

**FDA's GUIDANCE:  
EVALUATING THE  
SAFETY OF FLOOD-  
AFFECTED FOOD  
CROPS**  
*Story On Page 4*



**UPDATE ON MFBF's  
ANNUAL MEETING:  
DEC. 2 & 3, 2021**  
*Story On Page 11*



MASSACHUSETTS FARM BUREAU FEDERATION'S

Vol. 29, No. 5

# NEWS & VIEWS

AUG./SEPT. 2021

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

## New Legislative Challenge On Farm Labor

*By: Brad Mitchell, MFBF Executive Director*

**M**assachusetts agriculture is subject to some of the highest costs of production in the country if not the world. Land costs are higher here than in most places. Labor costs are higher than in most places and our regulatory costs are higher.

Unfortunately, there is a push by labor advocates to increase labor costs even more. HB 1979 – an act establishing fairness for agricultural laborers and SB 1205 – an act establishing fairness for agricultural workers are identical

bills in the House and Senate, which would make the following changes to Massachusetts law:

1. Exemptions from paying overtime to farmworkers would be capped at 55 hours per week.
2. Overtime exemptions would be limited to certain time periods during the year, and of limited duration:
  - a. No more than 235 days per year, and must include the months of June, July and August;
  - OR -
  - b. Beginning not earlier than the first day of August nor later

than the first day of September and lasting not more than 100 continuous days.

3. Do away with the current agricultural minimum wage of \$8 per hour in favor of the prevailing minimum wage.

4. Provide workers with one day a week off. If they choose to work that day, they automatically receive time-and-a-half for that day's work.

Frankly, Massachusetts agriculture can survive without the \$8 per hour agricultural minimum wage.

Few if any farmers utilize this as most feel it's an unfair wage. Similarly, I don't know of any farmers who wouldn't give someone one day off a week, even during harvest, if they requested. However, if someone does choose to work on the seventh day, it's difficult to understand why that person would get time-and-a-half for making that choice. Realistically, if farm employers are forced to pay time-and-a-half, you'll likely see employers mandating a day off a week. This would have the overall

*Continued on Page 9*



## INDEX

### Across The Nation

SETTING THE TABLE FOR SUSTAINABILITY *Page 2*

USDA ESTABLISHES DAIRY DONATION PROGRAM *Page 2*

### Across The State

FARMERS AT RISK FOR EEE, SUPPORT SCIENCE-BASED MOSQUITO CONTROL *Page 4*

FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS MUDSLIDE FUNDRAISER *Page 6*

P&E COMMITTEE UPDATE *Page 6*

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 MASSACHUSETTS  
FARM BUREAU FEDERATION FAMILIES.**

*The Voice of Agriculture in the Commonwealth.*

*Follow Us On Social Media*





# Setting The Table For Sustainability

By: Zippy Duvall, AFBF President

Farmers don't like to brag. We value a hard day's work, doing right by our neighbors, caring for our families, and growing the food we all depend on. We all want to leave our land better than we found it, and we had hoped our actions would speak for themselves. For a long time, we didn't talk much about our achievements in sustainability, mostly because so many climate-smart practices, as we call them now, had become common in the last few decades. But we soon learned that if we don't tell our story, someone else will, and they might not get it right. At American Farm Bureau, we decided it was time to change the narrative on sustainability. We know that farmers and ranchers have a great story to tell, and we should all be proud to share it.

This work really took off nearly two years ago with the launch of Farmers for a Sustainable Future, a coalition of agriculture groups co-founded by AFBF, committed to telling agriculture's sustainability story. AFBF economists crunched the numbers on how farmers have been reducing their environmental impact, and together we shined the spotlight on climate-smart farming practices.

We shared how U.S. agriculture is leading the way in reducing our environmental impact, contributing just 10 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. We have been proud to share stories and statistics most consumers

hadn't heard, like how farmers have enrolled more than 140 million acres for conservation practices—a land mass equal to the size of California and New York combined. We also wanted folks to know that farmers nearly tripled production in this country without increasing our resources. Thirty years ago, it would have taken nearly 100 million more acres to produce what U.S. farmers grow today. We showed our commitment to healthy soil and clean air, by telling how we are reducing tillage, capturing carbon, and using and producing renewable energy. Together, we have demonstrated how farmers must be treated as partners in sustainability because we are already committed to the work of ensuring our land remains healthy for generations to come.

We also knew it was time for agriculture to come to the table on climate policy discussions or we were going to be on the table. This led the American Farm Bureau to join in forming a historic group, the Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance, which brought together agriculture, food, forestry and environmental groups for the first time to set climate policy goals. We knew that we needed to find common ground in order

to set a path forward to achieve sustainability goals that recognize farmers' achievements and treat us as partners. I'm proud to say FACA has been leading the climate discussions in Washington. Thanks to our united efforts, the Senate overwhelmingly passed the Growing Climate Solutions Act, which would help to advance market-based, voluntary solutions to achieve sustainability goals. This bipartisan bill—which passed with a whopping 92 votes—marks just how far we've come on climate discussions in agriculture.

But our work here is far from done. The UN Food Systems Pre-Summit marked another opportunity to share American agriculture's story. This event is met with a lot of healthy skepticism by farmers, and with good reason as the UN has not traditionally recognized the advances of climate-smart farming in the United States. But if we have learned anything over the last couple years, it's that we can slowly but surely turn the tide. One thing is certain, we're not going to change the narrative about agriculture by sitting on the sidelines. The words of Kip Tom have stuck with me. He was

the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture (FAO) in the previous administration. He urged U.S. farmers and ranchers to play a role in this UN dialogue because our voices – and therefore our successes – are missing. I applaud our friends and partners at USFRA and the Animal Ag Alliance for taking this opportunity and hosting forums leading up to the Pre-summit. We need to be at the table and, when necessary, set up our own table at parties we've not traditionally been invited to attend. There is still time to engage. UN Food System Summit events continue throughout 2021.

