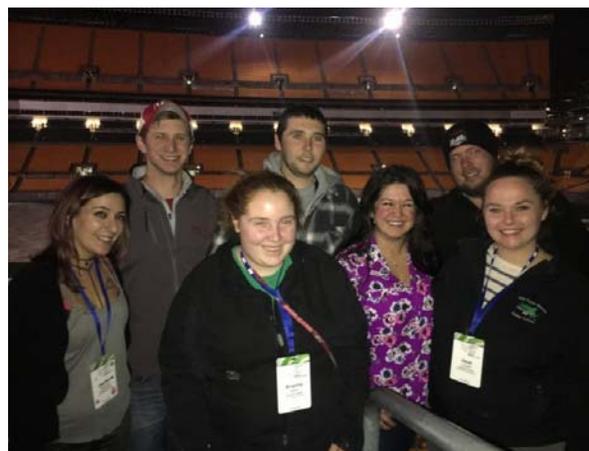




MFBF Young Farmers Attend National Conference For Learning, Leadership Opportunities

MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS - Feb. 14, 2017 - Seven Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) members, who serve on the statewide young farmers & ranchers committee (YF&R), participated in tours, breakout sessions and networking opportunities at American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) FUSION conference this week in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



"It is heartening to see such a strong delegation of Massachusetts young farmers attend this national conference," said MFBF President Ed Davidian, who farms in Northborough. "With the average age of farmers across the nation on the rise, it is important that we develop the skills and knowledge of the young people who are farming."

While in Pittsburgh, members learned about innovation and financial planning; economic and rural growth; advocacy, outreach and education; and leadership training and implementation.

"The skills that these young farmers gained at this conference will stay with them for their entire life and help develop them into our future leaders," Davidian said.

MFBF members who attended this conference, included:

- Jamie Cruz, MFBF YF&R chair and Littleton farmer
- Heidi Cooper, MFBF YF&R vice chair and Rochdale farmer
- Brianna Mann, MFBF YF&R secretary/treasurer and Malden farmer
- Ryan MacKay, MFBF past YF&R chair and Jefferson farmer
- Heather Bonanno, Methuen farmer
- James Cooper, Rochdale farmer
- Chris Grant, Essex farmer

This conference also concluded Cruz's two-year appointment to the National YF&R committee.

According to Cruz, "it has been an amazing journey serving on the AFBF YF&R Committee and it is something I hope all of YF&R State Committee members will at least apply for."

Click [here](#) to view the most recent updates from the MFBF YF&R committee on Facebook.

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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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