

**Massachusetts Department of
Agricultural Resources (MDAR)**

Farm & Market Report

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COMMISSIONER'S COLUMN

Agricultural Commissions: An Idea Whose Time Has Come!

by Douglas P. Gillespie

It soon will be Town Meeting season in Massachusetts, and that brings with it a bunch of local actions that can impact upon farming activities. We've seen communities attempt noise bylaws, and prohibitions on the keeping of bees, or the growing of certain crops. Any of these actions if passed would make it more difficult to farm in that community, and yet these ideas often come from well-intentioned residents!

Several decades ago nearly every community in Massachusetts had at least one farmer on major town boards and committees. Even as we evolved into bedroom commuting towns, farmers who lived and worked in the town were sought out to serve, because they offered stability and continuity to town government. However, as our towns have grown, and newcomers have moved in and gotten involved, farmers have, by default, lost valuable input into local government decisions. Thus, we suggest as a possible solution, the creation of municipal Agricultural Commissions.

Agricultural Commissions are not a brand new idea; several have been around in certain towns for several decades. However, the need has escalated to the point where MDAR believes that they are essential if viable farm businesses are to continue in most towns. Thus, we have made a commitment of staff and resources to assist farmers' efforts to establish Agricultural Commissions in many Massachusetts communities during the next year or so. That effort, in its infancy, has been successful. We're now up to 14 towns with established Agricultural Commissions (or reasonable facimiles), and a dozen more poised to vote on the concept this Spring. How is your community doing?

Agricultural Commissions exist in the following municipalities: Amherst, Dartmouth, Deerfield, Hadley, Harwich, Hatfield, Middleboro, Montague, Plympton, Rehoboth, Rowley, Sterling, Westport and Whately. We will be working with each of these boards during the coming year to provide training to members, ensuring that they can be effective in their responsibilities.

Agricultural Commissions are a standing committee of town government, created through a vote of Town Meeting and appointed by the Board of Selectment or governing body of the town. The AgComm represents the farming community, encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, and preserves, revitalizes and sustains agricultural businesses and land. In some communities they focus on farmland preservation efforts, while in others they review regulatory proposals developed by other town boards (planning board, board of health, conservation commission, etc), or provide marketing coordination to assist all farms in town. Others have played key roles in mediating farmer/neighbor disputes, or simply providing referrals for farmers needing

better information. By working within town government through an Agricultural Commission, farmers enhance their credibility, and are viewed as part of the problem-solving team. By establishing an AgComm through a Town Meeting vote, the town is on record as supportive of retaining farming as a viable business in town.

MDAR has worked with the Attorney General's office, the Farm Bureau, and others to develop a model "right-to-farm" bylaw for consideration by municipalities. It reaffirms and reinforces state statutes, and provides a notification provision that we hope reduces farm-related complaints at the local level. While we urge towns to consider adopting such a bylaw, we believe it can best be effective after an Agricultural Commission is already in place. Once your town is comfortable that the AgComm is a good thing, then you may be ready to advance the bylaw concept.

This administration feels so strongly that AgComms and right-to-farm bylaws are critical to enhancing agriculture, that both items are included in scoring criteria for the state's Commonwealth Capital Fund programs that include many infrastructure grants to cities and towns.

The Pilgrim RC&D Area Council has developed a great CD-ROM containing everything you need to campaign for an AgComm in your town. MDAR staff and consultants, as well as AgComm members in other towns are ready to assist you. But we cannot do it FOR you. Establishing an Agricultural Commission in any town must come as a result of efforts by the farmer in that town and the neighbors who support the cause.

So how is your town doing? Most town meeting warrants will close by month's end, so unless you're already underway with your effort it may be too late for this Spring. But start now to prepare for Fall town meetings. Information is available on our website at www.mass.gov/agr/agcom. or by calling out informational line at (617) 626-1726.

Let's keep the momentum and develop effective Agricultural Commissions throughout Massachusetts. The time and effort you'll invest will pay dividends for decades to come!

