

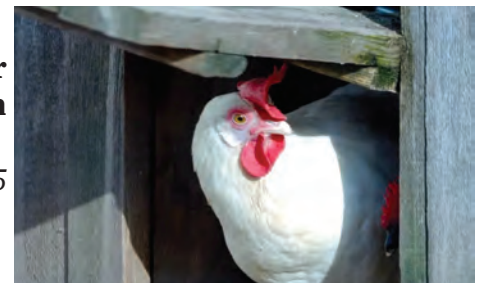


Scenes from Ag. Day at the State House

Turn to Page 8

Check out our Classified Section

Turn to Page 15



MASSACHUSETTS FARM BUREAU FEDERATION'S

Vol. 32, No. 2

News & Views

MAY/JUN 2024

Healey-Driscoll Administration Celebrates Massachusetts Agriculture Day with over \$3 Million in Grants to Support Farmers

Governor Maura Healey declared April 3, 2024, as Massachusetts Agriculture Day. As part of the celebration, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll announced over \$3 million in grants to support Massachusetts farmers through programs that improve composting efforts, food safety, cranberry bog restoration, stewardship, and business planning.

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Commissioner Ashley Randle also announced the formation and inaugural members of the Massachusetts Agricultural Youth Council. Comprised of high school seniors, the Ag Youth Council

will cultivate and foster the next generation of leaders in the agriculture industry in Massachusetts.

Organized by the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation and MDAR, Massachusetts Agriculture Day at the State House celebrates the agricultural industry and gathers farmers, producers, and commodity groups from across the Commonwealth to showcase the richness and diversity of Massachusetts grown products, allowing legislators and officials the opportunity to sample locally produced food and crops and learn more about important issues directly from farmers.

“This Ag Day we’re celebrating our farmers who work tirelessly throughout the year to grow and produce a diverse, healthy food supply to feed residents across Massachusetts. Last year, I witnessed the resilience of our farmers as they worked to recover from a series of devastating severe weather events,” said Governor Maura Healey. “Our administration stands in support of the agricultural industry and will continue provide farms with resources to increase production and help reduce food insecurity.”

“Strong, flourishing farms contribute so much more than the food that they produce. They catalyze economic benefits that go beyond the agricultural sector,” said Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll. “Providing direct funding to our farmers through these programs ensures our vibrant industry continues to produce the highest quality food.”

Continued on Page 3

April 3rd was Ag Day at the State House!

See more photos on Page 8



.. IN THIS ISSUE ..

ACROSS THE STATE

- President's Column *Page 2*
- Young Farmers & Ranchers: Committee Happenings *Page 5*
- Allied Business Directory *Page 6*
- Member Discounts & Benefits *Page 10*
- Budget Process Underway: Good News For Agriculture *Page 13*

ACROSS THE NATION

- Raising the Stakes in Ag Innovation *Page 4*

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
249 Lakeside Avenue - Marlborough, MA 01752
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Presorted Standard
US Postage
PAID
Permit #1
Manchester, NH

Bringing News to Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation Families.

The Voice of Agriculture in the Commonwealth.



www.MFBF.net



President's Column

By Warren Shaw, MFBF President

2024 off to a great start!

The year has started off in a very positive way. Congratulations to all of the county farm bureaus for doing a fantastic job with the legislative breakfasts!



It is certainly great to see the number of members participating growing and the number of legislators in attendance increasing. Legislative breakfasts are key to our success in getting to know the people who represent us in Boston and having conversations with them over breakfast about our concerns.

And on the subject of successful events, a big shout-out to Mary Jordan and her staff for a fantastic job with the first annual Massachusetts agricultural resource fair! It was very well attended, and from everyone I spoke to certainly very much appreciated.

One of the most popular services available was the assistance provided in getting farm stands set up for the Snap program. Anyone who's been through the process knows it can be frustrating and difficult. I was among those in line—the process was smooth, and I think it's fair to say that dozens of people were able to get signed up without any difficulty.

As usual, lots of great conversations around issues in our industries, and many were talking about the very successful Ag Day at the State House. It hasn't always been this way, but there is a great positive energy around our industry right now and it is important that we keep that going.

Our staff at Farm Bureau has much to do with the change as MFBF has evolved relationships with our industry partners, with our friends at MDAR, and friends in the Legislature; every indication is that we are all moving in a very positive, focused direction.

Wherever there is a significant conversation about agricultural policy or regulation, MFBF has a seat at the table and strong voice representing your interests.

Looking back to 2023 at the successes with funding for farms devastated by floods and the increased dairy tax credit, we were always part of the solution. And on the subject of dairy, our contemporaries in Maine had what could be a devastating loss at the State House when their Legislature Appropriations Committee cut the dairy stabilization program in half.

Maine has lost 1/3 of its dairy farms since 2020, and the future looks challenging. Family farms are not big money makers anywhere in New England, but Massachusetts has shown that it understands the value our farms provide in addition to food.



Executive Director's Column

By Karen Schwalbe, MFBF Executive Director

Avian Influenza Update

National headlines have focused on avian influenza over the past few months as spring migration brings more migratory birds in contact with farms. While the risk to the general population continues to be low, farmers and farmworkers—including homesteaders and backyard farmers—need to be cautious and review farm safety precautions. Now is the time to refresh your understanding of how diseases can be transmitted to your farm, your animals, and yourself and to write or update your farm biosecurity plan.

Our understanding of how this virus is changing daily (and the information contained in this article) is up-to-date as of mid-April. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) are all monitoring this situation very closely.

Avian influenza (also called “bird flu”) is a type of influenza Type A that affects birds worldwide, naturally spreading among wild aquatic birds with the ability to infect domestic poultry. Outbreaks of avian influenza are not new and not unique to the United States. Various strains have been around since the late 1800s, when it was called “fowl plague”.

What we are seeing in the United States right now is formally called “Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (H5N1)”. It first showed up in Asia in 2005 and has been moving across the world through Asia and then Europe via migrating waterfowl. It has been observed continuously in the United States year-round since 2022 with multiple outbreaks in domestic poultry, both at the backyarder and commercial scale through contact with wild birds. It has been found in poultry operations in 48 states, including two in Massachusetts this winter (Essex and Barnstable counties).

More recently, HPAI has been found in mammals world-wide, including mink, skunks, foxes, and elephant seals. While the virus is better adapted to survive in birds, it has developed to survive in mammals as well—this is where it gets to be concerning.

The current spread in dairy herds on multiple farms (currently 38) in multiple states (currently 8) is concerning at multiple levels. First identified in cattle in March, the USDA initially thought this was a spill-over event where cows were infected from the wild bird population. Further investigation determined the virus was spread by asymptomatic cows bought by and shipped to other farms and from there through contact with raw milk and milking equipment. There is also evidence that beyond the spread through contact with raw milk, there are other ways it might be transmitted from cow to cow. Recent testing of grocery store milk has found fragments of DNA from HPAI in one in five of the sam-

ples tested, leading the FDA to believe dairy cow infections are more widespread than current testing shows.



A recent case of HPAI in dairy goats in Minnesota is not directly related to the dairy cow outbreak. The goats with HPAI in this instance were on a farm that had recently had an outbreak in poultry and was still under quarantine. Both the goats and the poultry had access to the same water source.

These new multiple outbreaks in mammals are concerning because of the opportunities for the virus to mutate to better adapt to survive. More chances for mutation increase the odds it will transmit more easily to humans. Previous cases of avian influenza (H5N1) in humans have primarily been in Southeast Asia, where there has been prolonged direct contact with infected poultry. HPAI A (H5N1) virus infections have been reported in more than 890 people with approximately 50% case fatality proportion since 1997, including 20 cases and 7 deaths in Hong Kong during 1997-2003 and more than 870 cases reported in 22 countries since November 2003. There is currently one human case of HPAI related to the dairy cow outbreak. The virus appears to have been transmitted from contact with raw milk directly to the eyes, with the main symptom being conjunctivitis or “pink eye”.

