

BAKER-POLITO
ADMINISTRATION
DECLARES OCTOBER
“MASSACHUSETTS
CRANBERRY MONTH”
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OCTOBER IS FARM TO
SCHOOL MONTH!
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Vol. 30, No. 5

MASSACHUSETTS FARM BUREAU FEDERATION'S
NEWS & VIEWS
www.MFBBF.net

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022

Please Welcome Karen Schwalbe As MFBBF's Executive Director

After an extensive search process, the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's (MFBBF's) board of directors has selected Karen Schwalbe to become the organization's executive director. Her first day is Nov. 1.

"There were 10 excellent applicants for the executive director position," said MFBBF President Warren Shaw. "It was a tough process with lots of thoughtful input taken into account. Ultimately, the board selected Karen, who we believe will do an excellent job carrying out our strategic plan."

Karen has been engaged with agriculture in the Commonwealth

for years. For the last seven years, she served as the executive director for the Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP), the Buy Local organization in the southeast. She also raises Nigerian Dwarf goats, serves on the local agricultural commission, and has served on the Massachusetts System Collaborative for five years.

Food and farm policy has clearly been a passion for Karen during her career and she will bring that commitment to her work at MFBBF.

"I am thrilled to serve as the executive director of MFBBF," she said. "I want every member to know that I will be working on

your behalf to successfully execute the goals set in the strategic plan and in the policy book to advance agriculture and strengthen our farm communities."

Both Karen's professional and personal experiences with agriculture will assist her as she works to reinvigorate the county Farm Bureaus and engage members. In turn, this will assist with stabilizing the organization's budget.

Additionally, Karen will have a great staff behind her. Nick John acted as MFBBF's interim executive director, and helped to keep the organization moving forward during this transition

within the organization. His skills and leadership will continue to be a valuable asset for the membership's advocacy efforts. Additionally, Kim Ashe and Tina Allen will continue as database coordinator and administrative assistant for MFBBF.

"Like so many organizations in the current business environment, MFBBF has had staff movement," Warren said. "However, I have every confidence that Karen will provide the guidance and oversight

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**BRINGING NEWS TO MASSACHUSETTS
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Our Vote Is Our Voice

By: Zippy Duvall, AFBF President

In America, elections are important to our future. Whether for a school board, water conservation district, or a member of Congress, we should do our best to cast our ballot every chance we get. Voting for candidates who support your values and who will work to implement the policies you prefer is important for many reasons. It helps our government enact the will of the people, ensures a strong democracy, and gives everyone equal opportunity to have a voice in a government that should be of, by, and for the people.

In November, tens of millions of Americans will cast their ballots to elect one-third of the U.S. Senate, all 435 members of the House, and fill thousands of state and local offices. As a grassroots organization, Farm Bureau members are always working to advance policies that will help farmers and ranchers stock America's pantries and ensure a vibrant future for our communities. Of course, calling, emailing, and meeting with our representatives is

critical to advancing responsible policies, but voting is the most important way we can all make our voices heard.

Farmers and ranchers know all too well how government policy can impact their farms. Issues like labor, trade, taxes, and how we raise crops and livestock are just four of the hundreds of areas where the government can reach on to our farms. We need elected officials who will help us solve the challenges we face, not create more. So, as you evaluate which candidates to support, be sure to consider how their viewpoints might affect agriculture.

The members of Congress you elect this November will be responsible for writing - and passing - the farm bill next year. This is a critical piece of legislation for agriculture, our rural



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

communities, and for those who need a helping hand to put food on their family's table. The November elections will likely usher in one of the largest classes of new Members of Congress in decades. We must ensure that our newly minted federal legislators understand agriculture and how farm bill policies help protect our farms for the next generation.

And while your votes for federal offices are important, taking the time to learn about candidates for state and local offices is just as important – and maybe even more so. Our local governments set county ordinances that could limit how many animals you can raise or where you can farm. Recognizing that more folks from urban and

suburban areas have moved into rural America since the start of the pandemic, it's important to invite our new neighbors onto the farm to demonstrate how we care for the land and our animals. After all, they may be the next candidates for office or witnesses at a hearing.

To help you find out who is running for federal and state offices, we launched the iFarmiVote resource. This website can help you register to vote, find your voting location, discover ballot information, and learn about voting requirements in your state

I hope you'll join me in voting this November. Many candidates are driven by a sense of duty and want to do what's best for their communities and neighbors. I encourage you to get to know them and cast your vote for them. No matter which candidates you support, we must never take for granted the right to decide who will represent us.

Zippy Duvall
AFBF President

Partnering to Empower Minorities in Agriculture

By: Kelsea Forward

Started at Michigan State University in 1982, Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resources Related Sciences (MANRRS) is a youth development organization that connects minority students to opportunities in agriculture.



Dr. Marcus Bernard, associate professor of agriculture and community sciences at Kentucky State University and president of MANRRS, recently sat down with American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall to discuss the work MANRRS is doing to empower young people and minorities to pursue leadership roles and careers in agriculture.

AFBF has partnered with youth organizations such as 4-H and FFA for many years to encourage the involvement of youth in agriculture. AFBF partnered with MANRRS last year with the goal of increasing minority involvement in agriculture and bringing even more people into the industry to help meet the growing demand for food.

President Duvall and AFBF are excited about the continued

partnership with MANRRS and the opportunity to empower students from diverse backgrounds.

"For us to be a strong organization we need to get everybody at the table and have everybody's voice be heard, especially in policy development," President Duvall said.

MANRRS empowers young people by connecting them with internships, mentorships, professional development, networking and job opportunities. President Duvall invited members of MANRRS to apply for internships offered at AFBF.

During their discussion, Dr. Bernard explained that many students who are a part of MANRRS come from urban neighborhoods without a background in agriculture. The organization is dedicated to

showing students there is a place for everyone to contribute and succeed in the industry, no matter what their background is.

"We watch these young people get excited because they see a future they can be a part of," said Dr. Bernard.

Dr. Bernard also explained that the work of MANRRS is made possible by strong relationships like the one they have with Farm Bureau.

"Working together with Farm Bureau, we're able to open up doors for these students and young professionals," he said.

MANRRS has more than 70 chapters across the U.S.

Kelsea Forward is the communications assistant at AFBF.

Welcome, Karen!

Continued from page 1

needed to build and grow our membership base."

Congratulations, Karen! MFBF has a great staff in place to achieve its mission of strengthening a

diverse agricultural community by supporting and advocating for Massachusetts farm families.

If you wish to reach out to Karen, her email is karen@mfbf.net.

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.

President’s Column

By: Warren Shaw, MFBF President

If you’ve been paying attention to the comings and goings at MFBF offices, you won’t be surprised when I tell you that we have almost 100 percent turnover since I’ve become president. Kim Ashe, MFBF’s database coordinator (membership renewals) and Tina Allen, MFBF’s admin, are the survivors, and we should be grateful as they are both outstanding employees.

