



New Promotional Opportunity for Agritourism Venues

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture is looking for orchards, pumpkin patches, corn mazes and more to showcase on a new app dedicated to connecting consumers with agritourism venues.

The American Farm Trail app, created by the Foundation and sponsored by Corteva, allows farmers, ranchers and farm attraction managers to sign up for

free to showcase their agritourism venues. Farms and attractions can create a profile promoting their business, history, available products and more.

Consumers using the app will be able to connect directly with local farms by searching area, type of attraction, or products for sale. The Foundation plans to launch the app in the spring of 2022.

"The Foundation is ecstatic to

offer this new resource to help connect agritourism businesses to consumers interested in visiting farms and ranches. There is nothing quite like picking your own apple or hunting for the perfect pumpkin and meeting the farmer who put the time and effort into growing that crop," said Daniel Meloy, executive director of the Foundation. "We think the American Farm Trail app will be a great opportunity for farmers and ranchers to bring curious

consumers to their farms and for those consumers to connect in-person to where their food comes from."

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture aims to build awareness, understanding, and a positive public perception of agriculture through education by offering learning opportunities, educational resources, and a selection of accurate books about agriculture. Learn more at https://www.agfoundation.org/files/AFBFA_HowToGuide_ER_v2.pdf.

Support MFBF's Promotion and Education Committee by purchasing raffle tickets online! You could win the prizes below!

<https://mfbf.net/2021-promotion-and-education-committee-fundraising-affle/>



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Growing Tomorrow Together at the 2022 American Farm Bureau Convention

By: Zippy Duvall, AFBF President

It's time to mark your calendars and make your plans to join the Farm Bureau family as we gather in Atlanta, Jan. 7-12, 2022, for the 103rd American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Convention. We are excited to welcome you back in person. Your safety remains our top priority, which means some things might look a little different as we abide by COVID guidance, but what we all value and enjoy most about these gatherings remains the same.

People.

For those who can join us in person we will once again have a full lineup of events, including the popular Flapjack Fundraiser for the Foundation for Agriculture, inspiring general sessions, educational workshops, and the engaging Trade Show with special events on the Cultivation Center Stage. We also understand that some folks may not be able to travel for a variety of reasons, and we will offer a slimmed down array of virtual options, including key components of the event, to keep the doors open to all who wish to join.

The American Farm Bureau Convention provides a time for us to celebrate one another, mark our achievements together and hear from leaders who have helped strengthen agriculture. With three general sessions this year, we can better elevate the work across all

50 states and Puerto Rico and recognize our outstanding members. New this year, we will host a Farm Bureau Celebration—I am especially excited about this one—at the College Football Hall of Fame on Monday evening. I invite you to reserve your tickets and come dressed in college football gear, ready for a fun night of fellowship with our winning team of American farmers and ranchers.

Purpose.

The AFBF team is preparing a robust lineup of workshops and trainings geared to help strengthen your farms and ranches. We have invited experts and leaders from across the industry to discuss the most pressing topics facing agriculture. You will get the latest policy updates and economic analysis from the team working for you here in Washington, D.C. You will discover better ways to engage with consumers to share your farm story. You can also participate in AFBF's Farm State of Mind program as we host a rural stress and mental health training, open to all attendees. From innovation and sustainability to market updates and regulatory reform, each



Vincent "Zippy" Duvall, a poultry, cattle and hay producer from Georgia, is the 12th president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

session topic is designed to provide you with the resources you need to stay informed, improve your business and engage with your community.

Possibilities.

Innovation on the farm and in rural America takes center stage at the American Farm Bureau Convention every year with the Ag Innovation Challenge. This year is no exception, and I am excited to see which of our 10 semi-finalists will compete live on the Cultivation Center Stage. These are the entrepreneurs and innovators who are helping to shape the future of agriculture, and thanks to the generous support of our partner Farm Credit and our other sponsors, we can take part in boosting their success.

As farmers and ranchers, we look

to the future: it's the nature of our work to have an eye on planning for the next season. The 2022 convention theme celebrates how across Farm Bureau we are growing tomorrow together through our people, purpose and possibilities. We want to continue to improve, to bring the next generation to farming and to strengthen our rural communities for our children and grandchildren. I hope each of you will make plans to join us and invite friends and neighbors to be a part of this event. We each share in the success of our organization, our communities and our nation, as tomorrow's growth begins with the seeds we plant today. Let's come ready to engage and share ideas for how we can continue to move forward and grow together.

Zippy Duvall
AFBF President

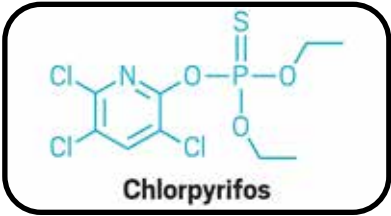
Please note: if you plan on attending AFBF's 2022 annual convention, please contact MFBF Director of Government and Public Affairs Katelyn Parsons at katelyn@mfbf.net to register.



Ag Groups Formally Object To EPA Chlorpyrifos Rule

More than 80 agricultural groups filed formal objections to the Environmental Protection Agency's Aug. 30 rule to revoke all tolerances of chlorpyrifos. Stakeholders, by law, can object to pesticide tolerance changes or cancellations, and the EPA Administrator must then respond.

In the coalition letter, objectors from across the agriculture sector cited numerous concerns with EPA's revocation decision, including the processes EPA used and lack of scientific basis. EPA's own scientific record on chlorpyrifos shows there are many safe, high benefit uses of the chemistry that do not pose a dietary or environmental risk.



Regardless, the agency is opting to revoke tolerances for these safe, low-risk uses.

American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall called the EPA action shortsighted, saying, "Taking care of the land and our natural resources is a top priority for farmers, and this revocation rule actually makes it harder for us to do that. EPA veered from its own scientific evidence in a decision that could be damaging to the land, farmers and our efforts to fight food insecurity."

