

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

***Farm & Market Report***

Vol. 84, No. 4, August / September

---

**In this issue:**

LOCAL NEWS

- [Commissioner's Column](#)
- [Governor Patrick Proclaims August 19-25 Massachusetts Farmers' Market Week](#)
- [Massachusetts Tomato Contest to be Held August 20](#)
- [New Massachusetts Agriculture Specialty License Plates](#)
- [MassGrown and Fresher Campaign Announcement](#)
- [Two New Online Web Directories Getting Ready to be Launched: Wool and Hay](#)
- [Application for the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program \(AEEP\) for FY2008 is now available](#)
- [MEMA Issues Hurricane Safety Tips for Business Owners](#)
- [MDAR Energy News - Initial Energy Program Developments](#)
- ["Buy Fresh, Buy Local" - Mobile to Tour Local Farms in Support of SEMAP](#)
- [Blog on Berkshire Grown.org](#)
- [CISA Studies Need for Slaughter and Meat Processing Facilities in MA and CT](#)
- [The 3rd Annual Summer Benefit Dinner for Farmers' Markets](#)
- [NODPA Field Days in the Berkshires](#)
- [How businesses just like yours are using federal funds for export development and support at domestic trade shows](#)
- [Consider Joining the New Massachusetts Farm Wineries and Growers Association](#)
- [Massachusetts Winery Wins at Second Annual Big E Northeast Gold Wine Competition](#)
- [New Opportunity - The Massachusetts Wine and Cheese Trail](#)
- [Salute to New England Specialty Foods](#)
- [NOFA welcomes new Organic Dairy Technical Advisor](#)

NEWS FROM USDA

- [Summer Pasture Walk Series](#)

IN EVERY ISSUE

- [CLASSIFIED](#)
- [CALENDAR](#)

- [About the Farm & Market Report](#)
- 

## Commissioner's Column

### “Moving at the speed of “Agriculture”

Greetings!

With Fair Season and Farmers Markets now in full swing, the ongoing demands of forage harvest for dairy and livestock operations and the harvest of the increasing varieties of fruits and vegetables that have and are coming into season, agriculture in our Commonwealth is moving rapidly, necessarily keeping pace with the progress of our seasons. Similarly, and in part why there's been a bit of a delay in the posting of this edition of the Farm & Market Report, the Department of Agricultural Resources has been pacing industry with our inspectional, licensing and service programs and buzzing with new initiatives and opportunities that we are pursuing in an effort to extend services and benefits to agriculture and our Commonwealth at large. To that end, I'll use my time with you through this edition to provide a few highlights of current and upcoming events and activities that I hope are of interest to you.

As I mentioned in my previous column, the Massachusetts Dairy Revitalization Task Force has convened for its first meeting where we were presented with a snap-shot overview of the Dairy industry's current status and some forecasting of where the industry may be headed. As a result of this first meeting the Task Force has mapped out an aggressive meeting schedule to accomplish the work of identifying near and long term strategies for prosperity of Commonwealth's Dairy industry. In an effort to provide updates and announcements relative to the efforts of the Task Force we have developed a web page that can be reached through [http://www.mass.gov/agr/dairy/task\\_force.htm](http://www.mass.gov/agr/dairy/task_force.htm) that will provide viewers with meeting agenda, meeting locations and minutes of meetings. We intend to provide segments of each meeting to allow public comments and welcome members of the public to attend these important meetings.

Importantly, Governor Patrick recently released his five-year capital spending plan that included at least \$50 million per year for land conservation, beginning with the current fiscal year, which began July 1. This funding represents a 65 percent increase over annual land protection spending during the previous four years, and 24 percent over annual spending from 1993 to 2003, adjusted for inflation. For the Department of Agricultural Resources, this commitment has significant impact on our Agricultural Preservation Program and the Farm Viability Enhancement Program, providing a minimum of \$11 million annually for both programs and furthering our ability to provide the Massachusetts agricultural community with farm-land development alternatives that preserve our precious agricultural resources and serve to further the sustainability and profitability of farming in our Commonwealth. This investment in agriculture in addition to a favorable fiscal year 2008 operating budget, serve as an indication of the

opportunities that lie before agriculture and a clear statement of the broad support from the Patrick administration and our legislature for Massachusetts agriculture

Also under the heading of “Opportunities” for Massachusetts agriculture, we are looking forward to the imminent launch of a comprehensive agricultural energy audit program that will identify on-farm energy conservation opportunities and, where possible, integrate renewable and/or alternative energy strategies. Many agricultural community members have already responded to or met with our alternative/renewable energy program coordinator. As a result of that contact, in their efforts to reduce operating costs and develop more profitable businesses, our agricultural industry has taken steps to investigate and implement energy conservation measures and remains very interested in the opportunities that this [program](#) will provide. Accordingly, I encourage the industry’s continued interaction with this program and look forward to the benefits that this effort will provide Massachusetts agriculture.

