

MASSACHUSETTS FARM BUREAU

presents its

109TH ANNUAL MEETING

workshops • buffet dinner • silent auction • awards

DECEMBER 5, 2024

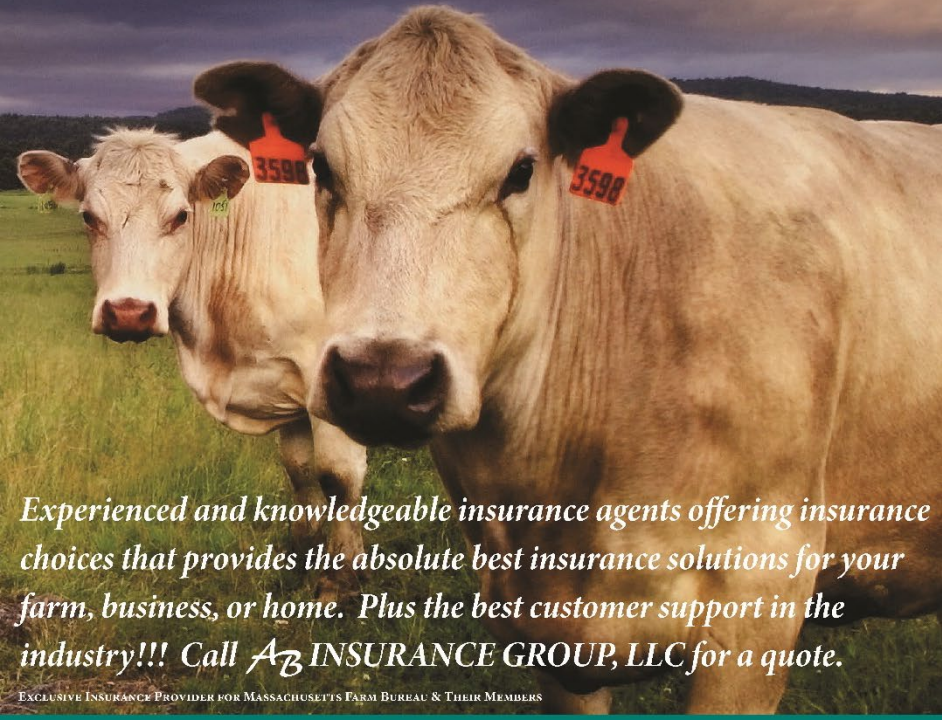
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Welcome to our 109th Annual Meeting!

As your elected President, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for setting aside time in your busy schedule to engage in the vital work that sets us apart from other agricultural organizations.



On Friday, our delegate session will serve as a cornerstone of our policy-making process, shaping the future of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation. This is your opportunity to provide direction to both our staff and elected leadership. While resolutions originate at the county level, remember that late-file resolutions can also be submitted during the session.

On Thursday, we're excited to offer a diverse lineup of breakout sessions designed to equip you with forward-thinking insights and practical tools to strengthen your farm and adapt to the evolving agricultural landscape.

I also want to take a moment to extend my sincere gratitude to all of you who contributed to the over \$10,000 in voluntary donations this past year. Your generosity has not only demonstrated the strength of our membership but has also enabled us to tackle critical issues and support our staff with initiatives that make a real difference for agriculture in the Commonwealth. Thank you for your incredible support!

This year has brought its challenges, including defensive efforts against PFAS issues, the Clean Heat Standard, and difficult labor legislation, all of which posed significant threats to our industry. At the same time, we've made positive strides, advocating successfully for the hoisting bill to support our agricultural and vocational high schools.

As we gather, I encourage you to connect with our dedicated staff, share your thoughts, and ask questions. Thank you for being an essential part of making the Massachusetts Farm Bureau the strong, unified voice of agriculture in our Commonwealth!

Warren Shaw, President

Dear Massachusetts Farm Bureau Members:

As we come together for the 2024 Annual Meeting, I want to reflect on the incredible work we've accomplished and thank you for being such an essential part of our Farm Bureau family. Your energy and commitment to agriculture have made this year one to celebrate, and I'm proud of all we've achieved together.



This year our advocacy efforts have continued to make a meaningful impact. By working together, we've ensured that farmers' needs and voices remain a priority for decision-makers at all levels—our legislature, administration, and municipalities. Our collective strength is one of our greatest assets.