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Farmers' Markets Seeking Vendors for '05

- North Adams, Contact Everett Randall 413-743-3111, or Rod Bunt, 413-664-6180, tourist@bcn.net
- Worcester Westside, Mondays, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm, June to October, Contact Andy O'Keefe, 508-753-7761.

Proposed New Markets:

- Boston, Summer Street Market (South Station), Monday and Thursday, 11:30 - 7:00 and possibly a weekend day. Contact Jeff Cole, 781-893-8222. Sponsored by the Boston Public Market Association.
- Brighton, Dennis Minihane, 617-254-1130
- Brockton downtown - Friday afternoons, contact [Jeff Cole](#), 781-893-8222
- Brookfield, Sarah Heller, 508-867-8494 or gohls@mac.com
- Chelmsford, Parlee's Pine Hill Nursery, Karen Bagni, 978-250-5960, kmb3g@comcast.net
- Dorchester/Four Corners, Natalie Jean, 617-287-1651 or fourcms@hotmail.com
- East Boston, Jackie Rosatto, 617-833-3304 or Jackie_rosatto@hotmail.com
- Hyannis, Jim Miller, jmiller@capecod.edu
- Lexington, Sonia Demarta, 781-860-0729, or maranatha@rcn.org
- Medfield, Laura Einbinder, 508-359-2268 or laura_einbinder@yahoo.com
- Otis, Jeanette Myer, 413-269-9931 or turtlerunfarm@webtv.net
- Provincetown, Fridays, Rex McKinsey, 508-487-7115 or piermanager@provincetown-ma.gov
- Roxbury, Riche Zamor, 617-541-3900, x231
- South Hadley, Linda Kurowski, 413-538-5042, ikurowski@hotmail.com
- Wareham, Susan Lauerman, 508-291-4316 or slauerman@admakepeace.com
- Wayland, Thursdays at Russell's Garden Center, Contact Melissa Szathmary, 508-358-2283 x 386 or melissa@russellsgardencenter.com
- Worcester/East Side, Tuesdays, 2:30pm – 6:30 pm, Contact Andy O'Keefe, 508-753-7761.

For more information on selling at farmers' markets contact David Webber at 617-626-1754, david.webber@state.ma.us.

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“Does Your Town Need an Agricultural Commission?”

The last of the three informational meetings is :

- January 31st at the Holden Town Hall, 6:30 - 8:30pm.

The meeting will introduce farmers, local officials and interested parties to the benefits and process of establishing local Agricultural Commissions. These meetings are being sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.

“Worcester County ranks first in direct sales to consumers of agricultural products sold in Massachusetts, with a proud history behind it. But like everywhere in this state, development pressures are crowding farms and making them less and less viable. A local Agricultural Commission can give farmers a voice in town government, can educate the residents on the value of working farms, and can promote the products and services

offered by agriculture,” according to Doug Gillespie, Commissioner of the Department.

Commission members and local officials from communities with Ag Commissions will talk about their experiences in passing a local by-law at Town Meeting and in getting themselves up and running. The Department is encouraging communities to consider putting an article on their Town Meeting warrants this spring. For more information, contact [Mary Greendale](#) at 508-429-2813. For further information on Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Berkshire Counties, please contact [Pete Westover](#) at 413-665-4077.

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Export Essentials Online

Export Essentials Online, is an online program for growers and food companies interested in learning the basics of exporting. Consisting of 10 modules, Export Essentials Online addresses both general and specific information that every company should know before they begin exporting. This site is secured and users are given their own password and user identification to log-in to the system. Export Essentials Online is a fully automated system. Contact bonita.oehlke@state.ma.us for more information.

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Water Quality Improvement Funding: Round 1 Completed

The Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) closed the first round of funding on November 26, 2004. The \$200,000 available was awarded to twenty applications. Nine of the awards were made to livestock operation, two to shellfish growers, five to vegetable/fruit operations, and four to cranberry growers.

