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MASSACHUSETTS FARM BUREAU FEDERATION'S

Vol. 30, No. 3

# NEWS & VIEWS

APRIL/MAY 2022

[www.MFBB.net](http://www.MFBB.net)

## Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$22.5 Million To Strengthen the Massachusetts Food Supply System

The Baker-Polito Administration announced \$22.5 million in funding to food producers across the Commonwealth, continuing ongoing efforts to address food insecurity issues exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. During an event at the Worcester Regional Food Hub, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Energy

and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Kathleen Theoharides, and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Commissioner John Lebeaux joined with U.S. Senator Ed Markey and Congressman Jim McGovern to announce the funding of 147 total projects through the Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program. Grants from the program,

which was created to ensure individuals and families have equitable access to healthy, local food products, will directly benefit people in every region of the state. "Through the Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program, our Administration has been able to foster stronger partnerships with foodbanks, pantries, farms and

other organizations throughout the Commonwealth to meet the demand of so many living with food insecurity," said Governor Charlie Baker. "Importantly, this \$22.5 million in funding will go towards impactful projects that will increase operations of our food producers and suppliers and better serve the individuals who truly need their assistance."

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### *NEW Member Benefit!*

**\$500 Off Any New or Pre-Owned Vehicles in the McGovern Auto Group.**



Massachusetts Farm Bureau members will get \$500 off a new or used vehicle at McGovern Automotive dealerships, just mention this ad! Does not apply to new Ferrari or Porsche vehicles. See dealer for details or visit:  
<https://www.mcgovernauto.com/mcgovern-farm-bureau-program.htm>

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**BRINGING NEWS TO MASSACHUSETTS FARM BUREAU FEDERATION FAMILIES.**

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# Help Wanted, Desperately

By: Zippy Duvall, AFBF President

When I was a young boy, my dad would take me around with him on the farm. And as I got older, I started taking on more jobs and more responsibilities. I'd be out milking cows before school and helping get other things done when I got home. I've loved the work for as long as I can remember. While that's true for millions of farmers, fewer people are willing to do the work it takes to raise the food, fuel, and fiber we need.

A few weeks ago, I hosted Juan Cortina, president of Mexico's National Agricultural Council, on my farm in Georgia. His organization is similar to the American Farm Bureau and works on behalf of Mexico's farmers and ranchers. While discussing the challenges that faced members in our countries, I mentioned that the inability to find enough workers was our greatest challenge. And, to my surprise, he said that labor was also the most significant problem for farmers in Mexico.

Shortly after Mr. Cortina's visit, I flew out to Oregon and

Washington to meet with our members and hear their stories. It didn't matter if the farmers I met with were dairying, growing tulips, pears, apples, cherries, blueberries or raspberries, they all said that their greatest challenge is finding workers.

Most of the fresh fruits and vegetables we find in our supermarkets, and canned and frozen ones too, have to be planted, cared for, and harvested by hand. Across the country, farmers and farm workers slowly make their way through the fields to ensure we can get the healthy and nutritious food we need. And in dairy barns, workers milk each cow two or three times a day.

On the slopes of Mt. Hood, I met with a group of pear growers who talked about the challenges they have finding workers. Some workers have lived in their



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

community for decades and come back season after season. However, finding domestic workers becomes more difficult each year, leaving farmers to turn to H-2A workers from other countries to fill jobs on the farm.

Nationwide, the use of the H-2A visa program has increased by 20 percent over the past five years, underscoring the domestic worker shortage.

In western Washington, I met with a group of farmers who grow raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Like most growers, they've struggled for years to find the labor they need for all of their farm work, especially harvesting. So they've invested millions of dollars into mechanical harvesting techniques to reduce the number

of workers they need during peak season, but that doesn't eliminate the need for workers altogether on the farm. Machines can't currently plant or care for many of the fruits, vegetables, and nuts we consume, meaning most plants are touched by human hands many times throughout the year.

Farm and ranch work is hard, takes long hours, and you have to get your hands dirty. But, it is rewarding, and often you can see the fruits of your labor, literally. On my trip to Oregon and Washington, I spoke with farmers and farmworkers who love their work. They all mentioned that they are proud to play their part in ensuring we all have the food we need. But they also said that we need to focus on solving the farm labor crisis once and for all. We desperately need our elected leaders to come to the table, leave politics at the door and find a solution.

**Zippy Duvall**  
AFBF President

## America's Farmers Are Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions fell more than 4 percent from 2019 to 2020, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The most recent Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks shows agriculture continues to represent just 10 percent of total U.S. emissions, much lower than other economic sectors.

American Farm Bureau Federation economists analyzed the data from EPA in the latest Market Intel. 2020 overall emissions from agriculture fell at least 4.3 percent, or 28.8 million metric tons, compared to 2019. Emissions from agricultural soil management like fertilizer

application and tillage practices were reduced by 8.4 percent.

"The most recent numbers show America's farmers and ranchers are dedicated to feeding America's families while remaining committed to improvements in sustainability," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Farmers are dedicated to doing even better through voluntary, market-based incentives that allow them to capture more greenhouse gases while meeting growing food demands here at home and abroad."

Compared to 70 years ago, farmers and ranchers are getting almost



three times more out of their production than what they put into it. Per unit emissions continue to decrease among livestock as

well, a 21 percent reduction in pork, 26 percent in milk and 11 percent reduction of emissions per unit of beef production.

## Nominations Open for 2023 AFBF Farm Dog of the Year Contest

Farmers are invited to submit nominations for the 2023 Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year contest, supported by Purina. This is the fifth year of the contest, which celebrates farm dogs and the many ways they support farmers and ranchers in producing nutritious food for families and their pets across America. The grand prize winner – Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year – will

win a year's worth of Purina dog food and \$5,000 in prize money. The winner will be recognized at a Farm Dog of the Year award ceremony at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in January 2023. Up to four regional runners-up will each win \$1,000 in prize money.

The 2023 Farm Dog of the Year will also be featured in a professionally

produced video.

"It's a pleasure to host this popular contest again and provide a glimpse into daily life on the farm," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "The dual role assumed by most farm dogs is so important. They lighten the workload and enrich our lives by providing faithful and playful companionship."

Scientific research insights from a collaboration between Mayo Clinic and Purina reveal that interacting with pets can provide health benefits. For example, after spending just 20 minutes with a dog, people experienced a significant increase in levels of oxytocin, a hormone that plays a role in moderating stress. This was also associated with a decrease

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### MFBF's Vision Statement

**Vision Statement:** Massachusetts Farm Bureau envisions a world with plentiful high-quality agricultural products, productive open land, and a robust and prosperous farming community. We are committed to working with like-minded groups to achieve these goals.

# President's Column

By: Warren Shaw, MFBF President

This edition of *News and Views* should land just about the time when the weather is perfect for families to get out to the local farm for flowers, plants and of course it's always a great time for local milk, ice cream and other dairy...



It may also be a great time to think about bringing other folks who frequently have an impact on our bottom lines out to the farm: Our legislators!

I've been to some well run county Farm Bureau legislative breakfasts and met some political leaders who seem to get it when it comes to agriculture, but getting them out to the farm for pictures and an

up-close and personal look at the reality of farming in Massachusetts would likely have an impact.

Farm Bureau has its beginning at the county level and in terms of building relationships with folks in government it seems reasonable that counties should consider trying to host an annual event where legislators come out to the farm!

next county Farm Bureau board meeting as it could become a fun way to build relationships with your representatives/senator.

There is certainly some encouraging news on the staff front, after having lost one of our most important human resources, Katelyn Parsons. She has moved on to a greater opportunity and we

I recall former U.S. Representative Niki Tsongas absolutely loving her "congress on the corner" event at farms throughout her district.

Consider this a conversation starter for the

have made an offer to an individual we believe will be a great asset. Brad will introduce us all to Nick John on May 16.

Nick has significant experience in the legislature, his work with former State Representative Steve Kulik who most of you will remember as a great friend to Massachusetts agriculture well having him hitting the ground running on ag policy matters.

Katelyn brought many other talents to the table, including the communication pieces that are so valuable to our membership. We anticipate Nick getting up to speed quickly with those tasks.

Welcome aboard, Nick!

**Warren Shaw**  
MFBF Present

## Are You An Associate Member? How Do You Want To Receive Your Newsletter?

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

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

We appreciate your continued support of MFBF!



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News and Views is published six times a year, by Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation. Subscription comes with membership. It is received in the homes of almost 6,000 MFBF members.

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

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @MAFarmBureau.