For the most part, when you look at our staff it’s not difficult to see it as a slice of the national job market. For those of you who employ a fair amount of people this has probably happened in your organization as well, and although we are losing some very good people, it’s not all bad as we have gained some great ones in return.

We kicked off a selection process to replace Brad Mitchell, MFBF’s previous executive director and we’re very fortunate to receive 10 very good applicants. After two months, in what many see as a stunning move, your board of directors has selected Karen Schwalbe to be the next executive director of the Massachusetts Farm

Bureau Federation.

There were quite a few surprises in the group of 10 applicants, but I think Karen was the biggest. For the last seven years Karen has been the executive Director of the Southeastern Mass Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP). She also has her own farm, serves on the local Ag Commission and has been on the Mass Food System Collaborative for the past five years. The list goes on.

Karen has a tremendous agricultural pedigree and great knowledge of the industry. I personally believe that she has the talent and the credentials to help us do great things. In a world that values diversity, she is the first

female executive director of MFBF.

Having Karen and Nick John as the new faces of our organization sends the message that Farm Bureau is anything but a tired old organization, and we are not afraid to invest in the talent necessary to properly represent our members.

Part of our vision as we rebuild staff is to re-prioritize our support for county Farm Bureau’s. The pandemic in many ways created a disconnect between the state office and counties. MFBF’s board of directors has every intention of spending state resources to rebuild those relationships, support the county board of directors, recruit YF&R participants as we do, and grow membership.

Nick has in his first year with us done a tremendous job of connecting with important legislative partners and enhanced industry relationships. He has also done a terrific job of acting as our interim executive director.

If you haven’t done so already, make sure you get together with your county president to become a delegate, as you know ours is a grassroots organization and is driven by resolution submitted by counties. There is much to discuss, and I certainly hope the counties bring their priorities to the annual meeting to be discussed.

We also have some great breakout sessions covering solar opportunities, grant writing, estate planning and more.

We do have a request in for Governor Baker to be our guest speaker, but isn’t confirmed. So, it should be a great event, the first for our new leadership team so you will not want to miss.

Warren Shaw
MFBF President



Warren Shaw is president of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation.

Baker-Polito Administration Declares October “Massachusetts Cranberry Month”

Governor Charlie Baker declared October as “Massachusetts Cranberry Month” for the third consecutive year. In celebration of this declaration, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Commissioner John Lebeaux, state and local officials, and representatives from the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers’ Association visited Federal Furnace Cranberry Company in the Town of Carver to encourage residents to purchase locally-produced cranberry products. The recent visit to Federal Furnace included a proclamation declaring October “Massachusetts Cranberry Month”, and a tour of their bog to witness the harvesting taking place.

“The Baker-Polito Administration is proud to support cranberry growers, who make significant contributions to the Commonwealth’s agricultural sector and local economies,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs

Secretary Beth Card. “Our local growers are true stewards of the land, implementing the latest in proprietary technology and equipment to harvest their fruit, and utilizing innovative methods that conserve water and protect Massachusetts’ natural resources.”

Massachusetts is the oldest cranberry-growing region in the country. Today, there are approximately 13,000 acres of commercial bogs in the state, primarily in Plymouth, Bristol, and Barnstable counties. In 2021, the total value of utilized Massachusetts cranberry production was more than \$60 million. Cranberries are a leading commercial crop grown in the Commonwealth, producing nearly 25 percent of the nation’s cranberry supply.

“As a side dish at Thanksgiving dinner, served dried on oatmeal

or salads, or enjoyed in a glass in juice form, cranberries are a mighty multi-purpose fruit with enormous health benefits,” said MDAR Commissioner John Lebeaux. “Autumn in Massachusetts is a special time for many reasons, but chief among them is the breathtaking scenery and imagery that takes shape across “Cranberry Country” in Southeastern Massachusetts when the harvest season is in full swing and bogs are awash in crimson. It’s absolutely fitting that we celebrate this superfruit in October.”

Massachusetts’ cranberry industry, through crop production, processing, and manufacturing, is an essential sector of the state’s agriculture economy. Additionally, increasing the efficiency of water use in cranberry production is key to conserving water while minimizing off-target movement of nutrients and pesticides, which will help to preserve water quality and ensuring the sustainability of cranberry production in the Commonwealth.

“The hard-working cranberry growers of Massachusetts are honored that the Baker-Polito

Administration is once again recognizing October as cranberry month in the Commonwealth,” said Brian Wick, Executive Director of the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers’ Association, serving growers from all of Massachusetts. “Despite the significant drought that impacted many of our cranberry farms this growing season, with some recent rain events, along with resourceful and innovative growers, we are excited for an expected good cranberry crop this year.”

In August 2020, the Baker-Polito Administration announced \$7.75 million in funding to support infrastructure upgrades, including the design, construction, retrofitting, and outfitting of enhanced laboratory space at the University of Massachusetts Cranberry Station in Wareham. The funding will be used to modernize and expand its research facilities, improve the facility’s environmental profile, and provide the research tools needed to support vigorous research programs in cranberry water, pest, and nutrient management. Working closely with area growers, the Station is a vital outreach

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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:
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Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
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October Is Farm To School Month!

Welcome to 2022 Farm to School Month! Not only is October Farm to School Month in Massachusetts (established in 2016), but it is also National Farm to School Month. This month, Massachusetts Farm to School will be sending weekly emails with ideas of how to celebrate, announcing and sharing the great work of our 2022 Kale Blazers, information on how to advocate for Farm to School programming across the state, and more!



Celebrate Farm to School Month!

There are many ways for everyone to celebrate Farm to School month! We have fun and engaging ideas for students, teachers, administrators, and community members.

- Educators: Organize a field trip to a farm!
- Students: Read a book about food, farming, or nutrition.
- School Nutrition Staff: Create a farm to school bulletin board in your cafeteria.
- Administrators: Plan in-service professional development around a farm to school topic.
- Community Members: If your school has a garden, host a garden clean-up day!

State Health Officials Announce Fifth Human Case Of West Nile Virus In Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) recently announced the fifth human case of West Nile virus (WNV) in the state this year. The individual is a female in her 80s who was likely exposed to the virus in Middlesex County in an area already known to be at increased risk. The risk of human infection with WNV is moderate to high in the Greater Boston area. Risk from mosquito-borne disease will continue until the first hard frost.

In 2021, there were 11 human cases of WNV infection identified in Massachusetts. WNV is usually transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe disease. Most people infected with WNV will have no symptoms. When present, WNV symptoms tend to include fever and flu-like illness. In rare cases, more severe illness can occur. No human or animal cases of Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) have been detected so far this year in Massachusetts.

People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes.

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

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling

outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites. Wear long-sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors to help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

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

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

Protect Your Animals
Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE. If an animal is diagnosed with WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to DAR, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795 and to DPH by calling 617-983-6800.

More information, including all WNV and EEE positive results, can be found at www.mass.gov/mosquito-borne-diseases or by calling the DPH Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.