Equally important has been our focus on building connections. Through on-farm events, county legislative breakfasts, and committee meetings, we've created opportunities for members to form lasting relationships. These shared moments are more than networking—they are the foundation of a strong and supportive agricultural community where we can learn from one another and grow together.

Looking ahead, we are also working on new committees, revisiting our programming, and adding new member discounts to help members navigate the challenges of our ever-changing industry. By staying proactive and forward-thinking, we can ensure that agriculture in Massachusetts remains resilient and prepared for the future.

Finally, I want to recognize the ways we've strengthened the bonds between our members and the communities we serve. From local outreach to statewide partnerships, our shared commitment to being good neighbors and advocates for agriculture has made a lasting difference. As we move into a new year, I'm inspired by the collaboration and sense of purpose within our membership. By continuing to connect, support one another, and amplify our collective voice, we can grow stronger and build a bright future for agriculture in Massachusetts.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for everything you do to make the Massachusetts Farm Bureau a place where farmers thrive together. I look forward to hearing your ideas, celebrating your successes, and working alongside you in the year ahead!

Karen Schwalbe, Exec. Director

~ Schedule of Events ~

8:00-9:00 a.m. **Registration**Foyer
Continental BreakfastRoom 163
Silent Auction - Browsing.....Room 163
Sponsored by Mass. Ag. in the Classroom

9:00 a.m. **Silent Auction - Opens**.....Room 163

9:00 a.m. **Blind Silent Auction - Begins**.....Foyer
Sponsored by Massachusetts Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R)

9:00-10:00 a.m. **Train the Trainer - Part 1***Room 174
 *NOTE: Short break at 10:00 then Part 2 at 10:15 (see below)
Laurie Manning, Pesticide Inspector II, WPS Coordinator (MDAR)
 Farm workers and pesticide handlers must receive basic pesticide safety training from a qualified trainer before they begin work and every 12 months. This training includes information about pesticide residues, the potential health effects of pesticide exposure, and how to avoid bringing pesticide residues home.

9:00-10:15 a.m. **Are You Grant Ready?**.....Room 168
Heather LaPierre
 What should I know before I dive in? How should I approach for my best chance at success? This workshop will answer these questions and more on the fit for grant funding on your farm.

9:00-10:15 a.m. **Herbicide Resistance Basics & Invasive Insect Updates with UMass Extension**Room 162
Randy Prostack, Weed Specialist, and Tawny Simisky, Entomologist, UMass Extension Service

10:15-10:45 a.m. **COFFEE BREAK - ROOM 163**

10:15 a.m.-Noon **Train the Trainer - Part 2**.....Room 174

10:45 a.m.-Noon **Understanding Drone Technology in Ag**.....Room 168
Christopher Motta, AD Makepeace
 This workshop offers a comprehensive introduction to drones, including basic technology, GPS systems, and sensor types. Gain insights into agricultural imaging and precision mapping software as well as the essential rules and regulations surrounding FAA compliance, insurance,

and state guidelines. Explore the specialized capabilities of heavy-lift spray drones and learn from real-world experiences in deploying drones in agricultural settings. Whether you're a beginner or looking to enhance your operations, this workshop equips you with the knowledge to elevate your farming practices through drone technology.

10:45 a.m.-Noon **Specialty Crops** Room 162

Daniel Jones, Calif. Farm Bureau & AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers

“Rooted in Leadership: Lessons from the Farm to the Boardroom”

Join Daniel, a fourth-generation family farmer and agricultural business leader, as he shares insights from his journey in farming, leadership, and advocacy. Drawing from his experiences managing diverse farming operations, custom farming, and harvesting ventures, Daniel will provide practical strategies for balancing on-the-ground farming responsibilities with leadership roles in organizations like Farm Bureau. This workshop explores key lessons from his career, including the value of mentorship, navigating challenges in agricultural management, and building confidence to lead in both local and state-level initiatives.

12:00-1:30 p.m. **BUFFET LUNCH** Amherst Room - 10th Floor

Introduction: Lynne A. McLandsborough, Interim Director of the Center for Agriculture, Food & the Environment (CAFE)

Guest Speaker: Daniel Munch, AFBF Economist

1:30-3:15 p.m. **No More Normal: A Climate Adaptation Roundtable for Farmers*** Room 174

**NOTE: For farmers only; session runs 1:30-3:15, no break!*

Julie Fine & Caro Roszell, AFT

Let's face it—there is no more “normal” growing season. First and last frosts are erratic, and precipitation is extremely variable—heavy rains one season and drought the next. Let's talk about which climate impacts you're experiencing, and how you're trying to adapt. We'll explore which adaptation approaches have worked, and which have not.