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
249 Lakeside Ave
Marlborough, MA 01752
www.mfbf.net

Worcester County Farm Bureau To Host Summer Picnic

Date: Wednesday, July 20th
Time: 5PM-8PM
Location: Houlden Farm, 139 Old Westboro Road, North Grafton
Who: All Members & Their Guests
Cost: Meal and One Beverage Provided, additional available for purchase



Details: Worcester County Farm Bureau would like to invite Farm Bureau members to a social gathering this summer. A time to relax with friends and enjoy the summer weather, you'll be able to experience the beautiful Holden Farm and see their extensive growing fruit & vegetable operation as well as the incredible ag tourism portion of the business. This is a "come and go" as you'd like event, so feel free to drop in any time. A tour will be provided at 6:30PM, and their food and beverage trucks at their "Sunflower Shanty" will be available for the duration. We welcome all members and guests they want to bring that are involved in agri-business and farming. Keep an eye out for more details and a reminder in the Weekly Update as the date approaches.

Essex County Farm Bureau & Essex County Fruit Growers Spring Field Day

The Essex County Farm Bureau, and Essex County Fruit Growers boards of directors would like to invite you to our spring field day!

Date: May 18, 2022
Location: Cider Hill Farm, 45 Fern Ave Amesbury, MA 01913
Time: 5pm Sharp!
RSVP: By May 11th 2022 to Chris Grant grantsplants@gmail.com or 978-423-6694

Agenda

- 5:00 - We will take a tour of the produce washing area, hard cider facility and farmstand, finishing with a hard cider tasting.
5:45 - We will take a hay wagon ride to the areas of interest for Chad Cochrane, Research Conservationist NRCS, to present on cover crop planning, chemical and non-chemical methods of terminating a cover crop. Cover crops for weed suppression and pollinators. (PACE credits have been requested for this event)
7:00 - We return to the store area and meet under our tent and have dinner with a brief speaking program and time for member networking.

This meeting is being held in cooperation between Essex County Farm Bureau and the Essex County Fruit Growers Association. All members are welcome to attend. In order to assure that we have an accurate head count for the meal, please RSVP to Chris Grant by email at grantsplants@gmail.com or 978-423-6694 by May 11th.



# Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$22.5 Million

*Continued From Page 1*

“Ensuring children, their families, and all individuals have access to healthy, local food products is critical, particularly as so many continue to be detrimentally impacted by the pandemic,” said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. “Our Administration is proud to work so closely with the Commonwealth’s farmers, food distributors, non-profit organizations, and others as we partner to strengthen the state’s food supply chains.”

“The Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program has become a catalyst for the Baker-Polito Administration in our efforts to make a more resilient food supply system,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. “Since the program’s inception during the early months of the COVID-19 public health emergency, we have funded over 507 projects throughout Massachusetts, greatly aiding those in need.”

The Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program seeks to ensure local food producers are better connected to a robust and resilient food supply system in order to mitigate future food supply and distribution disruption issues. This year’s recipients of grant funding represent a variety of sectors, including farms, fisheries, schools, nonprofits, for profits, food pantries, municipalities, distributors/suppliers, and other entities. Additionally, during the event, US Senator Ed Markey and Congressman Jim McGovern announced \$3 million in federal funds for the Worcester Regional Food Hub’s new facility at Union Station.

The Baker-Polito Administration announced the Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program in May 2020 as part of a \$56 million investment to combat urgent food insecurity for many Massachusetts families and individuals as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program implements the recommendations of the Food Security Task Force, comprised of public and private members charged with ensuring food insecurity and food supply needs are addressed during the COVID-19 public health emergency, which was convened by the Massachusetts COVID-19 Command Center in response to increased demands for food assistance.

“The Baker-Polito Administration’s unprecedented commitment to building a more resilient,

sustainable food system has helped Massachusetts agriculture invest in long-term and impactful solutions to address food security for our consumers,” said Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux. “With the latest round of funding for the Food Security Infrastructure Grant program, farms and producers will be able to update aging infrastructure while making improvements for their businesses to help ensure more residents have access to local, fresh products.”

The awardees for this round of grants include:

- Christopher Grant DBA Grant Family Farm (Essex, MA): \$135,824
- The Little Black Cow Dairy LLC (Westminster, MA): \$9,484
- Lisa T. Corp (Gloucester, MA): \$69,908
- Boston Sword and Tuna (Boston, MA): \$420,491
- Cape Seafoods Inc. (Gloucester, MA): \$482,257
- A.P. Fish Company, Inc. (Worcester, MA): \$279,841
- Aquacultural Research Corporation (Dennis, MA): \$391,670
- The Gray House, Inc. (Springfield, MA): \$17,383
- Crimson & Clover Farm (Florence, MA): \$325,000
- Norwood Public Schools Food Service Department (Norwood, MA): \$27,099
- ZNK FISHERIES, INC. (Plymouth, MA): \$24,250
- Carver Public Schools (Carver, MA): \$14,690
- Boat Santa Rita II Inc (Peabody, MA): \$80,575
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South (Taunton, MA): \$119,956
- Four Corner’s Farm (Worthington, MA) \$3,500
- Northborough-Southborough Regional School District (Southborough, MA): \$18,595
- Seeds of Solidarity Education Center (Orange, MA): \$8,314
- Honey Pot Produce Co. Inc. (Hadley, MA): \$78,713
- Stillmans Greenhouse & Farm Stand, Inc (New Braintree, MA): \$79,384
- The Farm School (Athol, MA): \$111,927
- Heart Beets Farm (Berkley, MA): \$1,500
- Roots Rising (Pittsfield, MA): \$430,219
- Tremont Fisheries LLC (Lakeville, MA): \$376,100
- Waltham Boys & Girls Club (Waltham, MA): \$40,905
- Littleton Community Farm (Littleton, MA): \$26,585
- Regional Environmental

- Council (Worcester, MA): \$73,958
- Brookfield Farm (Amherst, MA): \$39,840
- F/V Underwing (Kingston, MA): \$120,995
- Clover Hill Farm, LLP (Gilbertville, MA): \$46,614
- Cultivating Solutions LLC dba Winter Moon Roots (Hadley, MA): \$175,123
- Elliot Farm LLC (Lakeville, MA): \$211,323
- Bellingham Farmstand & Community Garden (Bellingham, MA): \$22,755
- BFI/WHA Terraponics Program (Worcester, MA): \$371,929
- Milton Public Schools (Milton, MA): \$11,927
- Merrimack Valley Food Bank (Lowell, MA): \$8,200
- Miss Emma Lobster & Crab LLC (New Bedford, MA): \$60,426
- Atlas Farm LLC (Deerfield, MA): \$453,906
- Boys & Girls Club of Greater Westfield (Westfield, MA): \$169,008
- PACE, Inc. (New Bedford, MA): \$79,383
- Blackstone Millville Regional School District (Blackstone, MA): \$55,024
- Arcadian Farms, Inc. (Holliston, MA): \$34,893
- Backyard Growers (Gloucester): \$48,282
- Brockton Public Schools (Brockton, MA): \$240,193
- Berkshire Grown, Inc. (Great Barrington): \$12,517
- Woven Roots Farm (Tyringham): \$249,687
- Berkshire Wildflower Honey LLC dba Mill River Farm (Great Barrington): \$68,700
- Epiphany School (Dorchester): \$243,418
- Full Well Farm LLC (Adams): \$72,678
- Grow in Revere, Food Hub (Revere, MA): \$99,734
- D.A. Smiarowski Farms (Sunderland, MA): \$28,000
- Letts Trucking Inc. - FV Addy Rose is in the fishing industry (Fairhaven, MA): \$196,698
- Greenfield Public Schools - School Nutrition Department (Greenfield, MA): \$146,332
- Tony’s Seafood Inc. (Seekonk, MA): \$495,636
- Truro Community Kitchen (North Truro, MA): \$37,853
- Plainville Farm (Hadley, MA): \$33,837
- Salem Food and Nutrition Services (Salem, MA): \$149,509
- Massachusetts Military Support Foundation (Buzzards Bay, MA): \$246,390
- The Urban Food Initiative d/b/a Daily Table (Dorchester, MA): \$499,068
- Eva’s Garden (South Dartmouth, MA): \$79,890

