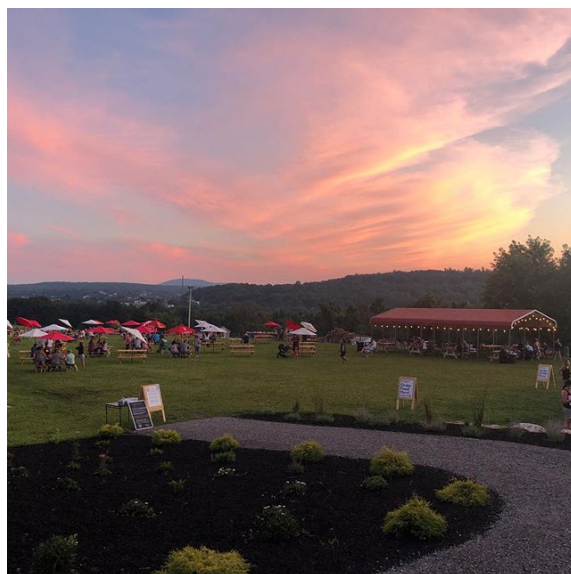




Young Farmers & Ranchers Happenings

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

**Make Plans To Attend Our Sept. 25 Social At
Hollis Hills Farm!**



***Live Music!
Good Food!
Great Company!***

Time: 6 - 9 p.m.

Location: 240 Marshall Rd, Fitchburg, MA 01420

Registered attendees will receive a voucher for \$8 worth of food/drink!

Register to Attend Online: <https://mfbf.net/mfbf-yfr-social-event/>

Help Us With Our Upcoming Ice Cream Social Fundraiser Weekend!

The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's (MFBF's) Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) committee works to benefit all young farmers across the Commonwealth. This program cultivates Farm Bureau's next generation through leadership development; advocacy growth and training; and networking opportunities.



Unfortunately, this past year we were unable to host our in-person fundraiser at our annual meetings, which has created a budget deficit for our group. But we have been brainstorming and would like to ask anyone with an ice cream stand to sponsor us. We are asking that on Saturday, Aug. 21st, ice cream stands donate 5-10% of their ice cream profits to our organization and in turn, we, as an organization, will promote the stand to our members, social media followers, and family/friends.

These funds will help us send our members to conferences to learn about agriculture and help us participate in events as they arise. We hope anyone who can will consider this sponsorship opportunity to help us succeed and grow. If you are interested in participating, please let me know by emailing me at heatherbonanno@gmail.com.

We appreciate your consideration.

Very Best,
Heather Bonanno-Baker
YF&R Chair & Methuen Farmer

Upcoming YF&R Tours!

If you are interested in attending any of the following tours, please let us know so we can send you details. Please email katelyn@mfbf.net.

Oct. 2, 2021

Join us for a tour of Barstow's Dairy Store and Bakery and Longview Farm. Longview Farm has been in the Barstow family since 1806 and the sixth and seventh generations now in charge are doing everything they can to continue this long run far into the future. With diversified revenue streams, robotic milking machines and an anaerobic digester the produces enough power to supply electricity to 250 homes, the family is simultaneously building a sustainable farm and a sustainable business. From prize-winning pie recipes, to chili made with the farm's own beef, to their popular sweet corn stand, Barstow's is a destination for good eats as well as tours of their operation. The farm draws everyone from local grade-schoolers to veterinary students and the Barstows really enjoy sharing their approach with all. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.barstowslongviewfarm.com>.

Oct. 15, 2021

Join us for a tour of Four Star Farm! Nestled along the banks of the Connecticut River you'll find the family farm, a fertile piece of land (about 250 acres). The farm's heritage is deeply rooted in agricultural tradition, built and passed down by 14 generations, and driven by a steadfast commitment to responsibly balance what is right for the environment with what is viable for the farmland and the family. Over the years, the farm has evolved and innovated to remain sustainable in changing markets and is now focused on hops. To learn more, please visit: <https://fourstarfarms.com>.

Nov. 10 & 11, 2021

The group will tour agriculture on Martha's Vineyard. More details to follow!

Apply For MFBF's Gregory Finn Scholarship

The Gregory Finn Scholarship was established in loving memory of a good friend to agriculture, Gregory L. Finn. Finn was Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's (MFBF's) Information & Public Relations Director, a religious and devoted family man, who died of a heart attack in 1983 at the age of 55.