Our research and experience have shown us that consumers want to hear from farmers and that they hold a high level of trust in us. By the way, that applies specifically to the topic of food production's impact on the climate, according to our latest research, which shows farmers are the most trusted from among many professions. The more we share the positive stories of the work we're doing to protect the soil and absorb carbon, the greater an impact we can have together. When it comes to sustainability, farmers and ranchers need to get a little more comfortable bragging on the good work we have done together even as we carry on our journey of continuous improvement.

**Zippy Duvall**  
AFBF President

## USDA Establishes Dairy Donation Program

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Secretary Jewel Bronaugh announced the establishment of a \$400 million Dairy Donation Program (DDP) on a call with Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow. The DDP, established by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in accordance with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, aims to facilitate timely dairy product donations while reducing food waste.

The establishment of DDP is part of \$6 billion of pandemic assistance USDA announced in March and follows the announcement of \$350 million Pandemic Market Volatility Assistance Program for dairy farmers on Aug. 19. It is the second part of an over \$2 billion

comprehensive package to help the dairy industry recover from the pandemic and improve or establish programs to make it more resilient to future challenges.

Under the DDP, eligible dairy organizations will partner with non-profit feeding organizations that distribute food to individuals and families in need. Those partnerships may apply for and receive reimbursements to cover some expenses related to eligible dairy product donations. DDP was inspired in part by the donations made by Michigan Milk Producers Association in conjunction with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in response to the Flint water crisis.

"The benefits of the Dairy

Donation Program are twofold – it supplements other financial support for producers while providing nutritious dairy products to American families," said Deputy Secretary Bronaugh. "When there is surplus milk production, we encourage the milk be donated instead of being dumped. Together we can help someone in need, minimize food waste and support the U.S. dairy industry."

"The Dairy Donation Program is a win-win for farmers and families. It will be easier for dairy farmers to donate milk and other dairy products, which in turn helps feed vulnerable Americans, including our children," said Senator Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. "Michigan dairy farm families and food banks continue to lead by example. I am proud of the role they played in pioneering this initiative which has

become a model for the nation." The Michigan Milk Producers Association stated, "MMPA is excited for the launch of this new program, which builds on the significant donation partnerships we have been undertaking in Michigan for the last several years. Our dairy farmer members and others in the dairy sector have long supported giving back to our communities, and this program helps expand our efforts. We thank Senator Stabenow for her leadership in getting this program enacted into law, and we applaud the U.S. Department of Agriculture for its work in implementing this new program, which will aid hunger relief efforts across the country while reducing food waste and supporting local dairy farmers."

"This program comes at a time when the need has never been

Continued on Page 5



# Change

By: Mark Amato, MFBF President

It has been said that the one constant in life is change. As much as we might try to resist, time and those changes march on. So, it is with Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) and with those changes come opportunities to introduce new ideas and go in new directions.

As you are no doubt aware by now, MFBF has experienced some staff changes over the summer. Doug Gillespie, our long time Executive Director, left the organization on June 30 after a many years of strong leadership. His departure did not come as a surprise to the Board of Directors; in fact it was the subject of Board discussions for more than a year prior. In June 2020, the Board renegotiated the final year of Doug's contract at his request, and he advised us that he would likely be retiring at the conclusion of the contract. In August 2020 the Board directed me to assemble a committee. The purpose of the committee was to define the roll of a new executive director, and to surface candidates to fill the position. A committee consisting of myself, the budget committee and the executive committee did exactly that. Candidates were presented to the Board in late May and early June. The Board felt that Brad Mitchell was the best candidate and instructed the committee to enter into contract negotiations which were successfully concluded in time for Brad to assume the role of executive director at the conclusion of Doug's contract.

Additionally, during budget discussion in April the Board had to

make some very painful budgetary decisions, guided by our Strategic Plan, the consequences of which ultimately lead to the departure of another long time staff member. After 17 years, John Conners decided that the time was right for him to pursue other opportunities.

While we were all sad to see both Doug and John move on, we are also looking at the opportunities that are created. The remaining staff consisting of Katelyn Parsons, Joan Monaco, Kim Ashe, who under Brad's direction, are committed to delivering vital services to our membership. Katelyn has expressed interest in doing some government relations/lobbying and Brad is facilitating that training. Brad and Joan are looking for an administrative assistant who can be cross trained to take on some of the bookkeeping duties which would provide some backup and redundancy for Joan in addition to the administrative office duties that need to be attended to. We are all dedicated to delivering on the promises made in our mission and vision statements specifically strengthening and advocating for Massachusetts farm families by ensuring a prosperous farming community.

The last change I would like to discuss is the elections scheduled to be held at our annual meeting on Dec. 3. I am concluding my second term as president and I have decided not to seek reelection. I cannot express the pride and honor it has been to represent this organization and to be part of the American Farm

Bureau family. AFBF is an incredibly strong and effective voice in Washington, D.C. Massachusetts and the other northeast states have a very strong voice in that arena as a result. However, I think the organization will benefit from the new energy a change at president would bring. Many years ago MFBF delegates held a special session to address changes to the bylaws of this organization. Among other things that were addressed a change to the number of consecutive terms a president could hold, in other words term limits, were discussed. It was my position that while experience and institutional knowledge were important attributes, providing opportunities for new blood and new energy outweighed them and should take priority. It is in that spirit that I have decided that it is time for me to step aside, to make way for that new energy. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the members of MFBF for their support and encouragement throughout my tenure. It has been a truly humbling experience and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity.