Additionally, EPA's rule revokes tolerances on crop uses where many growers have few or no pest management alternatives, leaving them exposed to hundreds of

millions of dollars in irreparable crop damage. The revocation rule would also require food holders to provide retroactively-required application documents, which could result in the destruction of millions of dollars of safe food over a paperwork issue.

"It is upsetting that EPA has revoked such an important chemistry without input from USDA or other stakeholders. Chlorpyrifos is critical to the Michigan and Wisconsin cherry industries, as there are no other products that effectively control trunk borers. With more than 4 million cherry trees, Michigan grows 75 percent of the total U.S. production of tart cherries and roughly 20 percent of the total U.S. production of sweet cherries. Without this product, our growers

risk losing a lot of trees, potentially jeopardizing their family farms," said Mike VanAgmael, a west Michigan cherry grower and chairman of the Cherry Marketing Institute.

EPA also has failed to conduct required interagency reviews pertaining to its decision on the rule, which are required in this case because the rule could realistically lead to well more than \$100 million in additional costs to the food and agriculture economy; EPA is required to conduct interagency reviews if harm could be found to total more than this threshold.

The groups ask EPA to postpone implementation of the rule until these objections can be formally considered and addressed by the agency.

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.

A New Approach To Providing Testimony

By: Brad Mitchell, MFBF Executive Director

Most Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) members know that it's important for farmers to weigh in on legislation on Beacon Hill.

However, trudging into Boston for a hearing isn't always convenient, and written testimony doesn't always have the impact that showing up in person does. Zoom.com hearings, which have been in and remain in place since COVID started, can be daunting.

However, if one good thing came out of the pandemic, it was that we've all been forced to innovate. A good idea came from Representative Natalie Blais who represents the 1st Franklin District. I had been complaining to her over the summer that Zoom.com hearings were awkward. She suggested video testimony. At the time her district was experiencing serious flooding, and she had been sending videos to colleagues on Beacon Hill to show them the severity of the situation.

With some important legislation coming up, and knowing the difficulties with testifying on Zoom.com, MFBF staff spent a few days recording video testimony from our farmers. We used our phones, figuring that most folks have access to smart phones. We didn't use external microphones

or anything fancy, as we wanted to replicate what most MFBF members can access. The project was largely an experiment, but the results took us aback a bit in how well they came out. You can view some examples here (if you are reading the print version, please email info@mfbf.net for these links):

- 1. [Example 1](#)
- 2. [Example 2](#)
- 3. [Example 3](#)

Video testimony offers a lot of advantages. It puts legislators right on the farm and the farmer can point out things that they couldn't in written testimony or on Beacon Hill. Videos also come across as more authentic with many farmers feeling more comfortable talking about their work in their own fields or barn. Plus, the videos are far more interesting than reading testimony or watching someone awkwardly trying to explain in a committee room the impact of a proposed bill on their farm.

If you want to try submitting video testimony, we'd offer the following suggestions:

- 1. Hold the phone in "landscape" mode (the long way, not "up and down").
- 2. Keep the length of the video to no more than three minutes. Many committees limit verbal

testimony to three minutes, so videos should comply with this requirement.

- 3. Don't submit written testimony as an attachment when submitting to committees. Video attachments are quite large and the State House email system will likely reject any emails with big attachments. It's better to send it as a link, such as to a YouTube page, Dropbox file, or Google drive file.
- 4. Put the video link within brief written testimony, which highlights that the main points covered in the video. You can do this in the system used by MFBF for alerts, which allows is set up to send your comments to the appropriate committee or group of legislators

Video testimony shouldn't replace written or in-person testimony. All forms of communications have advantages and disadvantages. It's much easier to refer back to written testimony than video testimony. A strong showing by farmers on Beacon Hill about a particular bill can make a point in and of itself. A lot depends on the topic at hand, as well as the abilities and time you have on hand. Increasingly, we believe that video testimony will be a useful means of educating and reaching legislators.

Brad Mitchell
MFBF Executive Director
brad@mfbf.net



Targeted Grants
Now Up To
\$15,000; EID Loan
Not Required

Eligible small businesses can now apply for as much as \$15,000 in grants through the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. These targeted and supplemental grants do not need to be repaid and do not require businesses to accept an EID Loan.



The SBA is currently accepting new EIDL Grant applications for the \$10,000 targeted and \$5,000 supplemental grants – a possible total of \$15,000 per eligible business. Eligibility depends on a business' location, need, and employee count.

Find out if your business qualifies and learn more at the EIDL Advance Grant resource page on <https://www.nfib.com/>.

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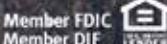


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News and Views is published six times a year, by Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation. Subscription comes with membership. It is received in the homes of almost 6,000 MFBF members.

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

94G Hemp Amendment Update

On Dec. 11, 2020, Massachusetts General Laws (“M.G.L.”) Chapter 94G, which regulates the use and distribution of adult-use marijuana, was amended to expand opportunities for hemp and hemp-derived products in the Commonwealth.



Please read the Guidance here: <https://www.mass.gov/guidance/sale-of-hemp-and-hemp-derived-products-to-marijuana-establishments>

Updated Hemp Processor Policy

The updated Hemp Processor Policy replaces the previous Processor Policy that was issued by MDAR on Sept. 6, 2020. The policy updates include revising which products may be manufactured and sold to licensed marijuana establishments, new product labeling requirements, and general clarifications regarding the responsibilities and duties for Licensed Processors. Hemp and hemp-derived products may also be subject to further conditions set forth by the CCC.

The 2021 Processor Policy can be accessed online at: <https://www.mass.gov/policy-statement/massachusetts-industrial-hemp-program-policy>

Updated Retail Sale Policy

The updated Policy Statement Regarding the Sale of Hemp-Derived Products in the Commonwealth replaces the previous Policy issued by MDAR on June 12, 2019. The updates to this policy include authorizing MDAR Licensed Producers to sell unprocessed hemp, including flower, to a CCC licensee, and the sale of finished hemp products to a CCC licensee, including flower, subject to any conditions which the CCC may also require.