Though not a farmer himself, Finn possessed a unique ability to bridge the gap between agriculture and suburbia. He was a natural at interpreting and conveying the problems facing farmers in a way that non-agricultural communities could understand. Finn was aware that a whole generation had grown up without exposure to perhaps the single most vital industry in the Commonwealth....Agriculture. This scholarship is awarded in Finn's memory to foster an understanding and perhaps help to close the gap between the farm community and suburban Massachusetts.

Applicants must be a child or legal dependent of a MFBF regular member in good standing. Applicants must be at least in their junior year of college when the scholarship is awarded. Applicants must be majoring in communications, journalism, music or an agriculturally related field. Application must be submitted to "The Greg Finn Scholarship Fund" by Aug. 31. Application must be accompanied by a sealed official copy of the applicant's college transcript; and a 250 word statement on why the applicant has chosen this particular field of study and projected career goals. To request an application please contact MFBF at info@mfbf.net or 508-481-4766.

Have A Chonky Barn Cat? Enter Them In MFBF's Barn Cat Photo Contest



Do you have a barn mouser who has a larger than life purr-sonality? Here is your opportunity to enter them in the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) inaugural barn cat photo contest!

The contest is sponsored by [The Pet Food Institute](#) and prizes will be awarded for best dressed, best mouser, best cat napper, sassiest, most chonk and best overall feline. Be sure to submit your photos [here](#) before the Aug. 31 deadline!

"This contest is meant to bring awareness to the farm cat population in the Commonwealth," said MFBF President Mark Amato. "They support our farmers through rodent control and their aloof companionship. They have also become an iconic tradition for farms across the country with most farms supporting a small population of barn cats."

A panel of MFBF members will serve as judges to determine winners in each category. There is room on the online submission for three photos, please be sure to submit a photo where the barn is shown in a "working" capacity or barn setting. This contest is meant to honor barn cats, not house companions.

For farmers who are looking to adopt barn cats, here is a list of links to shelters with a barn cat adoption program:

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

Special Announcement: New Partner & Member Benefit

MFBF Brings a Roofless Solar Option to Members with Clearway

It's been a remote year. Remote work, remote sports. Now, there's remote solar! You see, Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation members can now go

solar, no roof required by subscribing to an offsite solar farm. The MFBF has partnered with Clearway Community Solar to further our collective mission of supporting renewable power in the Commonwealth. When you join a Clearway Community Solar Farm, you can support locally-produced solar energy for the Massachusetts power grid, and receive a savings guarantee on energy costs. Through our special partnership with Clearway, there is no sign up cost, no cancellation fee, and for every MFBF member that joins, Clearway will donate \$150 to the MFBF to support our programming. It's a great new way for our members to help reduce the dependence on fossil fuels and support a greater contribution of renewable power to our local grid. And while you're helping the planet, you'll save along the way.



To learn about supporting renewable power and Clearway's savings guarantee, please visit www.clearwaysolarfarm.com/MFBF. Use **promo code: MFBF** and enroll online in just 5 minutes. Or, call 1.866.520.0748 to speak to an energy consultant. No home audits are required and there is no rooftop installation.

Terms & conditions apply. Please see the Clearway Customer Agreement for details.

MFBF Launches Scholarship Program For Non-Traditional Members

The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) is now accepting applications for its first-ever, non-traditional membership scholarship, which is available by clicking [here](#). The intent of this scholarship program is to receive input into the organization's policy development program from commercial farmers who are not traditionally members. Examples of non-traditional members include urban farmers, new entry farmers, immigrant farmers and more.

"Farm Bureau membership has always been open to everyone, however, one of the biggest barriers to joining can be approaching a group of people where you know no one," said MFBF President Mark Amato. "By creating this scholarship program and in turn a cohort program for the recipients, we hope to break down those walls and introduce non-traditional members to our current members in an environment where the new people are comfortable. In turn, we hope to see the scholarship recipients bring in other, non-traditional members to provide input on our policy process and expand our membership."

Scholarship recipients will receive a scholarship membership into the organization (valued at \$225) for one year and will be expected to complete an orientation webinar, a mid-year survey, and participate in one county-level policy event.

