identify the next ag entrepreneurs to watch and supports innovation essential to Farm Bureau member businesses and communities.

For this eighth year of the competition, Farm Bureau is seeking entrepreneurs who are addressing either traditional or new/emerging challenges. The 2021 Farm Bureau

Entrepreneur of the Year, Riley Clubb with Harvust, addressed traditional challenges by developing a software platform that helps farmers successfully hire, train and communicate with employees. The competition is also open to entrepreneurs tackling new challenges that surfaced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Farm Bureau members across the country continue to grapple with a number of challenges associated with the pandemic," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Now, more than ever, we need creative solutions from entrepreneurs to help our farmers, ranchers and rural communities thrive."

For example, 2021 Ag Innovation semi-finalist Butter Meat Co. is a beef supply chain startup based in Western New York that is working to improve

the value proposition of retired dairy cows as beef for farmers and consumers. Owners of the business are building a dairy beef brand that increases the farm gate value and offers customers flavorful beef produced eco-consciously. Another Ag Innovation semi-finalist,



AgriHoodBaltimore, launched the Urban Farmer Training Resource Institute with a focus on developing the next generation of urban farmers.

Farm Bureau and Farm Credit will select 10 startup companies to compete as semi-finalists at the AFBF Convention in January 2022 in Atlanta, Georgia. The 10 semi-finalist teams will be announced on Oct. 5 and awarded \$10,000 each. These 10 teams will compete to advance to the final round where four teams will receive an additional \$5,000 each

and compete live on stage in front of Farm Bureau members, investors and industry representatives. The final four teams will compete to win:

- Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge Winner, for a total of \$50,000
- Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge Runner-up, for a total of \$20,000
- People's Choice Team selected by public vote, for an additional \$5,000 (all 10 semi-finalist teams compete for this honor)

The top 10 semi-finalist teams will participate in pitch training and mentorship from Cornell University's Dyson School of Applied Economics & Management faculty prior to competing at AFBF's Convention. In addition, the top 10 semi-finalist teams will have the opportunity to network with industry leaders and venture capital representatives from the Agriculture Department's Rural Business Investment Companies.

Applications must be received by Aug. 20.

MFBF Bids Farewell To Technology Director John Conners

Please join the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) in saying farewell to John Conners, who is leaving the organization to pursue a new career opportunity.



Conners began his career at MFBF in 2003 as the director of public relations and has served in many roles throughout his tenure with the organization. Some of those roles include membership director, communications director and information technology director. He was also known as the organization's expert for farm plates.

His last day at MFBF was July 16. Best wishes, John!

MDAR Seeks Responses For The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Round II

The purpose of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as “fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).”

For details and how to apply, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-the-specialty-crop-block-grant-program>. Applications are due by Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 5:00pm.



SBA Working Capital Loans Available in Massachusetts Following Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Declaration for Drought Beginning Sept. 22

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced that Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and private nonprofit organizations as a result of drought that began on Sept. 22, 2020.

The loans are available in the following counties: Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Hampden, Hampshire, Plymouth, Worcester in Massachusetts.

Under this declaration, the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to eligible

farm-related and nonfarm-related entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. Except for aquaculture enterprises, SBA cannot provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers and ranchers. Nurseries are eligible to apply for economic injury disaster loans for losses caused by drought conditions.

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates of 3 percent for small businesses and 2.75 percent for private nonprofit organizations of all sizes, with terms up to 30 years. The SBA determines eligibility based on the size of the applicant, type of

activity and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. The loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at DisasterLoan.sba.gov and should apply under SBA declaration # 16724, not for the COVID-19 incident.

Season's First West Nile-Positive Mosquito Sample

Continued From Page 6

Reduce Mosquito Bites. Wearing long sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Drain Standing Water. Mosquitoes lay eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or Repair Screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes

near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent WNV and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report this to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

Farm Credit East Seeks Modern Agriculture Photos For A Chance To Win \$100

Farm Credit East is currently seeking creative images of modern Northeast agriculture, commercial fishing and forest products to fill the pages of its 2022 Agricultural Views calendar. Upload your picturesque images from the farm, woods or dock at FarmCreditEast.com/Calendar by July 31 for a chance to win \$100.

Winning photographs will be featured in Farm Credit East's 2022 calendar. From all entries, 14 photos will be selected for a \$100 prize each. Additional photos will be selected to fill the calendar pages, each earning a \$25 prize.