The Policy regarding the retail sale of hemp can be accessed online at: <https://www.mass.gov/policy-statement/sale-of-hemp-derived-products-in-the-commonwealth>

Frequently Asked Questions

MDAR updated the FAQ section of their website to address your question about the implementation of M.G.L. c. 94G, Section 12. The updated FAQs can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/faqs-sale-of-hemp-to-licensed-marijuana-establishments>

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Hemp Program is happy to share several important program updates relative to M.G.L. c. 94G, Section 12, including new guidance and policy updates for the sale of hemp and hemp-derived products from MDAR licensees to those licensed by the Cannabis Control Commission (“CCC”). All updates and documents are now available on MDAR’s Hemp Program website: <https://www.mass.gov/industrial-hemp-program>

More information about each guidance and policy issued, including direct links, has been included below for your convenience. Please read all guidance and policy updates carefully and reach out to MDAR’s Hemp Program with any questions. As a reminder, these changes only apply to MDAR’s Hemp Program and those licensed by MDAR. Any questions related to marijuana should be directed to the CCC.

New Guidance for the Sale of Hemp and Hemp-Derived Products to Marijuana Establishments

In order to allow for the sale of hemp and hemp-derived products to a marijuana establishment licensed by the CCC, MDAR has developed guidance for Massachusetts Licensed Hemp Producers and Processors who want to sell hemp and/or hemp derived products to a Marijuana Establishment in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 94G Section 12. This Guidance explains new requirements for MDAR Licensees and introduces a list of hemp products that may now be sold to a CCC Licensee, subject to any further conditions that may be required by the CCC.

USDA Introduces New Insurance Policy For Farmers Who Sell Locally

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is rolling out a new insurance option specifically for agricultural producers with small farms who sell locally. The new Micro Farm policy simplifies record keeping and covers post-production costs like washing and value-added products.

USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) created this new policy based on research directed by the 2018 Farm Bill, and it includes feedback from producers who grow for their local communities. The policy will be available beginning with the 2022 crop year.

“We are excited to offer this new coverage for producers who work to provide their communities with fresh and healthy food,” said RMA Acting Administrator Richard Flournoy. “USDA is focused on supporting local and regional food systems, and this new crop insurance policy is designed with this

important sector of agriculture in mind.” The new policy is offered through Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) and it has distinct provisions that can provide more access to the program, including:

No expense or individual commodity reporting needed, simplifying the recordkeeping requirements for producers

Revenue from post-production costs, such as washing and packaging commodities and value-added products, are considered allowable revenue

The Micro Farm policy is available to producers who have a farm operation that earns an average allowable revenue of \$100,000 or less, or for carryover insureds, an average allowable revenue of \$125,000 or less. RMA’s

MFBF’s 2021 Annual Meeting

Dec. 2-3, 2021

Please note the changes in scheduling this year.

Tentative Schedule

Dec. 2, 2021

Social Hour - 5 - 6 pm

Dinner Banquet - 6 - 9 pm

Dec. 3, 2021

Welcome Breakfast - 7 - 8:15 am

Delegate Registration - 8:20 - 9 am

Delegate Session - 9 am - 12 noon

Delegate Luncheon - 12 noon - 1 pm

Delegate Session - 1:10 - 3:30 pm



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Marlborough, MA, 01752

Room Rate:
\$129.00 per night
(Single or double occupancy)
plus taxes

Reserve Your Room:
1-800-666-3243

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

FFA AUCTION

Bid • Donate • Support

FFA To Host Auction Fundraiser

Massachusetts FFA will host an online auction prior to MFBF’s Annual Meeting with all proceeds going to support

FFA programs throughout the Commonwealth.

FFA board members and students would appreciate donations from Farm Bureau members for the 2021 online auction. In previous years,

FFA auction goers have enjoyed browsing and bidding on the beautiful baskets made at farm stands, the treasures from the farm house attic and the holiday decorations that are consigned.

The auction will be online with the goal of distributing awards at MFBF’s banquet on Thursday.

To donate, please contact Kim LaFleur at MassFFA@gmail.com.

Reservation Form

Please note: you must pre-pay to reserve your spot for the banquet. Walk-ins will not be accepted.

Names of Each Person Attending	Thursday Dinner: \$37 per person
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
Total:	

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

USDA New Insurance Policy For Farmers Who Sell Locally

Continued From Page 4

research showed that 85 percent of producers who sell locally reported they made less than \$75,000 in gross sales. See the full report.

The Micro Farm policy builds on other RMA efforts to better serve specialty and organic crop growers. This includes WFRP, which provides coverage for producers with larger operations that may not be eligible for Micro Farm. RMA recently made improvements to WFRP as part of a broader set of new

policies and expanded policies to assist specialty crop and organic producers.

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation approved the Micro Farm policy in late September, and additional details will be provided later this fall.

More Information
Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of

crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the RMA Agent Locator. Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at rma.usda.gov.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets

for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

Looking Ahead to 2022 (Already!)—IMPORTANT CROP INSURANCE DEADLINES

By: Devon Smolak, Crop Growers LLP
[Cranberries/Apples/Peaches](#)

- Cranberries are insurable in Barnstable, Bristol, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, and Plymouth county.
- Apples are insurable in Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk,
- Plymouth, and Worcester county.
- Peaches are insurable in Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, and Worcester county.

The deadline to sign up for coverage for the 2022 crop year is Nov. 20, 2021.

Crop	Established Price	Catastrophic Coverage
Apples	\$11.75 bushel (Fresh)	\$6.47 bushel (Fresh)
Cranberries	\$37.00 barrel	\$20.35 barrel
Peaches	\$62.90 bushel (Fresh)	\$34.60 bushel (Fresh)

Apples/Peaches/Cranberries are insurable against all weather-related events, wildlife damage, plant disease, insect infestation, and with a quality provision for Apples/Peaches with a grade reduction due to a covered peril. The quality provision only applies to Fresh coverage and only at a level higher than Catastrophic Coverage (CAT). Please contact an agent for more detail.