- Chicopee Public Schools Food Service Department (Chicopee, MA): \$482,836
- Olsen Farm (Lanesborough, MA): \$18,082
- Wulf Fish Wholesale, LLC (Boston, MA): \$104,324
- Red Fire Farm (Montague, MA): \$500,000
- Simple Gifts Farm, LLC (Amherst, MA): \$75,517
- Mill City Grows (Lowell, MA): \$17,694
- North Attleborough School Department (North Attleborough, MA): \$43,709
- Royal Crest Farm, LLC. (Spencer, MA): \$105,632
- Hart Farm (Conway, MA): \$16,583
- Fairfields Dairy Farm LLC (Williamstown): \$490,002
- Grandeur Enterprises, LLC D.B.A.: Ferullo’s Seafood (Boston, MA): \$489,874
- Coastal Foodshed, Inc. (New Bedford, MA): \$100,689
- Overlook Food Awareness Resource of Massachusetts (FARM), Inc. (Rutland, MA): \$18,062
- City of Holyoke/Holyoke Public Schools (Holyoke, MA): \$500,000
- Gaining Ground (Concord, MA): \$27,291
- Legit Fish Inc. (Boston, MA): \$245,000
- Sawyer Farm (Worthington, MA): \$61,856
- Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School (Fitchburg, MA): \$176,600
- Harper’s Farm & Garden LLC (Lancaster, MA): \$38,981
- Abundance Farm (Northampton, MA): \$291,505
- Calamari Fisheries Inc (Boston, MA): \$114,733
- Just Roots, Inc. (Greenfield, MA): \$53,096
- Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen’s Alliance, Inc. (Chatham, MA): \$21,191
- Boston Smoked Fish Co. (Boston, MA): \$63,595
- Newton Community Farm, Inc. (Newton, MA): \$22,893
- MetroWest YMCA (Framingham, MA): \$58,474
- Fisherman’s Wharf Gloucester (Gloucester, MA): \$153,120
- Wellwood Farm (Barre, MA): \$28,850
- World Farmers (Lancaster, MA): \$408,001
- Sidehill Farm LLC (Hawley, MA): \$63,791
- Round the Bend Farm (South Dartmouth, MA): \$62,519
- Mapleline Farm, LLC (Hadley, MA): \$174,891
- Pip & Anchor, LLC (Nantucket, MA): \$287,575
- Worcester Regional Strategic Opportunities Foundation, Inc

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# Reminder to Report Crop Damages Promptly

Recent years have presented farmers with challenging weather conditions and producers covered by a Federal Crop Insurance Policy are reminded to monitor their crops for insurable damage throughout the growing



season. If you notice damage contact your crop insurance agent within 72 hours of discovery, 15 days before harvesting begins and within 15 days after harvesting is completed on

the insurance unit. Three other important reminders:

- Check with your crop insurance agent to review any prevented planting options.
- Direct marketed crops must have a yield appraisal before they are harvested, if loss is anticipated.
- Do not destroy crop evidence that is needed to support your claim without clear direction, in writing, from the

insurance adjuster.

Producers having coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP administered by the USDA - Farm Service Agency have similar loss reporting requirements. NAP producers should contact the FSA Office that serves their farming operation to report losses and to review prevented planting options.

# Dairy Revenue Protection (DRP) Policy

While dairy prices have risen recently, concerns over the volatility of these higher prices might be a reason for dairy producers to take a closer look at the DRP Policy. Below are a few reasons why farms may want to consider learning more about the DRP Policy:

1. DRP provides protection against revenue decline due to unexpected price declines.
2. Flexible price protection: producers have either a class

pricing option (Class III and IV) or a component pricing option. Prices used for the final revenue guarantee are based on USDA Agricultural Marketing Service monthly average prices.



3. Purchased quarterly: coverage levels and protection factors can be changed for each 3-month coverage period.

4. Farms can have a DRP Policy and participate in the MPP (Margin Protection Program) at the same time.
5. Protection can be purchased for up to 15 continuous months (5 quarters).
6. Coverage levels range from 70-95 percent in 5 percent increments and premium subsidies range from 44-59

percent. Producers select a protection factor between 1.00 and 1.5 in 0.05 increments.

7. Like other Federal crop insurance policies, DRP is purchased from a licensed Federal crop insurance agent. If you have a current grain corn and/or a silage corn policy, a good place to start is with the agent who handles that policy, otherwise you can find an agent at the following link: <https://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#/>

# Notice: Spotted Lanternfly and Nursery Stock

Last year, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources ("MDAR") detected populations of the invasive pest known as spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) in multiple locations throughout the state.



Since this is the time of year that nurseries are receiving shipments of stock for the spring planting season, we are sending this notice to remind growers and landscapers

found, to ensure it does not harbor SLF egg masses, and to report any finds to MDAR. This reminder is especially important as MDAR has recently received several

reports that nursery stock from SLF-infested areas was sent to Massachusetts growers. Spotted lanternfly is a sap-feeding insect that has caused significant impacts to vineyards, orchards, and other agricultural commodities in states where it has become established. SLF not only harms grapevines, maples, hops, blueberries, and over 100 other host plants, but has the potential to negatively impact any outdoor business through the swarming behavior that occurs when adults

to inspect any plant material coming from states where SLF has been

are looking to mate. MDAR has continued to monitor high-risk areas in the state, but needs all green industry representatives to be on the lookout for this pest. Because SLF egg masses are flat and gray in color, they are difficult to detect, especially on tree bark.

For examples, please see this Pest ID Tool: <https://massnrc.org/pests/blog/?p=2680>. If you find an egg mass or any other life stage of SLF, please report it to MDAR immediately at <https://massnrc.org/pests/slf>.

## A&B Insurance Corner

Learn more about A&B at: [www.abinsgroup.com](http://www.abinsgroup.com)

**Let's get Personal, Umbrella, that is!**

Many homeowners are unaware there is an inexpensive way to protect themselves from a catastrophic loss. What is a personal umbrella and why should I have one? Umbrella insurance doesn't stand alone. It supplements other liability policies already in place, such as auto, homeowners, or renter's insurance. It's designed to kick in when the liability coverage on those policies has been exhausted.

What if you were sued and found liable in a case that exceeds your homeowner's or auto insurance liability limits? Where would that additional money come from? Savings, retirement money, real estate? This problem is easily avoided by purchasing a personal umbrella. A personal umbrella is an inexpensive way to protect your assets from a lawsuit. It not only protects you, but also the members of your family.

For example, your teen driver is involved in an at fault car accident resulting in serious injuries, you could be responsible for substantial medical costs, plus an award for pain and suffering. You have a visitor fall down your icy front steps and they are seriously injured. With the protection of your Personal Umbrella Policy (PUP), you'll get coverage first from your auto or homeowners insurance, and then your PUP will cover the rest, after deductibles and up to your coverage limit you have chosen.

None of us can predict an accident or the amount of damages that may be awarded but we can protect from the possibility of a catastrophic loss by purchasing a personal umbrella.

# Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee Happenings

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



## Urban Agriculture Webinar Series

*Cultivating Agriculture in an Urban Setting Webinar Series: Growing Relationships with Urban Lawmakers*

All lawmakers have an interest making sure their constituents are fed, but those representing suburban and urban populations often don't have all the information they need to make informed decisions on food- and agriculture-related policies. That's where Farm Bureau comes in. Join Farm Bureau staff from across the country to hear how their organizations are effectively connecting with urban office holders in state capitols and Washington, D.C.

The webinar will feature Raghela Scavuzzo, associate director of food systems development with Illinois Farm Bureau; Lauren Williams, senior associate director for national affairs with New York Farm Bureau; and Martha Moore, senior vice president of government relations for Virginia Farm Bureau. Randy Dwyer, director of advocacy and grassroots development for AFBF, will moderate the panel.

### Webinar Details

**Topic:** Growing Relationships with Urban Lawmakers

### Panelists:

- Raghela Scavuzzo, associate director of food systems development, Illinois Farm Bureau
- Lauren Williams, associate director for national affairs, New York Farm Bureau
- Martha Moore, vice president of government relations, Virginia Farm Bureau

### Moderator:

- Randy Dwyer, director of advocacy and grassroots development, AFBF

### Date and time:

Tuesday, May 24, 11:00 a.m.–noon Eastern

### Please use this URL to join:

<https://farmbureau.zoom.us/j/91996299549>

### Webinar Series

The Growing Relationships with Urban Lawmakers webinar is the second in a series of bi-monthly webinars focusing on various avenues of engagement with farmers and others in urban

settings. The first webinar in the series focused on leveraging AFBF's Ag Innovation Challenge to recruit and engage urban agriculture. You can watch a recording on Farm Bureau University (see below for details). Staff and leaders of state and county Farm Bureaus are welcome to attend.

The next webinar, airing live in July, will address urban farmer outreach and recruitment.

The final webinar will occur in September. All the webinars will be recorded and the webinar recordings and supporting materials, such as how-to toolkits and articles on related county Farm Bureau programs, will be available to Farm Bureau members and staff on Farm Bureau University (FBU). If you are not already registered on FBU, you can register at [university.fb.org](http://university.fb.org) using the code statefb, replacing "state" with your state's two-letter postal abbreviation. For example, New York members would use the code nyfb. Staff should add staff to their registration code (statefbstaff), as in nyfbstaff.