“Massachusetts Cranberry Month”

Continued from page 3

and research center charged with maintaining and enhancing the economic viability of the Massachusetts cranberry industry. The official groundbreaking occurred in October 2021, with ongoing construction currently underway, with anticipated completion in early 2023.

“Cranberries are an essential part of the economy and culture of the Southcoast,” said Senate Ways and Means Chair Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport). “This month, we honor growers across Cranberry Country and the iconic regional fruit they harvest; I am proud to represent many of them and champion substantive legislation to advance the cranberry industry as a whole.”

“I am extremely pleased to be celebrating October 2022 as Massachusetts Cranberry Month,” said Dean of the Massachusetts Senate Marc R. Pacheco (D-Taunton). “The Commonwealth’s cranberry industry has historically

served as one of our most abundant statewide agricultural sectors - especially in the Southeast region I proudly represent. With Massachusetts responsible for over 1/5 of our country’s domestic cranberry production, I am glad we are taking the opportunity to recognize the valuable opportunities that this agricultural sector continues to provide for our Commonwealth.”

“The cranberry harvest is an ideal time to publicly recognize the contributions that cranberries and cranberry growers have made to the commonwealth’s economy and culture for more than 200 years, and with my partners in the legislature and administration, I will continue to advocate for state initiatives that support growers as they adapt to climate change and a challenging global market,” said State Representative Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett), who has served as co-chair of the UMass-Amherst Cranberry Station Board of Oversight since 2015.

“The cranberry industry has been of vital importance to agriculture in the Commonwealth and especially here on the south coast, the heart of cranberry country,” said State Representative Susan Gifford (R-Wareham). “We are grateful to have an Administration that recognizes the important role cranberries play in our economy and the challenges that face our growers. I was honored to have served as a member of the Cranberry Revitalization Task force and I am pleased that we are still seeing the benefits of our work.”

In recent years, the Baker-Polito Administration has worked in partnership with stakeholders to strengthen and the support the cranberry industry. In October 2019, the Administration announced \$991,837 to 21 cranberry growers for bog renovation projects in MDAR’s Massachusetts Cranberry Bog Renovation Enhancement Grant Program to help renovate existing cranberry bogs,

providing higher yields and more efficient methods of cranberry production for participating growers. Furthermore, in June 2017, the Massachusetts Cranberry Revitalization Task Force released its final report with recommendations to preserve and strengthen Massachusetts’ cranberry industry. The Task Force, composed of 18 government officials and stakeholders within the cranberry industry, was created by the Legislature in July 2015 to examine the status of the industry and the complex challenges ahead and to develop a multi-pronged action plan geared toward stabilizing and revitalizing the cranberry industry.

For more information regarding the cranberry industry or details on how to visit a cranberry bog this fall, including tours please visit the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers’ Association’s (CCCGA) website.

New Competitor Joins Semi-Finalist Teams in Ag Innovation Challenge

The American Farm Bureau Federation, in partnership with Farm Credit, announces a change in the 10 semi-finalist teams in the 2023 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge. California-based Vence was acquired by another company and no longer qualifies for the competition.

Iowa-based ChopLocal is now one of the 10 semi-finalist teams.

“We congratulate the owners of Vence and wish them all the best as they move forward with this exciting opportunity,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “Recognizing entrepreneurs who are committed to helping rural communities and supporting farmers and ranchers in their mission to provide the food, fuel and fiber we all rely on remains a cornerstone of the Ag Innovation Challenge.”

The competition provides an opportunity for individuals to showcase ideas and business innovations in agriculture. This is the ninth year of the Challenge, which was the first national business competition focused

exclusively on rural entrepreneurs launching food and agriculture businesses.



The updated list of 10 semi-finalist teams each awarded \$10,000 is below.

- Atlantic Aquaculture Technologies, Massachusetts. Team lead: Daniel Ward
- ChopLocal, Iowa. Team lead: Katie Olthoff
- EmGenisys Inc., Texas. Team lead: Cara Wells
- Hennen Pig Chute, Minnesota. Team lead: Brad Hennen
- MycoLogic LLC, Georgia. Team lead: Chris Cornelison
- NORDEF, Kansas. Team lead: William Walls
- ReEnvision Ag, Iowa. Team lead: Jayson Ryner
- Symbrosia, Hawaii. Team lead: Alexia Akbay
- TrackerSled, Illinois. Team lead: Lawrence Kearns
- TreadSure, Nebraska. Team lead: Preston Parmley

The 10 semi-finalist teams will compete at the AFBF Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on Friday, Jan. 6, to advance to the final round where the four finalist teams will receive an additional \$5,000 for a total of \$15,000 each.

The final four teams will compete live in front of Farm Bureau members, investors and industry representatives on Sunday, Jan. 8, to win three top titles and prizes:

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

The top 10 semi-finalist teams will participate in pitch training and mentorship from Cornell University’s SC Johnson College of Business faculty prior to competing at AFBF’s Convention. In addition, the top 10 semi-finalist teams will have the opportunity to network with industry leaders and venture capital representatives from the Agriculture

Department’s Rural Business Investment Program. Farm Bureau would not be able to recognize and support these rural businesses without generous funding provided by sponsors Farm Credit, Bayer Crop Science, John Deere, Farm Bureau Bank and Microsoft. To learn more about the Challenge visit fb.org/challenge.

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Dairy Is Retro-Hot With Demand That's Back To The '50s

With this year's USDA report on per-capita U.S. dairy consumption, the industry has finally moved past the 1960s. In terms of favor with the American public, dairy has returned to 1959.

Sound strange? It's true.

The USDA's annual report on per-capita U.S. dairy consumption released Friday, Sept. 30, saw an emphatic rise in domestic dairy demand, going from 655 pounds per person in 2020 to 667 pounds per person last year. That's a level of dairy popularity that surpasses 1960, when it was 659 pounds, and is approaching 1959's consumer appeal of 672 pounds.

In other words, the last time Americans wanted as much dairy as they do today, Elvis was in the Army. And keep in mind, the 1959 population of the United States, then was only slightly more than half of what it is now. And exports, which now take up nearly 20 percent of domestic production, barely existed back in those days.

So, what does this say about the industry?

What it doesn't say is that Americans are consuming dairy the same way now as they did then. Fluid milk has continued its slow decline, according to the USDA data. But cheese continues to rise – American-style cheese consumption reached another record last year. And butter – well, butter actually is returning to Eisenhower-era levels, so in that case, a "Back to the Future" comparison may be appropriate.

But even as the dairy product consumption mix shifts over time, the overall positive trajectory – the 2021 gain is the seventh in the past eight years – is clear, and impressive. Despite more and more competition from nondairy competitors . . . despite an increasingly demanding consumer . . . and despite disruptions that range from diet fads to pandemics . . . consumers continue to find dairy increasingly useful, preferable, and important. That's a tribute to the hard work of dairy farmers and the entire industry. And it's worth celebrating.