“For more than a decade, we’ve received many photo submissions illustrating progressive agriculture operations,” says Kristie Matuszewski, Farm Credit East director of marketing and communications. “We look for fresh imagery that represents Northeast farming, horticulture, forestry and commercial fishing during every season, as well as shots that celebrate rural life in New England, New York or New Jersey.”

Winning photos are selected based on technical quality, clarity and composition, as well as photos that capture unique views of modern agriculture and life in the country.

So take your camera out to the field, barn or dock, in the tractor cab, out on the open water, or into the woods, and send in the many views of agriculture enriching Northeast rural communities.

“Last year, we received more than 800 images from dozens of talented photographers. We look forward to receiving many more entries this year,” said Matuszewski.

Only digital photos are accepted. Contest rules and an entry form, as well as inspiration from previous years' calendars, can be found at FarmCreditEast.com/Calendar. The submission deadline is July 31, 2021.

Update On USDA Pandemic Assistance

Signup continues for the **second round of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program payments (CFAP 2)** at the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). The purpose of CFAP 2 is to provide financial assistance to producers who faced market disruptions and incurred increased costs because of COVID-19. A deadline to signup for CFAP 2 has not been determined but could be announced anytime. As of 6/27/21, **1,599** approved CFAP applicants in Massachusetts have received **over \$31.2 million** in payments. **Don't miss out on this opportunity!**

On June 15, Secretary Vilsack announced the following programs, planned for implementation within 60 days, which will continue to be focused on filling gaps in previous rounds of pandemic assistance to help beginning, socially disadvantaged and small and medium sized producers:

- \$200 million: Small, family-owned timber harvesting and hauling businesses
- \$700 million: Biofuels producers
- Support for dairy farmers and processors:
 - ◊ \$400 million: The new Dairy Donation Program to address food insecurity and mitigate food waste and loss
 - ◊ Additional pandemic payments targeted to dairy farmers that have demonstrated losses that have not been covered by previous pandemic assistance
 - ◊ Approximately \$580 million: Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage for small and medium farms
- Assistance for poultry and livestock producers left out of previous rounds of pandemic assistance:
 - ◊ Contract growers of poultry
 - ◊ Livestock and poultry producers forced to euthanize animals during the pandemic

(March 1, 202 through Dec. 26, 2020)

- \$700 million: Pandemic Response and Safety Grants to reimburse producers, processors, distributors, and farmers markets (including seafood processors and vessels) for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other worker protection measures associated with pandemic response
- Up to \$20 million: Additional organic cost share assistance, including for producers who are transitioning to organic.

Specific program details have **not** yet been announced but interested individuals should contact their local **USDA Service Center** or **check out Farmers.Gov.**

APR Program Accepting Applications - Application Deadline Extended To July 23

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is currently accepting applications for the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. The Program purchases the non-agricultural value of the farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction which prevents uses and activities that may impact the present or future agricultural use and viability of the property. Through purchases of Agricultural

Continued on Page 14

Doug Gillespie's 30 Years Of Service

Continued From Page 3

as executive director since 2007.

"Doug has been a key member of the MFBF team for all the years he has been associated with the Farm Bureau organization," said Alex Dowse, MFBF at-large director and past president. "He has carried the interests forward, trained and counseled new staff members, been extensively innovative in his approach to issues and deeply knowledgeable to support membership with the range of issues agriculture faces."

"Doug carried our best interests in the broader world into his tenure as MDAR (Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources) commissioner and served independently and admirably under the administration's policies. Doug stepped up during an internal crisis, holding the organization and staff together and then with outstanding honor and integrity has guided Farm Bureau forward. We can be proud and extremely thankful for the quality and commitment Doug has extended to agriculture and Farm Bureau. Thank you for your service."

Since coming back to MFBF in 2007, Gillespie has worked tirelessly for farmers and the organization. One key project he worked on was fundraising for the Farm Bureau Federation Hall at UMass, according to Rich Bonanno, MFBF past president.

"Doug, congratulations for your many years of impactful service to the agricultural community and to the public in Massachusetts," Bonanno said. "Your roles at Farm Bureau, at MDAR, and in your community certainly demonstrate both your desire and your effectiveness in making a difference. I appreciate all your help during my various roles at MDAR, UMass, MFBF, and at our family business. Thank you also for your help with the UMass 'Farm Bureau Federation Hall' project. I'm not sure this would have succeeded without your assistance and perseverance! Over your career, you brought a wealth of experience that we all are grateful for. Thank you and Congratulations!"