Other upcoming opportunities to watch for are related to our continued efforts to develop a “virtual” Massachusetts Agricultural Innovation Center (AIC). As a result of the 2007 fiscal year AIC there are currently 32 projects underway across our Commonwealth that have undertaken a variety of activities to fulfill the primary objective of the AIC, namely to enhance economic development opportunities that will ensure the continued viability and growth for Massachusetts agricultural interests. While we are looking forward to the impact of those efforts, we are also preparing to release the 2008 requests for response that will seek additional proposals for projects that will grow our Commonwealth’s agricultural economy. To that end, we anticipate release of a solicitation for the 2008 AIC and the 2008 Agricultural AIC Marketing grants in the near future. Combined requests for the 2007 programs totaled more than \$6.5 million for the \$2.85 million offered and although the 2008 program was funded at a reduced level, we expect a similar overwhelming response. After they are posted, both the AIC and the Agricultural AIC Marketing grants will be posted and available for viewing on the Commonwealth Procurement System at [www.comm-pass.com](http://www.comm-pass.com).

Still under the heading of “Opportunities”, as you’ll read in this edition of the F&M, the long awaited and greatly anticipated creation and release of the Massachusetts Agricultural Specialty License plate has been accomplished! As of this writing we have only just begun to roll-out Massachusetts own “Ag Tag” and we are currently planning press events for the announcement and public unveiling of this great statement for support of Massachusetts agriculture. Although there are immediate opportunities for the broad variety of agricultural support groups and organizations to benefit from the initial sales of the “Ag Tag”, we also envision the establishment of a grant program that will be sustained as a result of the plate sales and renewals and provide benefits to Massachusetts agriculture into the future.

Finally, I would like to invite any and all who are interested in learning more about Massachusetts agriculture and the variety of what our State has to offer by way of agricultural products, travel, tourism and Massachusetts made products to come by and visit us at the Massachusetts State Exposition Building at the Eastern State’s Exposition

2007 edition of the “Big E”. For just shy of 90 years, we are proud to have offered exposition space at the “Massachusetts Building” for exhibits that provide educational opportunities as well as a “taste” of what our Commonwealth has to offer. We would particularly like to see you on Massachusetts Day at the Big E that will be held on September 20 this year, please consider joining us and special guests for our special day!

Sincerely,



Scott J. Soares  
Acting Commissioner

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## **Governor Patrick Proclaims August 19-25 Massachusetts Farmers’ Market Week**

Calling the 134 farmers’ markets across the Commonwealth “essential to the vitality of Massachusetts farms,” Governor Deval Patrick has proclaimed August 19-25 Massachusetts Farmers’ Market Week. The week officially kicks off Monday, August 20, when Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles will read the Governor’s proclamation at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Massachusetts Tomato Contest at Boston’s City Hall Plaza Farmers’ Market.

Farmers’ markets “help heighten public awareness of the agricultural diversity of Massachusetts and the benefits of buying local and preserving open space,” according to Governor Patrick’s proclamation. Shoppers have access to an array of freshly-harvested fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers, as well as local farm items such as maple syrup, honey, eggs, turkey products, baked goods, jams and jellies.

“By purchasing these products directly from farmers, consumers support local agriculture and gain a clear understanding about where their food comes from and how it’s produced,” Secretary Bowles said.

---

Markets Looking for Vendors:

- Medford, Thursday, 2-7, Contact Susan Altman, [susan.altman@comcast.net](mailto:susan.altman@comcast.net) or 781-395-4664
- Leominster, Saturday, 9-2, Opens August 25, Contact Tamara Buckley Leclerc, [tamara@carraigfarm.com](mailto:tamara@carraigfarm.com) or 978-386-2379

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## **Massachusetts Tomato Contest to be Held August 20**

The 23rd Annual Massachusetts Tomato Contest will be held at Boston's City Hall Plaza Farmers' Market on Monday, August 20th in conjunction with the City Hall Plaza Farmers' Market and the start of Massachusetts Farmers' Market Week. Tomatoes will be judged by a panel of experts on flavor, firmness/slicing quality, exterior color and shape. Always a lively and fun event, the day is designed to increase awareness of locally grown produce.