Cultivated Clams (Quahogs)

- Insurable in Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket, and Plymouth county.
- The price paid per AQDOL (Aquaculture Dollar) are as follows:
 - o Stage 2: \$0.1280/ (\$0.0704 CAT)
 - o Stage 3: \$0.2560/ (\$0.1408 CAT)

The deadline to sign up for coverage for the 2022 crop year is Nov. 30, 2021.


Quahogs are insurable against decreased salinity, disease, freeze, hurricane, ice floe, oxygen depletion, storm surge, and tidal waves. Please contact an agent for more detail.

PRF (Pasture/Rangeland/Forage) and API (Apiculture)

- Insurable in all MA counties
- Price paid per acre (colony) on a claim varies by county.
- Insurance coverage is for a single peril, lack of precipitation.

The deadline to sign up for coverage for the 2022 crop year has changed to Dec. 1, 2021.

This policy insures against lack of rainfall for hay land, grazeland, and forage land (for the bees) in all counties in the area. This policy does not insure against reduced production of your crop but rather a lack of rainfall in the area (grid) compared to average rainfall in the area (grid).



Your first choice for crop insurance.

Devon Smolak (978) 857-4017
Peter Frizzell (860) 808-9404
www.cropgrowers.com

Crop Growers, LLP is an equal opportunity provider

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center Opportunities

Dairy Business Viability & Technical Assistance Grant

This grant will fund dairy processors, producer associations, supply chain businesses, and technical assistance providers in order to enhance dairy farmer and processor business operations and strengthen market opportunities. Projects funded through this program will coordinate technical assistance to benefit multiple dairy producers and processors with the goal of increasing consumption, sales, jobs, and diverse markets for regionally produced dairy products. Technical assistance services could include enhancing business plans, facility operations, marketing, distribution, processing,

and product offerings. Grants available of \$10,000 - \$100,000.

Application period: Oct. 26 - Dec. 7
<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/dbic/activities/dairy-business-viability-technical-assistance-grant>

Dairy Food Safety & Certification Grant

This grant will provide dairy farmers, processors, and/or producer associations with funds needed to take actionable steps to improve the safety of dairy products. Projects funded through this program will support increased production safety standards with

the goal of accessing new markets. Projects that increase marketability of dairy products will be prioritized. Activities covered by this grant include accessing technical assistance, audits, food safety plan development, training, testing fees, and certain infrastructure upgrades.

Grants available of \$10,000 - \$40,000.

Application period: Oct. 26 - Feb. 3
<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/dbic/activities/dairy-food-safety-certification-grant>

Contract Opportunity: Grazing Transition, Homegrown Forage Enhancement, & Alternative Farm

Management Cohort Technical Assistance

Service providers across the Northeast are invited to submit proposals for contracts to offer localized cohort-based technical assistance for dairy farmers considering transitioning their farm to a grass-based production model, improving forage management, or other innovative on-farm practices.

Contracts available up to \$150,000.

Deadline to submit proposals: Nov. 29

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/transition-grazing-cohort-ta-contract>

Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee Happenings



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

Growing Your Farm Business Planning Course

Tuesday evenings, Jan. 11 to March 8, 2022 - Location to be determined

MDAR offers a hands-on course to help established farmers develop a business plan and financial projections for their farm business. This course covers topics including resource assessment, marketing strategy, financial management, risk management, quality of life, and goal setting. The course is taught by professional business planners with years of experience working with Massachusetts farms and guest speakers on current topics such as succession planning

and online marketing. The cost is \$200 per farm. Enrollment is open to farmers who have been operating a farm business in Massachusetts for at least the two prior years. Eight weekly classes will be held on Tuesday evenings starting Jan. 11 and ending March 8 (with one vacation week).

Plans are for in-person class. Final



decision in January based on current COVID conditions. Applications will be accepted until Nov. 19 or until the course is full.

Farmers that complete a business plan by participating in the Growing Your Farm business planning course and then apply and get accepted to MDAR's APR Improvement Program or

Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture may be able to waive the business planning phase of these programs, enabling them to move to the contract phase earlier to start implementing their projects.

The Growing Your Farm business planning course has been approved as a certified USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) borrower training for financial management.

TO APPLY: contact Michael Parker at Michael.Parker@mass.gov, 857-895-0023.

New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference 2021- Online Light!

Dec. 13-17, 2021

The premier vegetable and fruit conference in the Northeast will take place this December. Conference organizers have designed a high quality program with grower input, recruiting some of the most innovative farmers, educators and researchers across the northeast and beyond.

\$50 registration fee gains you full access to the program and



3-months access to the recordings. Each person seeking pesticide or CCA credits must register individually and join the zoom-meeting from your unique device (2-farmers seeking credits cannot be sharing 1 computer to view the talks).

5-days of presentations, designed with the zoom-fatigued farmer in mind. Ten Sessions will run 9-11am and 1:30-3:30 Monday thru Friday, Dec. 13-17, 2021.

Topics include: Tillage Reduction and Innovation, Tree Fruit 1 & 2, Berry 1 and 2, Vegetable Disease and Pest Updates, Automation for Small Vegetable Growers, Climate Adaptation Strategies on the Farm, Soil Heath, Inspiration from Away.

More information at <https://nevbga.com/NEVFC/>

If anyone is interested in hosting a virtual tour of their farm or joining the YF&R committee, please email Heather at heatherbonanno@gmail.com.

Call For MFBF YF&R Board Members

Each county Farm Bureau has two seats on the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's (MFBF's) Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) committee board. Currently we have vacancies from the following counties:

- Berkshire (2)
- Bristol (1)
- Cape and Island (2)
- Franklin (2)
- Hampden (1)
- Hampshire (2)
- Middlesex (1)
- Plymouth (1)

We have approximately four meetings per year via zoom.com and in person (hybrid). We would love to have your support. If you are interested in serving, please email YF&R Chair Heather Bonanno-Baker at heatherbonanno@gmail.com

New Ag Literacy Resource Now Available

Fascinating facts about food in America – how and where it is grown and who produces it – are at your fingertips in a new resource produced by the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. Order the new Food and Farm Facts book, map, pocket guide and related products in the series at Fb.org/store.