And speaking of annual meeting, as of today we are planning on an in-person business/delegate session on Dec. 3, 2021, at the Holiday Inn in Marlborough located behind the MFBF office. The Board felt it very important to get back to in person meetings. During our June board meeting it was decided to schedule at least the in person delegate session and possibly a more traditional 2 day meeting. Due to changing circumstances and COVID

## Cranberry Bog Renovation Grant Program

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is now accepting applications for the Cranberry Bog Renovation Grant Program. The goal of the Program is to address potential challenges to the Commonwealth's cranberry industry by working to add value to the industry's producers, products, and services. Competitive grants will be awarded to projects to renovate existing cranberry bogs, providing higher yields, and more efficient methods of cranberry production for participating growers.

If interested in applying, applications must be submitted with any supporting documentation by 4:00 pm on Friday, Sept. 17, 2021.

Maximum funding is \$15,000 per acre up to a total of \$75,000.

Please see [www.mass.gov/how-to/cranberry-bog-renovation-grant-program](http://www.mass.gov/how-to/cranberry-bog-renovation-grant-program) for additional information and to access the application.

For more information, please contact Laura Maul (617) 626-1739, or [Laura.Maul@mass.gov](mailto:Laura.Maul@mass.gov).

uncertainties it became clear that 2 days would not be possible. At this time we are proceeding with 1 day in person and hoping that no further COVID disruptions interfere with our plans. I look forward to seeing all of you who have volunteered to serve as delegates at the meeting. Last year's virtual session, while functional, was less than ideal. I believe that spirited debate on substantive policy decisions is in the best interest of the organization and that is only possible when we are all together in person. Please join us on Dec. 3 and for those who are available or would plan to arrive the night before on Dec. 2, please join us for a membership appreciation banquet to be held at the Holiday Inn.

**Mark Amato**  
MFBF President  
[mark@mfbf.net](mailto:mark@mfbf.net)



# 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](http://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 President .....Laura Abrams  
Treasurer ..... Wayne Smith  
Imm. Past President ..... Edward Davidian

County Directors

Berkshire ..... Bob Kilmer  
Bristol..... Skip Vadnais  
Cape Cod & Islands .....David Ross  
Essex.....Barbara Rogers-Scharneck  
Franklin .....Lenny Roberts  
Hampden .....Richard Woodger  
Hampshire..... Alan Everett  
Martha’s Vineyard..... Dan Martino  
Middlesex..... Warren Shaw  
Norfolk.....Rudolph Medeiros  
Plymouth..... Charles (Jim) Hayward  
Worcester .....Ryan 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 Baker .....Chair

MFBF Staff

Executive Director .....Brad Mitchell  
Gov. & Public Affairs Director ..Katelyn Parsons  
Office Manager.....Joan Monaco  
Database Administrator .....Kim 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

Farmers At Risk For EEE, Support  
Science-Based Mosquito Control

Massachusetts farmers spend many of their working hours outside. Their busiest time is often late summer and early fall, which puts them at a greater risk for contracting diseases spread through mosquitos, particularly Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). This disease can cause severe illness and possibly lead to death. To maintain the health of the Commonwealth’s farmers, their families and employees, the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) is urging towns not to opt out of the aerial spraying program conducted by the state.

“There are a number of towns choosing to opt out of the aerial spraying program. This is alarming to many farmers and their employees who are at risk for contracting EEE and other diseases that mosquitos carry,” said MFBF President Mark Amato. “As an organization, we are supportive of the science-based efforts that the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural (MDAR) has made to control the mosquito population and urge towns to remain a part of the targeted aerial spraying program. In Massachusetts, aerial spraying is an important part of an integrated mosquito control strategy that includes source reduction, larviciding and personal protection. While EEE has not been found in any mosquitos captured yet this season, it is only a matter of time before it becomes a serious risk. We are concerned about the growing patchwork of opt-outs created by these towns and the reduced effectiveness the state control measures will have on mosquito populations.”



Massachusetts has one of the most progressive regulatory agencies in the country, and the farming community is confident that the insecticide chosen is the safest and most effective available. Impacts on bees are of obvious concern to the farming community. However,

MFBF is confident that this spraying will not impact bees. MDAR has been monitoring honeybee hives during previous years spraying events and has not seen any negative impacts. The spray program can exclude certified organic farms.

“If the mosquito samples show that the risk of EEE warrants it, spraying will be conducted by airplane between dusk and dawn in areas of concern,” Amato said. “The state is working to ensure mosquito control occurs in areas where they have found the insect to be carrying diseases that negatively impact human health and the adjoining communities that are at risk.

There is no treatment for EEE and it can cause death or permanent disability in those who survive. While farmers and their employees are taking precautions to ensure their safety, the farming community needs to see science-based pest management implemented (in the form of targeted aerial spraying) to ensure their continued safety. For these reasons, MFBF continues to urge towns to remain a part of the Commonwealth’s aerial spraying program and supports MDAR’s mosquito control program.

For more information on EEE in Massachusetts, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/eee-in-massachusetts>.

FDA’s Guidance: Evaluating The Safety  
Of Flood-Affected Food Crops

With the excessive amount of rain we’ve received so far this season, flooding is an issue for many farms this year, particularly in the Western end of the Commonwealth. If your farm is susceptible to flooding, please read the FDA’s Guidance for Industry: Evaluating the Safety of Flood-affected Food Crops for Human Consumption.

Per the guidance: “If the edible portion of a crop is exposed to flood waters, it is considered adulterated under section 402(a)(4) (21 U.S.C. 342(a)(4)) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and should not enter human food channels. There is no practical method of reconditioning the edible portion of a crop that

will provide a reasonable assurance of human food safety. Therefore, the FDA recommends that these crops be disposed of in a manner that ensures they are kept separate from crops that have not been flood damaged to avoid adulterating “clean” crops (Ref. 1, 2, 3).”

The guidance also addresses potential microbial, chemical and fungal contamination, the safety of food crops when flood waters did NOT contact the edible portion of the crop, as well as flooding vs. pooled water.