*If anyone is interested in hosting a virtual tour of their farm or joining the YF&R committee, please email Heather at [heatherbonanno@gmail.com](mailto:heatherbonanno@gmail.com).*

## Call For MFBF YF&R Board Members

Each county Farm Bureau has two seats on the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's (MFBF's) Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) committee board. Currently we have vacancies from the following counties:

- Berkshire (2)
- Bristol (1)
- Cape and Island (2)
- Franklin (2)
- Hampden (1)
- Hampshire (1)
- Middlesex (1)
- Plymouth (1)

We have approximately four meetings per year via zoom.com and in person (hybrid). We would love to have your support. If you are interested in serving, please email YF&R Chair Heather Bonanno-Baker at [heatherbonanno@gmail.com](mailto:heatherbonanno@gmail.com)

subsidized by MDAR, is \$150 per farm.

The Growing Your Farm business planning course has been approved as a certified USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) borrower training for financial management.

For more information about this course (including a more detailed course description), see the program webpage or contact Michael Parker at 857-895-0023.

## MDAR's Ag Business Training Program

*Offering Fall Classes!*

Exploring the Small Farm Dream Course - Oct. 5 to Nov. 2, 2022  
Wednesday evenings 6:00pm – 9:00pm, location TBD\*



This 5-session course provides guidance to aspiring farmers through the decision-making process of whether to start a farm business. Participants will learn about the many aspects of starting a farm business, assess their own skills and knowledge, and get help finding resources for support, including marketing, financing, and regulations. The Exploring the Small Farm Dream course utilizes the curriculum and workbook developed by the New England Small Farm Institute. Through four guided group sessions and a farmer panel session, participants will analyze the feasibility of their small farm dream and clarify their vision together with other class participants. This course is sponsored and financially

supported by MDAR and is intended for new agricultural entrepreneurs intended to start their farm business in Massachusetts. The course fee is \$100 for up to two participants per enterprise as space allows.

\*Plans are for an in-person class with the location to be determined based on interest from those who submit an application and are added to the waiting list. For more information about this course (including a more detailed course description), see the program webpage or contact Jess Camp at 617-823-0871.

Growing Your Farm Business Planning Course - Oct. 11 – Nov. 29, 2022 at MDAR office in Southborough, MA  
Tuesdays from 5:30 – 8:30pm

A hands-on course to help established farmers develop a business plan and financial projections for their farm business. This course covers topics including resource assessment, marketing strategy, financial management, risk management, quality of life, and goal setting. The course is taught by a professional business planner with years of experience working with Massachusetts farms and guest speakers on topics such as succession planning and online marketing. Enrollment is open to farmers who have been operating a farm business in Massachusetts for at least the two prior years. Eight weekly classes will be held on Tuesday evenings starting Oct. 11 and ending Nov. 29. The course fee,

## State Office Welcomes Nick John As New Government And Public Affairs Director

MFBF is welcoming Nick John to the team. Nick will be joining the staff beginning May 16 and will be responsible for government affairs and much of MFBF's member communications through *News and Views*, the *Weekly Update* and various social media platforms.



"It's hard to imagine a more appropriate candidate for Farm Bureau's needs," said Warren Shaw, MFBF President. "The hiring committee was impressed not only with his background and experience, but with his enthusiasm for Farm Bureau and working for our members."

Nick is coming to us from the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association where he was director of government affairs. He's also worked on Beacon Hill for a number of legislators, including a stint as chief of staff for Steve Kulik and legislative aide to John Scibak. Both Representatives Kulik and Scibak represented strong farm districts, so Nick is no stranger to ag issues. He's worked with Farm Bureau before on legislation such as the livestock care and standards board, allowing ATVs on roads for farm purpose, and agritourism bills. His background as a state house staffer also means he knows how to work with municipalities and state agencies. This is experience many lobbyists don't have, but which comes into play quite a bit at MFBF.

"I am thrilled to be joining the talented team MFBF," Nick said. "I look forward to committing my background and professional experience to representing the needs of the people behind Massachusetts' strong tradition of agriculture and ensuring that tradition continues for future generations."

Nick will be at various county and state Farm Bureau events this summer. If you see him, please introduce yourself and welcome him to Farm Bureau.

## African Swine Fever Vaccine Passes Tests Required For Regulatory Approval

Scientists with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service (ARS) have announced that a vaccine candidate for African Swine Fever (ASF) passed an important safety test required for regulatory approval, moving the vaccine one step closer to commercial availability.

The test is an important milestone as part of a series of safety studies. These new results show that USDA's vaccine candidate does not revert to its normal virulence, after being injected into swine. This "reversion to virulence" test is required to ensure that the vaccine's weakened form of the ASF virus does not revert to its original state.

"This is a critical milestone for the ASF vaccine candidate. These safety studies bring this vaccine one step closer to being available on the market," said senior ARS scientist Manuel Borca. These safety studies are necessary to gain approval for use in Vietnam and eventually in other countries around the world. Future

commercial use, however, will depend on approval from the department of animal health within each requesting country.

Although the virus is causing profound economic losses to the swine industry, there have not been any outbreaks in the United States. The highly contagious ASF virus spread from Africa to the Republic of Georgia in 2007, and has since swept through Central Europe and Asia, before reaching the Dominican Republic in 2021. The virus is unable to transmit from pigs to humans.

"It is very hard to predict how selective pressure can cause a live attenuated vaccine to return to virulence," said senior ARS scientist Douglas Gladue. "In the case of this particular vaccine candidate, ASFV-G-DI177L, we deleted a gene, which makes it difficult for the virus to simply add the gene



back. So, we expected reversion to its original form to be unlikely, but the test still has to be performed."

An attenuated vaccine strain retains much of its genetic makeup and could genetically change when exposed to various external circumstances. All live attenuated vaccines are weakened versions of a virus and can be used as a vaccine because the live vaccine virus will not cause illness and can still provide immunity.

This research is highlighted in this month's issue of *Viruses*. The vaccine candidate was recently selected by NAVETCO for commercial development in Vietnam. NAVETCO has partnered with ARS on ASF vaccine research and development since 2020. Further development will continue once the vaccine candidate receives regulatory approval from Vietnam.

## AFBF Welcomes Supreme Court Decision To Hear Prop 12 Case

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented on the U.S. Supreme Court decision to hear the case against California's Proposition 12 filed by AFBF and the National Pork Producers Council. The state law seeks to ban the sale of pork from hogs that don't meet the state's arbitrary production standards, even if the

pork was raised on farms outside of California.

"AFBF is pleased with the Supreme Court's decision to consider the constitutionality of California's law imposing arbitrary requirements on farmers well outside its borders. We share California's goal of ensuring animals are well cared for, but Prop 12 fails to advance

that goal. We look forward to presenting the facts to the Court, including how Prop 12 hamstring farmers' efforts to provide a safe environment for their animals, while harming small family farms and raising pork prices across the country. One state's misguided law should not dictate farming practices for an entire nation."

## 2023 AFBF Farm Dog of the Year Contest

*Continued From Page 2*

in heart rate and an increase in self-reported sense of well-being. Following the interaction with the dog, people were in a more positive emotional state.

"At Purina we recognize the important role dogs play on the farm and in the hearts of families everywhere," said Jack Scott, vice president of sustainability at Purina. "Purina has a long history of sourcing nutritious, sustainable ingredients from American farms to make our foods. We salute farmers and the important work they are doing to steward their land and help feed generations of



people and pets."

Desired attributes for the Farm Dog of the Year include helpfulness to the farmer and his/her family, playfulness and obedience.

Farm dog owners must be Farm Bureau members to enter their dogs in the competition. Prospective applicants who are not Farm Bureau members can visit

[fb.org/join](https://www.fb.org/join) to learn more.

Eligibility guidelines and submission requirements are available at <https://www.fb.org/land/fdoty>. Farm Dog of the Year nominations, which include written responses to questions, at least one still photo and a video clip (optional), must be received by July 1, 2022, for consideration.

The Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year contest is sponsored by AFBF. Bragging rights and a year's worth of dog food from Purina will be awarded to the People's Choice Pup.

# Producer Sentiment Improves With Strengthened Commodity Prices

The Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer improved in April, up 8 points to a reading of 121; however, it remains 32 percent below its reading from the same time last year. Producers' perspective on current conditions and future expectations saw an uptick over the past month. The Index of Current Conditions improved 7 points to a reading of 120, and the Index of Future Expectations improved 9 points to a reading of 122. The Ag Economy Barometer is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers' responses to a telephone survey.

"Rising prices for major commodities, especially corn and soybeans, appear to be leading the change in producers' improved financial outlook," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture. "However, it's hard to overstate the magnitude of the cost increases producers say they are facing."

The Farm Financial Performance

Index improved to a reading of 95, up 8 points from March, and 12 points higher than in January and February. As Mintert suggests, much of this could be attributed to the strengthened commodity prices. For example, Eastern Corn Belt cash prices for corn in mid-April rose more than 10 percent above their mid-March levels while bids for fall delivery of 2022 crop corn climbed 20 percent over the same period. Soybean prices rose as well. Near-term delivery prices for soybeans rose about 7% from mid-March to mid-April, while elevator bids for fall delivery of new crop soybeans climbed 5% over the one-month span.

