



Mitigating Risks, Connecting With Consumers Featured Topics at MFBF's Annual Meeting

FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS - Dec. 1, 2017 - Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) members met in Framingham yesterday for their annual meeting, during which discussion ensued about risk management programs, bring Massachusetts agriculture to life in the classroom and marketing the organization.



"With Massachusetts farmers representing less than 1 percent of the population, we must focus on ways to connecting with our consumers - and on ways to mitigate our risks," said MFBF President Ed Davidian, who farms in Northborough. "When we come to our statewide annual meeting, we want to know how to be better advocates for our production methods and our business. Today, we saw our members really hone in and focus on those topics."

In addition other topics of yesterday's workshops included pesticide licensing procedures, firearm safety, running an effective board meeting and more. Members left the day's sessions with a refreshed perspective on issues facing Massachusetts agriculture.

Mid-afternoon Worcester County Farm Bureau hosted its "Taste of the County" event, during which attendees sampled the delicious food and drink that the county had to offer.

In addition, awards were presented throughout the day noting Farm Family agents' accomplishments, county Farm Bureaus' gains in membership and more. Most notably, the following awards were presented today:

- County of the Year: Worcester County Farm Bureau
- Farm Family Agent of the Year: Dale Johnson
- Farm Family Agent with Highest Regular Member Retention: Dick Blair
- Rising Star Farm Family Agent: Eric Mason
- Greg Finn Scholarship Winner: Erin Norris, who is attending UConn
- John Ogonowski Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture: Frank Carlson, who farms in

Harvard

- Achievement Award: Heidi and James Cooper, who farm in Rochdale
- Excellence in Agriculture Award: Meg Gennings, who assists Lilac Hedge Farm in Holden

The 2018 Horse Farm of Distinction award was also presented to the 32 following farms:

Berkshire County

Undermountain Farm

Bristol County

Blackhorse Farma

Bristol County Agricultural High School

Chipaway Stables, Inc.

Lucky Buck Stables

Teaberry Farm

Ventura Stables

Cape & Islands

Holly Hill Farm

Smithfield Farm

True North Farm LLC

Essex County

Back Bay Farm, Inc.

High Tail Acres, LLC.

Hunters Haven Farm

Indian Rock Stables

Lalobarun Ranch

The Barnyard Maples

Windrush Farm Therapeutic Equitation, Inc.

Hampden County

Silvercryst Farm

Hampshire County

Greene Acres Equestrian Center

Middlesex County

Berryfield Farm

Harmony Horse Stables, LLC.

Lovelane Special Needs Horseback Riding Program

Pompositicut Farm Inc.

Sterling Riding Stables

The Ponderaia

Wildstar Farm LLC.

Norfolk County

Yankee Stables

Plymouth County

Briggs Stable, LLP.

Creek Crossing Farm

Whit Acres Farm

Worcester County

Holly Hill West Inc.

Walking High Farm

Additional information about the MFBF's annual meeting agenda, location and more is available

[here](#). Those who cannot attend in person can view the digital conversation on MFBF's [Facebook](#) and/or [Twitter](#).

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The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation is a non-profit organization representing nearly 6,000 family members across the Commonwealth. MFBF is an advocate for farmers, run by farmer members who develop policies through its grassroots process. Its mission is "to protect the rights, encourage the growth, and be of service to its members, in the best interest of agriculture."

For more information about the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, please visit www.mfbf.net.

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