"With so many Americans interested in how our food system works, Food and Farm Facts is the perfect resource at the perfect time," said Foundation Chairman Zippy Duvall, who also serves as president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Food and Farm Facts helps answer

questions that learners of all ages may have, including "Where does our food come from and who grows it?" The 32-page, full-color book features updated facts and easy-to-read infographics about U.S. agriculture that can be used in a variety of ways to help increase agricultural literacy. The book would be a valuable resource in the classroom, at fairs and events, for student leadership organizations and when creating social media posts. Copies of Food and Farm Facts may be purchased for \$4.25 each (up to 49 copies). Price breaks are available for multi-copy purchases starting at 50: 50-99 copies, \$3.50 each; 100 or more copies, \$2.50 each. Each copy of the book includes a color "Abundant

Agriculture" map poster depicting top agricultural products produced in every state. A pocket guide version of Food and Farm Facts (100 copies for \$10) that features several popular infographics from the book is also available.

Additional Food and Farm Facts products created by the Foundation will be available later this fall. These include free classroom activity cards for grades 4-6 and a PowerPoint game for grades 7-12 developed using national learning standards and state "common core" standards that reflect the knowledge and skills young people need for success in college and careers.

MFBF's Candidates Corner

All MFBF regular members in good standing who are running for a position on MFBF's Board of Directors in December are allowed to submit a short article in this edition of News and Views. Below are this year's submissions.

Warren Shaw *Running for President*

Thank you, Mark Amato, for your leadership as president. MFBF has been through much change and Mark has done well keeping the organization focused through it. As a member of your Board of Directors who has been here through the changes, I think we have more ahead of us to improve the organization and to make agriculture and MFBF viable for the next generations. I would be honored to have your vote to be the next president.

I own and operate Shaw Farm in Dracut, which is a direct market dairy in its 113th year. I describe it as a 113-year-old start up, because I have invested so much in remodeling it. We make both conventional and certified organic milk products, have a modern processing facility, fairly modern farm store, home delivery services and some wholesale services. Some of my property is APR, which enables me to purchase more land, and I have a very productive solar array on the farm which adds to the bottom line. My son has become part-owner and because I am certain my family will be farming for generations, MFBF is a very important part of my family's future.

MFBF has had its challenges in the last six years as we were heading in a direction that placed the organization and the farmers it represents in peril. The last four years has changed that. We have overseen the reorganization of staff, made significant budgetary improvements, modernized the bylaws, and gone through a strategic planning process. In general, there is a commitment to maintain a balanced budget while providing improved member services and advocacy. We can and we should have an expectation that we can do better each year.

Please participate in the annual meeting and consider supporting me for MFBF president If you have any questions you can email me at warren@shawfarm.com or call me on my cell 978-835-7423.

Ryan MacKay *Running for Vice President*

I have served on the MFBF board of directors for more than a decade in various roles. During this time, I have expanded my leadership skills and I feel prepared to take on a larger role within the organization. I would be honored to have your vote for Vice President.

MFBF has been here for more than 100 years and will be here for another 100. I want to be part of that legacy and ensure this organization remains a strong representative for Massachusetts farmers. To this end, I have been very involved with three critical committees that have helped to shape our organization, including the executive director search committee, strategic planning committee and real estate committee.

As the youngest member of the executive director search committee, I was focused on finding an individual who saw a bright future for MFBF and would implement the strategic plan. Brad Mitchell is the individual who will increase our legislative presence on Beacon Hill, take the organization's marketing to the next level, and improve the quality of committees. All of these were goals that the strategic planning committee identified and presented in their plan that was voted on by the delegates in 2019.

I've also been an instrumental part of the real estate committee, which is examining ways to diversify the revenue stream for MFBF. We currently own several properties, which could improve our organization's financial standing. On this committee, I am offering my innovative, entrepreneurial perspective, which also would benefit MFBF if I was Vice President.

I appreciate your consideration (and hopefully your vote) for Vice President and look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting. If you have any questions, please email me at ryan@lilachedgefarm.com or call/text me at 774-249-4675.

Ed Davidian *Running for Vice President*

My history representing agriculture is deep within the Commonwealth. I grew up on my family farm in Northborough and graduated from UMass in 1972 with a degree in Fruits and Vegetables. I am a third-generation farmer operating Davidian Brothers Farm and Davidians Farm Market along with my son, Michael. We currently produce a large variety of fruits and vegetables on about 150 acres selling both retail and wholesale. My involvement with Farm Bureau began at the Worcester County Farm Bureau board of directors. I also represented Worcester County on the MFBF BOD as the county representative and director at large.

After some time, I was elected vice president for six consecutive years and eventually MBF president. I served as President until February 2018, when I was appointed by the Trump administration to serve as the State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency for Massachusetts and had to resign.

At USDA, I served the agricultural community, helped decision makers understand Massachusetts agriculture, and guided some key programs. Unfortunately, I had to resign when the new administration took office Jan. 20, 2021.

I am planning to be nominated from the floor this December for Vice President.

I want to put my energy into MFBF and planning the future of the organization. We need to listen to our grassroots members, set up a plan to perpetuate our income, stay relevant with the needs of the farming community, and keep laws and regulations workable for agriculture.

Also, we need to grow membership. During my time with USDA, I realized some areas (both location and types of farm) felt left out of the Farm Bureau process. We need to bridge the gap and become the premier voice of ag. This starts with outreach. As vice president I will try to unite all types of agriculture and make MFBF stronger.

I need your vote to accomplish this task.

Laura B. Abrams
Running for Director At Large (3 seats)

It's hard to believe that it has been four years since I was first elected as your Vice President.

Being your VP has been a learning experience to say the least. The ins and outs of how each county works/thinks/engages with its' members is different throughout the state. How often counties should meet and those that haven't met during the pandemic. The role of your Board vs the role of staff and the intricacies of how they work together (or differ) have been fascinating.