1:30-2:45 p.m. **Selling to Schools** Room 168

Shon Rainford, Director - Worcester Reg. Food Hub

Barrett Grazioso, Food Service Dir. - Belchertown Pub. Schools

Simca Horwitz, Co-Director - Mass. Farm to School

Abby Getman Skillicorn, Special Projects Mgr., Mass. Farm to School

Are you wondering whether school and other institutional sales might be a fit for your farm? In this workshop we'll dive into the unique opportunities of this growing wholesale market and provide tools for you to assess whether it's right for your operation. Hear directly from two different purchasers—a local Food Hub and a School Food Service Director—about what they are looking for when searching out new

farm partners. Learn from Massachusetts Farm to School about the support they can provide your farm to access school customers.

1:30-2:45 p.m. **Water Quality, Food Safety & IPM Partnerships with UMass Extension** Room 162

Lisa McKeag & Susan Scheufele, UMass

Focus on Water Quality: Lisa will cover current requirements of the FSMA Product Safety Rule and the Mass. Commonwealth Quality Program (CQP) for E. coli testing and assessing agricultural water risks as well as the results of a recent water quality survey of farms conducted by UMass Extension.

IPM Implementation in MA: Time and cost are the two biggest barriers to adopting integrated pest management (IPM) on farms. UMass Extension staff works with farmers to identify pest issues and recommend control strategies. In this talk, Susan will describe the program using an example IPM plan and share info on how farmers can get involved and get funding for an NRCS IPM plan of their own.

2:45-3:15 p.m. **SNACK BREAK - ROOM 163**

3:15-4:30 p.m. **Everything You Wanted to Know About Insurance But Were Afraid to Ask** Room 174

Richard Bourgault, A&B Insurance

Getting the right coverage is all about asking the right questions and getting the right answers. Let’s tackle the most frequently asked questions so that you can answer the question “What kind of insurance do I need?”

3:15-4:30 p.m. **The Next Phase of SMART Solar** Room 168

Grace Fletcher - DOER, Jesse Robertson-DuBois - BlueWave, and Mike DellaGala, Solar Collective Energy Solutions

Learn about DOER SMART Solar and recent updates to the incentive program. Solar installers and farmers will talk about Dual Use Agriculture project examples which maintain active agricultural production beneath solar panels to create additional income.

3:15-4:30 p.m. **Accelerating Farmland Protection** Room 162

Katherine Otto, AICP, Farmland Action Plan Coordinator - Division of Ag. Conservation & Technical Assistance, MDAR

In Dec. of 2023, the Massachusetts Farmland Action Plan was released. It focuses on three overlapping goals—agricultural land protection, access, and viability. We’ll share how implementation has started, including some recent changes and additions to MDAR programs, such as the new Farm-Pass (farm transfer planning assistance).

3:30 p.m. **Silent Auction - Closes**..... Room 163

4:30-4:45 p.m. **COFFEE BREAK - ROOM 163**

4:45-6:00 p.m. **SOCIAL HOUR**..... Marriott Center - 11th Floor

6:00-7:30 p.m. **BUFFET DINNER & AWARDS** Marriott Center - 11th Floor
Speaker: Senator Jo Comerford

6:00-7:30 p.m. **Blind Silent Auction Concludes**..... Marriott Center - 11th Floor
Sponsored by Massachusetts Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R)

thank you

...to our wonderful sponsors for supporting this event!

Lunch: **Farm Credit East**
Dinner: **A&B Insurance Group**
Social Hour: **McGovern Automotive Group**
Door Prizes: **Grainger**

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- Beginning Farmer Programs
- Crop Insurance

Map of 1st Floor of UMass Amherst Campus Center

- Upon arrival, **please check in** at the desk by the elevators
- Workshops will be in the three circled rooms (162, 168, and 174)
- The Silent Auction will be ongoing in Room 163
- Lunch will be in the Amherst Room on the 10th floor
- Social hour/dinner will be in the Marriott Center on the 11th floor



2024 John Ogonowski Award Recipient

Skip Vadnais - Rehoboth, Mass.