With so much risk for farming operations, it is urgent that farmers understand the ways HPAI can get onto a farm and to take steps to reduce this risk:

- Keep an “all-in, all-out” philosophy of farm management; keep a strong separation between what is used off-farm from what is used on-farm.
- Protect poultry and livestock from coming into contact with wild or migratory birds; keep livestock away from any source of water that may have been contaminated by wild birds.
- Permit only essential workers and vehicles to enter the farm.
- Provide clean clothing and disinfection facilities for employees.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect equipment and vehicles (including tires and undercarriage) entering and leaving the farm.
- Do not loan or borrow equipment or vehicles to/from other farms.
- Take precautions when visiting other farms; if you do visit another farm or live-animal market, change footwear and clothing before working with your own livestock.
- Do not bring livestock from slaughter channels back to the farm.
- Monitor for sick animals; producers should monitor herds closely for livestock with clinical signs of disease.

For more guidelines and continuous updates, visit <http://www.mfbf.net/HPAI>

Healey-Driscoll Administration Farmer Support Grants

Continued from Page 1

These grants demonstrate our commitment to the agricultural industry and goes a long way to ensuring this sector thrives.”

“These programs showcase our commitment to supporting our farmers at all stages in their businesses,” said Energy & Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “Whether just starting out, taking the reins from a previous owner, or working to secure their continued longevity, our MDAR grant opportunities can enhance sustainability for farms.”

Agriculture Youth Council

MDAR selected 12 high school students to serve on the council. The group will meet monthly to discuss agricultural issues, hear from guest speakers from the agricultural industry, learn about the legislative process and workforce development opportunities attend special events and tours, and enhance their professional skills. The inaugural members of the Agricultural Youth Council are:

- Noorhan Al-Dulaimi - Shrewsbury (Shrewsbury High School)
- Tammy Anderson - Boston (Norfolk County Agricultural High School)
- Susan Barrows - Upton (Nipmuc Regional High School)
- Amanda Cooper - Ipswich (Malden Catholic High School)
- Michaela Jardine-Yeats - Lunenburg (Lunenburg Middle & High School)
- Shayn Jones - New Bedford (Bristol County Agricultural High School)
- Colleen Kielbania - Ipswich (Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School)
- Miru Kunst - West Boylston (Norfolk County Agricultural High School)
- Haley-Ann Lynch - Southwick (Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School)
- Brooke Macjewski - Grafton (Norfolk County Agricultural High School)
- Ana Carolina Maloon - Salem (Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School)
- Carolinne Rodriguez - Beverly (Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School)

“Being a fifth-generation dairy farmer, I was fortunate to have mentors to teach, guide, and empower me. The creation of the Ag Youth Council will go further - in bringing together future Massachusetts agricultural leaders to nurture their skills so that the next generation will have the tools to succeed in this everchanging field,” said MDAR Commissioner Randle.

“Our administration is committed to supporting beginning farmers and providing them with resources they’ll need to start and grow an agricultural business. Youth engagement and workforce development is necessary to the future of our state’s agriculture industry, and I look forward to working with this first class of students.”

Grant Funding

MDAR is awarding over \$3 million in funding to 74 farms through the Agricultural Composting Improvement Program (ACIP),

the Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program (AFSIP), Cranberry Bog Renovation Grant (CBRG) Program, Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture (MEGA) Program, and Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs (SARA) Program. These programs will help to improve and strengthen their operations in the short and long term.

“On the Cape and Islands, our farmers and aquaculturists bolster our local economy and allow residents to access fresh and healthy food,” said Senator Julian Cyr (D – Cape and Islands). “I am thrilled that ten farms on Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard will receive funding through the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. These monies will ensure food safety, help renovate cranberry bogs, and support the vitality and vibrancy of our coastal agriculture industry.”

The **Agricultural Composting Improvement Program (ACIP)** funds equipment and projects to improve agricultural composting practices and facilitate the use of compost as a valuable soil amendment on farms. MDAR provides technical assistance to farms conducting agricultural composting and encourages farms to utilize compost as a soil amendment or manure management tool. See end of article for Agricultural Composting Improvement Program grant recipients FY24.

The **Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program (AFSIP)** allows produce and aquaculture operations to address food safety on their farms. It enables the operations to meet buyer demands, increase local food consumption, and protect public health by reducing food safety risks. See end of article for Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program grant recipients (Round 1 & 2) FY24.

The **Cranberry Bog Renovation Grant Program** provides reimbursement to cranberry operations that implement projects that improve both bog design and production while preventing, reducing, or eliminating negative environmental impacts that may occur from cranberry production. By funding these projects, the program enhances the cranberry industry’s overall financial and environmental sustainability. See end of article for Cranberry Bog Renovation Grant Program recipients FY24.

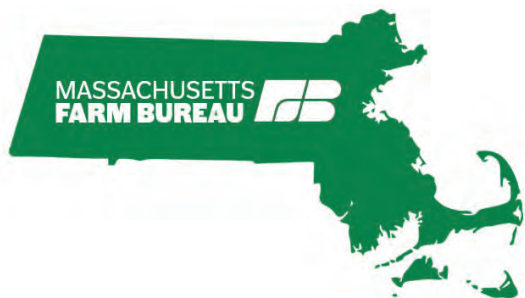
The **Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture Program** assists beginning farmers who have been in business for between 1 and 10 years by providing technical assistance (including a mentorship option) and business planning assistance. Grant funds of up to \$30,000 may be available on a 1:1 matching cost reimbursement basis to assist farmers whose goal is to raise agricultural products and who are developing their farms into commercially viable operations. Funds are typically used for equipment, infrastructure, or other capital improvements to implement strategies identified during the planning process that will help their business grow. See end of article for Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture recipients FY24.

The **Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs Program** helps restore active commercial farming on land that has protected through the Department’s Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program. Funds may be used for materials, contracted labor, or equipment rental costs to clear or reclaim inactive fields that are out of production at no fault of the current owner. Grant funds of up to \$35,000 are available on a cost reimbursement basis with a 15% match of total project costs required by the awardee. See end of article for Stewardship Assistance on APRs grant recipients FY24.

Cranberry Bog Renovation Grant Program

FARM NAME	LOCATION	PROJECT	AWARD
Beaton's, Inc.	Rochester	Bog Renovation on 2.29 Acres	\$57,250.00
Cape Cod Cranberry Realty Trust	W. Barnstable	Bog Renovation on 2 Acres	\$49,500.00
Eagle Holt Cranberry Co., Inc.	Wareham	Bog Renovation on 11 Acres	\$125,000.00
Eric & Elaine Weston	Carver	Bog Renovation on 5.75 Acres	\$125,000.00
Fresh Meadow Farm	Carver	Bog Renovation on 2.9 Acres	\$72,500.00
H.M. Riggle	Rochester	Bog Renovation on 3 Acres	\$75,000.00
Highland Cranberry Company, Inc.	Lakeville	Bog Renovation on 3 Acres	\$75,000.00
Johnson Cranberries, LLC	Middleboro	Bog Renovation on 5 Acres	\$125,000.00
Meadow Street	Carver	Bog Renovation on 5 Acres	\$97,088.00
Miller Cranberry Co., Inc.	Kingston	Bog Renovation on 5.18	\$78,670.00
Mills River Cranberry Corporation	Marstons Mills	Bog Renovation on 3 Acres	\$65,284.00
Red Eye Cranberry, Inc.	Middleboro	Bog Renovation on 3.2 Acres	\$64,562.00
Rocky Maple Bogs	Wareham	Bog Renovation on 5 Acres	\$125,000.00
Ross Cranberry, LLC	E. Sandwich	Bog Renovation on 2 Acres	\$42,750.00
S K Wainio Bogs, Inc.	Carver	Bog Renovation on 3.25 Acres	\$81,250.00
Sleepy Hollow Cranberries	Rochester	Bog Renovation on 7 Acres	\$99,857.00
SRD Real Estate, LLC	Carver	Bog Renovation on 1.43 Acres	\$35,750.00
State Rd Lot 52-44-57 Realty Nominee Trust	Plymouth	Bog Renovation on 3 Acres	\$75,000.00
Weston Cranberry Corp.	Carver	Bog Renovation on 4.77 Acres	\$119,250.00
Wilson Cranberry, LLC	Rochester	Bog Renovation on 6 Acres	\$63,920.00
WJM Cranberries	Middleboro	Bog Renovation on 1.7 Acres	\$42,500.00