So put on your turntable some Buddy Holly, some Johnny Cash, maybe some Little Richard, or whatever else suits your taste as dairy celebrates. Maybe serve some cheese, some yogurt, or if you're feeling really old-school, some whole milk – a bright spot in the fluid segment. Just stay away from playing any Chubby Checker. "The Twist" was a hit in 1960. And as dairy breaks historical barriers to reach ever-higher levels of popularity, that's so last year.

Apply For The John & Liolia Schipper Memorial Grant

Through a generous bequest to the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Agricultural Preservation Foundation from the late John and Liolia Schipper, the organization is pleased to provide a grant program to assist Massachusetts farmers in becoming more economically viable and sustainable, with an emphasis on new farmers facing challenges of building a farm business in the expensive and challenging environment of Massachusetts.



Applications are accepted annually through Nov. 1, the maximum grant award is approximately \$3,000 per applicant. Applicants do not need to be a Farm Bureau member. However, if selected to receive a grant you must be a Regular member or become one before receiving funds.

Apply online at <https://mfbf.net/resources/grants-and-scholarships>

Holstein USA Study Demonstrates Importance Of Conformation

How does physical conformation relate to economically important traits in today's dairy industry? A recent study completed by Holstein Association USA aimed to assess these relationships using linear classification data and DHIA production records. The dataset covered almost 20 years of data and includes over 1 million cows. The results of this study clearly show that cows with more correct, functional conformation live longer and produce more milk.

Linear type classification programs are well established as a method for assessing physical conformation of economically important traits. Cows with higher scores are closer to the ideal physical conformation for a Holstein cow.

Cows included in the analysis were split into quartiles, with an equal number of cows in each quartile (refer to Figure 1). First lactation cows in the top quartile for final classification score (final scores between 82 and 89 points) produced 1,537 pounds more energy corrected milk in 305 days than those in the bottom quartile (76 points and lower). Using a long-term milk price, of \$20/cwt, this difference represents \$307 more in gross revenue in their first lactation.

Looking at lifetime energy-corrected milk (ECM), comparing the top quartile to the bottom quartile, the highest scored cows produced 13,389 more pounds of ECM across their lifetimes than cows in the bottom quartile (refer to Figure 2). Using a long-term milk price, of \$20/cwt, this difference represents \$2,678 more in gross milk revenue per cow over the course of their lives. Among individual linear classification traits udder and feet and leg traits were most corelated with milk yield and longevity measures. Additionally, when look at lifetime days in milk (DIM), cows in the top quartile for final classification score had 142 more lifetime DIM than cows in the bottom quartile.

This large dataset provides new insight into the importance of physical conformation to production and longevity. These results also show that linear classification does quantify economically important physical conformation traits well. As the dairy industry focuses sustainability, breeding cows that last longer is increasingly important. These results demonstrate the importance of selection for functionally correct dairy cows for dairy profitability.

If you are interested in seeing more information about individual traits, you can find a compete report with all analyses at www.holsteinusa.com/typematters. Contact Holstein USA Analytics and Innovation Scientist Jeffrey Bewley at jbewley@holstein.com or call 859.699.2998 for more information.

USDA To Fund Push To Store Carbon In New England Forests

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is funding a major push to try to store more carbon in New England's forests. The agency recently said that the New England Climate-Smart Forest Partnership Project will include large commercial producers as well as small woodlot owners with a goal of storing more carbon in forests. The project could receive as much as \$30 million.

The USDA said the project will seek to "build markets for climate-smart forest products to store carbon in wood products and substitute wood products for fossil fuel-based materials." The New England Forestry Foundation is serving as the lead partner on the project.

Other partners on the project include Robbins Lumber, the University of Maine and the Mass Tree Farm Program.

The funding is part of up to \$2.8 billion the USDA is providing to dozens of projects around the country as part of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities. The partnership takes proposals seeking funding from \$5 million to \$100 million.

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This notice is for Associate Members ONLY (regulars, please disregard).
If you wish to continue receiving a hard copy of *News and Views*, please email Kim Ashe at kim@mfbf.net or call the office at 508-481-4766.

If we don't hear from you, you will begin receiving newsletters at the email address on file only. If we do not have an email address, then you will cease to get a newsletter.

We appreciate your continued support of MFBF!

Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee Happenings



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

A Message From MFBF's YF&R Chair Heather Bonanno-Baker

This summer has been busy for all of us. With the heat and the drought, I'm sure we all faced the same challenges in our businesses. The young farmers had a busy time on our own operations, but we did have some time to get together.

We hosted our first Farm to Fork Dinner fundraiser. This was held at Willow Springs Vineyard in Haverhill, MA. It was a beautiful event with delicious food. All attendees had a great time and left happy. We raised \$1000 at this event that will help send some members to the American Farm Bureau Federation Leadership Conference in Jacksonville, FL. There has been some interest in hosting

these fundraising dinners in different counties. If your county is interested, please reach out to me so we can talk details.

We also hosted a Agriculture Trivia Day at Lilac Hedge Farm on October 9th at 3pm. The Promotion and Education Committee joined us to put on this event.

Every year, American Farm Bureau hosts a Discussion Meet Competition at its annual meetings. These competitions simulate a board meeting discussion where the questions are discussed. Prizes for these competitions range from cash to new Cash IH tractors and Ford

trucks. We are looking for participants to compete at a state level where the winner will compete nationally. Two competitions levels are held, collegiate and non-collegiate. If you are interested in competing, please email me for more information. Also, please see discussion meet questions below.

As we look towards annual meeting, we will be planning an event at the banquet. Please stay tuned for more details about this!

Thank you so much!

Heather Bonanno-Baker
heatherbonanno@gmail.com

If anyone is interested in hosting a 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 (1)
- 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

2023 AFBF YF&R Discussion Meet Questions

1.How can Farm Bureau effectively support and equip young farmers and ranchers to successfully manage economic and infrastructure challenges to ensure healthy and sustainable farms and ranches across the country?

2.Due to current economic demands, many farmers and ranchers spend a lot of time outside the "fence rows" on off-farm jobs. How can Farm Bureau become more accessible and welcoming to members who are working in related fields and juggling responsibilities on and off the farm?

3.Climate has become a major topic among business leaders, policymakers and consumers. As an industry that depends on the weather, what role do we as farmers and ranchers play in shaping climate initiatives to benefit society overall

4. Advancements in autonomous equipment and drone technology offer solutions to challenges farmers and ranchers have faced for years. How can Farm Bureau improve access to, and help farmers and ranchers deploy, these emerging technologies

on their operations?

5. Many external influences are causing supply chain disruption for agricultural goods. How can Farm Bureau reduce the impact of external influences through policy development and programming?

These questions will be used for the YF&R discussion meet competition held during the AFBF Annual Convention and the Collegiate Discussion Meet held during the AFBF FUSION Conference in 2023.