Please contact MDAR’s Produce Safety Division if you have any questions regarding the safety of your crops.

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.

# Dairy Donation Program

Continued From Page 2

greater for fresh foods to help Michiganders,” said Dr. Phil Knight, executive director of the Food Bank Council of Michigan. “Michigan’s agricultural community, especially the state’s dairy farmers, have come alongside of us throughout the pandemic. Their partnership means fresh, nutritious food and milk for families, children and seniors.”

Dairy farmers, cooperatives, or processors that purchase fresh milk or bulk dairy products to process into retail-packaged dairy products and meet other requirements are eligible to participate. Costs reimbursed through the program include the cost of milk used to make the donated eligible dairy product and some of the manufacturing and transportation costs. Reimbursement of these

costs is designed to help offset some of the costs associated with processing and donating eligible dairy products.

Program details are available at [www.ams.usda.gov/ddp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/ddp). Interested partnerships must apply by completing and submitting a Dairy Donation and Distribution Plan. Upon plan approval, partnerships will be able to submit claims and supporting documentation to obtain reimbursement for eligible dairy products donated since Jan. 1, 2020.

Entities participating in the Milk Donation Reimbursement Program (MDRP) will be automatically enrolled in the Dairy Donation Program.

The interim final rule formalizing

the program will soon be published in the Federal Register and will provide eligible handlers and cooperatives procedures on how to participate in the program. The program becomes effective one day after it is published in the Federal Register. A preview of the interim final rule is posted on USDA Agricultural Marketing Service website.

This announcement is part of a broader package to help the dairy industry respond to the pandemic and improve or establish programs to be more resilient. Upcoming additional announcements will include \$580 million for Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage for small and medium farms. Outside the pandemic assistance funding, USDA will also make improvements to the

Dairy Margin Coverage safety net program updating the feed cost formula to better reflect the actual cost dairy farmers pay for high quality alfalfa. This change will be retroactive to January 2020 and is expected to provide additional retroactive payments of about \$100 million for 2020 and 2021. Unlike the pandemic assistance, this change will also be part of the permanent safety net and USDA estimates it will average about \$80 million per year or approximately \$800 million over ten years for dairy headed into the upcoming Farm Bill. Full details on these additional actions to support dairy farmers will be provided when regulations are published in the coming weeks. Dairy farmers should wait until these details are available to contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

## Nearly 90 Northeast Organic Dairy Farms To Lose Their Market

Nearly 90 organic dairy farms in the Northeast, will lose their contracts with an organic dairy company when it stops buying milk in the region by the end of August of next year, Vermont’s agriculture secretary said.

Danone, parent company of Horizon Organic, notified farmers last week, including a total of 61 in Maine, New Hampshire, and New York, according to Vermont Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts.

“We greatly value our relationships with our farming partners and did not make this decision lightly,” Danone North America said in an emailed statement late Thursday. “Growing transportation and operational challenges in the dairy industry, particularly in the northeast, led to this difficult decision.”

The company told Vermont officials that it did not want to transport milk from the region to its plant in New York and will focus their business on larger farms in Midwest and West, Tebbetts said by email. “They will buy milk from larger farms and drop farms in our region,” he said. The company plans to stop buying milk in the Northeast by Aug. 31, 2022.

It’s devastating to these farm families but also has implications for the state economically and the organic dairy industry in Vermont, said Maddie Kempner, policy director for the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont.

It will be a challenge for the 28 Vermont organic farms to find another buyer because “the organic market currently is not in



a position to take on more milk or farmers,” Tebbetts said. Currently, there are three other buyers getting organic milk from Vermont farms.

“Not having a buyer for your milk is a really severe position to be in for these farmers,” Kempner said. “So we’re doing our best to make sure we’re seeking solutions for alternative markets for their milk but also make sure the farmers feel as individually supported as possible.”

Danone’s decision to end its contracts in the region is another hit to the overall dairy industry in Vermont, which each year loses farms, as conventional operations struggle with low milk prices paid to them and farms gets bigger. Kempner said it points to

a loophole in organic regulations that allow large-scale organic farms to produce milk more cheaply. “Over the years some operations have used a lack of specificity in the rule to continually transition conventional animals in and out of organic production. This undercuts dairy farmers who operate with integrity,” according to the National Organic Coalition.

Organic Valley, a cooperative of family farms around the country, does not yet know if there’s any way it can help the farmers in the Northeast, said CEO Bob Kirchoff in a written statement.

“Organic farming is facing the same crisis we’ve seen in conventional agriculture – consolidation, industrialization, ‘get big or get out,’” he said. “It will take a lot of people working together to solve it, but we all must be bold enough to believe we can.”

### Stamps Showcase State and County Fairs

The U.S. Postal Service celebrates the fun of America’s state and county fairs with four stamps. The whimsical artwork of the stamps is meant to evoke a nostalgic feeling for America’s fairs past and present. The stamps show a traditional fair theme where communities gather to socialize and have fun.

The colorful se-tenant stamps —

one scene across four stamps — celebrate the fun of America’s state and county fairs. The stamp on the far left shows farmers unloading produce behind a white fence. In the second stamp, a child holding a chicken sits atop the same fence, with carnival rides—a Ferris wheel and merry-go-round—in the background. Those rides can be seen in the third stamp, where some fairgoers admire the livestock behind the fence while

others walk, balloons in hand, toward a sweets stand. The last stamp shows children at the stand buying treats from the vendor.

The art director was Greg Breeding. Mike Ryan designed the stamps with original art by Mick Wiggins.



The State and County Fairs stamps are being issued as Forever stamps and will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.



## *P&E Committee Update*

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

**H**i all!

Who can believe we are at the end of the summer and the beginning of fall? The Promotion and Education (P&E) Committee is excited to be representing Massachusetts Agriculture and MFBF on Massachusetts Day at the Big E. Check out our table on the Massachusetts State Building lawn and try your hand at Ag Trivia.