Gillespie has deep roots in the agricultural community as he grew up on a farm in Weston, and was active in 4-H.

"He understands the difficult regulatory landscape Massachusetts farmers face," said Ed Davidian, MFBF immediate past president. "When we had an issue, he listened to us and assisted us with coming up with a workable policy solution that MFBF could advocate for on our behalf. That deep appreciation for the agricultural community is hard to come by and he will be missed."

From cranberries to dairy, to livestock and fruit/vegetable farmers, Gillespie was able to provide the Massachusetts industries with the support they needed.

"Doug is humble guy who we were all fortunate to have share our love of agriculture," said Warren Shaw, MFBF's Middlesex County representative. "With Doug it's always been about farm families."

Additionally, Gillespie has been instrumental in encouraging more young farmers in becoming involved in the young farmers and ranchers (YF&R) committee, according to MFBF Worcester County Representative Ryan MacKay.

"I first learned of MFBF and its YF&R committee while I was in college and I was very excited to meet other young, likeminded farmers," MacKay said. "Doug was a key supporter of this group as he encouraged us to expand our leadership skills and become the future of our organization."

Save The Date:

Berkshire County Farm Bureau's Legislative Picnic!

Date: Aug. 21, 2021 at 10 a.m.
Location: 100 Holiday Cottage Rd, Dalton, MA 01226

Berkshire County Farm Bureau is hosting its legislative picnic on Aug. 21. The event will start at 10 a.m. with a farm tour then speeches and lunch. The County Farm Bureau will be providing burgers and hot dogs but asks everyone to bring a side to share. **Regular Berkshire County Farm Bureau members should watch their emails for details on how to RSVP.**

Thank you for your service, Doug!

Allied Business Directory

Able Farm & Garden

51 South Rd
Pepperell, MA 01463-1634
978-448-3144
info@ablefg.com
Products and Services: landscaping and lawn supplies, mulch, loam, firewood, frozen meats, dairy, baked goods, honey, maple products, grab & go meals, gifts, décor.

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 Service

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.

Clearway Energy

41 Brigham St Unit 6
Marlborough MA 01752-5143
(480) 521-1513
daniel.barber@clearwayenergy.com
Clearwayenergygroup.com/careers
Products & Services: Clearway's leading the transition to a world powered by clean energy. Power up your career at our Massachusetts solar farms.

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.

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.

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.

M5 Landworks

1 Mathewson St
Plainville, MA 02762
508-510-2004
M5Landworks1@gmail.com
Products & Services: We specialize in undergrowth brush clearing/excavation. Give us a call for a free estimate!

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Sprague Energy

185 International Drive
Portsmouth, NH 03801
413-374-6280
www.spragueenergy.com
dbogan@spragueenergy.com
Products & Services: Energy supplier since 1870. We provide and deliver Heating Fuels, On-road and Off-road Diesel Fuels, Bio Fuels, Gasoline and Natural Gas.

The Mane Place

510 W Hartford Ave
Uxbridge, MA 01569-1384
508-278-7563
themaneplace.com
linda@themaneplace.com
Products & Services: The Mane Place offers Poulin grain, hay, shavings, barn supplies, horse supplies, pet food and supplies, apparel, saddles, tack and gifts in a friendly family-owned setting.

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.

Due to space limitations, products and services listings will be limited to 20 words or less.





Fact: Although it doesn't get the publicity that tornadoes and hurricanes receive, lightning is the second leading cause of storm related deaths, trailing only flood. Each year in the United States, more than 400 people are struck by lightning.¹ On average, between 55 and 60 people are killed; hundreds of others suffer permanent neurological disabilities. In addition to causing loss of life, lightning also causes loss of property in the form of total fires, damaged electronics and equipment, loss of livestock and more. **Consider the following lightning protection ideas for your property:**

Lightning Rod Protection System

The fundamental purpose of a lightning rod system is not to attract lightning but to provide a low resistance path for electrical currents to travel to the ground. With a properly working system, an electrical current is less likely to pass directly through your home or structure causing damage to electronics and increasing the risk of fire.