Round 2 of AEEP will close on April 1, 2005. An application is available on the Department's website or by calling the Coordinator, Susan Phinney, at 617-626-1772.

All funded projects must be completed by June 30, 2005.

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SEMAP Event To Connect Regional Growers with Local Restaurants, Chefs, and other Buyers

The [Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership \(SEMAP\)](#) will hold a winter networking event on Monday, February 7, 2005, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the UMass Dartmouth Professional and Continuing Education Center, 800 Purchase Street, New Bedford.

Growers/Producers: Looking for new markets for your products? Want to establish direct contact with local restaurants and food buyers? Interested in a program that can help you follow up on these connections and find new local buyers?

The meeting will provide a business-to-business forum for local restaurants, caterers, food purveyors, distributors, and purchasing agents to connect face-to-face with regional growers.

Registration is free and open to anyone who has an interest in this process. Pre-registration is appreciated, but not necessary. To register, contact Cindy Scheller at caddisco@verizon.net or 508-642-9004. Please leave your name, business name, phone number and number attending. Directions are available at www.umassd.edu/directions/newbedford.cfm.

Attendees will have an opportunity to meet with growers and buyers from throughout the Southeast Massachusetts region (Bristol, Barnstable, Plymouth, Dukes, and Nantucket counties) as well as nearby Rhode Island. They will also be introduced to the upcoming [SEMAP](#) Business-to-Business Network, which will facilitate grower/buyer contact and commerce throughout the growing season.

Refreshments will be provided by Café Arpeggio and an exciting door prize of a Getaway Weekend for two, courtesy of The Standard-Times of New Bedford, will be awarded.

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How to Eat Locally In February

The desire for making good local food available and accessible remains a [Berkshire Grown](#) principal. Since finding local food in February can be a daunting task, Berkshire Grown is pleased to announce its first “How to Eat Locally in February” dinner series happening at restaurants in north, central and south Berkshire County.

The series builds on the success of an impromptu dinner held early last February at Castle Street Café in Great Barrington. Exemplary Berkshire Grown Professional Member Michael Ballon hosted the event with a menu featuring local products. With almost no publicity, the typically slow midweek off season night drew a crowd that filled the dining room. It was obvious that this dinner needed to evolve and expand.

“Local food is not just summer produce,” says Danielle Mullen, Berkshire Grown’s Executive Director. “Our very talented chefs are committed to supporting local agriculture year round, and they are offering seasonal menus that reflect local product availability.”

This dinner series celebrates Berkshire Grown Farmers in the off season. Menus will be featuring local cheeses, mushrooms, beef, chicken, and pork prepared with local milk, eggs, butter, and locally made pastas. Desserts will be utilizing maple syrup, local cream, and apples. Farms being used include Ioka Valley Farm in Hancock, Blue Moon Shrooms in Housatonic, and Highlawn Farm in Lee. Local artisan food products being featured include Michael Miller’s Berkshire Blue, Berkshire Mountain Bakery, and Stellar Pasta.

Dinners are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, February 8, Gramercy Bistro, 24 Marshall Street, North Adams
- Wednesday, February 16, Rouge Restaurant and Bistro, 3 Center Street, West Stockbridge.
- Tuesday, February 22, The Old Inn on the Green, Route 57, New Marlborough.

All dinners begin at 6:30 p.m. Menus and pricing vary for each dinner. Seating is limited and reservations are required. For details and reservations contact Berkshire Grown at 413-528-0041 or www.berkshiregrown.org

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'Local Hero' campaign now enrolling members for 2005 season

(Pioneer Valley) Farmers, grocery retailers and restaurant owners in Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties are invited to join Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture's 'Be a Local Hero, Buy Locally Grown' agricultural marketing program. The Local Hero campaign offers farm businesses great visibility through radio and print advertising, the annual Farm Products Guide - distributed to 250,000 people in the Pioneer Valley - the web site www.buylocalfood.com with its searchable farm products database, networking opportunities with food buyers and more. To learn more about how joining the Local Hero campaign can put a spotlight on your business and its locally grown products, contact Campaign Director Mark Lattanzi, 413-665-7100 or mark@buylocalfood.com. The enrollment period runs from now through March 31, 2005.