Skip Vadnais has served as a Selectman to the Town of Rehoboth for 40 years (many of those as Chair) with a few years mixed in on the Finance Committee. He is a long-time member of the Rehoboth Republican Town Committee (has served as Chair for many years), where he has worked to get farmers on all of the important committees. He is friendly with all local politicians. He easily works 25 to 30 hours a week in service. His activism has worked to promote leadership roles, both in and out of agriculture. He is the local Robert's Rules expert.

A long-time member of Bristol County Farm Bureau, he has served on the Board of Directors for most of that time. He has served as President and is always a delegate at MFBF's Annual Meeting. He has also served on MFBF's livestock committee.

Skip has served on the Board of Directors as Bristol County Farm Bureau's Representative for many years. Over the years he has worked as an ally to all farmers, especially on big issues like the "Save the Family Farm" campaign and the pesticide bill issues. He was appointed to the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture by Governor Baker and currently serves as the Chair.

Skip has been farming full-time, successfully raising hogs, sheep, and beef. He has also developed a business selling his hay as well as marketing some hay for other farmers. He's been a good husband, stepfather, and helps to take care of his father-in-law. His phone never stops ringing during the day because he is always helping someone. Skip has been successful in family, business, and service because he is always fair and accessible.



Previous John Ogonowski Award Recipients

2001	Leona Butler
2002	Richard Tryon
2003	Garabed (Red) Dragoonian
2004	Joan & Steve Verrill
2005	Tony Andrews
2006	Gordon Williams
2007	Leon Ripley
2008	Gordon Price
2009	Charlie & Ellen Proctor
2010	David Brownell Mann
2011	Glen Cook
2012	The Warren Shaw, Jr. Family
2013	Maurice (Mo) Tougas
2014	Alex Dowse
2015	Marjorie Cooper
2016	Dr. A. Richard Bonanno
2017	Franklyn Carlson
2018	Alan Everett
2019	Ed Lawton
2020	Jeannette Rotondo
2021	Don & Judy Leab
2022	Douglas Gillespie
2023	Mark Amato
2024	Skip Vadnais



2024 MFBF Gold & Platinum Level Members

Platinum



BERKSHIRE

Louis Aragi - Pine Island Farm
Robert Kilmer - Twin Rivers Farm
James Larkin - Larkin Farm
Dennis Mareb - Windy Hill Farm

BRISTOL

Jack Gaspar - Hydeville Farm
Alexander Houtzager
David Johnson - Grygalonis Farm
George Lewis - Ventura Grain
Elizabeth Meyer - Turtle Hill Farm

ESSEX

Robert Connors - Connors Farm
C. Michael Davidowicz - Crescent Farm
Jeffrey Head - Chickadee Hill Farm
Lydia Jaconette - VQ, LLC dba Five Stones Farm
James O'Brien - Essex Agricultural Society
Richard Rogers - Roger's Spring Hill Farm
Chris Stasinos - Silsby Farm

FRANKLIN

Fred Heyes - HFP, Inc.

HAMPSHIRE

Chris Parsons - Earle M. Parsons & Sons
Barry Roberts - Muddy Brook Farm
Jaime Wagner - Wagner Wood

MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Dana Mylott - Dtals, Inc.

MIDDLESEX

Laura Abrams - J.P. Bartlett Co.
Richard Bourgault - A&B Insurance Group
Crystal Card - Merrimack Valley Apiaries
Gerry Carroll - Shady Grove Farm/Stables
Paul Cavicchio - Cavicchio Greenhouses
Alex Dowse - C.A. Dowse & Sons
Paul Johnson - Liberty Family Farms
Ann Kiessling - Bedford Blueberry Goat Farm
Thomas Napoli - Idyllwilde Farm
William Pickard - Idyllvale Farm
Warren Shaw - Shaw Farm Dairy
Stephen Verrill - Verrill Farm
James Wilson - Wilson Farm

NORFOLK

Jean-Claude Tetreault - Trillium Brewing Co.