This system will include properly sized and placed lightning rods affixed to the highest point of the building. The lightning rods are connected to down conductors designed to carry the charge to the grounding rods. A properly installed ground rod system should have a minimum of two ground rods, driven at least 10 feet deep in the earth, optimally positioned at two different points near the structure. Special grounding requirements are sometimes necessary in shallow, sandy or

rocky soil.² Due to the significance of proper installation, it is recommended that only a qualified contractor install the system. One improperly installed component of the system can cause the entire system to fail or be ineffective.

According to the Lightning Protection Institute, there are five elements that need to be in place to provide an effective lightning protection system.

1. Strike termination devices must be suitably attached to accept direct lightning and patterned to accept strikes before they reach insulated building materials.
2. Cable conductors route lightning currents over and through the construction, without damage, between strike terminations at the top and the grounding electrode system at the bottom.
3. The below grade grounding electrode system must efficiently move the lightning to its journey's end away from the structure and its contents.
4. Bonding or the interconnection of the lightning protection system to other internal grounded metallic systems must be accommodated to eliminate the opportunity for lightning to side flash internally.
5. Finally, surge protection devices must be installed at every service entrance to stop the intrusion of lightning from utility lines, and further equalize potential between grounded systems during lightning events.

When these elements are identified properly in the design stage, incorporated into a neat workmanlike installation, and no changes to the building occur, the system will protect against lightning damage. Elements of this passive grounding system always serve a similar function, but the total design is specific for each structure.³

Certain codes and standards should be followed when lightning protection systems are installed. Standards and sources are listed below:

- LPI-175: Standard of Practice for the Design - Installation- Inspection of Lightning Protection Systems (2008 Ed.), by Lightning Protection Institute.
- NFPA 780: Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems (2008 Ed.) by National Fire Protection Association.
- ASAE EP381: American Society of Agricultural Engineers, Engineering Practice.
- UL 96 & 96A: Standard for Lightening Protection Components (5th Ed.) and Standard for Installation Requirements for Lightning Protection Systems (12th Ed.), by Underwriters Laboratories.⁴

Surge Protection

Lightning protection systems are designed first and foremost as fire protection systems, to stop the building from burning down. Even in a building equipped with

a properly functioning lightning rod protection system, electronic equipment and appliances are still susceptible to damage. Lightning can strike a nearby power line causing an excessive amount of power to travel through the line and directly into your business or home.

In these instances, any items connected to the power system are exposed to the power surge. **Use of Surge Protection Devices can provide a more complete lightning protection system to protect structure, people, and equipment within.**

¹National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (2019). *Lightning Safety for You and Your Family* Retrieved from https://www.weather.gov/media/bis/Lightning_Safety.pdf

²Lightning Protection for Home, Property and Family. Retrieved August 2019 from Lightning Protection Institute at http://lightning.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Home_Property_Family_Brochure.pdf.

³Lightning Protection Overview. Retrieved August 2019 from Lightning Protection Institute at <https://lightning.org/lightning-protection-overview>.

⁴Information gathered in part from: Hallman, Eric M.; Chamberlain, Diane. *Lightning Protection for Farms*. Retrieved August 2019 from National Ag Safety Database at <http://nasdonline.org/1882/d001825/lightning-protection-for-farms.html>



RISK SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Risk.Services@AmericanNational.com

518.431.5098

www.AmericanNational.com

Being A Farm Bureau Member Pays

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 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.



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 up to \$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

There's A Million Reasons To Join Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation

Below Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) outlines the benefits of being a Farm Bureau member and has compiled testimonials from several current members on how the organization has helped them and their farms. Please take this page and ask your local farmer friends to join our organization. *While we work for farmers, we can't work without them!*

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Works On Your Behalf

2020 brought a difficult time filled with a lot of fear and uncertainty to the Massachusetts agricultural community with the spread of COVID-19. MFBF heard from its farmer members, on how this pandemic has been impacting their businesses, including interrupting

sales and disrupting the workforce. Based on this input and feedback, MFBF staff and leadership worked to identify ways to support farms and farmers.

It is important to remember in these difficult times that we are stronger together. Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation is built on the power of

consensus and membership is its lifeblood. For less than 0.65 cents a day (\$225 per year), you can support MFBF by becoming a member.

Additionally, a membership in Farm Bureau can pay for itself with savings from the organization's discount program for members! Please consider joining MFBF today!