Even as commodity prices have strengthened, producers continue to say higher input costs are the top concern for their farming operation. In April, 42 percent of producers chose higher input costs as their biggest concern, which was more than twice as many who chose government policies (21 percent) or lower output prices (19 percent). In April, 60 percent of survey respondents said they expect input prices to rise by 30

percent over the next 12 months. This compares to an average of 37 percent of respondents who said they were expecting a cost increase of this magnitude when the same question was posed in the December 2021 through March 2022 surveys.

When asked specifically for their expectations for 2023 crop input prices compared with prices paid for 2022 crop inputs, 36 percent of respondents said they expect prices to rise 10 percent or more and 21 percent of crop producers said input price rises of 20 percent or more are likely. The war in Ukraine has also added a new level of uncertainty for producers. Sixty percent of survey respondents said the biggest impact of the war on U.S. agriculture will be on input prices.

Crop input challenges extend beyond their inflated cost to their availability. In April, 34 percent of producers said they experienced some difficulty in purchasing inputs for the 2022 crop season, up from 27 percent in March. In a follow-up question, producers who said they had

some difficulty obtaining inputs said that herbicides (30 percent of respondents) were most problematic, followed closely by farm machinery parts (27), fertilizer (26 percent), and insecticides (17 percent). In a related question, 11 percent of crop producers said they received notice an input supplier would not be able to deliver one or more crop inputs they had already purchased for use in 2022. Of those, herbicide availability was the top problem reported.

Despite an overall improved financial performance outlook, the Farm Capital Investment Index remains at its all-time low. Supply chain problems remain a key reason many producers feel now is not a good time for making large investments in their farming operations. For example, just over 40% of producers said their farm machinery purchase plans were impacted by low machinery inventories. The rising cost of all inputs, including machinery, buildings, and grain bins, is likely another factor causing producers to say now is not a good time for large investments.

## Breaking Down The HPAI Outbreak

Highly pathogenic avian influenza was first detected in wild birds in South Carolina on Jan. 13 of this year. Poultry growers, remembering well the 2014-2015 outbreak, collectively held their breath, hoping that the second shoe – outbreaks in commercial and backyard flocks – wouldn't drop. Unfortunately, despite advanced biosafety protocols, the first outbreak in domesticated birds was detected on Feb. 8. Through April 7, USDA has announced more than 600 detections in wild birds across 31 states and 158 detections in commercial and backyard flocks across 25 states. The spread has many concerned that we may have an outbreak similar to the 2014-2015 outbreak on our hands. But how does the current outbreak really compare to the 2014-2015 outbreak? We dig in here.

### But how?

Remember back in grade school science classes when we learned that birds fly south in the winter and north in the spring? Dusting off that knowledge is the first step in understanding the spread of HPAI. Each year, wild birds migrate from north to south and back again over four different "flyways" – the Pacific, Central, Mississippi and Atlantic.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service operates a wild bird surveillance program,

monitoring the flyways for avian influenza viruses of concern in the United States. It is an early warning system for the introduction and spread of avian disease. It is because of this program that we knew that HPAI was present in the U.S. three and a half weeks before the first detection in a domesticated flock. This program allows APHIS and the poultry industry to take timely and rapid action to reduce the risk of spread to the poultry industry. However, according to Penn Vet, the AI virus can survive long periods of time in nature, especially in water at colder temperatures. The spring migration period, which occurs before and while water temperatures are rising, is an especially vulnerable time for the spread of HPAI from wild birds to domesticated birds. It is likely that detections of HPAI in domesticated birds will continue until the spring migration is over and water temperatures rise substantially.

HPAI makes its way into domestic flocks as infected wild birds travel across the landscape, shedding the virus through their droppings. Susceptible domesticated birds become infected when they have direct contact with wild birds or their droppings or, more commonly, indirectly through a contaminated environment. A contaminated environment can include straw and animal bedding, equipment and clothes and shoes.

HPAI is easily transferable, but it is also vulnerable to most detergents, disinfectants, heat and drying. This means that early alerts can lead to stronger biosafety protocols that, if followed strictly, can disrupt the spread of HPAI.

Due to the important role that wild bird migration plays in the spread of HPAI, it's helpful to look at the number of cases by flyway. For the most part, flyway boundaries follow state lines. However, the boundary between the Pacific and the Central flyways generally follows the Continental Divide. For this analysis, we have chosen not to divide states, but rather to define flyways with entire states. Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas make up the Central flyway. The Pacific flyway includes Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Arizona.

At 62%, the most active flyway

for detections in wild birds is the Atlantic flyway. Next up, the Mississippi flyway has had 137 detections, representing 23% of detections. The Central flyway has had 97 detections of HPAI in wild birds, 15%



of the total. The Pacific flyway has not had any detections in either wild or domesticated birds. Detections in domesticated flocks are more evenly divided. Among domesticated flock detections, 32 (27%) have been in the Atlantic flyway, 44 (37%) have been in the Mississippi flyway and 42 (36%) have been in the Central flyway.

### Outbreaks in Domesticated Flocks

Disease outbreaks in wild birds happen more often than we're aware because most of the time the disease doesn't get transmitted to domesticated poultry. And even when it does make its way into domesticated flocks, growers are able to isolate and minimize the spread. For example, in the modern era, strains of HPAI were found in

*Continued on Page 11*

# Allied Business Directory

## **Able Farm & Garden**

51 South Rd  
Pepperell, MA 01463-1634  
978-448-3144

**Products and Services:** landscaping and lawn supplies, mulch, loam, firewood, frozen meats, dairy, baked goods, honey, maple products, grab & go meals, gifts, décor.

## **Berkshire Agricultural Ventures**

314 Main Street Suite#11  
Great Barrington, MA, 01230  
413-645-3594  
glenn@berkshireagventures.org

**Products & Services:** Provides grants, loans, business and technical assistance to support local farms and food businesses in the Berkshire-Taconic region.

## **Blood Farm**

94 West Main Street  
West Groton, MA 01472  
978-448-6669

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

## **Cape Ann Tree Service**

Ten Fernwood Lake Ave.  
Gloucester MA 01930  
978-768-7700  
capeanntree.com  
capeanntree@gmail.com

**Products & Services:** We improve the outdoor living spaces of our clients- from tree work, to lawn care, masonry to landscape design and installation... we can do it all.

## **Chickadee Hill Farm Services**

Jeffrey Head  
366 Central St  
Rowley, MA 01969  
chickadeehillfarmservices@hotmail.com  
978-948-8620  
chickadeehillfarmservices.com

**Products & Services:** firewood, screened loam and compost, mulch, wood chips, lawn mowing and landscaping, pumpkins, Christmas trees and vegetables.

## **Colonial Restorations**

PO Box 868  
Fiskdale, MA 01518-0868  
508-735-9900  
http://www.cr1981.com  
info@cr1981.com

**Products & Services:** Colonial Restorations, LLC specializes in the structural restoration/repair of post and beam homes and barns throughout New England since 1981.

## **Eastern Solar**

Ken Nelson  
P.O. Box 60  
Wayland, MA 01778  
508-882-0102  
easternsolarservice.com  
easternsolarservices@hotmail.com

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

## **Greenfield Farmers Cooperative Exchange**

269 High Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
413-773-9639

greenfieldfarmerscoop.com  
**Products & Services:** Farm, Home, Garden and Pet Supplies, Nursery, Bulk Grain, Wood Pellets. Member Discount, Local Delivery

## **Harness / Horseman's Association of New England**

POB 1811  
Plainville, MA 02762  
508-918-8852  
www.hhane.com  
president@hhane.com

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

## **Higgins Power-sports**

140 Worcester Rd.  
Barre, MA 01005  
978-355-6343  
www.higginspowersports.com  
www.higginsenergy.com

**Products and Services:** LS Tractors & implements, DR & Husqvarna power equipment, Polaris & Can-Am ATV's, UTV's, Woodmaster outdoor furnaces, Vermont Castings, Jotul and HearthStone stoves

## **Hyperion Systems, LLC**

100 University Drive  
Amherst, MA 01002  
413-549-2900  
www.HyperionSystemsLLC.com  
**Products & Services:** Dual-use agricultural solar project development and research company. Funded by NREL and in collaboration with UMass Amherst.

## **M5 Landworks**

1 Mathewson St  
Plainville, MA 02762  
508-510-2004  
M5Landworks1@gmail.com

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

## **Major Landscaping**

626 Lindsey Street  
Attleboro, MA 02703  
508-431-4336  
majorlandscaping508@gmail.com  
**Products & Services:** Landscaping & construction

## **Massachusetts Nursery & Landscape Association**

P.O. Box 387  
Conway, MA 01341  
413-369-4731  
http://www.mnla.com/  
mnlaoffice@aol.com

**Products & Services:** MNLA is a statewide association dedicated to advancing the interests of "green industry" professionals.