Our committee members have been keeping busy by presenting to 4-H'ers on direct marketing and horticulture topics throughout July and August. We have also been preparing our Ag Learning boxes which will be ready to be distributed to classrooms.

Looking ahead we are going to be cultivating more ag learning boxes so if you have an idea for a commodity-based reading lesson for elementary-aged children, we would love to hear it! Please reach out if you know a classroom teacher who could use an Apple or Cranberry Ag Learning Box. A big thank you to Liz Smtih for designing the logo.

Farm on,

**Meg Gening**  
mgennings@gmail.com

# USDA To Invest \$50 Million In New Cooperative Agreements For Racial Justice, Equity

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing up to \$50 million in cooperative agreements to support historically underserved farmers and ranchers with climate-smart agriculture and forestry. The Racial Justice and Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements are available to entities and individuals for two year projects that expand the delivery of conservation assistance to farmers who are beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers.

“Historically underserved producers face significant barriers in accessing USDA assistance for conservation and climate-smart agriculture,” said Terry Cosby, Chief of USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). “USDA is committed to revising programs to be more equitable, and these producers deserve our support as they contribute to our vibrant and diverse agricultural communities.”

The projects should help historically underserved farmers and ranchers in implementing natural resources conservation practices that:

- Improve soil health;
- Improve water quality;
- Provide habitat for local wildlife

species of concern;

- Improve the environmental and economic performance of working agricultural land; and
- Build and strengthen local food projects that provide healthy food and economic opportunities.

Projects should remove barriers to access and reach historically underserved groups through a combination of program outreach and technical assistance in managing natural resources that address one or more of the following four NRCS priority areas:

- Addressing local natural resource issues;
- Using climate-smart agriculture practices and principles;
- Encouraging existing and new partnerships; and
- Developing state and community-led conservation leadership for historically underserved agricultural producers, including educating and training students for careers in natural resources management.

## Who Is Eligible

Entities and individuals who provide outreach assistance to historically underserved groups are eligible, including:

Native American tribal  
governments and organizations

### Nonprofit organizations

Private and public institutions of higher education  
Individuals

Historically underserved producers include those who are considered beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and ranchers.

## How to Apply

Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on October 25, 2021. See the [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) announcement for details and application instructions.

This NRCS assistance builds on other USDA assistance to help historically underserved producers. In July, USDA's Risk Management Agency invested nearly \$1 million in nine risk management education projects focused on historically underserved producers. Meanwhile, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced in April its plans to establish partnerships with organizations to provide outreach and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. FSA plans to announce those partnerships in the coming weeks.

### Under the Biden-Harris

**Continued on Page 8**

# Franklin County Fairgrounds Mudslide Fundraiser

The Franklin County Agricultural Society, which owns the Franklin County Fairgrounds, has a very serious issue with an embankment collapse.

Over the past three years, an increasing amount of underground water has caused four new streams to form beneath the soil at the Fairgrounds. The water has found its outlet within the embankment on the northern side of the grounds. The excessive water has caused the soil to destabilize and wash away on multiple occasions. Directly below this area are three houses who are continuously affected by mudslides. At least a dozen trees have fallen, which is allowing the issue to experience exponential growth.

In March 2011 this same land ridge failed a thousand feet away at our neighboring Green River Cemetery, which sent 3,000 cubic yards of mud into the neighborhood below. Even closer to the Fairgrounds, Wisdom Way road, located on

the ridge, is collapsing. MassDOT is planning a multimillion dollar project to repair that problem.

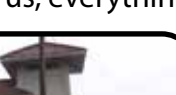
In the fall of 2018, FCAS hired SVE Associates to examine the issue and design plans to mitigate further deterioration. In early February 2019, the received the final plans, as well as an estimated price of \$500,000 to conduct the work.

The Franklin County Fair is a small agricultural fair that has been in Greenfield since 1848. For 171 years the Board of Directors has taken great pleasure in hosting our event. For several years following the Great Recession in 2008, our finances were very tight due to an attendance drop. This forced the fairgrounds to tap deep into savings to keep the fair afloat. Thankfully the economy has recovered in recent years and the fair is making a profit again. However, it's a minimal drop in the bucket compared to the work that needs to be done.

The fair has reached out to a number of sources for aid: The Mass Emergency Management Agency has various funding opportunities, but the fairgrounds do not qualify. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service could possibly help in the future, but currently has no budget and is in a “wait and see” holding pattern while the federal shutdown debates continue. Everyone in government we have spoken with has been phenomenal and tried so hard to help, but unfortunately to no avail.

Many people believe the fair is funded by Greenfield tax dollars. In fact, the fair is a non-profit organization and receives no funding at all from the town. Likewise, there is the assumption that the fair is “loaded” because of the perceived amount of money that comes in. Unfortunately

for us, everything costs money



and the vast majority of the income pays the expenses. Believe it or not, the fair actually try to keep the gate

prices as minimal as possible so that more people can attend.

**\*\*We must emphasize the 99.5 percent of the fairgrounds are completely safe to be on. Summer events will occur and the fair will continue as usual - as well as fairs for years to come. It is only one small area on the outer edge that is in trouble - but it's a very expensive issue that the non-profit needs help with.\*\***

The fair needs YOUR help to save the fairgrounds!

Donations can be sent to:  
FCAS - Franklin County Fair  
P.O. Box 564  
Greenfield, MA 01302  
Attn: Mudslide Donations



# Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee Happenings



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

## 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>.

## Upcoming YF&R Tours: Interested in Joining Us? Email [katelyn@mfbf.net](mailto:katelyn@mfbf.net)

### Oct. 2, 2021

Join us for a tour of Barstow's Dairy Store and Bakery and Longview Farm. Longview Farm has been in the Barstow family since 1806 and the sixth and seventh generations now in charge are doing everything they can to continue this long run far into the future. With diversified revenue streams, robotic milking machines and an anaerobic

digester the produces enough power to supply electricity to 250 homes, the family is simultaneously building a sustainable farm and a sustainable business. From prize-winning pie recipes, to chili made with the farm's own beef, to their popular sweet corn stand, Barstow's is a destination for good eats as well as tours of their operation. The farm draws everyone from local grade-schoolers to

veterinary students and the Barstows really enjoy sharing their approach with all. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.barstowslongviewfarm.com>.