Register For MDAR Agricultural Business Training Winter Courses

Growing Your Farm Business Planning Course

January 17th – March 14th, 2023
Tuesday evenings 5:30 – 8:30pm

MDAR office in Southborough, MA

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 a professional business planner with years of experience working with Massachusetts farms and guest speakers on topics such as succession planning and online marketing. 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 in person in Southborough on Tuesday evenings starting January 17th and

ending March 14th, (no class February 21st). The course fee, subsidized by MDAR, is \$150 per farm. The Growing Your Farm business planning course has been approved as a certified USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) borrower training for financial management. If interested, please complete the brief Growing Your Farm application and email it to Diego.Irizarry-Gerould@mass.gov, or mail a hard copy to: MDAR, Attn: Diego Irizarry-Gerould, 138 Memorial Ave, Suite 42, West Springfield, MA 01089. For more information, see ABTP program webpage or contact Diego Irizarry-



Gerould at 857-248-1671.

Exploring the Small Farm Dream Course

January 12 – February 9, 2023
Thursday evenings 6:00pm – 9:00pm

MDAR office in Southborough, MA

This 5-session course provides guidance to aspiring farmers through the decision-making process of whether to start a farm business. Participants will learn about the many aspects of starting a farm business, assess their own skills and knowledge, and get help finding resources for support, including marketing, financing, and regulations. The course utilizes the Exploring the Small Farm Dream curriculum and workbook developed by the New England Small Farm Institute. Through four guided

group sessions and a farmer panel session, participants will analyze the feasibility of their small farm dream and clarify their vision together with other class participants. This course is sponsored and financially supported by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and is intended for new agricultural entrepreneurs planning to start their farm business in Massachusetts. The course fee is \$100 for up to two participants per enterprise, as space allows.

If interested, please complete the brief application found here: Exploring the Small Farm Dream and email it to Jessica.Camp@mass.gov, or mail a hard copy to: MDAR, Attn: Jessica Camp, 138 Memorial Ave, Suite 42, West Springfield, MA 01089. For more information, see ABTP program webpage or contact Jess Camp at 617-823-0871.

Celebrating
The Seasons Of
Massachusetts Ag
Calendar

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



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

MFBF’s 2022 Annual Meeting
Dec. 1-2, 2022

Tenative Schedule
(Subject to Change)

Thursday, Dec. 1
Mass Ag in the Classroom will be hosting the Silent Auction

8:30 AM - Registration

- 9:30 - 10:45 AM
- Pesticide Workshop Laurie Manning-MDAR Pesticide Inspector
 - Estate/Succession Planning

- 11:00 - 12:00 PM
- Grant Writing - Panel discussion how to write grants
 - Avoiding Risks in Equine Operations - Atty Kathleen A. Reagan

12:15 PM
Lunch with Guest Speaker, Ian Ward – Solar & Greg Finn
Scholarship presentation

- 1:15 - 2:15 PM
Grants – What is available? Panel discussion
- Chris Laughton - Farm Credit East
 - Laura Maul, Gerry Palano & Melissa Adams - MDAR

- 2:30 - 3:30 PM
- County Farm Bureau – Board Training (Warren Shaw– Moderator)
 - Training for State/County Boards - Jordan Henry- AFBF

3:45 PM
Presentation by A & B Insurance

5 - 6 PM
Social Hour - Cash Bar

6 - 9 PM
Dinner Banquet
Ogonowski Award Ceremony

Friday, Dec. 2
Delegate Session

7 - 8:15 AM
Welcome Breakfast

8:15 - 9 AM
Delegate Registration

9 AM - 12 Noon
Delegate Session

12 - 1 PM
Delegate Luncheon

1 - 3:30 PM
Delegate Session



Notice Of Vote On Change To Bylaws

The MFBF Board of Directors will be bringing two bylaw change proposals to the delegate session of our Annual Meeting in December.

Pursuant to the organization’s bylaws, notice of text “shall be placed in the mail by the Secretary at least fifty (50) days prior to such meeting to the last known mail or electronic mail address of each Director of the Federation, each Officer of the Federation, each County Farm Bureau in good standing, and to the President and Secretary of each County Farm Bureau in good standing”.

The two bylaw changes to go before the delegates, as proposed and approved by the MFBF Board of Directors are as follows:

Number 1

- Change the name of the “Regular” member to “Farmer” member
- Change the name of “Associate” member to “Advocates”
- Split the current Associate/Advocate membership to Individual Associate/Advocate and Family Associate/Advocate categories at a dues level of \$70 and \$100 respectively.

Number 2

- The Board of Directors propose the following by law change:
- Board Rejection of a County Resolution – a board member can bring a newly approved county resolution, which they believe is not in the best interest of the organization or its members, to have the board of directors have an emergency session to consider if it should be moved forward to the delegate session.

This information will also be sent out in the delegate packets.

MFBF's 2022 Annual Meeting

Dec. 1-2, 2022

Reserve Your Stay At The Clarion Hotel and Conference Center In Taunton



Clarion Hotel and Conference Center
700 Myles Standish Blvd
Taunton, MA 02780
508-823-0430

Room rates: \$119.00 per night (single or double occupancy plus tax)

Rooms must be booked by Nov 7th, 2022 for this rate

Reserve your room by calling: 508-823-0430

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

Massachusetts Agriculture In the Classroom Auction

Bid • Donate • Support

Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom (MAC) to Host Auction Fundraiser

MAC will host a silent auction during the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting on Thursday, Dec. 1,

with all proceeds going to support MAC's programs throughout the Commonwealth.

MAC board members would appreciate donations from Farm Bureau members for the 2022 silent auction.

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

The auction will run on Thursday,

Dec. 1, at MFBF's annual meeting with winners being announced during the banquet that evening.

For more information or to donate, please email: massaginclassroom@gmail.com.

Thank You Meeting Sponors



Reservation Form

Please note: you must pre-pay to reserve your spot at lunch and dinner. Walk-ins will not be accepted.

Names of Each Person Attending	Thursday Lunch: \$30 per person before Nov. 20 \$35 per person after Nov. 20	Thursday Dinner \$38 per person before Nov. 20 \$43 per person after Nov. 20
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 Kim Ashe, 249 Lakeside Ave, Marlborough MA 01752

Allied Business Directory

Auto Shine Auto Body

310 Bedford St Abington MA
Phone: 781-421-6042
531-549 Pond St Braintree MA
Phone: 781-337-4309

Copeland Street Auto Body
65 Copeland St Quincy MA
Phone: 617 479-6352

Products & Services: We are offering 10% off any collision job for Farm Bureau Members! Specializing in Any Collision Job, We work with all insurances and handle all necessary arrangements for Your Convenience Free Estimate.

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.

The Big E

1305 Memorial Ave
West Springfield, MA 01089
413-205-5011
https://www.thebig.com/p/agriculture
info@thebig.com
Products & services: Fairgrounds and Annual Fair

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.

Colonial Restorations

PO Box 868
Fiskdale, MA 01518-0868
508-735-9900
http://www.cr1981.com
info@cr1981.com
Products & Services: Colonial Restorations, LLC specializes in the structural restoration/repair of post and beam homes and barns throughout New England since 1981.