## **Mulch By The Yard**

781-589-8534  
jphorigan@me.com

**Products and Services:** kiln dried pine shavings. American made. Free storage for 60 days on our trailer.

## **Otis Poultry Farm**

1570 North Main Rd  
Otis, MA 01253  
413-269-4438  
www.otispoultryfarm.com

**Products & Services:** Selections of chicken & turkey pies with & without vegetables in assorted sizes. They have a large selection of sheepskin slippers & sugarfree candy.

## **Pope Energy**

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

## **Progressive Grower Inc.**

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

## **Resource Management, Inc.**

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

## **Rice Fruit Farms**

757 Main St  
Wilbraham, MA 01095  
413-596-4002  
www.ricefruitfarm.com  
info@ricefruitfarm.com

**Products & Services:** bakery, fruits and vegetables, coffee, homemade ice cream, milk, eggs, local products, honey and olive oil.

## **SEMAP, Inc.**

P.O. Box 80625  
South Dartmouth, MA 02748  
508-524-2601  
www.semaponline.org  
kschwalbe@semaponline.org

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

## **Soares Flower Garden Nursery**

1021 Sandwich Rd  
East Falmouth, MA 02536  
508-548-5288  
www.soaresflowergardennursery.com  
soaresfgn@gmail.com

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

## **Sprague Energy**

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

## **The 107 Guys, LLC**

51 Wareham Street  
Carver, MA. 02330  
774-433-9903  
www.The107guys.com  
Mdozier@the107guys.com  
**Products & Services:** certified drone pilots throughout the USA providing NDVI, Thermal, and Aerial Spraying Services to farmers around the country.

## **The Mane Place**

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

## **World Farmers Inc.**

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

# Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$22.5 Million

*Continued From Page 5*

- (Worcester, MA): \$494,085
- Freedom Food Farm, LLC (Raynham, MA): \$108,709
- Beaus Seafood Company Inc. (Boston, MA): \$86,709
- Yellow Stonehouse Farm (Westfield, MA): \$32,255
- Farmer Dave's LLC (Dracut, MA): \$341,727
- Fruit Fair Supermarket (Chicopee, MA): \$497,701
- All Farmers (Springfield, MA): \$246,476
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Services (Springfield, MA): \$68,985
- The Neighborhood Farm, LLC (Westport, MA): \$308,551
- Mesivta of Greater Boston (Brighton, MA): \$148,784
- Sunny's Seafood Inc (Boston, MA): \$76,500
- Greenagers, Inc. (South Egremont, MA): \$75,557
- Adams Farm Slaughterhouse LLC (AFS) (Athol, MA): \$202,840
- Friends of Sholan Farms dba Sholan Farms (Leominster, MA): \$64,979
- Diemand Egg Farm, Inc. (Wendell, MA): \$189,576
- Sweet Brook Beef Company (Williamstown, MA): \$30,000
- The Kitchen Garden, LLC (Sunderland, MA): \$60,205
- Blue Stream Shellfish LLC (Ware, MA): \$205,672
- Commonwealth Kitchen (Boston, MA): \$500,000
- Holiday Brook Farm LLC (Dalton, MA): \$46,352
- Chatham Harvesters Cooperative (Chatham, MA): \$31,675
- Upswing Farm LLC (Pepperell, MA): \$112,330
- McKinstry Market Garden INC. (Chicopee, MA): \$76,228
- COMMUNITY FARMS OUTREACH d/b/a WALTHAM FIELDS COMMUNITY FARM (Waltham, MA): \$111,461
- Siena Farms, LLC (Sudbury, MA): \$302,381
- Lexington Community Farm (Lexington, MA): \$106,521
- City Fresh Foods, Inc. (Roxbury, MA): \$487,000
- Bay-Breeze Inc d.b.a Westport Sea Farms (Westport, MA): \$39,200
- Sustainable CAPE Center for Agriculture Preservation and Education (Truro, MA): \$57,592
- Cape Ann Fresh Catch Inc (Gloucester, MA): \$149,321
- Lyonsville Farm (Charlemont, MA): \$167,400
- Reed Farm, LLC (Greenfield, MA): \$500,000
- Nourishing the North Shore (Newburyport, MA): \$11,920
- Greenfield Farmer's Market (Greenfield, MA): \$862
- Go Fresh Mobile Market (Springfield, MA): \$112,176
- Newhall Fields Community Farm, Inc. (Peabody, MA): \$12,747
- Nubian United Benevolent International Association (Boston, MA): \$114,951
- Centre Street Food Pantry (Newton, MA): \$61,815
- Shellfish Broker LLC (South Chatham, MA): \$26,588
- Flying Carrot Farm (Dartmouth, MA): \$66,389
- Fishing Vessel Mystic (Hanover, MA): \$152,240
- Stone Soup LLC dba Langwater Farm (Easton, MA): \$153,179
- Agric Organics (Wilbraham, MA): \$45,627
- Ian Allen Farms (Sheffield, MA): \$137,329
- Ascia Foods, LLC (Roxbury, MA): \$435,887
- Hager Bros. Farm LLC. ( Colrain, MA): \$57,397
- The Dwelling Place (Woburn, MA): \$8,000
- North Plain Farm (Housatonic, MA): \$39,963
- Red Shirt Farm (Lanesborough, MA): \$77,591
- Henry M & Edward A Parsons dba Mayval Farm (Westhampton, MA): \$181,922
- Wellspring Harvest Corporation (Indian Orchard, MA): \$42,379
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (Oak Bluffs, MA): \$223,823
- DaSilva Farm (Rehoboth, MA): \$12,214
- The Common Good Project (Dorchester, MA): \$151,000
- Westward Orchards Inc (Harvard, MA): \$168,802

Since 2020, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded more than \$58 million in grants to 507 projects across the Commonwealth through the grant program.

## HPAI Outbreak

*Continued From Page 9*

domesticated flocks in 1983-1984 in Northeastern states, 2004 in Southern states, 2014-2015 in 21 states, 2016 in Indiana and 2017 in Alabama, Kentucky and Georgia.

The current outbreak is most often being compared to the 2014-2015 outbreak in which HPAI was detected in 21 states across the Pacific, Central and Mississippi flyways between December 2014 and June 2015. In total, APHIS reported 232 cases of HPAI in domesticated flocks across 15 states, of which 211 cases were in commercial premises in nine states. The outbreak led to the depopulation of more than 50.5 million commercial chickens, turkeys and other poultry to limit the spread of the disease. It is clear why comparisons between the 2014-2015 outbreak are making the poultry industry nervous. But, to make accurate comparisons between the current outbreak and the 2014-2015 outbreak it is important to drill down further. We do that here.

### Making Comparisons

#### Wild Birds

As mentioned earlier, APHIS in collaboration with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the National Flyway Council conducts active, scientific

monitoring for avian influenza in wild waterfowl. In both the 2014-2015 and 2022 outbreaks, HPAI was first detected in wild birds. In the 2014-2015 outbreak, the virus was discovered through passive monitoring of wild birds by USDA and USGS in December 2014. Once HPAI was detected, over 7,000 birds were sampled through collaborative surveillance effort, predominately in the Mississippi and Pacific flyways (29% and 48% of total samples, respectively). However, samples were also collected from the Atlantic flyway, Central flyway, and American Oceania. Between December 2014 and June 2015, there were 98 detections of HPAI influenza across 14 states.

As a result of the 2014-2015 outbreak, in 2015, USDA led an interagency effort to revise the National HPAI Surveillance Plan. A priority of the revised plan was to "determine the areas where HPAIV is located so poultry producers can be alerted and subsequently increase their biosecurity measures to help prevent direct or indirect introduction of HPAIV from wild birds. If HPAI-infected areas are detected, additional sampling efforts can then be undertaken to estimate prevalence in high-risk bird species." The revised plan has led to annual public

implementation plans that lay out which species will be monitored and the number of wild bird samples to be collected by state and watershed, among other details. The annual plans help ensure that research and surveillance efforts fill data gaps rather than collect redundant information.

During the winter season (December 2021-February 2022) national implementation plan dictated that 6,745 wild bird samples across 25 states in the Atlantic and Pacific flyways were to be collected. This is nearly as many planned samples as were conducted in 2014-2015 in response to the outbreak. Through April 7, 637 detections in wild birds have occurred across 31 states. The Atlantic, Mississippi and Central flyways (62%, 22%, 16% of total detections, respectively) have all had detections. Only the Pacific flyway remains detection free.

It is likely that at least some, and perhaps a significant portion, of the higher number of detections in the current outbreak are a result of increased sampling through the surveillance program. Time will tell if the more than six-fold increase in the number of detections in wild birds is an indication of a more severe outbreak or better

surveillance or a combination of the two.