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WORKSHOPS INTRODUCE NEW REVENUE PROTECTION CROP INSURANCE

Think crop insurance is not for you? Think again! Learn about two new crop insurance products that insure agricultural income rather than quantity or quality of certain crops. If you grow multiple, high value or organic crops, raise livestock, or market directly, the Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) and AGR-Lite products could be a valuable part of your farm's risk management strategy.

You are invited to a workshop on AGR and AGR-Lite. Choose one:

- March 29th at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlboro
- March 30th at the Clarion Hotel in Northampton

Each workshop will run from 5 – 8 pm and offer a light supper buffet. Charles Koines, formerly with the Risk Management Agency and an expert on crop insurance – particularly AGR - will talk about these policies. You'll learn the basics, find out how to calculate different levels of coverage at different premium rates for your own mix of crops, and have plenty of time to ask questions.

The workshops are free, but you must pre-register. Please call 413-323-4531 and ask for Warren or e-mail him at warren@smallfarm.org. Pre-registration deadline is March 23rd.

Directions to the workshops: Clarion Hotel: Interstate-91 to exit 18. At end of ramp, turn right. Entrance is located on the right, behind the Mobil Station. Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel: Interstate-495 to exit 24b. Hotel is one mile on the right.

These workshops are hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and the New England Small Farm Institute in partnership with the USDA Risk Management Agency.

Questions? For further information contact Kathy Ruhf at 413-323-9878 or kzruhf@verizon.net.

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UMASS EXTENSION TO HOLD MASS AGGIE SEMINARS: A FARM, GARDEN & LANDSCAPE SEMINAR SERIES

The University of Massachusetts Extension Agriculture and Landscape Program is sponsoring a seminar series in 2005 called the Mass Aggie Seminars for back yard gardeners and beginning or part-time farmers and landscapers. All seminars will be taught by UMass Extension Educators, UMass Amherst faculty, and green industry professionals, and will emphasize how to produce food and manage landscapes and small

farms in a sustainable manner.

Founded in 1864 as the Massachusetts Agricultural College, University of Massachusetts Amherst was often referred to as Mass Aggie. The college was established as a result of the Morrill Act, the federal Land Grant Act of 1862, to establish a land-grant college in each state to provide instruction in agriculture and the mechanical arts to the citizenry.

The UMass Extension Agriculture and Landscape Program addresses issues emphasizing greater harmony between the environment and agriculture as well as promoting a safe and secure food system. Because of this and the University's historical and unique perspective, UMass faculty and Extension Educators are able to provide information regarding horticultural and agricultural practices that is leading-edge, research-based, unbiased and tested in the field.

For a complete listing of seminar descriptions and a registration form, go to www.massaggieseminars.org or call 413-545-0895.

Except for the fruit pruning demonstration, all Mass Aggie Seminars will be held at Mass Bay Community College, 50 Oakland Street, Wellesley, MA.

Pre-registration is required. Send check, payable to UMass, to Mass Aggie Seminars, UMass Extension, French Hall, 230 Stockbridge Rd., Amherst, MA 01003-9316