Continued on Page 4



**Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Officers

President Warren Shaw
 Vice-President..... Ryan MacKay
 Treasurer Wayne Smith
 Imm. Past President Mark Amato

County Directors

Berkshire Bob Kilmer
 Bristol..... Skip Vadnais
 Cape Cod & Islands David Ross
 Essex Barbara Rogers-Scharneck
 Franklin..... Lenny Roberts
 Hampden..... Richard Woodger
 Hampshire Karl Norris
 Martha's Vineyard..... Dan Martino
 Middlesex Charlie Tully
 Norfolk Edward Lawton
 Plymouth Charles (Jim) Hayward
 Worcester Ed Davidian

Budget Committee Members

Michael Sabatini
 Steve Ward
 Will Pickard

At-Large Directors

Alex Dowse
 Meghan Gennings
 Laura Abrams

Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee

Chair Heather Bonanno-Baker
 Vice-Chair Karina Laurentitis

MFBF Staff

Executive Director Karen Schwalbe
 Deputy Executive Director..... Nick John
 Membership Coordinator..... Kim Ashe
 Admin. Assistant Sabrina Stidsen

News & Views is published six times a year by Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation. Subscription comes with membership. It is received in the homes of approximately 3,000 MFBF members.

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

MFBF's 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.

Follow us on Facebook:

@MAFarmBureau

Join the MFBF chat on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/farmbu-
reauchat/

Follow us on Instagram:

@MassFarmBureau

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation

249 Lakeside Avenue
 Marlborough, MA 01752
 www.mfbf.net | info@mfbf.net
 508.481.4766

Raising the Stakes in Ag Innovation

By Zippy Duvall, AFBF President

Innovation has long been a driving force behind progress in agriculture. From iron plows to driverless tractors and from pocket notebooks to instant Artificial Intelligence systems, new ideas and innovative businesses have continually pushed the boundaries of what's possible in farming.

That is why at Farm Bureau, we value innovation as it helps spur agriculture on to new frontiers. More than a decade ago, we launched our Ag Innovation Challenge, a competition to help showcase innovative businesses that address challenges facing America's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. For 2025, I'm pleased to announce that we're doubling the prize to double the impact. Our winner will take home \$100,000. Yes, I thought that might get your attention. The competition is officially open so I encourage ag entrepreneurs to apply.

"The Ag Innovation Challenge is more than a competition, though: it's a platform for growth and collaboration."

We're proud of our past winners and their work to advance agriculture. For instance, our 2024 winner, Barn Owl Precision, is supporting small and midsize farms with its autonomous robot that assists in planting, soil sampling, weed control, and spraying. We also saw how our runner-up, Udder Ways, developed a new autonomous system that improves sanitation and enhances milk flow as dairy cattle are milked. Two shining examples of entrepreneurs dedicated to supporting farmers in their mission of providing the food, fuel, and fiber we all rely on.

The Ag Innovation Challenge is now in its 11th year, thanks to our partnership with Farm Credit and our sponsors Bayer Crop Science, John Deere, Farm Bureau Bank, Farm Bureau Financial Services, and T-Mobile. Together, we have invested over \$1.5 million in agricultural businesses. This kind of investment not only helps entrepreneurs in the early financial stages of business but also supports innovations that

can solve the challenges we're facing both today and tomorrow.

The Ag Innovation Challenge is more than a competition, though: it's a platform for growth and collaboration. Many of our previous winners have reflected on how the relationships they built during the process have been just as valuable as the prize money.

Additionally, Challenge finalists gain invaluable exposure and networking opportunities as they showcase their innovations at the American Farm Bureau Convention Trade Show. As an entrepreneur, how great would it be to connect directly with farmers and ranchers and even demonstrate how your solution can address real-world challenges? That is why we purposely set up the final round of the competition at the Cultivation Center Stage on our trade show floor. We put these finalists front-and-center to pitch their businesses to our panel of judges—and to thousands of potential customers, our farmer and rancher members.

As we look ahead to the 2025 Ag Innovation Challenge, I encourage you to check out <https://www.fb.org/initiative/ag-innovation-challenge> to learn more about this competition, see some of our wonderful past winners, and share the information about the contest with an entrepreneur you may know.

We encourage all entrepreneurs with innovative agricultural solutions to seize this opportunity to be a part of something truly transformative for their business. Whether it's new technologies, strategies to reduce operating costs or even new approaches to support our rural communities, your ideas have the power to drive agriculture forward.

Again, applications for the 2025 Ag Innovation Challenge are now open, so don't wait to apply! I am already excited to see the next group of finalists who rise to the top and their innovations that will undoubtedly help shape the future of agriculture.



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

Healey-Driscoll Administration Farmer Support Grants

Continued from Page 3

Agricultural Composting Improvement Program (ACIP)

FARM NAME	LOCATION	PROJECT	AWARD
Breton Meadow Farm	Lincoln	Compost spreader	\$5,562.00
Dickson Farm	Princeton	Compost spreader	\$7,410.00
Fivefork Farm	Upton	In-vessel composting unit, site preparation, and compost	\$43,443.00
Global Village at Tuckaway	Grafton	Compost screening equipment and compost spreader	\$16,502.00
Mt. Toby Farm	Becket	Windrow turner and compost spreader	\$38,441.00
New Entry Sustainable	Beverly	Windrow turner, windrow covers, and compost spreader	\$40,636.00
Skalbite Family Farm	Monson	Compost spreader	\$10,424.00

Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture Program

FARM NAME	LOCATION	PROJECT	AWARD
Blue Stem Natives	Norwell	Pot-filling machine and forklift	\$10,000.00
Cottage City Oysters	Vineyard Haven	Outboard motor for existing work boat	\$20,000.00
Husselton Head Oysters	Tisbury	Insulated cooler for transporting oysters	\$10,000.00
Mills River Cranberry Co.	Marstons Mills	Mowing equipment, water pump, tractor implements, and dump trailer	\$30,000.00
Rattleroot Farm	Princeton	Tractor and installation of roll-up sides	\$10,000.00
Revival Farm	Plympton	Bulk grain feeders, grain auger, mobile livestock shelters, water trailer, and tractor	\$20,000.00
Sage Farm	Bernardston	Walk-in freezer and barn renovation for storing and distributing frozen pork products	\$20,000.00
Sibling Organic Crops	Lakeville	Tractor	\$10,000.00

Young Farmers & Ranchers: Committee Happenings

Learn more about YF&R at www.MFBF.net or follow us on social media!



Committee Chair Corner

By Heather Baker, MA YF&R Chair

It is finally starting to feel like spring! This is the time we are all getting our fields prepped and planted with our first crops. This is also the time that the Young Farmers & Ranchers are coming up with some new ideas for the year.

We are discussing online training/informational calls that will happen throughout the year. During our first one, we plan on giving an overview on the Competitive Events held by American Farm Bureau every year. These events consist of The Agricultural Achievement Award, The Excellence in Agriculture Award, and the Discussion Meet Competition.

Every year, winners in these competitions on a state-wide basis travel to AFBF's Annual Convention, next year in San Antonio, and compete on a national level. Prizes for these range from Case IH tractors, Ford vehicles, new tools, and more!

We have decided that it is time to bring these back to the State of Massachusetts! If you are interested, please stay tuned, and be on the lookout for our first call!

Two of us will be attending Bristol Aggie on April 26th to talk to the students about Farm Bureau and how to get involved. We will be discussing our agricultural careers and our involvement with Farm Bureau. We believe that the next YF&R members are attending our Aggie schools, and our goal is to speak at every school this year. If you are interested in having us, please email me, and we will set something up!

We are in the works on planning tours and socials for the year as well. If you are interested in hosting us, please reach out! Thank you and happy planting!

Heather Baker, MA YF&R Chair
HeatherBonanno@gmail.com

MEMBERS WANTED!
MA Young Farmers & Ranchers

FOCUSED ON:

- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Training
- ✓ National Events

For more info contact info@mfbf.net

BOARD POSITIONS OPEN FOR EVERY MA COUNTY!