Being involved in the process to come up with a Strategic Plan for the future of MFBF took dedication, thought, and vision from all the members who served on that committee. Results being new Mission and Vision Statements for the future. Working on the financial strength of our organization by balancing the budget and finding new sources of revenue for the future (painful as it was). Engaging our members to become more involved. (Yes, we are all busy, but together we can get it done).

What are the priorities of our members for the future? How are the needs changing? What committees are necessary to keep MFBF moving forward? But just as important, is how they are structured. How do we keep you, the members engaged? These are all items that should continue to be a priority.

I hope to continue being a part of this process as a Director. Let's not slide backwards to old ways of doing business.

Meg Gennings
Running for Director At Large (3 seats)

I appreciate the nomination for Director at Large and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve my fellow members as I have for the past three years. I recently moved back to the valley and enjoy being immersed in some of the most diverse agriculture our state has to offer. Trips to Marlborough may take a little longer, but I value being able to contribute to discussion and decision-making on the MFBF board.

I have had the pleasure of chairing the Promotion and Education Committee for the past four years and working with a fabulous and dedicated group to provide outreach and programming across the state. I am proud of our success in providing content to youth, members, and non-members during the pandemic, we never missed a beat and are moving forward with new programs as we begin to move toward life as it once was.

I pride myself on being a listening ear and action-oriented. As a director at large, I will continue to turn my ambition into progress for our organization.

Others Running For Office Include:

- Running for Budget Committee***
- **Will Pickard**
- Running for Director Ar Large (3 seats)***
- Alex Dowse**
- Running for Young Farmers & Ranchers Chair***
- **Heather Bonanno-Baker**
- Running for Young Farmers & Ranchers Vice Chair***
- **No Nomination**

Celebrating The Seasons Of Massachusetts Ag Calendar

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



days and website links on each page.

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

Each calendar month features one

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

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

Mail Order Form

	Price Per Calendar	# of Calendars	Total
Retail	\$10.00		
Wholesale (5+)	\$5.00 each		
		Total Due	

Mail order form and check payable to "MAC, Inc." to:

MAC/Bobbie Oles
40 Regent Rd
Wrentham, MA 02093
massaginclassroom@gmail.com

Allied Business Directory

Adams Farm

854 Bearsden Rd
Athol, MA 01331
978-249-9441
Products & Services: Full Service Slaughterhouse For Farmers & Mid-Sized Companies.

Berkshire Agricultural Ventures

314 Main Street Suite#11
Great Barrington, MA, 01230
413-645-3594
glenn@berkshireagventures.org
Products & Services: Provides grants, loans, business and technical assistance to support local farms and food businesses in the Berkshire-Taconic region.

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.

Greenfield Farmers Cooperative Exchange

269 High Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
413-773-9639
greenfieldfarmerscoop.com
Products & Services: Farm, Home, Garden and Pet Supplies, Nursery, Bulk Grain, Wood Pellets. Member Discount, Local Delivery

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.

Higgins Power-sports

140 Worcester Rd.
Barre, MA 01005
978-355-6343
www.higginspowersports.com
www.higginsenergy.com
Products and Services: LS Tractors & implements, DR & Husqvarna power equipment, Polaris & Can-Am ATV's, UTV's, Woodmaster outdoor furnaces, Vermont Castings, Jotul and HearthStone stoves

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

Mulch By The Yard

781-589-8534
jphorigan@me.com
Products and Services: kiln dried pine shavings. American made. Free storage for 60 days on our 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.

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 107 Guys, LLC

51 Wareham Street
Carver, MA. 02330
774-433-9903
www.The107guys.com
Mdozier@the107guys.com
Products & Services: certified drone pilots throughout the USA providing NDVI, Thermal, and Aerial Spraying Services to farmers around the country.

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.

Deadline Nears To Obtain Disaster Coverage On 2022 Perennial Crops

Agricultural producers are reminded that the **deadlines** to purchase Federal Crop Insurance coverage to protect their 2022 perennial insurable crops are upcoming soon. The **same dates** also apply to **updating** an existing policy as well as **canceled** an existing policy.

Nov. 20: Apple, Cranberry (Barnstable, Bristol, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk & Plymouth counties), Grape (Bristol County) & Peach Policies

Dec. 1: Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) Policy & Apiculture Policy

Perennial crops not covered by an existing Federal Crop Insurance policy may be covered in one of the following 2 ways:

1. Written Agreement (a process completed by a licensed Federal Crop Insurance agent using existing actuarial data from neighboring counties) provided specific criteria are met.

2. The Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) available from the USDA - Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office that serves your farming operation. Deadline for purchasing NAP coverage on noninsured perennial crops is Nov. 20.

Another option that growers of perennial crops may wish to explore is obtaining coverage through the **Whole Farm Revenue Protection Program (WFRP)**. WFRP is a revenue based policy that provides varying coverage levels to your historical average revenues using your IRS Schedule F. **A new option in 2022 for producers whose average adjusted gross income falls below \$100,000 is available under the WFRP policy. The Micro Farm Policy reduces record keeping requirements for eligible producers and revenue from post-production costs, such as washing and packaging commodities and value-added**

products are considered allowable revenue. Deadline to purchase a WFRP policy is March 15 but bear in mind that if you have an existing CAT policy on an insured crop, you must cancel that CAT coverage or upgrade to a "Buy-Up" policy by Nov. 20 to purchase WFRP coverage.

Important Note: While the deadline to purchase a WFRP policy is March 15, protection does not begin on covered crops until the private crop insurance company accepts the WFRP policy. As an example, if you purchase a WFRP policy and it is accepted by the private insurance company on March 1, you are covered for events after that date. Any weather-related events that caused damage to your perennial crops prior to that date would not be covered!

For more information on these and other related topics, you are encouraged to visit the RMA

website at www.rma.usda.gov and the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov or contact UMass Extension Agricultural Risk Management Educators, Paul Russell at pmrussell@umass.edu or Tom Smiarowski at tsmiarowski@umass.edu.