Farmers who want to submit entries can bring tomatoes to the City Hall Plaza Farmers' Market by 10:15 am on August 23rd or drop their entries off with the corresponding registration form to one of several locations around the state on August 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>. These tomatoes will be brought in to Boston on Monday. For the complete details, including contest criteria and a registration form, go to:

[http://mass.gov/agr/markets/tomato\\_contest.htm](http://mass.gov/agr/markets/tomato_contest.htm)

The 23rd Annual Tomato Contest is sponsored by the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources in cooperation with the Federation of Massachusetts Farmers' Markets.

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## **New Massachusetts Agriculture Specialty License Plates**

Support your local farmers by purchasing the Massachusetts Agriculture specialty license plate. Proceeds from these plates will go to the Massachusetts Agricultural Trust Fund.

The Trust will fund programs and services that help farmers remain on the cutting edge in today's market, like innovative practices, research, improvements in managing resources, marketing, training and education. Proceeds will not be used to subsidize individual farmers or the state's Department of Agriculture.

By purchasing this plate, you help preserve 520,000 acres of open space and the beauty of Massachusetts, our heritage, and local farming families. You protect 13,545 jobs and the value local agriculture has on our economy while reaping fresher and better tasting food. And you help shrink our carbon footprint by reducing the distance our food travels to market (normally 1,300 miles).

Total cost to transfer registration to an "ag tag" is \$60 (\$20 RMV fee to swap the plate plus \$40 for a specialty plate). Renewals are \$81 every two years (\$41 RMV registration fee, and \$40 for the specialty plate fee that continues to go to the Trust Fund).

A portion of this sale can be targeted to any agricultural organization listed at the Ag Tag website: [www.mass.gov/agr/agtag](http://www.mass.gov/agr/agtag). All proceeds will go to the Agricultural Trust for distribution. To target \$15 to a specific organization,\* check one of the boxes in the [downloadable form \[PDF\]](#). Otherwise, proceeds will stay with the Trust for future programs.

Make checks payable to Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles for \$40. Complete [this downloadable form \[PDF\]](#) and mail with your check to: Massachusetts Agricultural Trust, c/o Mary Greendale, P. O. Box 6443, Holliston, MA 01746-6443. \$28 of this price is tax-deductible. Please note: we will send checks to RMV when we have sold 1,500 plates. That may take up to one year. Your check will be outstanding in your account for that time.

**Supporting Agriculture Organizations:** There will be an opportunity in the next couple week to reserve plates numbered from 10-99 (maybe higher) for your associations. This would be an opportunity to raise extra funds for your organizations. If interested in the lottery for these low numbers, contact Mary Greendale, [mgreendale@yahoo.com](mailto:mgreendale@yahoo.com). There will also be marketing materials available soon for groups to use at events and meetings.

Keep watch for updates at the Ag Tag website: [www.mass.gov/agr/agtag](http://www.mass.gov/agr/agtag).

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## MassGrown and Fresher Campaign Announcement

Do you know the 10 top reasons to eat locally grown? With the MassGrown and Fresher campaign being launched this summer by the Department of Agricultural Resources, state citizens from the Berkshires to the Cape will know why they should buy locally and where and how they can do so.

Throughout the year, the idea to “buy local” will be spread across the Commonwealth. With the help of Moore and Isherwood Communications, Inc., a New Bedford based public relations firm, advertisements featuring anything and everything from Farmers’ Markets to wineries will be seen in newspapers and viewed online at Boston.com's food and Explore New England websites. The expected unveiling of a local agriculture-based Passport Program next spring will further help to bring consumers to Maple Sugar Houses, Corn Mazes, and everything in between.

A major goal of the MassGrown and Fresher promotional campaign is to drive consumers to [www.mass.gov/massgrown](http://www.mass.gov/massgrown) as their one stop resource for sources of locally grown and produced products. MDAR will welcome the increase in online traffic with its newly redesigned consumer website. With new navigation tools, additional links, and expanded resources, the site will more effectively meet the needs of interested consumers, producers, and web surfers.