Open to any farmer under 35 years who lives or works in a MA county and can commit to one Zoom meeting a quarter

Healey-Driscoll Admin. Farmer Support Grants

Continued from Page 4

Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program (AFSIP) - Round 1

FARM NAME	LOCATION	PROJECT	AWARD
Aquacultural Research Corporation	Dennis	Refrigerated Delivery Van	\$50,000.00
Atlas Farm, LLC	Deerfield	Rinse Conveyor	\$19,773.00
Blue Stream Shellfish, LLC	Fairhaven	Ice Machine; Refrigeration; Shed	\$23,620.00
Copper Beech Farm, Inc.	Mattapoisett	Ice Machine; Insulated Vat	\$7,417.00
East Dennis Oyster Farm	Dennis	Ice Machine; Walk-In Condenser & Evaporator	\$17,486.00
Elliot Farm, LLC	Rochester	Harvest & Storage Bins	\$11,262.00
Honeysuckle Oyster Farm	Edgartown	Oyster tumbler; Generator; Sump Pump	\$15,147.00
Husselton Head Oysters	Vineyard Haven	Oyster tumbler	\$6,520.00
Lookout Farm, LLC	Natick	Plastic Apple Bins; Stainless Steel Packing Tables	\$22,840.00
Natural Roots Farm	Conway	Washing & Packing Upgrades	\$38,244.00
Orr's Farmstand	Westport	Washing, Packing, Storage Building w/Walk-In	\$50,000.00
Red Fire Farm	Montague	Root Washing Equipment; Greens Packing Equipment	\$42,855.00
Round Island Shellfish	Fairhaven	Insulated Vats	\$2,744.00
Sweet Little Farm	Amherst	Walk-in Cooler	\$11,877.00
Teddy C. Smiarowski III Farm	Hatfield	Harvest Bins	\$50,000.00

Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program (AFSIP) - Round 2

FARM NAME	LOCATION	PROJECT	AWARD
Brox Farm, LLC	Dracut	Washing Station	\$39,000.00
C.A. Dowse & Son, Inc.	Sherborn	Stainless Steel hydro-feeder for apples	\$32,000.00
Cape Harvest Oysters	Marstons Mills	Oyster Tumbler	\$3,500.00
Clarks Island Oyster, LLC	Plymouth	Oyster Tumbler; Roof Cover	\$37,215.00
Fay Mountain Farm	Charlton	Walk-in Cooler	\$30,000.00
J&J Farms	Amherst	Wash Line; Bins	\$18,000.00
Mass Audubon Drumlin Farm	Lincoln	Harvest Bins; Pallets; Fencing	\$11,000.00
Sobieski's River Valley Farm	Whatley	Walk-In; Packing Facility Upgrades	\$41,000.00
The Neighborhood Farm, LLC	Westport	Well for Greenhouses	\$14,000.00
Twenty Acre Farm & Greenhouses	Hadley	Walk-In; Wash Line; Bins; Tables	\$44,000.00
Waynes Hayes Seafood	Hyannis	Automated Oyster Grading Machine	\$50,000.00
World Farmers Inc. dba Flats Mentor Farm	Lancaster	Washing Stations	\$48,000.00

Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs Program

FARM NAME	LOCATION	PROJECT	AWARD
Dick's Market Garden	Lunenburg	Clean-up of debris/trash from previous operation, restoration of road access onto property, removal of invasive plants to restore vegetable production	\$35,000.00
Hillside Farm	S. Deerfield	Clearing of backfield edges of invasive growth, repairing a culvert for rear field access, and restoration of erosion areas	\$35,000.00
JDF Enterprises, LLC	Spencer	Reestablishment of farm road along field edge to decrease erosion and farmland reclamation by clearing field edges of invasive plants	\$35,000.00
Kosinski Farms	Westfield	Soil restoration and repairing of ditches to address erosion and bring land back into production	\$13,183.50
Lilac Hedge Farm, LLC	Holden	Clearing of field edges and overgrown hedgerows to return crop fields to production by planting hay in order to feed livestock	\$34,000.00
Samantha & Hale Staebner	Oxford	Restoration of inactive land by removing invasive plants on field edges and overgrown rockpiles within pastures	\$30,302.50
Slocum King Farm, Inc.	S. Dartmouth	Clearing of field edges of invasive plants, repairing of rock walls used with electric fencing as part of grazing system for small herd of beef cattle	\$20,102.50
The Lewis Family Farm	Westport	Clearing of field edges and overgrown hedgerows to return underutilized land to fully productive pasture for beef herd	\$35,000.00
Upswing Farm, LLC	Pepperell	Clearing of field edges of invasive plants to return areas of inactive land into production for their organic vegetable operation	\$29,750.00

GREAT NEWS for Farmer members

Installment payment option for memberships now available!

Farmer members now have the option of paying their yearly membership in full (\$225) or choosing equal monthly payments (\$18.75). This feature is available only online when payment is made by credit card or electronic check, and it is only available at the Farmer membership level (or higher). There is also an option to auto-renew your yearly membership!

Questions?

Email kim@mfbf.net, scan code, or call Kim at 508.481.4766



- Allied Business Directory -

AUTO SHINE AUTO BODY

310 Bedford Street - Abington, MA | 781-421-6042
531-549 Pond Street - Braintree, MA | 781-337-4309
Copeland Street Auto Body

65 Copeland Street - Quincy, MA | 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 ESTIMATES!

AVIV, LLC

115R South Main Street
Berkley, MA
Eva Smith, Director of Operations/Partner
Eva@aviv.life
www.aviv.life
774-231-8008

Products & Services: We are a farm-based mental health practice that specializes in animal assisted psychotherapy. Our practice holds sessions outdoors and with equines or other farm animals.

BERKSHIRE AGRICULTURAL VENTURES

314 Main Street - Suite11
Great Barrington, MA
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
978-448-6669

Products & Services: We are a 7th generation, family run slaughter and processing facility.

THE BIG E

1305 Memorial Avenue
West Springfield, MA
413-205-5011
info@thebige.com
https://www.thebige.com/p/agriculture

Products & Services: Fairgrounds and Annual Fair

BLUEWAVE

116 Huntington Avenue, Suite 601
Boston, MA
W: 413-450-0190
M: 413-824-2000
Sam Kitfield: skitfield@bluewave.energy
https://bluewave.energy/

Products & Services: Develops and owns dual-use agricultural solar projects to support local farms while generating clean energy for Massachusetts communities.

COLONIAL RESTORATIONS, LLC

P.O. Box 868
Fiskdale, MA
508-735-9900
info@cr1981.com
https://www.cr1981.com

Products & Services: Specializes in the structural restoration/repair of post and beam homes and barns throughout New England since 1981.

COURTNEY MERRIGAN, AG REAL ESTATE

court.merrigan@gmail.com
308-672-6060

Products & Services: Specializes in buying and selling farms and land, equine and recreational property through expert marketing and tailored service.

EASTERN SOLAR

Ken Nelson
P.O. Box 60
Wayland, MA
508-882-0102
easternsolarservices@hotmail.com
https://easternsolarservice.com

Products & Services: Serving the solar industry for 40 years. Service, maintenance, training and repair of existing solar systems.

ESSEX COUNTY GREENBELT ASSN.

82 Eastern Avenue
Essex, MA
978-768-7241
ecga@ecga.org
https://ecga.org

Products & Services: Greenbelt works with Essex County farmers and farmland owners to preserve farmland, while helping provide affordable and secure farmland access.

GREENFIELD FARMERS CO-OP EXCHANGE

269 High Street
Greenfield, MA
413-773-9639
https://greenfieldfarmerscoop.com

Products & Services: Farm, home, garden and pet supplies, nursery, bulk grain, wood pellets. Member discount, local delivery.

HARNESS/HORSEMAN'S ASSN. OF NEW ENGLAND

P.O. Box 1811
Plainville, MA
508-918-8852
president@hhane.com
www.hhane.com

Products & Services: Non-profit membership association for harness horsemen and women. We promote harness racing both in Massachusetts and nationally.

