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**Governor**  
**Deval Patrick**

in Governor's  
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SEARCH

The Administration	Constituent Services	Press Office	Agenda	Legislation & Executive Orders	Get Involved
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[Home](#) > [Press Office](#) > [Press Releases](#) >

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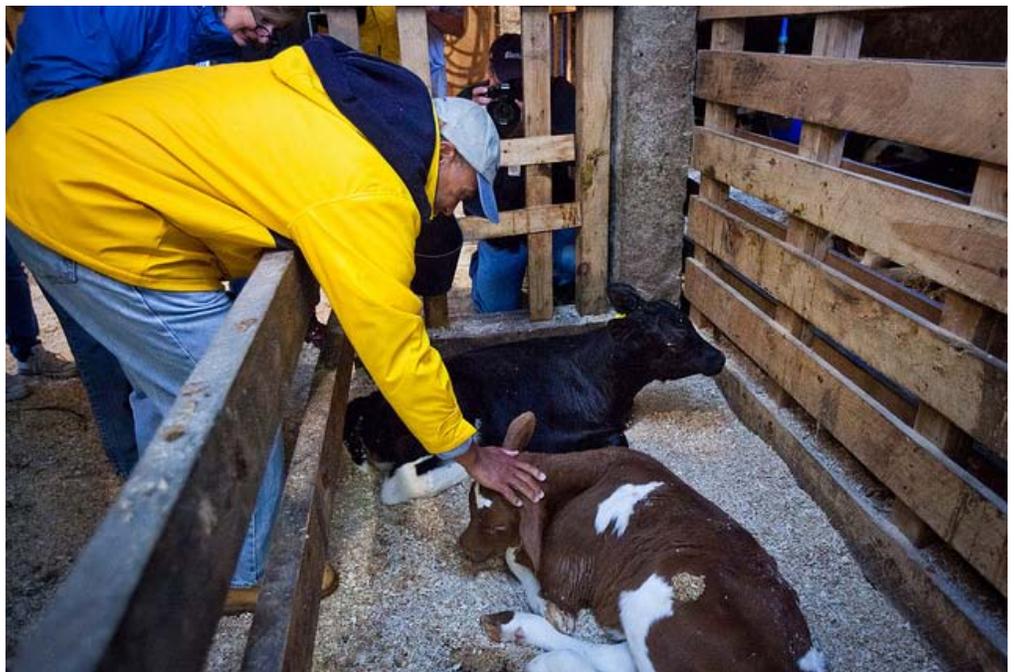
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For Immediate release - June 05, 2012

## GOVERNOR PATRICK CELEBRATES MASSACHUSETTS DAIRY INDUSTRY

**"Dairy Month" recognizes Commonwealth dairy farmers for their contributions to Massachusetts economy**



*Governor Patrick pets a cow at Hornstra Farm in Norwell to kick off June as Dairy Month. (Photo credit: Eric Haynes / Governor's Office). [View additional photos.](#)*

NORWELL – Tuesday, June 5, 2012 – Governor Deval Patrick today joined Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) Commissioner Greg Watson, members of the Massachusetts Dairy Promotion Board (MDPB) and leaders of the state's dairy industry at Hornstra Farm in Norwell to officially kickoff June as Dairy Month.

"Our state's dairy farmers work year-round, every day of the week, to produce local dairy products that are both delicious and healthful," said Governor Patrick. "I want to thank them for their hard work and applaud them for the economic benefits their industry provides to the Commonwealth."

There are approximately 155 dairy farms located across the state, which together produce roughly 246 million pounds of milk. According to the United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, Massachusetts dairy farms generated \$43.9 million in sales in 2010.

Massachusetts dairy farmers, like many farmers in the state, have also recognized the opportunities in diversifying their businesses to better compete in the marketplace. Many now sell compost, hay, eggs, fruits, vegetables, maple syrup, beef and more.

"Recognizing the positive impact dairy farming has on agriculture and our communities reminds us that preserving and supporting dairy farms assures a steady supply of local dairy products, preserves open space and sustains local jobs," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan.

During the month of June, DAR and MDPB are promoting dairy farming with an MBTA commuter rail campaign highlighting the importance of local dairy farms.

"Massachusetts dairy farmers and milk processors show their dedication every day to providing residents across the state with fresh, high quality milk and dairy products," said Commissioner Watson. "That drive is one of many reasons to celebrate dairy farmers and the industry as a whole."

The Massachusetts Dairy Promotion Board is funded by the state's dairy farmers. MDPB was formed to promote Massachusetts dairy products in an ever-growing and competitive marketplace. The MDPB helps promote increased consumption of dairy products through effective use of promotion, education and research. Learn more at [www.massdairy.com](http://www.massdairy.com).

DAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of local agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – Agricultural Development, Animal Health, Crop and Pest Services, and Technical Assistance – the DAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the Commonwealth's agricultural community, working to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit DAR's website at [www.mass.gov/agr](http://www.mass.gov/agr), and/or follow at [twitter.com/mdarcommish](https://twitter.com/mdarcommish).

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