Attention Farmers

New solar program allows for continued use of your grazing land along with a large scale solar project.

Guaranteed income for 20 years.

Call 978.895.0519 to determine eligibility.

Continue your farming or grazing under a solar array. Also looking for property with high transmission lines running through it.

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):

Voting Members

- ☐ Regular Member: \$225 for 1 year
- ☐ Gold Member: \$350 for 1 year
- ☐ Platinum Member: \$500 for 1 year

Non-Voting Members

- ☐ Associate Member: \$70 for 1 year
- ☐ Allied Business: \$225 for 1 year
- ☐ Student: \$25 for 1 year
- ☐ Friend: \$25 for 1 year

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

- ☐ Ag/Open Space Supporter
- ☐ Aquaculture
- ☐ Equine
- ☐ Forestry
- ☐ Fruits
- ☐ Horticulture
- ☐ Livestock
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Vegetables
- ☐ Other: _____

Method of Payment

Credit Card:

- ☐ American Express
- ☐ Visa
- ☐ MasterCard
- ☐ Discover

CC#: _____

CVV: _____ Exp. Date: __/__/____

Signature: _____

Check:

Make checks payable to:
Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation

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

Thank you for your support!

Recipe: Blueberry Delight

Ingredients

- 1 individual package graham crackers, 9 full crackers
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 10 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons milk or half-and-half
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 (21-ounce) cans blueberry pie filling
- 2 (8-ounce) containers frozen whipped topping, thawed



How to make

1. Pulse graham crackers and pecans in a food processor until finely ground.
2. Pour into a large bowl and add melted butter and 1/4 cup sugar. Stir to mix.
3. Press into a 9x13-inch pan and bake at 350 degrees for 8 minutes. Let cool.
4. Using an electric mixer, beat cream cheese, milk, and confectioners' sugar until smooth. Fold in 1 cup of whipped topping. (Save remaining whipped topping for the final layer.)
5. Spread cream cheese mixture on top of crust.
6. Spread blueberry pie filling on top of cream cheese layer.
7. Top with remaining whipped topping.
8. Chill thoroughly before serving.

New England Leopold Conservation Award Seeks Nominees



Know a farmer or forestland owner who goes above and beyond in their care and management of natural resources? Nominate them for the 2021 New England Leopold Conservation Award®.

Sand County Foundation and national sponsor American Farmland Trust present the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners in 22 states for extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. In New England the \$10,000 award is presented with, New England Forestry Foundation and Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands & Communities.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the award recognizes landowners who inspire others with their dedication to soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat on private, working land. In

his influential 1949 book, *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage.

Nominations may be submitted on behalf of a landowner in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. Landowners may also nominate themselves. The application can be found at www.sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA.

The application deadline date is July 15, 2021. Applications can be emailed to award@sandcountyfoundation.org. If mailed, applications must be postmarked by July 15, and mailed to:

Leopold Conservation Award
c/o New England Forestry Foundation
P.O. Box 1346
Littleton, MA 01460

Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel of agricultural and forestry conservation leaders.

“As a national sponsor for Sand County Foundation’s Leopold

Conservation Award, American Farmland Trust celebrates the hard work and dedication of farmers, ranchers and forestland owners,” said John Piotti, AFT President and CEO. “At AFT we believe that conservation in agriculture requires a focus on the land, the practices and the people and this award recognizes the integral role of all three.”

“Recipients of this award are real life examples of conservation-minded agriculture,” said Kevin McAleese, Sand County Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer. “These hard-working families are essential to our environment, food system and rural economy.”

The New England Leopold Conservation Award is made possible through the generous support of American Farmland Trust, New England Forestry Foundation; Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands & Communities; Sand County Foundation, David and Ann Ingram, Farm Credit East, Yale School of the Environment and Whole Foods Market.

The first recipient of the award was Bill Hull of Hull Forest Products in Pomfret Center, Connecticut. Linda Rinta and the Rinta Family Farm of West Wareham, Massachusetts received the award in 2020.

APR Application Deadline Extended

Continued From Page 9

Preservation Restrictions, the APR Program preserves and protects agricultural land, including designated farmland soils, which are a finite natural resource, from being built upon for non- agricultural purposes or used for any activity detrimental to agriculture. It is a voluntary program which offers a non-development alternative to

farmers and other owners of “prime” and “state important” agricultural land who are faced with a decision regarding future use and disposition of their farms. To date, the program has protected over 930 farm properties across the Commonwealth.