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 Powersports

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.

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.

Pope Energy

Doug Pope
42 8th Street, #4413B
Boston, MA 02129
617-337-0199
doug.pope@popeenergy.com
Products & Services: ag solar development

Progressive Grower Inc.

81 Charlotte Furnace Road
West Wareham, MA 02576
508-273-7358
www.progressivegrower.com
Info@ProgressiveGrower.com
Products & Services: The company carries a full line of chemicals and fertilizers at competitive prices and an extensive stock of farm equipment, tools and clothing.

Resource Management, Inc.

1171 NH RT 175
Holderness, NH 03245
605-536-8900
www.rmirecycles.com
RMI@RMIrecycles.com
Product & Services: We provide responsive, innovative and high quality organic residuals and recycling services to address our customer interests and needs.

Rice Fruit Farms

757 Main St
Wilbraham, MA 01095
413-596-4002
www.ricefruitfarm.com
info@ricefruitfarm.com
Products & Services: bakery, fruits and vegetables, coffee, homemade ice cream, milk, eggs, local products, honey and olive oil.

SEMAP, Inc.

P.O. Box 80625
South Dartmouth, MA 02748
508-524-2601
www.semaponline.org
kschwalbe@semaponline.org
Products & Services: local food promotion, sustainable farming education and healthy food initiatives.

Soares Flower Garden Nursery

1021 Sandwich Rd
East Falmouth, MA 02536
508-548-5288
www.soaresflowergardennursery.com
soaresfgn@gmail.com
Products & Services: retail greenhouse featuring locally grown annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs and shrubs, as well as a landscape design, build and maintenance firm.

Sprague Energy

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

The Mane Place

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

World Farmers Inc.

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

Eastern States Exposition Sets Daily Attendance Records

A total of 1,603,354 visitors attended the 2022 Big E, in West Springfield, Mass! During the Fair's 17-day run, an all-time single day attendance record was set when 177,789 visitors came to The Big E on Saturday, Sept. 24. Five additional daily attendance records were also set.

A diverse concert line-up of more than 80 individual performances, delicious Fair foods, rides and unique shopping experiences provided something for everyone in the family.

Dingle Peninsula Showcase was also the location of this year's new Halfway to St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Best of Fair

This year the Best of Fair award, our new annual initiative that highlights partners, people, and organizations for their product and brand excellence, was bestowed upon five groups. The following organizations and individuals were the 2022 Big E Best of Fair recipients: FFA on Sept. 17; Harpoon Brewery on Sept. 22; Wayne Carini & Mike Brewer host of Collector Car Live on Sept. 25; Dingle Distillery on Sept. 26; and Yankee Candle on Sept. 28.

Agriculture

The Eastern States Farmers Market and Wine Barn offered fairgoers a variety of agricultural demonstrations, such as spinning and weaving, cooking demonstrations, samples from The Big E Northeast Gold Wine, Cider & Perry Competition, wine slushies and cheese plates in the Wine Café and thousands of 4-Hers & FFA youth participated in competitions and demonstrations. The 4-H Beef Grand Champion Steer, raised by Rylee Rousseau of Rhode Island, was purchased by The Barnyard at the Fair's 4-H Beef Auction. ESE purchased the

Middleweight Commended Steer, raised by Lily Dias of Mass. Overall, twenty-five steers were sold with an average of \$4.64/lb.

The ESE Horse Show featured the Hunter Show and USHJA Zone I HOTY finals, the \$15,000 Hunter Classic, as well as Saddlebreds, Hackneys, Morgans, Friesians and Opportunity Classes. The Big E Draft Horse Show featured the 2022 North American Classic Cart Series Eastern Regional Finals, the \$50,000 Six-Horse Hitch Showdown, and the Haflinger and Hitch Pony Championship Series.

New England Center – Home of The Big E's Creative Arts Department, the New England Center housed displays of entries

and winners in competitions for quilting, lace making, rug hooking, sewing, doll making and knitting competitions. The department had 1,311 total entries throughout all contests, judged 155 quilts and had 503 entries in the photography contest.

About The Big E

The Big E is America's only multi-state fair celebrating the rich history, culture and traditions of the six New England states. As the principal event of Eastern States Exposition, The Big E has presented the finest livestock; agriculture; innovative commercial, industrial, and artistic developments; and the highest caliber of varied entertainment to the people of the

northeastern United States for over a century. The 17-day event has grown to become the largest fair in the Northeast.

And the tradition continues next fall – September 15 through October 1, 2023. Stay up to date with all the happenings at Eastern States Exposition by finding it on social media @TheBigEFair, joining the mailing list, and visiting the website TheBigE.com.

Please note: this release was condensed due to space constraints. To read the full release, please visit: <https://www.morningagclips.com/eastern-states-exposition-sets-daily-attendance-records/>

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Find your nearest dealer at GrasshopperDealers.com

Being A Farm Bureau Member Pays

MFBB Members Enjoy Discounts From National & Local Business Partners

Please visit www.MFBB.net for more information.

Kickoff 2022 with a 5% discount on your farm package with Countryway Insurance. Coming early 2022, save 3%-5% off your personal auto with various companies. Your friendly A&B Insurance Group Agents offers a full line of insurance services to meet all your needs. Your knowledgeable and experienced agent can help arrange a program that will best meet your farm and personal insurance needs. With four farm carriers and eight personal lines carriers, your agent can tailor a program specifically for you or your family's needs. In addition to Farm Packages, we also offer personal & commercial auto, homeowners, property insurance, workman's compensation as well as health, life & disability insurances.

Visit the A&B's Website at www.abinsgroup.com 978-399-0025.



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/>

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).






McGovern Auto Group has partnered with MFBF to provide up to \$500 worth of incentives for members.

Growing up in the farming business, Matt McGovern learned the value of American ag and wants to give Massachusetts farmers an opportunity to save on one of the tools that keep their farms running.


Visit <https://www.mcgovernauto.com/mcgvorn-farm-bureau-program.htm> for more info today!

Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in North Grafton will apply a 10% 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



Sustainability & The Next Generation: It's Just What We Do

As Americans' ties to food production grow further removed with each generation, North Carolina farmer Kamal Bell encourages everyone to make a connection – however small – with farming and engage as the stakeholders we are in the food system.

Spurred to start farming when he learned about food deserts in college, Kamal and his wife, Amber, run Sankofa Farms in Cedar Grove, North Carolina.

"I just set out on a path to grow food and our mission here is to get it to people who are affected by food deserts," he explained.

Along with conservation and protecting the land, air and water around the farm, Bell is focused on fostering the farm-to-fork connection in youth.

As an agricultural education teacher, Bell noticed how students' behavior – at school and at home – improved, as did their grades, when they became involved in the school garden he created.

Now, he provides experiences like that on his farm.

Mikal Ali, a Sankofa Farms student, was surprised by how much needed to be done to transform the tree-covered land into a farm.