HIGGINS POWERSPORTS

140 Worcester Road
Barre, MA
978-355-6343
www.higginspowersports.com
www.higginsenergy.com

Products & Services: LS Tractors & implements, DR & Husqvarna power equipment, Polaris & Can-Am ATVs, UTVs, Woodmaster outdoor furnaces, Vermont Castings, Jotul and HearthStone stoves.

M5 LANDWORKS

1 Mathewson Street
Plainville, MA
508-510-2004
M5Landworks1@gmail.com

Products & Services: Specialize in undergrowth brush clearing/excavation. Give us a call for a free estimate!

THE MANE PLACE

510 West Hartford Avenue
Uxbridge, MA
508-278-7563
linda@themanepiece.com
themanepiece.com

Products & Services: Offers Poulin grain, hay, shavings, barn supplies, horse supplies, pet food and supplies, apparel, saddles, tack, and gifts in a friendly family-owned setting.

MASSACHUSETTS NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSN.

P.O. Box 387
Conway, MA
413-369-4731
mnlaooffice@aol.com
http://www.mnla.com

Products & Services: Statewide association dedicated to advancing the interests of "green industry" professionals.

MERRIMACK VALLEY & DEERFIELD DOT EXAMS

Lawrence, MA - 833-683-6863
South Deerfield, MA - 413-453-4368
maria@mvdotme.com
https://deerfield-dot-exams.square.site/

Products & Services: Provides DOT/CDL, merchant mariner, and 7D school bus driver exams. We offer a 15% discount for multiple exams.

MONROE TRACTOR & IMPLEMENT CO.

97 Turnpike Road
Westborough, MA
508-845-4343
www.monroetractor.com

Products & Services: Sells and supports a full line of equipment from CASE Construction & CASE IH Tractors and other miscellaneous farm equipment. Monroe Tractor prides itself on quality equipment, rental, parts and service support.

OTIS POULTRY FARM

1570 North Main Road
Otis, MA
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, Suite 4413B
Boston, MA
617-337-0199
doug.pope@popeenergy.com
Products & Services: Ag solar development

PROGRESSIVE GROWER, INC.

81 Charlotte Furnace Road
West Wareham, MA
508-273-7358
info@ProgressiveGrower.com
www.progressivegrower.com

Products & Services: 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 Route 175
Holderness, NH
605-536-8900
RMI@rmirecycles.com
www.rmirecycles.com

Products & Services: Offers responsive, innovative and high quality organic residuals and recycling services to address our customer interests and needs.

RICE FRUIT FARMS

757 Main Street
Wilbraham, MA
413-596-4002
info@ricefruitfarm.com
www.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
508-289-1814
www.semaponline.org

Products & Services: Local food promotion, sustainable farming education, and healthy food initiatives.

SOARES FLOWER GARDEN NURSERY

1021 Sandwich Road
East Falmouth, MA
508-548-5288
soaresfgn@gmail.com
www.soaresflowergardennursery.com

Products & Services: Retail greenhouse featuring locally grown annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, shrubs, as well as a landscape design, build, and maintenance firm.

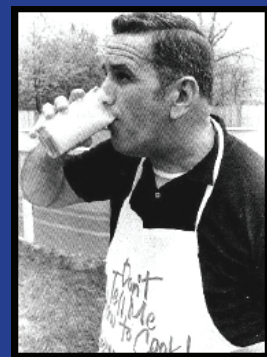
WORLD FARMERS, INC.

769 Main Street
Lancaster, MA
978-706-7935
info@worldfarmers.org
https://www.worldfarmers.org/

Products & Services: Education, beginning farmers, and ranchers.

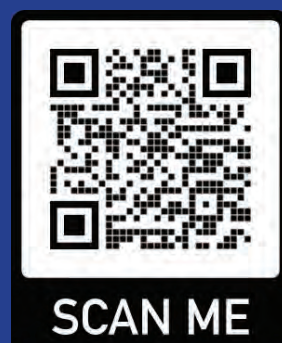
NOTE: If any contact information is incorrect, please email kim@mfbf.net. Thank you!

Greg Finn Scholarship Available for 2024



The Gregory L. Finn Scholarship (this year's **deadline June 15**) was established by MFBF in loving memory of a good friend to agriculture. Greg was the Information & Public Relations Director for MFBF and a religious and devoted family man who died at the age of 55 in 1983. He was well aware that a whole generation had grown up without exposure to perhaps the most vital industry in the Commonwealth—agriculture.

This scholarship is being awarded in Greg's memory to foster an understanding and perhaps to help close the gap between the farm community and suburban Massachusetts. Please scan code or click link below for the application and information about additional scholarships and grants: <https://mfbf.net/resources/grants-and-scholarships>



Your Assistance is Requested with our “News & Views” Reader Survey

Dear MFBF Member: We would love to have your feedback about our “News & Views” newsletter. Beginning with this current May/June 2024 issue, it is being created in-house and will be transferred to a new company for printing (sadly, our current printer is closing).

This is the perfect opportunity to ask what you do and/or don't like about our current newsletter (content, format, etc.) and what changes you'd like to see. You do not need to give your name unless you'd like to be contacted to provide more detail. You may complete the online survey by clicking on this link <https://bit.ly/MFBF-newsletter-survey> or scanning the QR code; alternatively, please fill out the form below and mail it to us at MFBF, 249 Lakeside Avenue, Marlborough, MA 01752. Thank you very much from all of us for your participation!

YOUR NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

What is important for you to see in News & Views?

- Advertisements
- AFBF Columns
- Benefits
- Classifieds
- Information from peers & partners (MDAR, etc.)
- MFBF Columns
- Other: _____

How do you read News & Views (check all that apply):

- Printed newspaper
- Emailed version
- Both
- Neither



Survey

What would you like to see featured that is not currently? _____

Would you prefer a different format of News & Views? If so, please describe: _____

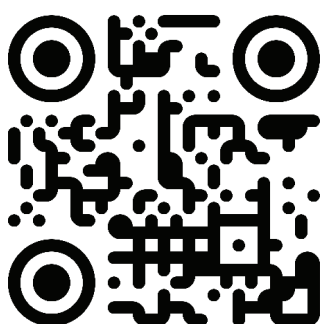
Any other comments/suggestions you'd like to share? _____

American Farmland Trust: New England Soil Health Survey

Want to learn more about the health of your soil? Get **free soil health testing** on your farm by participating in our New England Soil Health Survey! Free soil testing is available through this new program from AFT New England and the USDA ARS Food Systems Research Unit. Farms in Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Massachusetts are eligible to receive free soil health testing on up to three fields after completing this **short survey** (or scanning QR code below).

The New England Soil Health Survey will build our understanding of the impacts farmland conservation and conservation planning have on soil health in New England. Over the next two years, our goal is to reach 200 farmers and collect soil samples on 600 fields. Farmers and conservation staff can collect and submit samples independently or request support from AFT staff. To request AFT staff support, please reach out to the New England Soil Health Specialist, Kevin Antoszewski, at kantoszewski@farmland.org.

Data collected as a part of this project will be anonymized. We hope to learn about how farmers think about soil health, what practices achieve results, and how farm planning impacts soil health outcomes.



AVAILABLE ON
ALL MOWER MODELS AND DECK SIZES
WITH PURCHASE OF NEW TRACTOR & DECK*

PLUS
Retail financing available with approved credit.
Proof of valid and active membership required to take advantage of this deal. Tax, freight and setup are additional.

Commercial-grade gas and diesel mowers with cutting decks from 41" to 72"
Optional PowerVac™ Collection Systems and Implements for year-round productivity.

ENJOY THIS EXCLUSIVE MEMBER BENEFIT AT YOUR AUTHORIZED GRASSHOPPER DEALER



*12% OFF MSRP rebate available for all models. Farm Bureau rebate valid when purchasing new, unregistered Grasshopper tractor and mowing deck. No other sales programs may be combined with this offer. Financing available at participating dealers. See dealer for available financing offers and to apply for qualification. Proof of active Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation membership required at time of sale. See dealer for complete Farm Bureau offer details.