As you look for MassGrown and Fresher campaign promotions over the next few months, remember that the #6 reason to eat locally grown is to preserve open space. To discover the other reasons, visit the MassGrown website at [www.mass.gov/massgrown](http://www.mass.gov/massgrown) or [click here to download the poster \[PDF\]](#).

If you want help in promoting your Massgrown, feel free to visit the Massgrown logo page for free Massgrown materials: [www.mass.gov/agr/markets/logos](http://www.mass.gov/agr/markets/logos). For more information on the MassGrown and Fresher campaign, please contact Rick LeBlanc at (617) 626-1759 or [Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us](mailto:Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us).

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## **Two New Online Web Directories Getting Ready to be Launched: Wool and Hay**

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is continuing to update the information on Hay and Lamb/Wool producers.

The Hay directory specifically highlights Massachusetts farmers who produce and sell hay, straw, and grain products throughout the Commonwealth. The directory allows the department to identify the uses of farmland, and thus more effectively provide resources for farmers. With the directory, the department is also able to assist consumers in finding local producers of a variety of items.

The Lamb/Wool directory highlights Massachusetts farmers who produce and sell lamb and/or wool products to the public. Again, this directory will help the department to better understand the state's agricultural industry and its needs. Information will also be provided to consumers, helping them to more efficiently find sources of lamb and wool products. If you have any lamb or wool related events, we would be happy to link them within this webpage.

Surveys regarding the two directories went out earlier this year. If you have not received one and would like to be included in either directory, please contact Rick LeBlanc, [Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us](mailto:Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us), 617-626-1759, 413-545-2353.

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

**Application for the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) for FY2008 is now available**

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources invites Massachusetts agricultural operations to submit proposals to fund and implement conservation practices through the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP). The purpose of AEEP is to support the mitigation and/ or prevention of negative impacts to the Commonwealth's natural resources that may result from agricultural practices. The application for FY 2008 is now available at <http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aEEP/> AEEP is a competitive, re-imbursement program that funds the acquisition of materials only. Labor costs and the acquisition of equipment are among the costs not eligible for re-imbursement.

Practices funded under AEEP include those which prevent direct impacts on water quality, ensure efficient use of water, address agricultural impacts on air quality and promote energy efficiency and renewable energy. For more information on previously funded practices visit the AEEP website: <http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aEEP/>

Reimbursement of up to \$30,000 will be awarded on a competitive basis. Persons submitting successful proposals will be required to sign a contract with Agricultural Resources. All projects must be completed by June 30, 2008. Satisfactory receipts for costs of approved materials must be submitted to Agricultural Resources. NOTE: All funding is subject to appropriation.

Deadlines: Initial responses must be received at Agricultural Resources no later than 4:00 PM on July 27, 2007. Responses may be submitted after July 27, 2007 up until October 19, 2007 and will be reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis, at the end of each month, subject to the availability of funds. Proposals must be received at least ten days prior to the end of the month for consideration of funding in that month reviews as shown below:  
Review Period - Deadline

August, 2007 - 4:00 PM, August 20, 2007  
September, 2007 - 4:00 PM, September 20, 2007  
October, 2007 - 4:00 PM, October 19, 2007

Proposals which involve complex construction work requiring engineered designs may only be considered in the July 27 round of applications. Complex construction proposals include, but are not limited to, heavy use areas, roofs, bridges, windmills, barnyard runoff and drainage projects.

All questions should be directed to: Gerard Kennedy, TEL: 617-626-1773, [gerard.kennedy@state.ma.us](mailto:gerard.kennedy@state.ma.us), [www.mass.gov/agr/pesticides/water](http://www.mass.gov/agr/pesticides/water)

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

**MEMA Issues Hurricane Safety Tips for Business Owners**

“The business community should be aware of the potential of hurricane damage in the Commonwealth,” said Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Acting Director Ken McBride. “Each business owner should prepare or review their own Recovery Plan. MEMA provides some important safety tips for business owners. ‘Business as usual’ will not happen without good planning.”