- Monday, January 31, 6-8 PM: The Cutting Garden: Growing, Harvesting and Handling Cut Flowers: \$40
- Thursday, February 3, 6-8 PM: Edible Berries in the Landscape: \$40
- Thursday February 10, 4-8 PM: Tree Fruit in the Home Landscape: \$80
- Monday, February 14, 6-8 PM : Organic Vegetables for the Home and Market Garden Part I: \$40 Tomatoes, Eggplants and Peppers; Soil Testing and Soil Fertility.
- Thursday, February 24, 6-8 PM : Organic Vegetables for the Home and Market Garden Part II: \$40. Lettuce, Greens and Cabbage Family Crops; Season Extenders; Weed Management
- Monday, March 7, 6-8 PM : Pasture Management: \$40.00
- Thursday, March 10, 6-8 PM : Organic Vegetables for the Home and Market Garden Part III: \$40.00 - Pumpkins, Squashes, and Sweet Corn; Organic Insect and Disease Management
- Monday, March 21, 6-8 PM : Growing Grapes for Small Scale Wine Production: \$40
- Thursday, March 24, 6-8 PM : Sensible Steps to a Healthy Lawn: \$40.00
- Saturday March 26, 10AM to Noon : On the Farm Demonstration: Pruning Fruit Trees: \$40. Location: Dowse Orchards, 98 North Main Street (Route 27), Sherborn, MA (Class limit of 50)
- Monday, March 28, 6-8 PM : Exciting New and Underused Annuals for Your Garden: \$40.00

- [Thursday, March 31](#), 6-8 PM : An Organic Approach to Caring for Your Lawn: \$40.00
- [Thursday, April 14](#), 6-8 PM : Non-Pesticide Solutions for Common Home Landscape Pest Problems: \$40.00
- [Thursday, April 21](#), 6-8 PM : Evaluating Hay Quality for Horses and Livestock: \$40.00

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Selling your Specialty Product at Farmers' Markets

March 10, 2005, 6pm - 8:30 pm
Nuestra Culinary Ventures, Boston

Farmer's markets offer a terrific opportunity for consumer feedback on the product and package - and most importantly direct sales! Farmer's markets have a variety of selling opportunities depending on the market. Products must be made in an inspected facility and properly labeled. Presenters will include two market masters from successful farmers' markets offering their perspective on specialty foods, as well as a health official to guide you through the process of a legal and safe products. Representatives from the MA Department of Agricultural Resources will also participate.

For more information, contact Cary Wheaton, cwheaton@nuestradc.org, (617) 522-7900.

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America in Bloom Kicks off 2005 Competition

Revitalizing communities of all sizes from coast to coast, America In Bloom (AIB) is organizing its fourth national beautification competition and the Massachusetts Flower Growers Association is encouraging flower growers and retailers to participate.

AIB is a campaign and contest that promotes enhancing communities through beautification. In the friendly competition, communities are matched by population and evaluated on their efforts related to floral displays, urban forestry, landscaped areas, turf and groundcover, tidiness, environmental awareness, heritage conservation and community involvement.

To date, AIB has bloomed in several Massachusetts communities. Winchester, New Bedford, Boston, Newburyport and Quincy have all participated in the America In Bloom program.

For more information, contact Bob Luczai at 781-275-4811 or Laura Kunkle at 614-487-1117, e-mail lkunkle@ofa.org. Get more details about AIB online at www.americainbloom.org.

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The NEW Culinary Guild of New England Asparagus Cookbook

Make all sorts of delicious meals with asparagus - soups, appetizers, salads, sauces, side dishes, entrees and even desserts! Also learn how to cook asparagus and learn handy asparagus tip!

All proceeds raised from the overall sale of the book will go to the Culinary Guild of New England's NEW Scholarship fund which launched at its 25th anniversary celebration in September 2004. Books are \$12. For more information, please call Culinary Guild of New England, 781-431-1470.

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Massachusetts Horticultural Society Announces New Executive Director

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society (MassHort) announced today that Mr. Thomas Herrera-Mishler will join the Society as its new Executive Director. The announcement marks the end of the organization's national search.

Mr. Herrera-Mishler comes to MassHort from Airlie Gardens in Wilmington, NC where he has been Executive Director since 2001. He previously held that position at the Toledo Botanical Garden in Ohio, and at the Awbury Arboretum and Historic Estate in Philadelphia. He spent five years with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and had been a Landscape Architect registered in Florida and Pennsylvania. Mr. Herrera-Mishler holds a master's degree in Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning from the University of Michigan, and a bachelor's degree in Spanish Language and Literature from Eastern Michigan University.