PLYMOUTH

Carleton Chandler - Marshfield Ag. Hort. Society
James Kane - A.D. Makepeace Co.
Chris Sherman - Island Creek Oysters
Richard Ward - Ward Cranberry Bogs
Steven Ward

WORCESTER

Alfred Cournoyer - Cournoyer Vegetable Farm
Ed Davidian - Davidian Bros. Farm
Robert Johnson - Bo-Bar Plantation
Maria Moreira - Cross Stone Farm
Terry Therrien - Ridge Valley Stables
Stephen Violette - Dick's Market Garden
John Zawalski

Gold



BERKSHIRE

Morven Allen - Maple Shade Farm
Frederick Beinecke - Wheelbarrow Hill Farm
G. Warfield Hobbs - Mountain Falls Farm
Theresa Hryckvich
Darryl Lipinski - Sweet Brook Farm
Mary Stokes Waller - Orleton Farm
Jane Swift Hunt

BRISTOL

Stephen Clegg - Four Town Farm
Derek Costa - Bristol Aggie
Chuck Currie - Freedom Food Farm
Renée Douglass - Double S Farm
William & Karen Higbie - Pleasant View Farms
Timothy Johnson - Johnson's Roadside Farm Mkt.
Henry Laroche
Gilbert Lopes - Oakridge Farm
Paul Medeiros - Windy Acres Nursery & Farm

CAPE COD

Michael Neath - Pleasant Pond Farms

ESSEX

Alan Aulson - Great Rock Farm
Richard Bonanno - Pleasant Valley Gardens
Wayne Capolupo - Ferry Landing Farm

ESSEX (cont'd.)

Paul Danehy - Curran Bros. Florist & Greenhouse
David Daniels - Richardson Farms
Cole Desmond - End of the Road Farm
Fitzgerald Brothers
Guerrini Flynn - Nunan's
Ronald Francoeur
Lisa Freitag - Country Gardens
Vincent Marini
Joanne Roden - Brooksby Farm
Steve Smolak
Robert Wood - LBW Farm

FRANKLIN

Sarah Carlan - Black Dog Farm
Anne Diemand Bucci - Diemand Egg Farm
Russell French - Oesco
Dana Goodfield - Stonegate Farm
Sidney Herron
William Llewelyn - Five Point Farm
Donald Patterson - Patterson Farm

HAMPDEN

Raymond Brzoska
Thomas Calabrese
Robert Cecchi - Cecchi & Sons/E. Cecchi Farms
Anne Jensen - Mountain Orchard
Bruce Laflamme
Willard McKinsty - McKinsty Market Garden
Karen Randall - Randall Farm
Leon Ripley - Maple Corner Farm

HAMPSHIRE

Steven Barstow - Barstow's Longview Farm
Frederick Hess - Hess McWilliams Vet. Services
Charles Norris - Runnymede Farm
Frank Szawlowski - Szawlowski Potato Farm
Darryl Williams - Luther Belden

MIDDLESEX

Pamela Campbell
David Eliades - Top-O-The Hill Farm
Gladys Fox - Wetherbee Farm Trust
Dana King - King's Greenhouses
Brian Kramer - Breezy Hill Farm
Christopher Kurth - Siena Farms
Andrew Martin - Honey Pot Hill Orchard
Jeff Maurer - Fairview Farm
Albert Ogonowski
Carol Ogonowski
Edward Painter - Shelburne Farm
Charlene Parlee - C.A. Parlee Farm
Doug Stephan - Eastleigh Farm
Charlie Tully - Tully Farms

NORFOLK

Lisa Evans - We Grow Microgreens
David Iarussi - Iarussi Family Farm
Timothy Konowitz - Hilltop Farm
Celia Mahoney - Evergreen Farm
Richard & Christina Morse - Morse Farm Realty
Mark Parrish - Crescent Ridge Dairy
Jessica Roberts - Stargazer Hill Farm
Christina Sawelsky-Morse - Far Turn Farm
John Tierney - Grove Street Farm

PLYMOUTH

Dawn Allen - Freetown Farm
Herbert Ashley
Jeffrey Chandler
John & Vicki Dougherty - Briggs Stables
Michael Dubuc - Morse Bros.
Kenneth Harju - Ken Harju & Sons Cranberries
Charles Hayward - Hayward Cranberries
Marjorie Beaton Kane - Piney Wood Cranberry
Keith Mann - Mann Farms
Kyle Marble - Blue Water Oyster Co.
Stephen Peltola - Peltola Cranberries
Wayne Smith - Littlefield, Inc.
John Turner - Turner Farm Realty