- Review your property insurance with your insurance agent. Take photographs or make a video of your business establishment, both inside and outside.
- Determine and establish a written Hurricane Preparedness Plan for your business and its contents. Coordinate this plan with local and state officials. Specify the conditions under which the plan will be implemented.
- Test your plan, reviewing it annually. Establish an employee-training program on your Hurricane Plan.
- Make plans for protection of your computer files, including a back-up system to secure data and safe storage of the data.
- Protect corporate records, keeping duplicates at an alternate location.
- Well in advance, acquire emergency protective equipment and supplies. Heavy plastic sheeting, duct tape, sandbags, emergency generator, chain saw and large pieces of plywood will help protect your property.
- Bring in display racks and other objects, such as trashcans that might cause damage if airborne. Remove outdoor signs, especially those that swing or are portable.
- Move merchandise, equipment or furniture away from windows or skylights. Elevate boxes or equipment, if possible.
- Turn off electricity and disconnect all electrical appliances and equipment (except for refrigeration equipment), in case there is a power outage. An ensuing power surge could be damaging to equipment.
- Inform all employees on when and how you will notify them to report back to work.
- Develop an employee identification system, such as picture ID badges. This may help employees gain access to the area after a hurricane.
- If possible, make arrangements to pay employees in cash. It may be several days before banking institutions are operational.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is the state agency responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources during emergencies and disasters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA provides leadership to: develop plans for effective response to all hazards, disasters or threats; train emergency personnel to protect the public; provide information to the citizenry; and assist individuals, families, businesses and communities to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and man made. For additional information about MEMA and Hurricane Preparedness, go to [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

Governor Patrick Proclaims July as ‘Hurricane Preparedness Month’ in Massachusetts!

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## MDAR Energy News - Initial Energy Program Developments

The first couple of months for MDAR's newly created energy program brought great feedback and interest regarding energy related matters from a variety of agri-businesses throughout the state. These included not only practicing farms and businesses but supporting organizations and serving businesses as well. Major topics of interest included:

- Energy Efficiency in general, for existing buildings and operations as well as new construction
- Sustainability, i.e., the ability to become as self-sufficient as possible with on-site energy needs
- Anaerobic Digester Opportunities, predominantly for dairy farms
- Wind Turbine Potential
- Photo-voltaic Potential
- Electric Rate Options, i.e., the ability to purchase energy from other suppliers
- Biomass Potential, predominantly in the form of direct burn crops but also in regard to biofuels

A number of farms have already implemented energy efficiency savings measures and some have installed renewable energy technologies as well, such as wind turbines, photo-voltaics and solar thermal. Others are currently doing so or, as a result of MDAR's recent discussions, are in the process of exploring those opportunities now. As a reminder, please take a moment and fill out the one page form (click on either [.doc version](#), or [.pdf version](#)) to the best of your abilities and either email, fax or mail back to Gerry Palano: [Gerald.Palano@state.ma.us](mailto:Gerald.Palano@state.ma.us), Fax: 617-626-1805, or mail to : Gerry Palano, Renewable Energy Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114.

**Informative Websites:** Initial Energy Program development also began the compilation of useful websites and databases for referencing purposes, including incentive programs, financial institutions, supporting organizations and informational websites. These will be posted as they become finalized on a soon to be developed Energy Program website. There is quite a bit of this information already on the internet. For example, some good energy informational websites in no particular order are:

[attra.ncat.org/energy.php](http://attra.ncat.org/energy.php) : This website has tons of energy information including related links for a variety of farm and agricultural types, including user friendly tool kits for calculating energy savings.

[www.sebane.org/index.html](http://www.sebane.org/index.html) : This is the Solar Energy Business Associates of New England website, providing installers, developers, consultants, etc. relative to the New England area.

[www.mtpc.org](http://www.mtpc.org) : The website for the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Renewable Energy Trust, the quasi-governmental agency responsible for administering clean electric energy programs throughout the state for participating electric utilities. This website offers a complete and wide variety of technical and financial information as well as available incentives relative to renewable energy applications.

[www.awea.org/smallwind/](http://www.awea.org/smallwind/) : The website for the American Wind Energy Association, probably the most informative website for all types of wind related activities. Includes good technical information and how-to's.

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

### **“Buy Fresh, Buy Local”- Mobile to Tour Local Farms in Support of SEMAP**

On the winding rural roads still found in Southeastern Massachusetts, drivers are used to slowing down for farmers on their tractors. For two days, a new and unusual vehicle will be touring these same roads in support of local farms and food producers—the colorfully wrapped “Buy Fresh, Buy Local”-mobile of FoodRoutes National Coordinator Jess Seeley.