Federal Crop Insurance policies are sold through licensed, private Federal Crop Insurance agents. Following is the link to obtain a list of crop insurance agents: <https://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#/>

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2018-70027-28588. UMass Extension works in partnership with the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Northeast Extension Risk Management Education Center to educate Massachusetts producers about Federal Crop Insurance and USDA Disaster Assistance Programs.

Sunderland Cat Named ‘Barn Cat of the Year’

No working farm is complete without a working cat! This line is straight out of Sophie-Jane's nomination for Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's (MFBF's) barn cat of the year, which was submitted by her owner Laurie Cuevas. It showcases how important these larger-than-life



and an excellent napper. Those qualities are what make barn cats popular."

Sophie-Jane was adopted through Dakin Humane Society's barn cat program, which pairs cats

of development and marketing. "We are incredibly thankful to those who open up their barns to cats like Sophie-Jane. They are truly doing lifesaving work by making this choice. Cats like Sophie-Jane are used to being outside, some may not even like people and prefer the company of other cats making it difficult for animal shelters to sometimes find living quarters for them. And even though these cats are wild they deserve equal compassion, love and humane care within the environment for which they thrive. Congrats Sophie-Jane for representing all barn cats!"

The contest was sponsored by The Pet Food Institute, and the winners will receive a gift basket of pet-themed items. Thanks to their generosity, in addition to barn cat of the year, five other felines were selected to win awards in the following areas and receive gift baskets:

- Best napper: Thomas, who is owned by the UMass Livestock Barn and was nominated by Seana Mawhinney from Ashburnham
- Best mouser: Spinach, who is owned by Vanessa Romasco from

- Georgetown
- Best dressed: Peanut, who is owned by Sarah Lovett from Sherborn
 - Sassiest: Hamilton, who is also owned by Sarah Lovett from Sherborn
 - Chonkest: Alfalfa, who is owned by Karen Herzig from Colrain

A panel of farmers, who are used to working alongside furry aloof feline companions, reviewed 20 nominations to select the 2021 Barn Cat of the Year. Entries included written responses and photos to showcase their cat's dedication to farm life.

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

Remembering Farm Bureau Members Who Have Passed

- **Judy Leab**, 78, left this earth from her beloved home, Ioka Valley Farm, to be with the Lord Tuesday Sept. 14, 2021. To read her full obituary, please visit: <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/22359800/judy-c-leab/watervliet/new-york/parker-bros-memorial-funeral-home-inc>
- **John H. (Jack) Angley** - Carver, MA, April 27, 1939 - Sept. 22, 2021. Jack passed away on the morning of Sept. 22nd. To read his obituary, please visit: <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/22531468/john-h-angley>

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.





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

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

Massachusetts Farm Bureau members save 20% off published at almost 5,000 Choice Hotels Worldwide! Save 20% off 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).






MFBF members can now go solar, no roof required. When you join a Clearway Community Solar Farm, you can support renewable power for the Commonwealth and receive an additional savings guarantee on energy. 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 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.


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 members are our 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!



NEW MFBF Member Benefit: Save 20% off Budget Truck Rentals

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation members can now save 20% off Budget Truck Rental consumer rates with Farm Bureau Account number 56000127747. Save 20% on Budget Truck.



Moving can be stressful but renting your moving truck doesn’t need to be. Take truck rental off your list of worries and visit BudgetTruck.com/FarmBureau or to make a reservation today!

Budget Truck Rental is one of the world’s best-known truck rental brands with over 1,000 locations in the Continental United States. With over 20,000 non-CDL medium-light duty trucks in its fleet, Budget Truck has the solution you need for any project! Budget Truck Rental, LLC. is owned by Avis Budget Group, Inc., which operates and licenses the brand throughout the world.

Secure your rental today! Simply call 1-800-566-8422 and provide the Farm Bureau Account number 56000127747 or visit BudgetTruck.com/FarmBureau and complete the online reservation form. Click “Find Your Truck” and you’ll see available vehicles and rates for your rental days.

Terms and Conditions: The Farm Bureau discount is only on reservations and cannot be applied in person at the rental counter. Discount only applies to truck rental and mileage rates and does not apply to taxes, surcharges, fees, refueling, moving supplies or optional items. Offer is not available in AK or HI and is subject to availability at participating locations; some blackout dates may apply. Rate may vary by location and seasonality.

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

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

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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: Easy White Chocolate Cranberry Cookies

- Ingredients
- 2 ¼ cups self-rising flour
 - 2 teaspoons cornstarch
 - ¾ cup unsalted butter, softened at room temperature
 - ¾ cup packed light brown sugar
 - ¼ cup granulated sugar
 - 1 large egg, at room temperature
 - 1 egg yolk, at room temperature *
 - 2 tsp vanilla extract
 - ¾ cup dried cranberries
 - ¾ cup white chocolate chips



- How to make
1. In a large mixing bowl, combine softened butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar with an electric mixer and beat until creamy. Add in room temperature egg, egg yolk, and vanilla extract and mix until incorporated.
 2. Next, add in cornstarch and flour 1/2 cup at a time and mix on low until incorporated. Lastly, stir in dried cranberries and white chocolate chips until just combined.
 3. Cover the bowl and chill in the refrigerator for a minimum of 1 1/2 hours or up to 24 hours.
 4. Once ready to bake, preheat oven to 350 degrees F and line large baking sheets with parchment paper. Using a small cookie dough scoop dough onto baking sheet and place at least 2 inches apart. If desired, add some cranberries or white chocolate chips to the tops of the cookie dough balls before baking.
 5. Bake cookies for 8-11 minutes or until the cookie edges are a light golden brown. Let cookies cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

Recipe from: https://www.kindlyunspoken.com/white-chocolate-cranberry-cookies/?utm_source=pinterest&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=grow-social-pro#tasty-recipes-16462-jump-target

USDA Announces Additional Agricultural Land Easement Application Deadline

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has added Nov. 19 as a ranking cut-off date for applications from state and local governments, non-governmental organizations and Native American Tribes that would like to protect working farmland through an Agricultural Land Easement under the federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

ACEP Agricultural Land Easements protect critical natural resources and encourage private landowners to maintain land for farming through the voluntary sale of an easement, which limits future development.