Find your nearest dealer at GrasshopperDealers.com

Scenes from **Ag Day** at the State House



Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association (CCCGA)



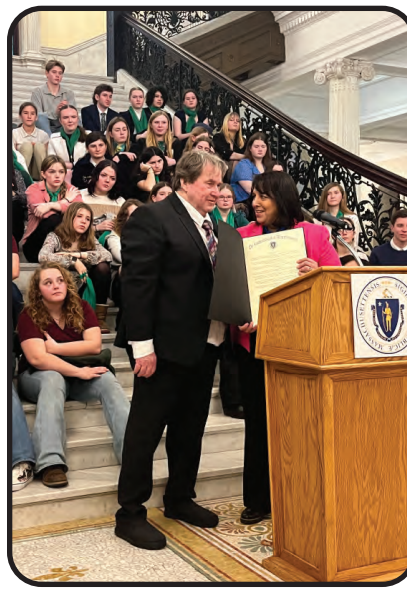
Massachusetts Nursery & Landscapers Association (MNLA) and Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association.



Massachusetts Maple Producers Association (MMPA)



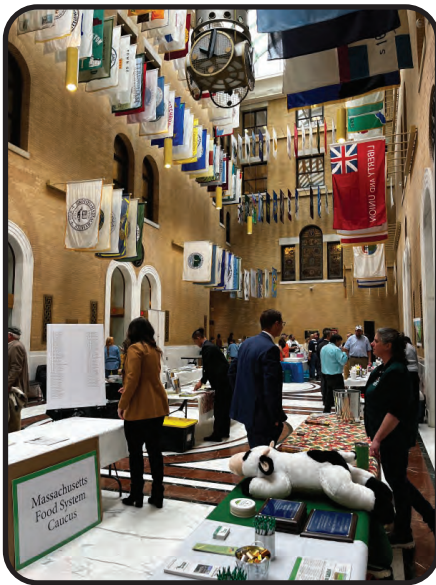
The Great Hall of Flags was a sight to behold as attendees swarmed in to sample the bounties of MA agriculture!



Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll presents Massachusetts Farm Bureau President Warren Shaw with the official 2024 Ag Day Proclamation.



Paul Schmid, House Chair of Joint Committee on Agriculture was presented with the Kent Lage Award.



Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll (in pink), MDAR Commissioner Ashley Randle (center), Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs Rebecca Tepper (at far right).



Scan for more Ag Day information!



U.S. Senator Ed Markey with (L to R) Cape Cod Cranberry Growers, MFBF Executive Director Karen Schwalbe, and MDAR Dairy Promotion Board Coordinator & Agricultural Education and Agritourism & Culinary Coordinator Katie Rozenas-Hanson.

March was Legislative Breakfast Month



Middlesex County was held at Wayside Inn in Sudbury on March 28. Pictured (L to R) are Karen Schwalbe (Exec. Director, MFBF), Rep. Kate Hogan (Speaker Pro Tempore), and Nick John (Dep. Director, MFBF).



Plymouth County was held at Boston Tavern in Middleboro on March 15. Pictured (L to R) are Rep. Matthew Muratore, Jim Hayward, Rep. David DeCoste, and Rep. Norman Orrall.



Guest speaker at **Plymouth County** was Massachusetts Congressman Bill Keating (D-9th District).



Essex County was held at Topsfield Fairgrounds on March 21. Pictured (L to R) are Rep. Kristin Kassner, Rep. Daniel Cahill, and Rep. Sally Kerans.



Berkshire County was held at Holiday Brook Farm in Dalton on March 15. Guest speaker was Former Rep. Dan Bosley, MFBF Lobbyist.



Norfolk County was held at IHOP in Norwood on March 29. Pictured (L to R) are Rep. Marcus Vaughn, Rep. Edward Philips, Sen. Paul Feeney, Nick John (Dep. Director, MFBF), Ed Little (Norfolk County President), Rep. Jay Barrows, and Rep. James Arena-DeRosa.

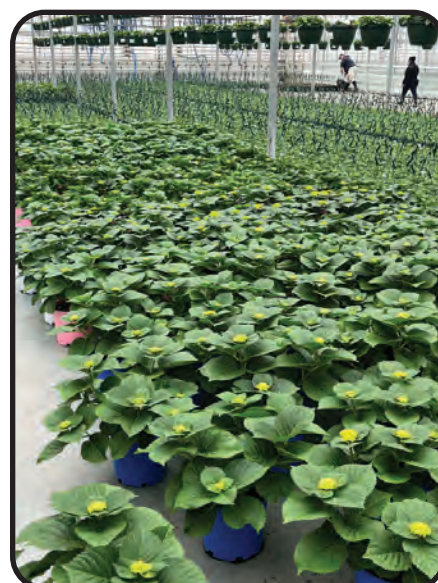


Bristol County was held at Berkley American Legion on March 22. Pictured are Derek Costa, Superintendent of Bristol County Aggie and John Bettencourt.



Middlesex County was held at Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury on March 28.

County legislators were also treated to tours of Bartlett Greenhouses and Cavicchio Greenhouses (both in Sudbury). Pictured is owner Paul Cavicchio with special guest Austin Large, AFBF Senior Director of Membership & Organizational Development.



- Benefits for MFBF Members -

MFBF members enjoy deep discounts from our national and local business partners!

For details and access to discounts, go to <https://mfbf.net/for-members/discounts-and-benefits> or scan the QR code below.

Looking for an easy way to save every day? Activate your ACCESS membership and start saving today with great deals on **travel, theme parks, food, events, online shopping** and more!



Eligible MFBF members can **save up to \$2,750** on the purchase or lease of eligible Cat® compact track loaders, compact and small wheel loaders, skid steer loaders, small dozers, backhoe loaders, mini hydraulic excavators, and telehandlers. Also, receive an additional \$250 credit on select work tool attachments purchased with new Cat machines.



Market. Manage. Maximize. Grow. Farm Advantage provides you with **the tools to help market** what you produce, manage your risk, maximize your margins, and grow your business for generations to come.



MFBF members **save up to 20%** off published price 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.



MFBF members now **receive a \$500 bonus** cash offer F-150, Super Duty and Ranger only. You must be a member in Massachusetts for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase or lease.



As a Farm Bureau® member, you and your family have access to a **FREE Prescription Drug Card** program. **Save up to 75%** at more than 68,000 national and regional pharmacies. The program can be used to supplement most health insurance plans including Health Savings Accounts (HSA) and High Deductible Plans.



Scan this code for details!



MFBF members receive an upgraded **John Deere Rewards** membership (Platinum 1) with deep discounts on equipment, parts, and merchandise. Register today and explore all that **Rewards** has to offer. Check out these savings!

Commercial Mowing: \$200-\$1,700 off
Residential Mowing: \$50-\$150 off
Utility Vehicles: \$100-\$300 off
Tractors: \$200-\$300 off
Compact Construction: \$550-\$1,400 off



JOHN DEERE

MFBF and Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine have teamed up to provide a Large Animal Hospital Discount. Farmer, Gold, and Platinum members of MFBF in good standing will receive a **10% discount**.



Save up to \$500 on Case IH Farmall & Maxxum tractors, hay tools & more! MFBF members save \$200-\$500 per unit on select Case IH equipment. Combine that MFBF offer with other discounts, promotions, or rebates available from Case IH or your Case IH dealer.



Up to \$1,000 off any new or pre-owned vehicles in the McGovern Auto Group! Our selection of new and used vehicles spreads across 19 brands at 20 locations in the Northeast. Take advantage of our diverse inventory to fit whatever needs you may have for your homestead.



Service First Processing (SFP) is a **leading payment processing provider** helping merchants navigate the constant changes in the bank card industry while keeping costs low, ensuring data security, and enhancing efficiency by simplifying transactions. SFP offers MFBF members an SFP credit card and ACH/check processing services at a special discount!



MFBF members can now go solar, no roof required! When you join a Clearway Community Solar Farm, you can support renewable power for the Commonwealth and **receive an additional savings** guarantee on energy. Through our special partnership with Clearway, there is no sign-up cost, no cancellation fee, and for every MFBF member who joins, Clearway will donate \$150 to the MFBF to support our programming.