### Oct. 15, 2021

Join us for a tour of Four Star Farm! Nestled along the banks of the Connecticut River you'll find the family farm, a fertile piece of land (about 250 acres). The farm's heritage

is deeply rooted in agricultural tradition, built and passed down by 14 generations, and driven by a steadfast commitment to responsibly balance what is right for the environment with what is viable for the farmland and the family. Over the years, the farm has evolved and innovated to remain sustainable in changing markets and is now focused on hops. To learn more: <https://fourstarfarms.com>.

## Apply For MFBAPF's John & Liolia Schipper Memorial Grant!

Massachusetts farmers are faced with many unique challenges and barriers as the Commonwealth is an expensive and tough business environment. Fortunately, the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's Agricultural Preservation Foundation (MFBAPF) is looking to assist farmers with a new grant program that was made possible through a generous bequest from the late John and Liolia Schipper.

With an emphasis on new farmers, all

meeting the criteria are welcome to apply.

Eligibility requirements: Applicants must be regular Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation members -or- be sponsored by a regular Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation member at the time of



application and enrolled as a regular MFBF to receive grant payments.

Grant applications will be reviewed by a committee and receipts will be notified shortly after. Maximum grant amounts for recipients will be \$3,000.

The deadline to apply is Nov. 1. For an application, please visit: <https://mfbf.net/schipper-grant-program/>.



## SNAP Processing Equipment Available for Farmers, Farmers Markets: Apply By Sept. 24

Free mobile SNAP processing equipment from Novo Dia Group is now available to direct-marketing farms and farmers' markets through the Department of Transitional Assistance, in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Resources, and with financial support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Eligibility is limited to SNAP-authorized farms and markets that do not currently have working equipment received through previous federal grants. Equipment will not process credit/debit. For complete program details and a link to the application, go here: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/2021-massachusetts-snap-equipment-grant-program-application>.

Questions? Contact David Webber, 617-626-1754 or David.Webber@mass.gov or DTA.HIP@mass.gov.

## Effective Writing Guide for Farm Bureau Volunteers Now Available

Whether it's drafting a grant proposal or writing an application for a County Activity of Excellence award, Farm Bureau members could probably all use a refresher on writing effectively and efficiently. The AFBF Leadership Development team has compiled an "Effective Writing for Farm Bureau" handout that includes audience analysis, structure for success, how to keep things short and sweet and social media examples. This resource can be used by state staff to share with volunteer leaders at every level. This can be found in Staff Guides for Training under "Resources" in the Catalog in Farm Bureau University.

For more information on this resource and more on Farm Bureau University, please contact Jordan at [jordanh@fb.org](mailto:jordanh@fb.org)

You can register at [university.fb.org](http://university.fb.org) using code `statefbstaff`, replacing "state" with your state's two-letter postal abbreviation. For example, New York's staff code is `nyfbstaff`.

# 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](mailto:Michael.Parker@mass.gov), 857-895-0023.

# USDA To Invest In New Cooperative Agreements For Racial Justice, Equity

*Continued From Page 6*  
Administration, USDA is engaged in a whole-of-government effort to combat the climate crisis and conserve and protect our nation's lands, biodiversity and natural resources including our soil, air and water. Through conservation practices and partnerships, USDA aims to enhance economic growth and create new streams of income for farmers, ranchers, producers and private foresters. Successfully meeting these challenges will

require USDA and our agencies to pursue a coordinated approach alongside USDA stakeholders, including State, local and Tribal governments.

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.

# USDA Accepting Applications To Help Cover Costs For Organic Certification

Organic producers and handlers can now apply for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds to assist with the cost of receiving or maintaining organic certification.

Applications for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) are due Nov. 1, 2021.

"USDA is here to help all producers, including those who grow our nation's organic food and fiber. Many farmers have told us that cost was a barrier to their ability to get an organic certification," said Zach Ducheneaux, administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). "By assisting with the costs, this program can help organic farmers get their certification along with the benefits that come with it."



OCCSP provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the USDA's National Organic Program. Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent during the 2021 and any subsequent program year. Producers can be reimbursed for expenses made between Oct. 1, 2020 and Sept.

30, 2021 including application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, travel expenses for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

For 2021, OCCSP will reimburse 50 percent of a certified operation's allowable certification costs, up to a maximum of \$500 for each of the following categories (or "scopes"):

- crops
- wild crops
- livestock
- processing/handling
- State organic program fees

Organic farmers and ranchers may apply through an FSA county office or a participating state agency. This funding will be complemented by an additional \$20 million for organic and transitioning producers through the Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. More information on that funding will be available in the coming weeks.