"The feedback that we get during the Farm Bureau policy development process can have national impact," Amato said. "We need all types of farmers involved in this process and value all input. I'm looking forward to seeing this scholarship bring new ideas to the table."

The deadline to apply is Aug. 31, 2021, and applications will be reviewed by a committee of MFBF board of directors. This scholarship was made possible through a grant from American Farm Bureau Federation.

SBA Working Capital Loans Available in Massachusetts Following Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Declaration for Drought Beginning Sept. 22

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced that Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and private nonprofit organizations as a result of drought that began on Sept. 22, 2020.

The loans are available in the following counties: Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Hampden, Hampshire, Plymouth, Worcester in Massachusetts.

Under this declaration, the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to eligible farm-related and nonfarm-related entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. Except for aquaculture enterprises, SBA cannot provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers and ranchers. Nurseries are eligible to apply for economic injury disaster loans for losses caused by drought conditions.

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates of 3 percent for small businesses and 2.75 percent for private nonprofit organizations of all sizes, with terms up to 30 years. The SBA determines eligibility based on the size of the applicant, type of activity and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. The loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at DisasterLoan.sba.gov and should apply under SBA declaration # 16724, not for the COVID-19 incident.

[Complete details here.](#)

2022 Farm Bureau® Ag Innovation Challenge Application Open



The American Farm Bureau Federation, in partnership with Farm Credit, has opened online applications for the 2022 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge. This national business competition showcases U.S. startup companies that are providing solutions to challenges faced by America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities. Farm Bureau will award \$165,000 in startup funds provided by sponsors Farm Credit, Bayer Crop Science, Farm Bureau Bank, Farm Bureau Financial Services, FMC Corporation and John Deere.

Launched in 2015 as the first national competition focused exclusively on rural entrepreneurs, the Challenge continues to identify the next ag entrepreneurs to watch and supports innovation essential to Farm Bureau member businesses and communities.

For this eighth year of the competition, Farm Bureau is seeking entrepreneurs who are addressing either traditional or new/emerging challenges. The 2021 Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year, Riley Clubb with Harvust, addressed traditional challenges by developing a software platform that helps farmers successfully hire, train and communicate with employees. The competition is also open to entrepreneurs tackling new challenges that surfaced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Farm Bureau members across the country continue to grapple with a number of challenges associated with the pandemic," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Now, more than ever, we need creative solutions from entrepreneurs to help our farmers, ranchers and rural communities thrive."

For example, 2021 Ag Innovation semi-finalist Butter Meat Co. is a beef supply chain startup based in Western New York that is working to improve the value proposition of retired dairy cows as beef for farmers and consumers. Owners of the business are building a dairy beef brand that increases the farm gate value and offers customers flavorful beef produced eco-consciously. Another Ag Innovation semi-finalist, AgriHoodBaltimore, launched the Urban Farmer Training Resource Institute with a focus on developing the next generation of urban farmers.

Farm Bureau and Farm Credit will select 10 startup companies to compete as semi-finalists at the AFBF Convention in January 2022 in Atlanta, Georgia. The 10 semi-finalist teams will be announced on Oct. 5 and awarded \$10,000 each. These 10 teams will compete to advance to the final round where four teams will receive an additional \$5,000 each and compete live on stage in front of Farm Bureau members, investors and industry representatives. The final four teams will compete to win:

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

The top 10 semi-finalist teams will participate in pitch training and mentorship from Cornell University's Dyson School of Applied Economics & Management faculty prior to competing at AFBF's Convention. In addition, the top 10 semi-finalist teams will have the opportunity to network with industry leaders and venture capital representatives from the Agriculture Department's Rural Business Investment Companies.

Applications must be received by Aug. 20. Learn more: <https://www.fb.org/land/ag-innovation-challenge-2022>.

Developing Risk Management and Marketing Plans
Virtual Workshop Series For Beginning, Women, and Shellfish Growers
in Rhode Island and Massachusetts

Join us for a virtual workshop on risk management and marketing. This workshop will be delivered through nine zoom sessions and will be accompanied by homework assignments, and individualized counseling sessions if desired.

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**June 3 • June 17 • July 8 • July 22 • August 12 • August 26 •
September 16 • September 30 • October 14•**

Please plan to attend ALL Nine workshops

To register please contact:

Rhode Island cvent invo here

There is a \$25 non refundable registration fee.