"It was a blessing in disguise because I saw what it was like to work for something," Ali said, adding that Bell provided the opportunity to learn, but it was the students' responsibility to take it.

Without the youth being involved in agriculture, "we can't ensure farming is going to look the way we want it to look," Bell cautioned, encouraging other farmers to provide similar experiences to young people.

According to Bell, honeybees are the perfect example of the aspects of farming he's most committed to: exposing youth to agriculture and incorporating environmental sustainability practices.

"Honeybees, one, are great pollinators. They're also a great introduction to bringing youth [to the farm] and educating youth about farming. The more interested we can get them, the more of a chance that they actually come into the industry to fulfill a role or to push the industry forward," Bell said.



Thank You, Joan, For Your Service!

Joan Monaco, Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) bookkeeper and office manager is departing the organization at the end of October to pursue other opportunities.

Monaco joined MFBF almost 20 years ago and has worked in many roles within the organization.

MFBF's leadership thanks Monaco for her service. Please join us in wishing her farewell!

Support Massachusetts Farmers - Join MFBF

Name: _____ Farm Name: _____ Date: __/__/__

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ DOB: __/__/__

Referred by: _____

I hereby make application for an annual membership in the _____ County Farm Bureau and Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, whose purpose is to promote, protect and represent the economic, social and educational interests of Massachusetts' farmers, as well as encourage the protection of agricultural areas and rural interest within the state. I understand acceptance or denial and classification of my membership are determined by the County Farm Bureau.

Contributions, gifts or membership dues to a County Farm Bureau, or MFBF, are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. However, they may be tax deductible under other provisions of the IRS code. Membership dues are non-refundable and non-returnable.

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

Signature: _____

Membership dues (please select one):

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Recipe:
Easy Cranberry and
Apple Cake

Ingredients

- 12 ounces fresh cranberries, rinsed and picked over for stems
- 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored, and diced
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar, lightly packed
- 1 tablespoon grated orange zest (2 oranges)
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
- 1 1/8 teaspoons ground cinnamon, divided
- 2 extra-large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 cup plus 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 1/4 pound (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt



How to make

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F.
2. Combine the cranberries, apple, brown sugar, orange zest, orange juice, and 1 teaspoon of the cinnamon in a medium bowl. Set aside.
3. In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the eggs on medium-high speed for 2 minutes. With the mixer on medium, add 1 cup of the granulated sugar, the butter, vanilla, and sour cream and beat just until combined. On low speed, slowly add the flour and salt.
4. Pour the fruit mixture evenly into a 10-inch glass pie plate. Pour the batter over the fruit, covering it completely. Combine the remaining 1 tablespoon of granulated sugar and 1/8 teaspoon of cinnamon and sprinkle it over the batter. Bake for 55 to 60 minutes, until a toothpick inserted in the middle of the cake comes out clean and the fruit is bubbling around the edges. Serve warm or at room temperature.



USDA Announces Approval Of D-SNAP For Florida Disaster Areas

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that low-income Florida residents recovering from Hurricane Ian could be eligible for assistance from the USDA's Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP).

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said households that may not normally be eligible under regular Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) rules may qualify for D-SNAP if they meet certain criteria, including the disaster income limits, and if they have qualifying disaster-related expenses. The Florida Department of Children and Families estimates that over 740,000 households may be eligible for D-SNAP assistance.

"USDA stands with our neighbors in Florida to continue to provide vital food assistance as they deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Ian," said Secretary Vilsack. "The Department is prepared to extend any available flexibility that will improve food access during their road to recovery."

To be eligible for D-SNAP, a household must either live or work in an identified disaster area, have been affected by the disaster, and meet certain D-SNAP eligibility criteria. Eligible households will receive one month of benefits – equal to the maximum monthly amount for a SNAP household of their size – that they can use to purchase groceries at SNAP-authorized stores or from select retailers online to meet their temporary food needs as they settle back home following the disaster. Florida will share information about D-SNAP application dates and locations through local media.

The timing of D-SNAP varies with the unique circumstances of each disaster but always begins after commercial channels of food distribution have been restored and families are able to purchase and prepare food at home. Before operating a D-SNAP, a state must ensure that the proper public information, staffing, and resources are in place.

The State agency will offer a hybrid model that includes in-person and virtual D-SNAP operations. FNS is approving the use of virtual operations to facilitate the safety of participants due to COVID-19.

The D-SNAP announcement today is the latest in a series of USDA actions taken to help Florida residents cope with Hurricane Ian and its aftermath, which also includes:

- Approving a waiver to extend certification periods for six months for all SNAP cases statewide due to recertify in November and December.
- Approving an early issuance of October 2022 benefits to SNAP households that receive their benefits between October 1 and October 14. The statewide waiver applies to SNAP benefits in all households that receive benefits during this timeframe.
- Approving a waiver to allow SNAP participants to buy hot foods and hot food products prepared for immediate consumption with their benefits at authorized SNAP retailers statewide through October 31.
- Approving a mass replacements waiver in 19 counties (Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Flagler, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Okeechobee, Orange, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole and Volusia).
- Approving a waiver to allow SNAP participants in 7 counties additional time to request replacement benefits for food that was destroyed. The waiver applies to residents in Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Lake, Lee, Osceola, Sarasota, and St. Johns counties. Participants have until October 17 to report their food loss.
- Approving waivers relating to Child Nutrition Program operations impacted by Hurricane Ian. Under the waiver approval, during school closures when classes are not being offered, Program operators in Florida may serve meals through the Summer Food Service Program or National School Lunch (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option in a non-congregate setting, adjust the

- time of meal service, allow parent pick up, and serve meals at school sites. The waivers are effective through Nov. 25, 2022.
- Approving a waiver relating to Child Nutrition Program operations impacted by Hurricane Ian. Under the waiver approval, Florida Child Care Food Program (CCFP) institutions and sponsoring organizations, which are part of the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), may serve meals in a non-congregate setting. The waiver is effective through Nov. 25, 2022.
 - Approving a waiver for Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) open sites at alternative site locations as proposed during unanticipated school closures effective immediately, through Oct. 31, 2022, or until the end of the unanticipated school closures related specifically to Hurricane Ian.
 - Approving the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) election deadline for Collier County Public Schools in order to support access to nutritious meals while Collier County Public Schools mitigates the administrative, fiscal, and operational challenges caused by Hurricane Ian.

Details on Florida's D-SNAP program will be available at the Florida Department of Children and Families' Hurricane Ian Response & Recovery website. D-SNAP sites will be posted on the website as they become available.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) leverages its 15 nutrition assistance programs to ensure that children, low-income individuals, and families have opportunities for a better future through equitable access to safe, healthy, and nutritious food, while building a more resilient food system. Under the leadership of Secretary Tom Vilsack, FNS is fighting to end food and nutrition insecurity for all through programs such as SNAP, school meals, and WIC. FNS also provides science-based nutrition recommendations through the co-development of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. To learn more, visit www.fns.usda.gov.