# County Annual Meetings

Thursday, Sept.  
16

**Franklin County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting**  
**DATE:** Sept. 16, 2021  
**TIME:** 6:00 pm Social Hour  
7:00 pm Meeting/Dinner  
**LOCATION:** Shelburne Falls Eagles Club, 52 State St, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370  
**COST:** 1 free meal for paid members. Additional guests \$25/person.  
**RSVP:** By Sept. 10 to Regina Grover-Parsons at 802-258-1050 or via email at grover.regina@gmail.com

Thursday, Oct.  
14

**Bristol County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting**  
**DATE:** Oct. 14, 2021  
**LOCATION:** White's of Westport  
66 State Rd  
Westport, MA 02790  
**More details to come!**

Wednesday, Oct.  
20

**Middlesex County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting**  
**DATE:** Oct. 20, 2021  
**More details to come!**

Monday, Sept.  
20

**Martha's Vineyard Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting**  
**DATE:** Sept. 20, 2021  
**TIME:** TBD  
**LOCATION:** Zoom  
**COST:** Free

Thursday, Oct.  
21

**Essex County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting**  
**DATE:** Oct. 21, 2021  
**LOCATION:** Di Burro's Function Facility, 887 Boston Rd, Haverhill, MA 01835  
**More details to come!**

Tuesday, Oct.  
12

**Norfolk County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting**  
**DATE:** Oct. 12, 2021  
**LOCATION:** Lafayette House  
109 Washington Street (Rte. 1), Foxboro, MA  
**More details to come!**

Friday, Oct.  
22

**Hampshire County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting**  
**DATE:** Oct. 22, 2021  
**LOCATION:** Bluebonnet Diner  
324 King Street, Northampton, MA  
**More details to come!**

## Farm Labor

*Continued From Page 1*  
impact of reducing the hours available to workers.

The real issue with these bills is the impact on overtime.

Federal law and that of 45 other states have broad exemptions from overtime pay for farm workers. Massachusetts farmers already have more limitations on the overtime exemption than that provided for under federal law and these states. A recent Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) ruling held that farmworkers are only exempt from overtime pay for production and harvest activities. Where federal law and 45 other states include washing, packing, preparation for



harvest, loading trucks and other activities relating to getting a product to market, this is no longer the case in Massachusetts.

These bills would further reduce overtime exemption to no more than 55 hours per week, and only during certain periods of the year or a limited period of the year. The proponents of these bill don't understand that:

1. Massachusetts farms compete with those in other state and in other countries (where overtime isn't even a

concept). Farmers can't pass these very significant costs on to consumers. Wholesale producers compete directly with those in other states that have unlimited overtime. There is a limit to how much retail farms can charge consumers before they turn to supermarkets

2. Livestock operation operate year round as do greenhouses. Further, many farms have worked hard to extend their season with high tunnels.

We understand the impetus for these bills. It doesn't seem fair that someone at Walmart gets overtime after 40 hours, but that a farmworker doesn't. However, so long as federal law and that in other states provides for overtime exemption, it's ludicrous to raise the bar for Massachusetts farmers. Ultimately, this will harm not only farms (many of which will be forced to cut or cease production

if these changes go through), but also workers. Many workers rely on those extra hours to make ends meet- particularly when they are seasonally employed.

These bills were originally scheduled to be heard by the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development in July. The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) sent in testimony and sent an alert to members to write in. However, the bills were dropped from the agenda at the last minute and will be rescheduled for September or October. Please keep an eye open for alerts on when the bill will be heard. Proponents are organizing and YOUR voice will be needed.

**Brad Mitchell**  
MFBF Executive Director  
brad@mfbf.net

## Are You Considering Running For A MFBF Leadership Position?

Please submit a 200 word piece to [katelyn@mfbf.net](mailto:katelyn@mfbf.net) by Nov. 1 to introduce yourself and your platform. This piece will be included in next month's 'Meet the Candidates' section.

*Please note: The editor reserves the right to determine whether material submitted for publication shall be printed and reserves the right to edit as needed for space, libelous statements, or personal unwarranted attacks.*



# 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.

**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

**Mulch By The Yard**  
87 Oakland St  
Stoughton, MA 02072-1950  
781-589-8534  
jphorigan@me.com  
**Products and Services:** bagged shavings

**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.

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





# 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



### Reserve Your Stay At The Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites - Marlborough



**Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites**  
265 Lakeside Ave  
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](mailto: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



# Being A Farm Bureau Member Pays

MFBF Members Enjoy Discounts From National & Local Business Partners

Please visit [www.MFBF.net](http://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](http://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](http://fordfarmbureauadvantage.com) or [LincolnFarmBureauAdvantage.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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!



## 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

**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: Cinnamon Apple Pie Bread

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup light brown sugar (not packed)
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2/3 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup salted butter, softened (or use unsalted and add 1/4 tsp salt)
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 3/4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 apple, peeled and chopped (I used Granny Smith)



How to make

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 9 x 5-inch loaf pan.
2. Mix brown sugar and cinnamon together in a mixing bowl and set aside.
3. Beat white sugar and butter together in a bowl using an electric mixer until smooth and creamy.
4. Beat in eggs, 1 at a time, until incorporated; add vanilla extract and stir until incorporated.
5. Combine flour and baking powder together in another bowl; stir into creamed butter mixture.
6. Mix milk into batter until smooth.
7. Pour half the batter into the prepared loaf pan. Next add half the apples and half the brown sugar cinnamon mixture. Lightly pat/push apple mixture into batter.
8. Pour the remaining batter over apple layer; top with remaining apples and add more brown sugar/cinnamon mixture.
9. Lightly pat/push apples into batter; swirl brown sugar mixture through apples using a finger or spoon (I cleaned my hands and used my finger because it was easier).
10. Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the center of the loaf comes out clean, 30 to 40 minutes. Mine took about 35.

Recipe from: <https://wishesndishes.com/cinnamon-apple-pie-bread/>

Important Updates to Pandemic Assistance For “Sales Commodity” Producers

USDA made two important announcements on Aug. 24, 2021 for assistance to “**sales commodity**” producers under the **Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2)**. “Sales commodities” include fruits, vegetables, maple sap, honey, Christmas trees, shellfish and tobacco.

Originally under CFAP2, the payments were based upon **2019 calendar year** sales of eligible “sales commodity” crops. USDA announced an amendment to the CFAP 2 payment calculation for “sales commodities” to allow producers to substitute **2018 sales** for 2019 sales. Producers are encouraged to take a look at their 2018 sales and to contact their USDA FSA Office to **modify** their CFAP 2 application if using the 2018 sales would result in a higher payment. Similarly if a producer hasn’t filed a CFAP 2 application for sales commodities, those producers now

have the option of using either 2018 or 2019 sales.