Applications will be considered for funding through the APR

Program and the federal USDA Agricultural Lands Easement (ALE) Program. The program accepts applications on a rolling basis. In order to be considered a priority for the next funding cycle submit an application no later than July 23 deadline.

To learn more about the APR program go to mass.gov..

Northeast SARE Now Accepting Grant Preproposals

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program is now accepting preproposals for three grant programs: Research and Education, Professional Development and Research for Novel Approaches. The grant programs are aimed at improving sustainable agriculture and local food systems throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states.

Preproposals, which capture preliminary project concepts, are required for each grant program and are due online by 5 p.m. on Aug. 3. Applicants selected to submit full proposals will be contacted in mid-August with full proposals due on Oct. 26. More information about how to

apply may be found at www.northeastsare.org/GetGrant.

Although anyone may apply, all projects must take place within the Northeast region, which includes the New England states, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Washington, D.C.

The Research and Education grant program funds farmer education and applied research on sustainable farming and food system topics. Projects must engage farmers as cooperators, aim for measurable change in farm practices and have a plan to verify results. Awards typically range from \$30,000 to \$250,000.

The Professional Development grant program funds train-the-trainer projects about sustainable agriculture concepts and techniques for Cooperative Extension educators, non-profit personnel and other service providers. Projects, which will be funded in the \$30,000 to \$150,000 range, must specify measurable changes in service providers’ education and training of farmers.

Applied research conducted through social science investigations and/or field and laboratory experiments are eligible for Research for Novel Approaches grant program funds, which range from \$30,000 to \$200,000. Projects should lead to the feasibility of new practices and approaches that

have high potential for adoption by farmers.

Women; Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC); LGBTQ+ community members and personnel at minority-serving institutions, including 1890s and other historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions and tribal colleges and universities are encouraged to submit preproposals. Northeast SARE is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture and housed within University of Vermont Extension.

Questions about the grant programs should be directed to northeastsare@uvm.edu.

MFBF Members' Classifieds

FARM STUFF WANTED

FARM STUFF WANTED: We are interested in picking your barns, outbuildings. etc. Looking for galvanized buckets. tin roof. old boxes and anything we can make into something cool! Call Mike at 978 230 1131

FOR SALE

FOR LEASE: Halifax, MA - Multiple 100' x 30' greenhouses for lease. Greenhouses are secure, clean, and equipped with lights and water; heat available. Terms of lease & price are negotiable. Pat: 617-828-6461

FOR LEASE: Route 9, Amherst - 15 acres with newer barn, deer fencing, irrigation system, 3 cold frames, and solar panels. Prime soils and high visibility location. 413-834-8873 for more info.

FOR SALE: Hereford Calves for Sale: 6-7 months old, hand raised and tame, polled, both steers and Heifers, for your feed lot or pasture. 617-840-2074.

FOR SALE: 23 plus acres of prime farmland in Sterling that can be used for agriculture; grazing; livestock or horses. Build the house and farm of you dreams here with breathtaking views. Text 978-660-0980 for info

FOR SALE: 26% Tax Credit on EPA certified Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX models and installation. Call today to learn more 413-296-4320.

FOR SALE: Tires: Great prices, all sizes, tire repairs, road service, calcium chloride service. Hoey Tire, Worcester. Call 508-755-6666, www.hoeytire.com

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

SERVICES

REAL ESTATE APPRAISER/CONSULTANT: Valuations and consulting for estate planning/gifting, buying/selling, APR/CR, Chapter 61, 61A, 61B tax appeals. William King 508-867-2600 or whking2005@gmail.com

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: Bob's Turkey Farm, Lancaster, MA – Positions open for full time and part time, conscientious team member with versatile skills, flexible hours. Team member can work on farm or in farm kitchen/store, individual must be able to lift 50 lbs., Competitive pay, Bonus Eligible and Paid Time Off. Please call farm @978-365-9271 or email resume to bobsturkeyfarm@verizon.net.