Northeast Solar Sheep Survey

Can a business owned by multiple persons assist farmers to graze sheep under solar arrays? Strengthen the industry? Sheep farmers can derive added income being paid to control plant growth under solar arrays by grazing sheep. This presents new business opportunities for current sheep

farmers to expand flocks and future farmers to enter the sheep sector. Such opportunities include challenges, i.e., contracting with array operators, transportation, and managing the flock at the grazing site, etc. More sheep may call for more markets and more processing capacity. A cooperative or other business owned by

multiple persons could provide solutions at scale, given sufficient farmer interest.

The Cornell University Cooperative Enterprise Program in collaboration with the American Solar Grazing Association (ASGA) and through support of the USDA Agricultural

Continued on Page 15

MFBF Members' Classifieds

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: New Holland 56 side delivery hay rake for \$1200. 781-248-4450

FOR SALE: Triticale seed available in bulk bags for \$460/ton and 56 lb. bu bags for \$17/bag. Excalibur

Farm, Groton, MA, 508-254-5484

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

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

FOR SALE:
• Ozone International machine on casters \$1000 or b.o. 508-866-

1149 or 508-269-3693

• John Deere wheel extensions/clamps for dual rear tires \$600. 508-866-1149 or 508-269-3693

• Chevy 305 with Berkley irrigation pump \$5200. 508-866-1149 or 508-269-3693

• 6 and 10-inch PVC irrigation pipe. 508-866-1149 or 508-269-3693

• Berkley 12-inch flow pump \$1200. 508-866-1149 or 508-269-3693

• Used aluminum water control flumes 36/30/15-inch outlets. 508-866-1149 or 508-269-3693

• Buckhorn vented/stackable/plastic field bins, 40x48x16, \$60/bin or bulk pricing. 508-866-1149 or 508-269-3693

• Collapsible RPCs vented, perfect for produce \$9 or bulk pricing. 508-866-1149 or 508-269-3693

FOR SALE: Five College Farms in Hadley, MA is having a Farm Equipment and Supplies Sale. Everything must go! Tractors, Tote Bins, Horticulture Supplies, Cultivators, Amendments, and many more items. Contact arthur@fivecollegefarms.com or call/text (909) 649-2215 or for a listing

<http://l.ead.me/bd3dhy>

*Want to advertise with us?
Please contact Kim Ashe at kim@mfbf.net for more details!*

Northeast Solar Sheep Survey

Continued from page 14

Marketing Service, Federal State Marketing Improvement Program is examining the need for one or more such enterprises.

The web-based (Qualtrics) survey is available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ybuzkru6>
(one survey per IP address only)

The first step is a survey of farmers to identify and quantify the

need for a cooperative or other business owned by multiple farmers to provide logistical, transport, marketing,



and/or processing services for both farmers grazing and not grazing

sheep beneath solar arrays. The survey is intended for existing sheep farmers (solar grazing or not), other farmers considering sheep production, and new or beginning farmers. The survey

should take between 15 and 20 minutes to complete. Persons completing the survey and sharing their name and email address at the end of the survey will be eligible for one of three \$100 Amazon gift cards (one survey per farmer only).

Thanks you for assisting!



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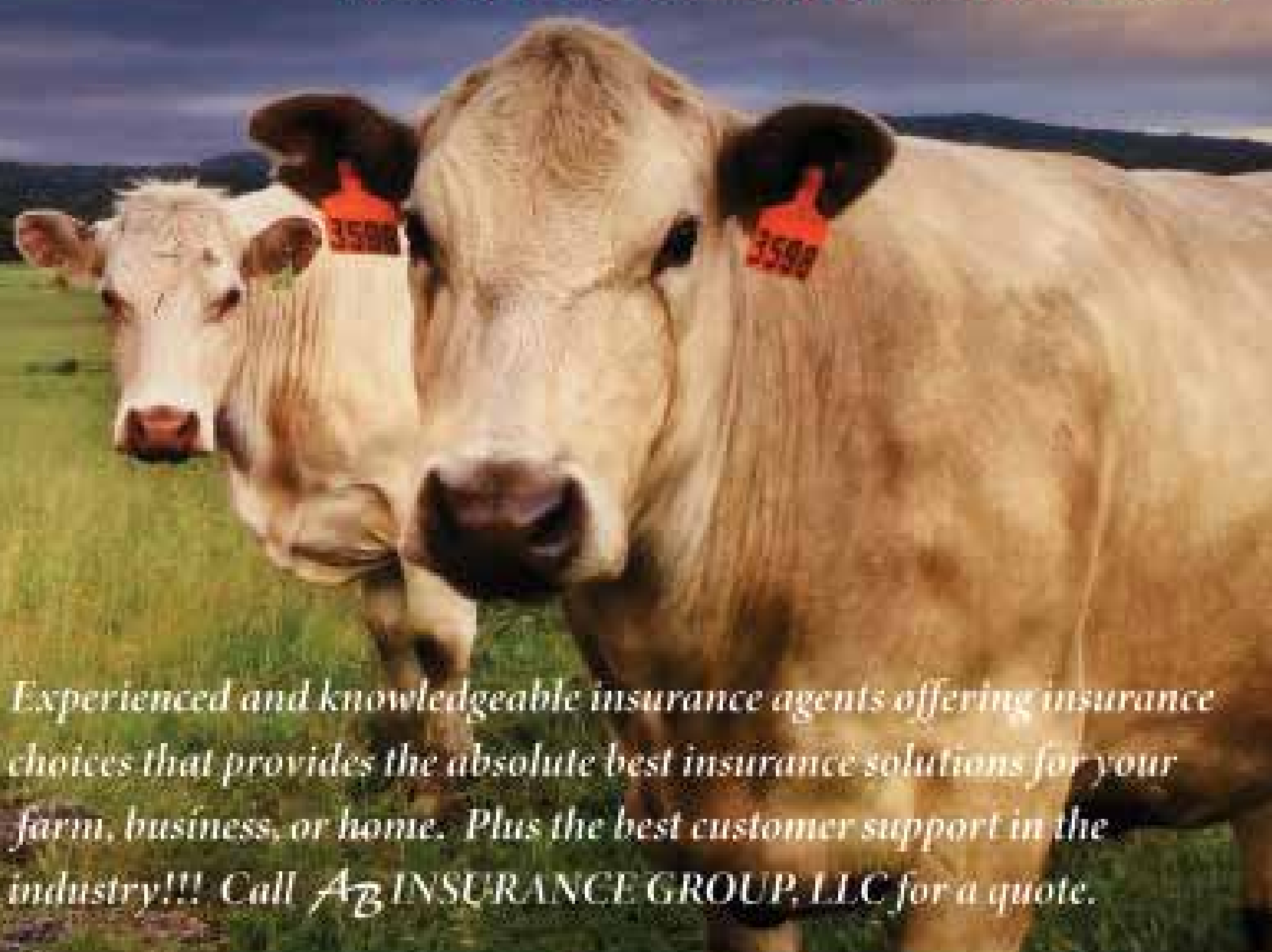


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