USDA also announced the **final deadline** for filing a **new** or **modified** CFAP 2 application with the USDA-FSA as **Oct. 12, 2021**.

Producers are **encouraged** to **contact the FSA Office** that serves their farming operation with questions they have along with procedures to file a new or modified application and related paperwork. Producers should call their FSA Office before visiting the FSA Office since FSA may have restrictions in place for in-person office visits. **Sales records** are **not required** at the **time of signup** but producers will have to provide evidence of total sales if the application is selected for a later spot-check.

As of Aug. 22, 2021, **1,260** approved CFAP 2 “**Sales Commodities**” applicants in

Massachusetts have received **\$27,698,404** in payments. For all categories, **1,600** applicants have received **\$31,169,429**.

**Don’t miss out on this opportunity!**

Detailed information also can be found at: <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemicassistance/cfap2>

*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. For more information, please contact UMass Risk Management Specialists Paul Russell at [pmrussell@umass.edu](mailto:pmrussell@umass.edu) or Tom Smiarowski at [tsmiarowski@umass.edu](mailto:tsmiarowski@umass.edu)*

Risk Management Programs for Aquaculture

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The deadline to purchase a NAP policy for your 2022 crop is **Sept. 30, 2021!** NAP can provide shellfish growers with catastrophic coverage for losses due to natural disasters to shellfish growers. NAP is sold and serviced by your local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). The basic catastrophic policy(CAT) provides coverage at 50 percent of the value of your inventory at 55 percent of the FSA established price. NAP is very affordable at \$325 administrative fee for a CAT policy and FSA will waive this fee for beginning, veteran, historically underserved and limited resource farmers. Growers can purchase additional coverage at 50 percent, 55 percent, 60 percent and 65 percent protection at 100 percent of the FSA established price.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

Due to the effort of East Coast Shellfish Growers Assoc. and the state aquaculture associations, shellfish have been added a long standing

program that livestock producers across America have used for years. This change has added a valuable tool for growers to use when they have sustained losses to a variety natural disasters. Unlike NAP, growers do not need to enroll prior to a disaster however, ELAP only covers a narrow variety of natural disasters such as excessive heat, wind, hurricanes, freeze, and other adverse events as approved by your local County FSA Committee. Growers must have reliable or verifiable records to establish their pre disaster and post disaster inventories. These inventories will be used to adjust your loss. Growers are required to file an acreage report on the area of your grant site and complete the producer eligibility paperwork to participate in USDA Farm Programs.

**Remember: It is each producer’s responsibility to develop a risk management plan for their**

**farm that will provide adequate protection if a disaster occurs...and to live with the consequences.**



*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. For more information, please contact UMass Risk Management Specialists Paul Russell at [pmrussell@umass.edu](mailto:pmrussell@umass.edu) or Tom Smiarowski at [tsmiarowski@umass.edu](mailto:tsmiarowski@umass.edu)*

Save The Date - AFBF Annual Meeting Atlanta, Georgia, Jan. 7 - 12, 2022

If you want the inside scoop when it comes to policies and perspectives that will affect your farm or agribusiness in 2022, don’t miss the 103<sup>rd</sup> consecutive American Farm Bureau Convention. This is your opportunity to help set the agenda for the leading voice of agriculture in Washington, D.C., and so much more. Participate in educational workshops to advance your leadership skills, expand your



business acumen, and gain deep insight into the trends and realities impacting food production. Witness cutting-edge innovation in agriculture, hear from powerful speakers, and explore the trade

show to build a stronger network, shop featured products, and idea-share with other state and county Farm Bureaus.

Don’t miss the chance to look

beyond the horizon at the future of agriculture, sharpen your skills and help set the agenda in Washington.

Learn more: <https://annualconvention.fb.org>.

If you are interested in attending, please let MFBF Director of Government & Public Affairs Katelyn Parsons know via email at [katelyn@mfbf.net](mailto:katelyn@mfbf.net).



# 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 SALE:** John Deere tractor cab with lights and wiper. Fits 1000, 2000, 3000 series compact tractor. Best offer or best trade. Frank 617 283 7905.

**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:** 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:** 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

*Want to advertise with us?  
Please contact Katelyn Parsons at [katelyn@mfbf.net](mailto:katelyn@mfbf.net) for more details!*


## Louisiana Farm Bureau Disaster Relief Fund Established

Louisiana Farm Bureau has established a relief fund to get resources to farmers and ranchers affected by Hurricane Ida. To contribute, send checks payable to Louisiana Farm Bureau Foundation Disaster Relief Fund to:


Louisiana Farm Bureau Foundation  
Disaster Relief Fund  
P.O. Box 95004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70895-9004

Donated funds will be designated for agricultural producers in affected areas. Contact Ashley Stephens ([ashleys@lfbf.org](mailto:ashleys@lfbf.org)) or Kyle McCann ([kylem@lfbf.org](mailto:kylem@lfbf.org)) with questions.





# STRONG at the ROOTS




## FARM CREDIT EAST

TAX PLANNING • TAX PREP • ESTATE PLANNING • PAYROLL SERVICES • FARM BUSINESS CONSULTING • BENCHMARKS • APPRAISALS • RECORD-KEEPING

**TAX PLANNING** Because of the economic uncertainty brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing financial impact from the associated relief programs and tax law changes, it is more important than ever to work with a reliable financial advisor to have accurate year-end projections to support sound tax planning. Contact your Farm Credit East advisor to keep your business **Strong at the Roots.**

800.562.2235  
[farmcrediteast.com/taxplanning](https://farmcrediteast.com/taxplanning)







# 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](https://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