??Questions??

Peggy Siligato (401) 874-5997 Siligato@uri.edu

Paul Russell (508) 472-2364 pmrussell@umass.edu

Tom Smiarowski (413) 320-1718 tsmiarowski@umass.edu

Pre-registration is required to participate. Please register early as space is limited.

**At the end of this project, each participant will have developed
a personal risk management and marketing plan for their farm/ranch.**



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

This workshop is open to all interested persons. The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital status.

Developing Risk Management and Marketing Plans

Virtual Workshop Series For Beginning, Women, and Shellfish Growers in Rhode Island and Massachusetts

June 3 • June 17 • July 8 • July 22 • August 12 • August 26 • September 16 • September 30 • October 14
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Participants are encouraged to attend **ALL NINE** zoom workshops

Participants will acquire the skills and understand their own operation sufficiently to develop personal risk management and marketing plans and strategies at the enterprise level.

Objective: Assist Beginning, Women and Shellfish Growers respond to and manage risk.

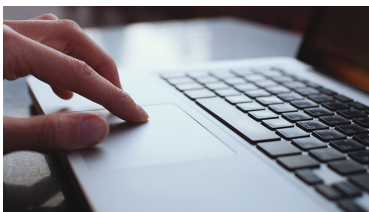
Participants in this virtual workshop series will:

1. Be introduced to the **farm business planning process** and learn how to:
 - Identify and list all of their farm's assets and their productive capacity
 - Determine the current wellbeing of the farm business
 - Review the feasibility of alternative enterprises
 - Evaluate the risks the farm faces.
 - Determine who the customers of the farm are and what utility (form, place, time, possession) these customers want.
 - Make basic marketing decisions:
 - What form, grade, quality to produce.
 - When, where, how to price.
 - When, where, how to deliver.
2. Be introduced to five areas of risk (**Production, Marketing, Financial, Human Resource, Legal**) and learn how to identify, measure, and manage risks on their farms in these areas.
3. Understand financial management of the farm and how to use financial statements (**Income Statement, Balance Sheet**) and **enterprise budgets** to assess the performance of the farm business and make better decisions.
4. Understand marketing principles and how the elements of the **marketing mix (Product, Price, Promotion, Place, People)** are used to create an effective plan to manage the marketing decisions on the farm.
5. Develop a **personal risk management and marketing plan** for your farm.
 - Develop goals in each of the five risk areas, and in each of the five marketing areas.
 - Identify specific actions you will take for each goal.
 - Commit to follow through and implement the actions identified.

Individualized Study

The activities in the workshop series will build on each other with specific homework (individual study) assignments to be conducted following each workshop. Local Extension Educators will also attend the workshops and will provide assistance to the producers on an individual basis to ensure that homework assignments are completed.

Farm Bureau University



What is Farm Bureau University?

“Online Learning for Farm Bureau”

Learning is no longer confined to four walls and formalized training. Farm Bureau University allows Farm Bureau members to learn through interactive experiences online when and where they want. Farm Bureau members can log onto FB University from a desktop computer in their office or on an iPad in the field.

Currently available to Farm Bureau members:

- Board Essentials – Online training for county board members to develop skills and acquire knowledge as a Farm Bureau leader.
- FB Builder – An evaluation tool for your county Farm Bureau to assess on eight building blocks of organizational health.
- Pillars of Agricultural Literacy – A tool to guide you, or a group, through the Pillars of Agricultural Literacy in order to create a purposeful plan to educate consumers about agriculture.

What's new on Farm Bureau University?

Farm Bureau Board Essentials, the newest online learning program, offers resources and training to county board members to improve governance, planning, policy development and advocacy, and membership.

Whether you've been on the board for three weeks or 30 years, Farm Bureau Board Essentials sharpens your skillset and understanding as a board member.

How to register for Farm Bureau University

Any member can register for free at university.fb.org. New users need to register for an account and type

in the correct code. The member code is "statefb" replacing state with the two-letter postal abbreviation. For example a New York Farm Bureau member's code is "nyfb."

Click [here](#) to register today.

**Are you looking for industry events?
Check out MDAR's Agriculture Industry Calendar!**

[Click Here For Calendar](#)

Follow Us On Social Media!