#### Domesticated Birds

High path avian influenza strains are extremely infectious, often fatal to chickens, and can spread rapidly from flock-to-flock. To prevent suffering in the affected flocks and help curb the spread of the virus to other flocks, when HPAI is detected in a flock, the entire flock is depopulated. This is a heart-wrenching event for the grower, regardless of the size of the grower's flock. However, to more clearly understand the impact that an outbreak of HPAI will have on poultry and poultry products, it is important to divide detections into flock type.

In both the 2014-2015 outbreak and the current 2022 outbreak, detections can be divided into four categories: backyard/non-commercial, layers (including pullets), turkeys and other. During the entire 2014-2015 outbreak, there were 211 detections of HPAI in domesticated birds. Thus far in the 2022 outbreak, according to data through April 7, there have been 158 detections. This gives the impression that the 2022 outbreak may have a larger impact than the 2014-2015 outbreak, but nearly 40% of detections in 2022 have

*Continued on Page 13*

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# HPAI Outbreak

Continued From Page 11

been in backyard flocks. The two outbreaks have followed a similar pattern, with the largest share of detections occurring in turkey flocks, followed by layer and pullet flocks. The "other" category is exclusively broiler chickens, at this time. To isolate the market impacts of the ongoing HPAI outbreak, the rest of the article will focus exclusively on commercial flocks.

In addition to the differences (and similarities) in flock type, there are considerable differences in where detections are happening. During the 2014-2015 outbreak, 91% of detections in commercial flocks occurred in the Mississippi flyway. The remaining 8% and 1% of detections occurred in the Central and Atlantic flyways, respectively. Today, the Mississippi flyway is also the hardest hit, but not as overwhelmingly as 2014-2015, with 49% of detections in commercial flocks. With 35 detections, the Central flyway has 36% of commercial detections. The remaining 15% of detections have occurred in the Atlantic flyway.

Describing the incident of detection by flyway is important to appreciating the potential impact to different poultry and poultry product markets. The Mississippi flyway was home to more than 50% of commercial production of turkeys, broilers and layer hens and more than 40% of broilers in the last year. Growers in the Atlantic flyway were responsible for 40% of broiler production and more than 20% of turkey, layer and pullet production each. The latest data shows growers in the Central flyway were responsible for 10% or more of the production of broilers, layer hens and pullets. An increasing number of detections in commercial flocks in these critical flyways are likely to roil the markets. The "other" category includes state estimates that are not shown by USDA and states withheld by USDA to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

### Layer Hens and Pullets

During the 2014-2015 outbreak, there were 50 outbreaks of HPAI in commercial layer chicken flocks. Approximately 43 million egg-layer hens/pullets were affected by HPAI and died from the disease or were depopulated as part of the response. (A pullet is a hen under 1 year of age; it has not started laying eggs yet.) This depopulation was equivalent to 10.01% of the average U.S. inventory of layer chickens and 6.33% of the average U.S. inventory of pullet chickens. Eighty-eight percent of the

detections were in the Mississippi flyway. The remaining 12% were in the Central Flyway. Iowa (Mississippi flyway), the nation's largest egg-producing state, was particularly hard hit. Thirty-six detections of HPAI in commercial layer and pullet operations led to the euthanasian of more than 25 million egg-laying hens and 5 million pullets. As a result, egg production in 2015 was 3.2% lower than in 2014.

In 2022, nearly 17.9 million layers and 0.83 million pullets have been depopulated as a result of HPAI. Nationally, this is equal to 4.6% of the average number of laying hens on hand in 2021 and 0.7% of the total inventory of pullets as of Dec. 1, 2021. For some states, however, the impact has been much greater. Iowa, which had an average of 48.87 million layers in 2021, has had to depopulate more than 12.75 million layers, over a quarter of the total number of laying hens in the state. Also, hard hit in the Mississippi flyway is Wisconsin, which has had to depopulate more than 2.7 million hens, over 35% of the average number of laying hens in the state in 2021. In the Atlantic flyway, Maryland has been forced to depopulate more than 1.16 million hens, nearly 50% of the average number of laying hens in the state in 2021. Maryland has been forced to depopulate more than a quarter of the state's 1.225 million pullets as of Dec. 1, 2021.

### Turkeys

During the 2014-2015 outbreak, there were 160 outbreaks of HPAI in commercial turkey flocks. Approximately 7.4 million turkeys were affected by HPAI and died from the disease or were depopulated as part of the response. This depopulation was equivalent to 7.46% of the average U.S. inventory of turkeys and 3.16% of annual production. More than 92% of the detections then were in the Mississippi flyway. Seven percent were in the Central flyway and less than 1% was in Pacific flyway. Minnesota which is the nation's largest turkey producing state (Mississippi flyway), was particularly hard hit. One hundred and four detections of HPAI in commercial turkey operations in Minnesota led to the euthanasian of more than 4.8 million turkeys. Iowa was also hit hard, with 35 detections in commercial flocks. Combined, in 2014, Minnesota and Iowa raised nearly 24% of the nation's turkeys

In 2022 so far, more than 3.2 million turkeys have been depopulated as a result of HPAI.

Nationally, this is equal to 1.4% of the number of turkeys raised in 2021. Again, for some states, the impact has been much greater. South Dakota (Central flyway), which raised 4.5 million turkeys, or 2% of the nation's total production, in 2020 has had to depopulate 1.288 million turkeys – nearly 30% of the number of turkeys raised in the state in 2020. Minnesota, which raised 40 million head of turkeys in 2020 has had to depopulate more than 1 million turkeys, about 3% of what the state raised in 2020.

### Broilers

The broiler sector was largely spared during the 2014-2015

outbreak. Less than 0.01% of the average U.S. inventory was lost as a result of HPAI. In 2022, there have been nine detections of HPAI in commercial flocks. Thus far, a little more than 2.1 million birds have been depopulated, which represents a little more than 0.02% of the number of broilers raised in 2020.

### Economic and Trade Impact

A report from the Congressional Research Service estimated the value of turkey and laying hen losses due to the 2014-2015 HPAI

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## Recipe: Bacon Wrapped Asparagus Bundles

### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 pounds asparagus spears, trimmed 4 to 5 inches long tips
- Extra-virgin olive oil, for drizzling
- A few grinds black pepper
- 4 slices center cut bacon or pancetta
- Chopped chives or scallions, optional garnish



### How to make

1. Preheat oven, if using, to 400 degrees F.
2. Lightly coat asparagus spears in extra-virgin olive oil. Season the asparagus with black pepper. Take a quick count of the spear tips. Divide the total number by four. Gather that number of spears and use a slice of bacon to wrap the bundle and secure the spears together. Repeat with remaining ingredients.
3. To grill, place bundles on hot grill and cover. Cook 10 to 12 minutes until bacon is crisp and asparagus bundles are tender.
4. For oven preparation, place bundles on slotted broiler pan. Bake 12 minutes

Recipe from: <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/rachael-ray/bacon-wrapped-asparagus-bundles-recipe-1915631>

## HPAI Outbreak

Continued From Page 13

outbreak at nearly \$1.6 billion. The same report estimated that economy-wide losses were \$3.3 billion. The economic impact was heightened due to restrictions imposed by trading partners. Eighteen partners cut off poultry trade with the U.S. entirely, an estimated loss of \$898 million in 2014. Thirty-eight countries followed a regionalization approach to trade restrictions, limiting U.S. exports of poultry and poultry products only from those states with HPAI detections. This allowed trade to continue from parts of the U.S. that were not affected. CRS estimates that this helped to preserve 86% of the value of traded U.S. poultry and poultry products (including eggs), based on 2014 values.

It's too early to know how large of an impact the 2022 outbreak will have on the U.S. poultry sector. When comparing the week-by-week data on HPAI detections in 2022 relative to 2015 a few things are evident. Significant detections of HPAI in commercial flocks started about five weeks earlier in 2022, and they have risen more quickly than in 2015. The chart below is also a good reminder that water temperatures warm much more slowly than air temperatures, i.e., during the 2014-2015 outbreak, the last reported new case was in Iowa on June 17, 2015. We potentially have a long way to go before the spread from migrating wild waterfowl ends. The ability to contain the spread to other commercial flocks through

high biosecurity measures is paramount.

The other key element depends on our trading partners continuing to follow a regional approach to trade restrictions. So far, so good on that front. Trade partners, like China, that did not follow a regional approach in 2015 are following a regional approach so far. In China's case, states with detections in domesticated flocks (commercial or otherwise) are finding themselves added to the list of states ineligible to export to China, while all other states may continue to do so. You can keep up to date on each country's changing list of ineligible products here.

## From MDAR: Sale & Use Of Chlorpyrifos

In August 2021, EPA issued its final rule ("Rule") relative to the active ingredient chlorpyrifos. The Rule stated that registered food uses of chlorpyrifos will be revoked on Feb. 28, 2022. This means that any product containing chlorpyrifos will no longer be able to be used on food crops.