NRCS provides financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing Agricultural Land Easements. Cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland and industrial private forest land private forestland are eligible. State and local governments, non-governmental organizations

and Native American Tribes that have farmland or grassland protection programs are eligible to partner with NRCS to purchase conservation easements.

This fiscal year’s application ranking cut-off dates are Friday, November 19, 2021, Friday, January 21, 2022 and Friday, March 18, 2022. All eligible applications received by 4:00 pm on these dates will be ranked. The highest ranked applications will be selected based on the available funds provide to Massachusetts NRCS.

Applications should be submitted to Helen Castles, USDA-NRCS Massachusetts State Office, 451 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002. Information on how to apply and application forms are available on the NRCS Massachusetts website.

“USDA is committed to preserving our agricultural lands for the future generations. This is a perfect opportunity for local communities,

state agencies, land trusts and other eligible groups to partner with NRCS to preserve these lands and the values they provide to the residents of Massachusetts,” said Dan Wright, Massachusetts State Conservationist for NRCS.

NRCS may contribute up to 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement. Where NRCS determines that grasslands of special environmental significance will be protected, NRCS may contribute up to 75 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement. To learn more, visit www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov or your local USDA Service Center. NRCS is a federal agency that works hand-in-hand with the people of Massachusetts to improve and protect soil, water and other natural resources. The agency works with local conservation districts and other partners to serve farmers and landowners in the Bay State and across the United States.

Loss Prevention Tips: Wood, Pellet Burning Stoves

Many people have turned to wood or pellet burning stoves as a supplementary method of heating their homes. They offer the promise of cheaper fuel costs combined with a rustic beauty that is unique among heating sources. However, stoves also come with some serious potential drawbacks.

The Danger of a House Fire:
From a hazard standpoint, it’s quite easy to understand that burning wood inside your dwelling increases the risk of fire. To minimize this danger, a homeowner must know the do’s and don’ts of wood stove installation and operation.

- What to Do:
- Professional Installation - Having a licensed, experienced professional install your wood stove is probably the single most important safety step a homeowner can take. A professional will make sure that all clearances between the stove and the wall, floor and ceiling are proper, as well as installing the stove pipe in a proper and safe manner. The installer will also make sure the stove meets all state regulations and local codes.
 - Use Dry, Seasoned Wood - The moisture content in green wood is too high to make it efficient for burning. Hardwoods (apple, red

- oak, maple, etc.) that have been dried for at least 6-12 months offer the best efficiency and helps minimize the buildup of creosote (an oily substance from incomplete combustion that can catch fire) on the lining of the stove pipe.
- Annual Maintenance - Have your wood stove professionally inspected and cleaned annually, before each heating season. The small cost of an annual service call is well worth the value of protecting your home and family. The chimney system of any wood burning unit, whether it’s a fireplace, stove, or insert, will develop deposits of soot and creosote that can cause safety and odor issues. Excess creosote can result in a chimney fire that is so intense that it will destroy your chimney. Hiring a chimney sweep, or service technician to perform a thorough inspection and cleaning will ensure that your venting system is working properly. They will check for cracks, leaks, corrosion, and warping that could lead to a carbon monoxide leakage, clean out any creosote buildup or obstructions in the flue. Creosote buildup is extremely flammable and may create an unsafe operating situation if left uncleaned from season to season.

- What NOT to Do:
- Don’t burn trash or other refuse in a wood stove. Don’t start a stove fire using a flammable liquid, such as gasoline or kerosene.
 - Don’t let a wood fire burn unattended or overnight.

The Danger to Children:
The risk of being burned by a wood stove is well understood by adults, but children are another matter. Even when they recognize the danger, children are still apt to play and roughhouse around one. Therefore, it’s critical that a child guard screen or hearth safety gate be placed around the wood stove. These products separate children from the stove yet allow access for adults, usually through a gate with a child proof locking mechanism.

- Other child safety issues to consider:
- Wood chips and pellets if spilled or left within a child’s reach can pose a choking hazard.
 - Pollutants put in the indoor air by a stove can adversely affect a child with asthma.
 - Wood stove pokers, rakes and other tools need to be placed outside the reach of small children.

For more on wood stove safety, visit <https://www.iii.org/article/wood-stove-safety>.





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USDA Announces Additional Application Ranking Date For The Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has added Nov. 19, 2021, as an application ranking cut-off date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Massachusetts. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to private owners and managers of agricultural land and forestland to address natural resource concerns.

Farmland and forestland operators and owners who are interested in applying for assistance through EQIP should contact their local NRCS office for more information and to begin the conservation planning process. NRCS develops conservation plans which evaluate resource concerns, while considering the land management

goals of the operation.

"If you operate a farm or manage forest land and want to improve your land, we can help," said Dan Wright, State Conservationist for NRCS in Massachusetts. "You can discuss your vision for your land with one of our conservation planners, who will explain the conservation planning process and how to apply for financial assistance."


You may apply for NRCS conservation programs at any time. Complete applications are ranked for funding in batches periodically throughout the year. In Massachusetts, NRCS is offering five batching periods for EQIP. Fiscal year 2022 cut-off dates are: Nov. 19, 2021, and Jan. 21, March 18, May 20 and July 15 of 2022.

All applications determined eligible and high priority by close of business on a given ranking date will be considered in the current funding cycle. All NRCS programs are voluntary. Ranking dates and the application process are subject to change. Contact your local field office for the latest information. For more information on available programs, the application process, and natural resource priorities, visit the NRCS website at www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov.


EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and forest landowners to address natural resource concerns through an array of conservation practices. Assistance is available to support private landowners and managers in

addressing farm, field, forest, wildlife, water, and/or plant management issues.

Some of the EQIP funding will be provided to farmers and forest landowners via the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), which encourages partner organizations to join in efforts with producers to increase the restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife and related natural resources on regional or watershed scales. Through the RCPP program, NRCS and its partners help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas. Partners leverage RCPP funding in project areas and report on the benefits achieved.




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