Seeley and her colorful car will be touring the region together with Sarah Kelley, Executive Director of SEMAP (Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership), and Buy Local Coordinator, Sarah Cogswell. During Seeley's visit, the trio will visit a number of the 40 farms and 35 buyers participating in SEMAP's Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign and its Business-to-Business Network, which connects local farms with buyers from restaurants, markets, schools, and specialty food producers

SEMAP's 'Buy Fresh, Buy Local' Campaign connects individuals in communities across Southeastern Massachusetts to the freshest, most delicious locally grown and produced foods and farm products available. Through outreach, advertising, and point of purchase materials, SEMAP's Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign makes it easy for the public to find and buy fresh, local food from farmers they can know and trust. In utilizing the Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign, SEMAP joins over 50 other communities nationwide already participating in the campaign, which is coordinated nationally by FoodRoutes.

Once the tour with Seeley wraps up, SEMAP will continue their work on the other aspects of their 'Buy Fresh, Buy Local' Campaign, including the weekly Local Farm Theme Page feature in partnership with the Standard-Times of New Bedford, and its bi-weekly consumer emails on local foods in season and where to buy them. Already in place is SEMAP's searchable online Farm Guide at [www.semaponline.org](http://www.semaponline.org), where over 150 local farms are listed with their products, locations, and sale venues.

For more information about SEMAP's 'Buy Fresh, Buy Local' Campaign, visit

www.semaponline.org. For more information about the national Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign visit [www.foodroutes.org](http://www.foodroutes.org).

TOUR SCHEDULE (Times and locations subject to change.)

Friday Aug. 10th

8:00am – Alderbrook Farm, Dartmouth

9:30am – Ashley’s Peaches, Acushnet

11:00am – Café Arpeggio, New Bedford

1:00pm-4pm – Padanaram Farmers’ Market, Rex Field, Dartmouth

Saturday Aug. 11th

8:00am-12pm – Rochester Farmers’ Market, Plumb Corner, Rochester

12:30pm – Shipyard Galley, Mattapoisett

1:30pm – How On Earth: The Store, Marion

2:30pm – Lucky Field Organics, Rochester

5:00pm - Tony Andrews Farm, Falmouth

6:30-8:30pm – Coonamessett Farm, Falmouth

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## **BLOG ON Berkshire Grown.org**

Share your thoughts on food, farming, local vs. organic, and/or the Farm Bill. Write about that article or great book you just read on the future of agriculture. Do you have a great recipe for Swiss Chard tart? Share it. Are you looking for a group of “Locavores” to hold a grown-within-100-miles dinner party? ...BLOG IT!

Berkshire Grown has a new blogging feature on its website! Read the ‘Widow in the Woods’ elegant review of Molly O’Neill’s new book, MOSTLY TRUE: A MEMOIR OF FAMILY, FOOD, AND BASEBALL. Check out Laurily Epstein’s thoughts on the current spate of food-centric books. Find resources on the Farm Bill.

Visit the new Berkshire Grown blog and let us all know what you are thinking.

[www.berkshiregrown.org](http://www.berkshiregrown.org), click on blog.

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## **CISA Studies Need for Slaughter and Meat Processing Facilities in MA and CT**

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) has launched a study of farmers’ needs for slaughter and meat processing facilities in Massachusetts and Connecticut. As a

first step CISA will form a network, comprised of state and non-governmental agencies and other regional stakeholders, to guide the study of current slaughter and processing infrastructure capacity.

“With increasing public awareness about the virtues of buying locally grown food, Massachusetts and Connecticut farmers see a huge untapped market in local meat sales. But a lack of infrastructure for slaughtering and processing poses a significant barrier to farmers wishing to move into this market,” says Annie Cheatham, CISA’s Executive Director. “This research will give us information necessary to help rebuild that infrastructure.”

Over the course of the study, which is funded by a \$34,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant from USDA Rural Development, CISA will gather information about farmers’ needs, such as what time of year most farmers bring animals to slaughter, how far they are willing to transport the animals, and the current and projected supply of animals.

Since December 2006, when one of Massachusetts’s two USDA-certified slaughterhouses burned to the ground, farmers in the Commonwealth have had to travel hours and get onto year-long waiting lists at processing facilities in other states. “This research and networking effort is critical for sustaining meat production in the area, and the number of farms affected will be significant,” says Cheatham.

Located in South Deerfield, MA, CISA is a community organization comprised of farmers, consumers and professionals working together to sustain agriculture and the unique rural character of our communities. CISA is the creator of Senior FarmShare, the Pioneer Valley Women in Agriculture Network, a workplace farmshare program, and the ‘Be a Local Hero, Buy Locally Grown™’ public awareness campaign. Learn more about CISA at [www.buylocalfood.com](http://www.buylocalfood.com) or call 413-665-7100.