A food use is considered to be the following:

Terrestrial Food Crops and Greenhouse Food Crops including: Alfalfa, apple, asparagus, banana, bean (snap, lima), beet (sugar, table, including crops grown for seed), blueberry, brassica

(cole) leafy vegetables (bok choy, broccoli rabe, broccoli, Brussels sprout, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, cauliflower, collard, kale, kohlrabi), caneberry, cherimoya, cherry (sour, sweet), citrus (lemon, orange, grapefruit and citrus, other) citrus orchard floor, corn (field, sweet, including crops grown for seed), cotton, cranberry, cucumber, date, feijoa, fig, grape, kiwifruit, leek, legume vegetables, mint, nectarine, onion (dry bulb), pea, peach, peanut, pear, pepper, plum, prune, pumpkin, radish (including crops grown for seed), rutabaga, sapote, seed and pod vegetables, sorghum (grain, milo), soybean, strawberry, sugarcane, sunflower,

sweet potato, tree nuts (almond, filbert, pecan, walnut, other), turnip, wheat, and seed treatment.

Commercial Livestock Uses: Cattle ear tags, poultry houses, turkey barns, swine barns, and dairy barns only. Ear tags containing chlorpyrifos may be used on beef and non-lactating dairy cattle, and on cattle in mating and cow-calf operations, as long as the animals are not offered for slaughter within one year of tag removal. Operators should maintain records to capture dates of ear tag removal and when animals are sent to slaughter.

Continued on Page 15

## New England Leopold Conservation Award Seeks Nominees

Know a farmer or forestland owner who goes above and beyond in their care and management of natural resources? Nominate them for the 2022 New England Leopold Conservation Award®.

Sand County Foundation and national sponsor American Farmland Trust present the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners in 23 states for extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. In New England the \$10,000 award is presented with, New England Forestry Foundation and Wildlands Woodlands Farmlands & Communities.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the award recognizes landowners who inspire others with their dedication to soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat on private, working land. In his influential 1949 book, A Sand County Almanac, Leopold



called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage.

Nominations may be submitted on behalf of a landowner in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Landowners may also nominate themselves. The application can be found at [www.sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA](http://www.sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA).

The application deadline date is July 18, 2022. Applications can be emailed to [award@sandcountyfoundation.org](mailto:award@sandcountyfoundation.org). If mailed, applications must be postmarked by July 18, and mailed

to:  
Leopold Conservation Award  
c/o New England Forestry Foundation  
P.O. Box 1346  
Littleton, MA 01460

Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel of agricultural and forestry conservation leaders.

"As a national sponsor for Sand County Foundation's Leopold Conservation Award, American Farmland Trust celebrates the hard work and dedication of farmers, ranchers and forestland owners," said John Piotti, AFT President and CEO. "At AFT we believe that conservation in agriculture requires a focus on the land, the practices and the people and this award recognizes the integral role of all three."

"Recipients of this award are real life examples of conservation-minded agriculture," said

Kevin McAleese, Sand County Foundation President and CEO. "These hard-working families are essential to our environment, food system and rural economy."

The New England Leopold Conservation Award is made possible through the generous support of American Farmland Trust, New England Forestry Foundation, Wildlands Woodlands Farmlands & Communities, Sand County Foundation, David and Ann Ingram, Farm Credit East, Yale School of the Environment and Whole Foods Market.

The first recipient of the award was Bill Hull of Hull Forest Products in Pomfret Center, Connecticut. Cranberry grower Linda Rinta and the Rinta Family Farm of West Wareham, Massachusetts received the award in 2020. Choiniere Family Farm from Highgate Center, Vermont received the award last year.

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**FOR SALE:** Buckhorn vented/ stackable/plastic field bins 40x48x16 \$60/bin or bulk pricing. 508-866-1149 or 508-269-3693

**FOR SALE:** Collapsible RPCs 24x16x8 \$10/or bulk pricing. 508-866-1149 or 508-269-3693

**ESTATE SALE:** Kuhn PZ170 drum mower, used once, side delivery rake, tedder and New Holland square baler, \$2,500; 1995 INTL flatbed dump truck w/sideboards and winch, 32,000 GVW has most recent inspection sticker, \$6,000; JD 350 crawler, needs motor, many good parts, \$250. East Taunton Call 774-501-1919 before 9 p.m.

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## From MDAR: Sale & Use Of Chlorpyrifos

*Continued From Page 14*

Please note that, this does not impact non-food uses of chlorpyrifos. EPA is currently still evaluating non-agricultural, non-food uses. There

may be some products whose labels contain both non-food uses and food-uses. Please note that the manufacturers will need to amend those labels. Until such time that

the labels are amended, individuals using the products may not use products containing chlorpyrifos for food-uses.

Should you have additional questions please feel free to reach out to Taryn at: taryn.lascola@mass.gov.



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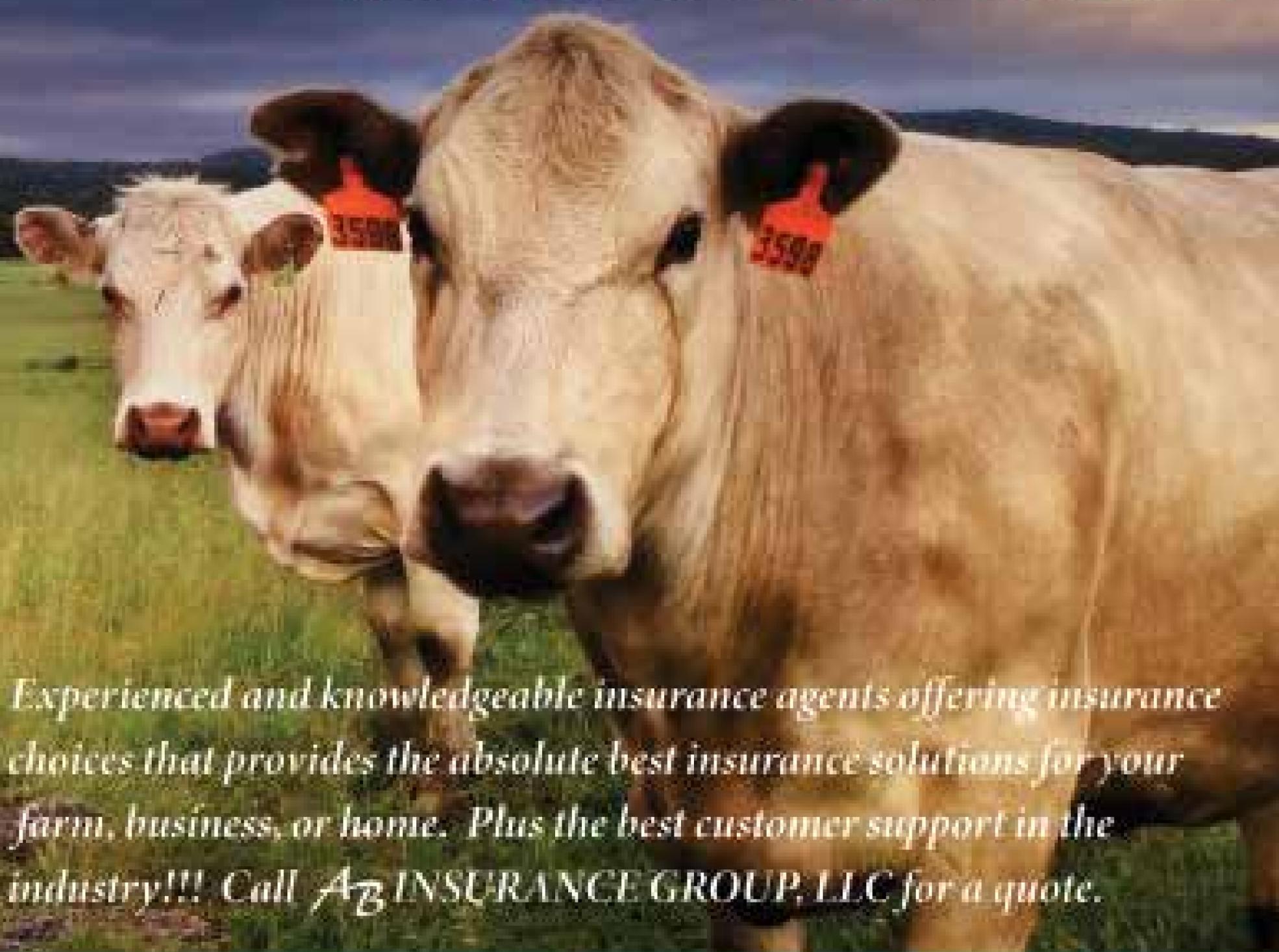
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