Get a **5% discount on your farm package** with Countryway Insurance, and save 3%-5% off your personal auto with various companies! Your knowledgeable and experienced agent can help arrange a program that will best meet your farm and personal insurance needs. In addition to Farm Packages, we also offer personal & commercial auto, homeowners, property insurance, workman's compensation, as well as health, life, and disability insurances.



Farm Bureau Bank is a **full-service bank** that offers a complete array of financial services you need with nationwide convenience and highly competitive rates. Products and services include Reward and Traditional Credit Cards, Deposit Accounts (Checking, Money Market Accounts, CDs, IRAs, and Health Savings Accounts), Vehicle Loans, Mortgage Loans and Business Services. We invite you to enhance your financial well-being and see what better banking is all about!



MFBF members can now **save 20%** off Budget Truck Rental! Use your discount to save 20% on consumer rental rates and mileage charges on Budget Truck's broad range of offerings, from cargo vans up to 26' box trucks.



Save up to 30% off Avis rentals! MFBF members always receive up to 30% off Avis base rates with Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number found on our members-only website.



MFBF members **get deep discounts** on critical equipment and supplies AND enjoy free standard ground shipping* when ordering items online, over the phone, or at your local Grainger branch.



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! MFBF **members receive up to 20% off** the Best Available Rate at approx. 8,000 participating hotels worldwide. Our vast portfolio of hotels and resorts offer a variety of accommodations to meet your travel needs!



MFBF members always **save up to 30%** off Budget base rates* with your Budget Customer Discount (BCD) number found on our members-only website.



LEARN ABOUT THE INVASIVE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY
and earn free continuing education credits (CEUs)!



Sign up for our FREE webinar series to get up-to-date info about Spotted Lanternfly in Massachusetts. Learn about current control efforts and how you can help.

Spotted lanternfly is a growing threat to our environment and economy, and you are an important first line of defense!

Each session is approved for the following credits: 1 Mass. Pesticide License credit (all categories and license types), 1 MCA credit, 1 MCH credit, 1 MCLP credit, 1/2 MQTW credit, 1 Forester License credit, 1/4 ISA credit, 1 Timber Harvester license credit.

Held 10:00-11:15AM on:

5/15/24, 8/14/24, 11/13/24, 2/12/25

May. 15 registration link: <https://bit.ly/SLFWebMAMay24>

Questions? Email jennifer.forman-orth@mass.gov




SAVE THE DATE!
AFBF Annual Convention

San Antonio, TX
JANUARY 24-29, 2025
Educational workshops,
leadership training,
policy development,
trade show & more!

Email kim@mfbf.net for info

Need to renew your membership?
You can use this form or scan code below!

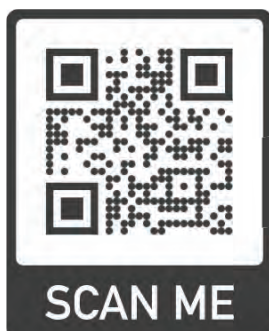
MFBF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name: _____
Farm Name: _____
Street: _____
Town: _____
State & ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Referred by: _____

I hereby apply for an annual membership in the (print your county) _____ County Farm Bureau and Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (which is a member of the American 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 am interested in promoting these objectives through membership. 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.

Please select membership level and make your check payable to MFBF; mail it with this form to 249 Lakeside Avenue, Marlborough, MA 01752. A service fee of \$15 will be assessed for returned checks. If preferred, you may pay with a credit card by calling us at 508-481-4766.

****NEW OPTION**** We are now offering the option to pay memberships in 12 equal monthly payments online (valid only for Farmer level and above). Please scan QR code below for details or follow this link: <https://mfbf.site-ym.com/>



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS/DUES

VOTING MEMBERS ANNUAL DUES:

- Farmer Member: \$225**
Farmer members derive income from an agricultural commodity; they may vote on issues and sit on committees.
- Gold Club Member: \$350**
Gold members make a supplemental donation in support of agriculture; they may vote on issues and sit on committees.
- Platinum Club Member: \$500**
Platinum members provide financial support to MFBF at the highest level; they may vote on issues and sit on committees.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ANNUAL DUES:

- Advocate - Individual Member: \$70**
Does not receive agricultural income. Eligible for affiliated member benefits.
- Advocate - Family Membership: \$100**
Does not receive agricultural income. Eligible for affiliated member benefits.
- Business Allied to Agriculture: \$225**
A business allied membership is for a company or service provider that is essential to agriculture.
 Business Allied: Please check here to be listed in our free directory that is distributed to all members.

COMMODITIES PRODUCED:

- Please indicate which commodity areas best fit the product(s) you produce:
- Apiary
 - Equine
 - Fruits
 - Horticulture
 - Poultry
 - Ag/Open Space Supporter
 - Farm Stand/Farmers Market
 - Other: _____
 - Aquaculture
 - Forestry
 - Grain/Hay
 - Livestock
 - Vegetables

Thank you for your support!

MASSACHUSETTS FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
249 Lakeside Avenue • Marlborough, MA 01752 • www.MFBF.net

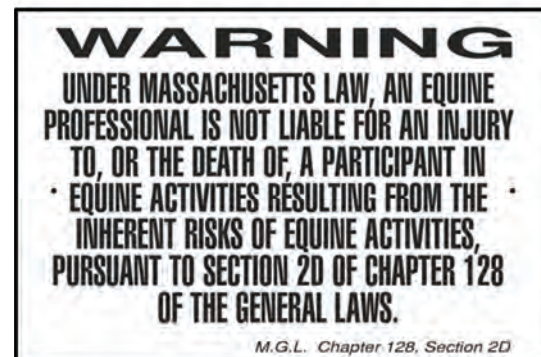
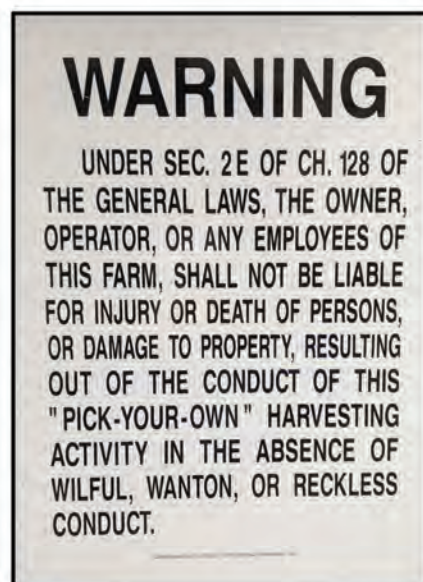


FARM SIGNS FOR SALE

Are you looking for farm signs, such as "Pick-Your-Own" and "Equine" liability? We have them for purchase at special discounted prices for our members!

We also carry Farm Bureau Member signs, which look great on your barn or in your farm store to show that you are "Farm Bureau Proud"!

Save money buy choosing to pick up at our office in Marlborough, or we will ship them to you via USPS. Please call Kim at 508-481-4766 or shop online: <https://mfbf.site-ym.com/store/>.





Are you a Farmer? If so, are you on the MassGrown map?

You can verify your listing on the MassGrown map here: <https://massnrc.org/farmlocator/map.aspx>

To update or correct your information, visit <https://www.mass.gov/forms/massgrown-map-request-form>

For more information or questions, please contact Rick Leblanc, Markets Division, MDAR, via email at Richard.LeBlanc@mass.gov.

Join us for the MFBF Annual Meeting!



UMASS AMHERST • DECEMBER 5-6, 2024 • STAY TUNED

BLUEWAVE

Agrivoltaics & Dual-Use Solar

bluewave.energy

What we do

BlueWave develops and owns dual-use agricultural solar projects to support local farms while generating clean energy for Massachusetts communities

Designed to fit your existing structure

We create unique designs for each farm that are built around yields, equipment and each farmer. **Row spacing is built to accommodate your existing equipment** so limited changes are required of your existing farming operation.



To learn more about adding dual-use solar to your land, or farming existing solar arrays, please contact **Sam Kitfield** at skitfield@bluewave.energy

Deputy Director's Column

By T. Nicolas John, MFBF Deputy Director

Budget Process Underway, Good News For Agriculture

On April 10, 2024, the Massachusetts House of Representatives unveiled a \$57.9 billion annual budget proposal that, among other things, includes significant investments in public transportation and early education.