WORCESTER

Bob Beauregard - The Country Hen
Ed Bemis - Bemis Farms Nursery
Bruce Carlson - Carlson Orchard
Jeffrey Cole - Silvermine Farm
Richard Cooper - Cooper's Hilltop Farm
Doug Davis - Davis Dairy
Kenneth Foppema - Foppema's Farm
Christopher Gentile
Daniel Hanson - Hanson & Roberts Farm
George Haseotes - Great Cedar Cattle
Tyler Houlden - Houlden Farm
Susan Miner - Bob's Turkey Farm
Colleen Nordahl - Bigelow Nurseries
David Pease - Pease Orchard
Herbert Robinson - Robinson's Farm
John Samek - Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
David Tomasino - Indian Rock Farm
Maurice Tougas - Tougas Family Farm
Timothy Wheeler - Indian Head Farm



Silent Auction hosted by Mass. Ag. in the Classroom

All proceeds support MAC programs!

Winners will be announced at Thursday's dinner. If you're unable to attend, you may assign someone to pick up your item or request to pick it up at the Farm Bureau office at 249 Lakeside Ave. in Marlborough.



Silent Blind Auction hosted by Mass. Young Farmers & Ranchers

The **Massachusetts Young Farmers & Ranchers** (YF&R) is made up of Farm Bureau members between the ages of 16-35 who are engaged in agriculture or in the equine industry. The program cultivates Farm Bureau's next generation through leadership development, advocacy growth, and training and networking opportunities.

YF&R provides personal growth to its members by helping them:

- ★ Acquire cutting edge information through participation in educational conferences; and
- ★ Build a network with fellow farmers, ranchers, and agricultural enthusiasts; and
- ★ Earn recognition for achievements in business and leadership; and
- ★ Continue their professional development.

MEMBERS WANTED!
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- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Training
- ✓ National Events

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Promotion & Education Committee (P&E)

P&E is a program for Farm Bureau members who are enthusiastic about sharing agriculture with the public.

Some of the projects P&E has worked on:

- ★ Agriculture Learning Boxes
- ★ Fun at the Fair Scavenger Hunt
- ★ Livestock on the Boston Common
- ★ Fun at the Farmers Market Scavenger Hunt
- ★ County Farm Bureau Legislative Breakfast Success Guide



If you have any interest in finding out about the Committee or ways that we could help you, please feel free to reach out to any of us!

Barbara Rogers-Scharneck (Chair): 978-833-7273

Heather Bonanno-Baker: 978-802-5745

Heidi Cooper: 978-489-4860

Meg Gennings: 203-640-8868

 The advertisement is split into two main sections. On the left, a dark green background contains white and red text. On the right, a photograph shows a woman in a blue cap and plaid shirt looking at a tablet in a field of golden wheat under a blue sky with clouds.

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before sunrise*

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~ Trade Booths in Foyer ~

American Farmland Trust: <https://farmland.org/>

Black Earth Compost: <https://blackearthcompost.com/>

BlueWave: <https://bluewave.energy/>

Center for Ecotechnology Farm Energy Program:
<https://www.cetonline.org/empowering-agricultural-sustainability/>

Farm Credit East: <https://www.farmcrediteast.com/>

Food Marketing Solutions: Wagyu beef distributor

Franklin County Community Development Corp.: <https://www.fccdc.org/>

Farm Service Agency (FSA): <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

Hill Electric Supply: <https://dale-electric.com/>

Land for Good: <https://landforgood.org/>

Mass Farm to School: <https://www.massfarmtoschool.org/>

Mass State Grange: <https://www.massgrange.org/>

Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources (MDAR):
<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-agricultural-resources>

Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA): <https://nofa.org/>

National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS):
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Pope Energy: <https://www.popeenergy.com/>

Promotion & Education Committee (P&E):
<https://www.fb.org/program/promotion-and-education>

Solar Collective Energy Solutions: <https://www.solarcollective.energy/>

USDA - Rural Development: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/>

Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R):
<https://mfbf.net/about/advisory-committees/profile/young-farmers-and-ranchers-committee>



~ Farm Bureau Membership Application ~

MFBF MEMBERSHIP FORM:

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Street: _____

Town: _____

State & ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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.



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.

Allied Business Membership: \$225

This allied membership is for a company or service provider that is essential to agriculture.

Allied Business: Please check here to be listed in our free directory that is distributed to all members.

MASS. FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

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FOR THE ONES WHO GET IT DONE