"Thomas brings to MassHort the ideal combination of talents and experiences that the Search Committee was seeking. He has a strong business background, extensive leadership experience in public horticulture, and he is knowledgeable about working in the non-profit world. He has spent most of his professional life serving organizations whose missions are in many ways very similar to that of MassHort," says Patrick Tynan, a Trustee of the Society, who headed the Search Committee.

"The Massachusetts Horticultural Society has a long tradition of bringing plants and people together, as seen each year at the Society's New England Spring Flower Show and the wonderful new gardens at Elm Bank Horticultural Center. I look forward to working with our many partners to continue to develop these projects, as we define the Society's mission for the coming century. I am deeply optimistic about the Society's place, programs and vision; valuing the preservation of plants, exploring and celebrating their importance in our culturally diverse region," says Mr. Herrera-Mishler.

Mr. Herrera-Mishler will be the eighth individual to hold the office of Executive Director for the 176-year-old Society; prior to 1933, MassHort's leadership was provided on a volunteer basis. MassHort, the oldest organized horticultural institution in the United States, provides educational programming through its library, community outreach and special exhibitions such as the New England Spring Flower Show, which will be held this year from March 12-20 at the Bayside Exposition Center. MassHort headquarters have been located at Wellesley's Elm Bank Horticultural Center since 2001, where the organization continues to serve as a vital educational and historical resource to the community. Today, with the generous support of its members and friends, new gardens and fixtures are being created each year, including the New England Trial Garden and Weezie's Garden for Children.

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Boston Public Market Association - Executive Director Position

Boston Public Market Association, Inc.(BPMA) , a non-profit organization whose mission is to establish a year-round public market in Boston for local farmers and specialty food producers within a permanent market hall, seeks a full-time executive director beginning March 2005.

The executive director of BPMA, working closely with the executive committee of BPMA's board of directors, will be responsible for organizing and implementing the design and development of a permanent public market and for administering the operation of an interim, open-air market pending the opening of the permanent facility. It is anticipated that the development of a permanent public market will be a 4-6 year process. A principal responsibility of the executive director will be organizing the significant capital campaign needed for the establishment of the permanent facility. The executive director will oversee any staff and/or outside consultants hired or retained by BPMA during the design/development process.

In particular, the executive director will:

1. Organize a capital campaign for the development of the permanent public market. Submit proposals for foundation and government grants. Working with board members, identify and solicit individual and corporate supporters.

2. Assume general management responsibility for the association's financial and administrative matters. In cooperation with BPMA's outside accountant, maintain the financial books and records of the organization, prepare financial reports for the board of directors and prepare annual reports and forms as required by funders and government agencies.
3. Oversee the operation of an interim, open-air market beginning in June 2005.
4. Work with board members to maintain and expand BPMA's relationships with local farmers and specialty food producers, including fish, seafood, dairy, cheese, meat and poultry producers.
5. Work with board members to maintain and expand BPMA's relationships with government officials, community groups, local schools and universities and the business community. Identify and develop collaborations to support the development of the public market.
6. Update and expand BPMA's public outreach materials, including website and brochures.

Experience with public markets is desirable; knowledge of farmers' markets, food marketing and agriculture is appropriate. Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Please send resume with references on or before February 4, 2005 to: Boston Public Market Association, Inc.
c/o Gregory P. Bialecki
DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US LLP
One International Place, 21st Floor
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 406-6019
Fax: (617) 406-6119
gregory.bialecki@dlapiper.com

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NEWS FROM USDA

**\$9 million in Federal Conservation Programs Available to Assist
Massachusetts Farmers this Year**

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced that more than \$9 million in federal conservation cost-share funding is available this year to help Massachusetts farmers address natural resource concerns on their land. Bay State farmers are encouraged to apply for these conservation programs by February 1st.

With financial and technical assistance from NRCS, farmers and other landowners will continue to promote environmental quality on farmland, address water quality and quantity challenges, and protect valuable wetland ecosystems and wildlife habitat.

