



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Massachusetts Farm Bureau Recognized For Excellence In Innovation**

MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS - Jan. 13, 2021 - The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) was honored at American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF's) virtual convention this week with the New Horizon Award. This annual award recognizes Farm Bureaus that implement new, innovative programs.

"Martha's Vineyard Farm Bureau became our twelfth county Farm Bureau and this addition qualified us for AFBF's New Horizon Award," said MFBBF President Mark Amato. "We are proud of the work both staff and volunteers put into successfully developing a new County Farm Bureau in the Commonwealth."

By adding Martha's Vineyard Farm Bureau, MFBF is now comprised of 12 county Farm Bureaus with nearly 6,000 members. Previously, this county was part of the Cape and Islands County Farm Bureau.

"It is tough to have farmers take the ferry for meetings on the mainland," said Dan Martino in a previous press release. Martino serves as president of the Martha's Vineyard Farm Bureau. "But that is not the only reason for forming a new county. Farmers on Martha's Vineyard and the other islands that make up Dukes County face diverse and unique challenges and opportunities. Examples include the variety of agricultural practices, geographic isolation, elevated real estate values, finite agricultural lands, the seasonal population influx from tourism and the community desire for agricultural self-sufficiency. For these reasons, the time was right to begin a new chapter, leveraging our strong agricultural community, with focused plans and defined solutions."

This county Farm Bureau joins 2,800 county Farm Bureaus nationwide and will be a valuable asset to MFBF moving forward.

To learn more about MFBF, please visit [www.MFBF.net](http://www.MFBF.net).

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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 statement is to "strengthen a diverse agricultural community by supporting and advocating for Massachusetts farm families." Its vision is to "envision 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." For more information about the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, please visit [www.mfbf.net](http://www.mfbf.net).*

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