HELP WANTED: ORCHARD MANAGER. Massachusetts farm is seeking a reliable Farm Manager responsible for the planning, planting, growing and harvesting of apples, stone fruit and some vegetable crops. This person will be responsible for all aspects of crop production, managing the property and workers, chemical spray program practicing I.P.M, harvest, pruning and equipment maintenance. This position requires an independent, motivated self-starter who values working in a team setting. Formal education, technical certificate, and/or extensive work experience in the area of orchard production, or management is necessary. Experience producing cider would be helpful but not necessary. Candidate must have a minimum of three years experience and a pesticide license. This is a year-round position located in Central Massachusetts. Compensation will be based on experience, plus benefits. Please apply by email at davisfarms@verizon.net

HELP WANTED: Groundworker needed for Dudley Tree, in Haverhill. Must have valid driver's license and good driving record. Pluses: chainsaw, chipper, stump

grinder, crane experience and/or CDL, MA Hydraulic licenses. Call Bob 978-373-1510

HELP WANTED: At Back Bay Farm in Ipswich, MA. Experienced and licensed riding instructor needed. Able to teach beginners through intermediate level. Also looking for full time barn help (no mucking). Both jobs offer good pay and an excellent work environment. Please call Robin Petersen 978-357-0730 or 508-932-0731.

HELP WANTED: Rising Star Equestrian Center in Medway Ma is looking for a knowledgeable farm maintenance worker who has livestock and farming in their background. He/she should have familiarity with tractors, trucks, weedwackers, lawn mowers, chain saws and snow blowers. The job would be a full time job and duties would include: Daily care of horses (feeding, turn out and stall cleaning), light carpentry, mowing lawns, dragging rings and snow removal. Apartment, health insurance, stall and wages. 5 day work week. Please contact Kathy at khorsecc@comcast.net or call (617) 640-4685.

Want to advertise with us?

Please contact Katelyn Parsons at katelyn@mfbf.net for more details!

WORKING WITH YOU TO KEEP YOUR BUSINESS STRONG AT THE ROOTS

From the corn fields of Western New York to the shores of New Jersey and forests of Maine, Northeast ag businesses are as diverse as the people who own them. And when it comes to lending financial and business support to those businesses, Farm Credit East stands alone. Our team of agriculture financial specialists has one goal: to help you keep your business **Strong at the Roots**.



LOANS AND LEASES • TAX SERVICES
PAYROLL SERVICES • BUSINESS CONSULTING
RECORD-KEEPING • COUNTRY HOME LOANS
FARMSTART FOR NEW BUSINESSES
REAL ESTATE AND EQUIPMENT APPRAISALS
FARMCREDITEAST.COM / 800.562.2235



FARM CREDIT EAST





LET’S TALK ABOUT
THE STATE OF
YOUR FARM INSURANCE

Big or small, when you dedicate your life and well-being into a farm, you need more than just a policy—you need an ally. Your operation is unique and a one-size-fits-all insurance policy isn’t for you. You deserve a customized coverage plan and American National gets it. An American National Special Farm Package 10® or Country Estate policy can provide you with a flexible package that allows you to tailor a policy to match your individual needs, with coverage options that include windstorm, fire, mechanical equipment and utility line failures, machinery, livestock and more. Find a local agent at aninsure.com/mfbf



Don Ludwig
Boxborough
978.467.1001



Richard Blair
Carver
508.866.9150



Mark Sylvia
Centerville
508.957.2125



Scott Brockelman
Topsfield
978.887.8304



Bob Sinopoli
Associate Agent
Great Barrington
413.528.1710



Dominic Sinopoli
Great Barrington
413.528.1710



Martin West
Marlborough
508.485.3800



Sheila McCarthy
Medway
508.321.3288



Andrew Brodeur
Middleboro
508.747.8181



Kay Spencer
Associate Agent
Middleboro
508.747.8181



Kevin Sullivan
Middleboro
508.998.0512



Jeff Pichierri
Northborough
508.393.9327



Richard Simonian
Associate Agent
Northborough
508.393.9327



Tim Viles
South Deerfield
413.665.8200



Rick Green
South Deerfield
413.262.4230



Eric Mason
Southwick
413.569.2307



Jason Charette
Topsfield
978.887.8304



Sean Rooney
Wilbraham
413.887.8817



Kim Perry
North Adams
413.398.5011



Maureen O'Mara
Williamstown
413.458.5584



Thomas Carroll
Worcester
508.752.3300



Patrick Ofobi
Worcester
774.530.6433



Steve Charette
General Agent
Newburyport
978.225.1511