For details and to apply, contact a local USDA Service Center (listed on-line at <http://offices.usda.gov> or in the phone book under Federal Government, U.S. Department of Agriculture). General program information is available on the NRCS Massachusetts website at www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov.

“These funds will help Massachusetts landowners remain good environmental stewards by working in partnership with NRCS field staff in communities across the commonwealth,” said State Conservationist Cecil B. Currin. “USDA remains committed to providing conservation tools and resources to ensure that Bay State land remains healthy and productive.”

Cost-share funding is available through several voluntary conservation programs authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill. Through these programs, landowners may receive up to 75 percent of installation costs for conservation practices, depending on producer, land and practice eligibility criteria. Following is a breakdown of funding by program.

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) -- Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land. \$5,496,259
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) -- WHIP is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to landowners who want to improve fish and wildlife habitat or restore natural ecosystems on their land. \$1,546,231
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) -- GRP helps landowners restore and protect grassland, rangeland, pastureland, shrubland and certain other lands, and provides assistance for rehabilitating grasslands. \$1,250,854
- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) -- WRP offers an opportunity for landowners to voluntarily protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their property. \$529,000
- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) -- AMA helps farmers adopt conservation practices and investment strategies that will reduce or mitigate risks to their agricultural enterprises. In Mass., cost-share is available to producers for drought mitigation. \$365,878

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Fruit and Vegetable Consumption Recommendations Increased in the new Dietary Guidelines

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy G. Thompson and Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced in mid-January the release of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005, the federal government's science-based advice to promote health and reduce risk of chronic diseases through nutrition and physical activity.

Fruit and vegetables should fill half the plate! The guidelines recommend two cups of fruit and 2½ cups of vegetables per day for a reference 2,000-calorie intake, with higher or lower amounts depending on the calorie level. "Chose a variety of fruits and vegetables each day. In particular, select from all five vegetable subgroups (dark green, orange, legumes, starchy vegetables, vegetables and other vegetables) several times a week."

The sixth edition of Dietary Guidelines for Americans places stronger emphasis on reducing calorie consumption and increasing physical activity. Fruits and vegetables play an important role.

The 2005 Dietary Guidelines and consumer brochure are available at www.healthierus.gov/dietaryguidelines.

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USDA 2001-2004: Historic Times, Historic Successes

"The past four years at the U.S. Department of Agriculture have been extraordinary times: times of change, times of challenge, times of unrivaled success. This publication is a look back at one of the most eventful and consequential periods in the history of USDA."

[Please click here to download the PDF of USDA 2001-2004: Historic Times, Historic Successes :](http://www.usda.gov/documents/NewsReleases/2005/01/historicsuccesses.pdf)
www.usda.gov/documents/NewsReleases/2005/01/historicsuccesses.pdf

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Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) Announces its New Office of Food Safety, Defense, and Outreach

CFSAN has formed a new Office of Food Safety, Defense, and Outreach (OFSDO), which consolidates the Center's outreach and education on food safety and defense with its counterterrorism and chief medical officer responsibilities.

OFSDO will serve as the overall Center lead responsible for coordinating, developing, and delivering high-quality outreach and education products to our stakeholders (e.g., consumers, industry, health professionals, and other regulatory authorities). The Office vision is "to increase CFSAN's recognition by the outside world as a resource for information on food safety, food defense, nutrition, and cosmetics."

Center-wide outreach and education functions and associated personnel have been merged into OFSDO, with delegated authority on Center-based communication. The functions include consumer education and industry outreach formerly within the Office of Constituent Operations (OCO), trade press activities formerly within the Executive Operations Staff (EOS), labeling and nutrition outreach formerly within the Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling, and Dietary Supplements (ONPLDS), and outreach and education currently within FSSS.