The top-line number represents a 3.3% increase over last year's spending. The initial House plan comes in about \$150 million less than the Governor's FY25 budget proposal. House Ways & Means Chair Representative Aaron Michlewitz funding was cut for snow and ice removal, unrestricted general government aid, and funds for temporary staff.

The House Ways & Means budget release comes at a time of some fiscal uncertainty with state tax hauls coming in under expectations for nine consecutive months; a reality that spurred the Healey-Driscoll Administration to initiate \$375 million in mid-year emergency budget cuts for fiscal 2024. Section 9C of Chapter 29 of state law gives the Governor the authority to make unilateral budget cuts via executive branch agencies to balance the current fiscal year's budget.

The reductions did not directly impact core municipal and school aid accounts, but some reduced budget earmarks will have impacts at the local level.

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/doc/9c-ear-mark-report/download> for the list of affected line items.

To close the remaining \$625 million of the shortfall, the administration has identified certain opportunities to increase non-tax revenue.

Adding to the fiscal strain, administration officials estimate the state's emergency shelter system, which is housing a record number of homeless families and new migrants to Massachusetts, will cost nearly \$1 billion next year.

The House proposal calls for \$555 million for the MBTA—a record amount for the beleaguered public transit agency. The budget calls for \$184 million for Regional Transit Authorities in other parts of the state.

The House budget also allocates \$475 million to fully fund the Commonwealth Cares for Children grants for early education and child care. It would change the funding formula to limit how much for-profit, multi-state agencies like Bright Horizons could receive. Similar to Governor Healey's budget proposal, the House version also preserves the program providing free school meals to all Massachusetts public school students.

Despite the cautious approach being taken by the Executive branch and legislative leadership in the House and Senate, there is a silver lining in the form of continued fiscal support for the Commonwealth's robust agricultural sector.

Specifically, the House budget proposal included \$11.5 million for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), a slight increase from the Healey H2 proposal. The crucial Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program (FSIG) also saw a slight increase over the Governor's figure to \$25.3 million.

The FSIG Program was established to ensure that individuals and families throughout the Commonwealth have access to food, with a special focus on food that is produced locally and ensures equitable access to food.

The program also seeks to ensure that farmers, fishermen, and other local food producers are better connected to a strong, resilient food system to help mitigate future food supply and distribution disruption.

Last but certainly not least, both the H2 and House Ways & Means proposals included language that would establish a dedicated "Disaster Relief & Resiliency Fund" to better enable Massachusetts to respond quickly to natural disasters, such as the flooding experienced over the past year.

The only notable difference between the two versions is the funding source. Governor Healey's fund "would be capitalized with 10 percent of annual excess capital gains, in addition to public and private sources, federal grants, settlements, repayments, or reimbursements available for the purpose of delivering aid" while the House version included an initial \$14-million investment; a meager start but an important first step no less.

While the full \$57.9 billion annual House budget proposal was formally introduced in the chamber on April 10, formal debate was scheduled to start on April 24.

The State Senate will file its own budget proposal later in the Spring, and the new fiscal year starts July 1st.

We thank the Healey-Driscoll Administration, Executive Agency officials, and House and Senate legislative leaders for their continued support of and interest in the Commonwealth's agricultural sector.



LIVESTOCK
ON THE
COMMON

TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH: 11A-2P
ACROSS FROM THE MAIN STEPS OF THE STATE HOUSE ON
BEACON STREET, SOUTH OF LIBERTY MALL

We're looking for Farm Bureau volunteer members to join us! Come connect with consumers, share your story, and contribute to the positive perception of agriculture in the Commonwealth!

Email Barbara Rogers-Scharneck:
barbs829@comcast.net

Brought to you by the MFBF Promotion & Education and Young Farmers & Ranchers Committees



Recently SPOTTED Out-n-About



MFBF staff participated at MDAR's well-attended 1st Annual Massachusetts Agricultural Resource Fair on Friday, April 12, at the beautiful Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife headquarters in Westborough. It is one of the Commonwealth's first commercial Zero Net Energy Buildings (ZNEB), complete with an indoor trout pond!



- MFBF Member Classifieds -

F-O-R S-A-L-E

FOR SALE:

Contact John in Dracut, 978-852-1897.

- Great Jang TDR-U seeder 3pt, 7' toolbar w/gauge wheels, \$750.
- Great Kverneland plow, Model AB 2 Bottom, \$4,000.
- Good McDowel pipe 20', 100 - 4", 75 - 3", fittings 4" and 3"; pipe as lots \$1 per foot; fittings as lots \$10 each.
- Good Rainbird pipe 20', 30 - 3" w/fittings \$600.
- Good Rainbird sprinklers, 808s and 80Es, \$40 each.

FOR SALE:

2004 New Holland Ts100A with Alamo A-boom center mount mower. 60" flail head and 60" brush head included. Well maintained, clutch recently replaced, heat and AC work. 3,870 hours. \$30k OBO. 508-317-1350.

FOR SALE:

Hereford calves for sale: hand-raised and tame, polled, both steers and heifers, for your feedlot or pasture. 617-840-2074.

FOR SALE:

EPA-certified Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX models. Call today to learn more at 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.

H-E-L-P W-A-N-T-E-D

HELP WANTED:

Rock-picking wanted. I'm looking for someone with a rock picker to come to my farm in Spencer (south-central MA) to remove rocks from a couple of small fields or someone who might rent their rock picker to me. Contact Ed at 774-454-0163.

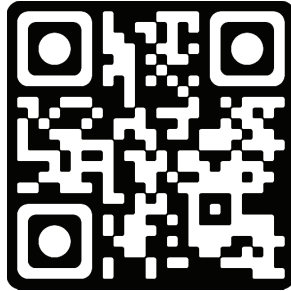
HELP WANTED:

Part-time or full-time seasonal help, hay and pumpkin farm, previous experience with farm equipment preferred but will train the right person. Littleton, MA. Call 978-486-4141.

S-E-R-V-I-C-E-S

DOT Medical Exams in Northeast & Western, MA. Merrimack Valley DOT Exams, Lawrence, mvdotme.com, 833-683-6863. Deerfield DOT Exams, South Deerfield, deerfielddot.com, 413-453-4368.

**Want to advertise with us?
Please contact kim@mfbf.net,
scan code, or call 508.481.4766!**



To our dear Members:

Do we have **your correct email** address? Have you been receiving our bi-weekly digital newsletter "The Brief"? If not, we don't 😊

Please send a quick email to **kim@mfbf.net** so that we can update your contact information. You don't want to miss out on our newsletter featuring important articles and exciting events!



IT PAYS TO BE A CUSTOMER-OWNER.



This year, we paid \$130 million in patronage dividends.

Farm Credit East customer-owners received \$120 million in cash patronage dividends based on 2023 earnings, but we didn't stop there. Thanks to outstanding financial results, we were able to distribute an additional one-time special patronage of \$10 million to members. We're grateful to continue serving farm, fishing and forestry business owners like you.

No other lender delivers more value than Farm Credit East.

farmcrediteast.com | 800.562.2235

- Loans & Leases
- Financial Record-Keeping
- Payroll Services
- Profitability Consulting
- Tax Preparation & Planning
- Appraisals
- Estate Planning
- Beginning Farmer Programs
- Crop Insurance



Put Your Farm's Future in the Right Hands.

Call A&B Insurance Group for a quote!

Experienced, knowledgeable agents available to help you get the absolute best insurance solutions for your farm, business, or home.



Get a **5% discount** on your farm insurance policy from Countryway Insurance.

Exclusive Insurance Provider for Massachusetts Farm Bureau



- Farm & Equine Insurance – all types and all sizes
- Commercial Auto – including FARM PLATES
- Workers Compensation
- Contractors & Small Business Insurance
- Home & Auto Insurance – including Rental Properties
- Life, Health and Disability Insurance

WESTFORD
235 Littleton Rd., Suite 3
Westford, MA 01886
978-399-0025

DEERFIELD
237C Greenfield Rd.
South Deerfield, MA 01373
413-665-0088

MARLBOROUGH
249 Lakeside Ave., Suite 209
Marlborough, MA 01752
508-460-2008