Office Number: (301)436-2277*FAX (301)436-2605

E-mail: CFSAN-FSS@cfsan.fda.gov, <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov>

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IN EVERY ISSUE

CLASSIFIED ADS

- WANTED: Used Transplanter for Strawberries. Contact Ed at 413-634-5024 or stockman@bcn.net
- Hay 40 to 50 lbs 2nd cut timothy clover mix

1-802-276-3773 or 1-744-930-3639, appledumplinghangout@surfglobal.net

- Empire Packaging Company - A full line of wholesale and retail packaging for the farm & orchard. Serving New England since 1989. (508) 426-7813
- For Sale: CERTIFIED ORGANIC LAYING CHICKENS. 1 1/2 years old. New Hampshire Reds, Black Australorps, and Silver Laced Wyandottes. Excellent brown egg layers. Call Rita at The HERB FARMacy, Salisbury, MA 978.834.7879
- OnTheFarm consultants provide assistance in planning and problem solving to those involved in the animal industries including producers, municipalities, governmental agencies and the legal profession. Bill Graves and Bob Duby, 413-369-4679 or onthefarm0248@msn.com.

- Young Farm hand looking for a farm to call home. Would like to speak with farmers that want to see their farm stay a farm. Call (508) 400-5456.
- For Sale: 800 gal bulk tank, Crepaco Milkeeper rectangular, single fan cooler \$900.00 BO 413-369-8029.
- Need help on the farm? Massachusetts farmers can place a free help-wanted ad in THE CARETAKER GAZETTE. Just email caretaker@caretaker.org or call (830) 336-3939.
- For Sale: Selected Trees Blue, White and Norway Spruce and Frashier Firs. Most between 6 & 8 feet You dig them. \$25.00 each 508-866-2839.

How to Place a Classified Ad

Classified ads are accepted free-of charge on a first-come basis. Limit: 25 words. Be sure to include a phone number. No display ads will be accepted. Only one ad per business/individual per issue, unless space permits. Ads may run in consecutive issues, space permitting. Ads must be of interest to Massachusetts farmers. The Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources reserves the right to refuse any listing it deems inappropriate for publication.

E-mail, fax or mail ads to: Farm & Market Report, Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114, fax: 617-626-1850, e-mail: Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us

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CALENDAR

- **January 31**, Starting an Ag Commision at the Holden Town Hall, 6:30-8:30pm, contact: Mary Greendale, 508-429-2813.
- **Feb. 1-3**, New England Grows Conference and Exposition, [Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Boston, www.negrows.org](#).
- **Feb. 5**, NE Vegetable and Berry Growers' ALL DAY MEETING, \$10, Reservations by January 29, John Howell, (413) 259-1203.
- **Feb. 5**, "Breeding Dairy Goats for Out-of-Season Milk Production", \$5 per family, contact John Porter, 603-225-5505.
- **Feb. 7-14**, North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference, Boston, MA www.nafdma.com
- **March 3**, Developing Leadership for Succession Planning on the Family Farm, 9:30 - 3:30pm, Best Western Yankee Drummer Inn in Auburn, First Pioneer Farm Credit, ACA, Contact: Brenda Emrick , (800) 562-2235, brenda.emrick@firstpioneer.com
- **March 10**, 6pm - 8:30 pm, Selling your Specialty Product at Farmers' Markets, Nuestra Culinary Ventures, Boston. Contact Cary Wheaton, cwheaton@nuestracdc.org, (617) 522-7900.

- **March 10**, Agriculture Day at the Statehouse, contact Mary Jordan at 617-626-1759, Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us
- **March 10**, Massachusetts Poultry Enhancement Council Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, Franklin Loew Education Center Grafton, MA. Any interested poultry producers (commercial or residential) are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact [Ed Hageman](mailto:Ed.Hageman), 617-626-1796.
- **March 15 - 16**, The Northeast Regional Community and Urban IPM Conference, Manchester, New Hampshire, For more information, visit the [conference web site](#) or contact [Liz Thomas](mailto:Liz.Thomas), 315-787-2626.

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About the Farm & Market Report

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