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## **The 3rd Annual Summer Benefit Dinner for Farmers' Markets**

The Federation of Massachusetts Farmers' Markets invites you to "Celebrating Summer's Bounty": The 3rd Annual Summer Benefit Dinner for farmers' markets, co-hosted by acclaimed vegetarian chef , Didi Emmons, Wednesday, August 15th 7:00 p.m. Haley House Cafe, Roxbury MA, 12 Dade Street, Dudley Square, (off Washington Street)

Join Didi and Mass Farmers' Markets for a four course, all local vegetarian menu!

Highlights include:

- Cauliflower Mousse enrobed in Swiss Chard
- Green Risotto with Local Cheeses and Beet Emulsion

- Cornmeal Shortcake with Local Berries
- and Lemon Thyme Ice Cream

\$75.00 per person with wine, \$60.00 per person without wine, Please consider being a special sponsor for this event at one of the following levels:

Golden Watermelon Sponsor ~ \$500.00 (includes two tickets), Silver Queen Corn Sponsor ~ \$250.00 (includes two tickets), Bronze Fennel Sponsor ~ \$100.00 (includes one ticket)

To make a reservation, please visit [www.massfarmersmarkets.org](http://www.massfarmersmarkets.org), call 781-893-8222 or email [martha@massfarmersmarkets.org](mailto:martha@massfarmersmarkets.org).

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## **NODPA Field Days in the Berkshires - Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance's 7th Annual Field Days**

(from release 7/22/07) - August 17 & 18, 2007 at Freund's Farm Market, East Canaan, CT. "A wall of organic milk" or carefully planned growth? Organic standards are being flouted or "10,000 cow organic dairy certification withdrawn"? Is this the silver bullet for New England dairy farmers or is the market now saturated? Join well known journalist Sam Fromantz, USDA grazing specialist Kathy Soder and the farmers that do the work as they discuss, debate and plan for the future of organic dairying in the Northeast.

This year's NODPA Field Days will take you through two states and many different years of experience in organic dairying. The event will be hosted by Rick Segalla and Morvan Allen who farm on either side of the Connecticut/Massachusetts border and will take place at the Freund family dairy farm market and greenhouse.

Registration for the event will start at noon on Friday, August 17th, with a Field Trip at 1:30 pm to Segalla Farm, led by Rick Segalla, Lisa McCrory, Sarah Flack and Kathy Soder (USDA ARS). Rick operates his family's 900-acre farm in Canaan CT, milking 115 cows and raising an equal number of young stock.

Following the farm tour, folks will gather at Freund's Farm Market, East Canaan, for the trade show and socializing with organic cheese & crackers, vegetable platters and beverages. The organic beef barbeque will start at 5:30 and will feature local and organic food. Steve Morrison, NODPA President, will welcome the Connecticut Commissioner of Agriculture which will be followed by Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director, with "NODPA Year in Review." There will be reports from other regions plus a report on the activities of the Federation Of Organic Dairy Farmers.

The main event of the evening will be a focused on the future of organic dairying in the

Northeast. NODPA is a leading advocate for organic dairy farmers and there will be an open forum on the “Future Activities and Priorities for NODPA” facilitated by Ed Maltby and past NODPA coordinators, Lisa McCrory and Sarah Flack. This conversation will be open to everyone and some of the topics covered will be:

- NODPA’s scorecard—how well are we doing?
- What is NODPA’s future role?
- What services should NODPA supply for organic dairy farmers in the future?
- How can we support each sector of the organic infrastructure to ensure the sustainability of organics in the Northeast?”

This years’ event is sponsored by Horizon Organic, Organic Valley Family of Farms, Stonyfield Farm Inc and Lakeview Organic Grain. NODPA thanks the supporters of the Field Days: Bay State Organics, HP Hood LLC, River Valley Fencing, PA Certified Organic, Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc., NOFA-VT, Acres USA, Dairy Marketing Services, Fertrell, NOFA/MA, Brookfield Agricultural Services, Kings Agri-Seeds, North American Kelp, Washington Homeopathic Products, Farming Magazine, CISA and NOFA-NY.

For more information: Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director, Tel: 413-772-0444.  
Email: [ednodpa@comcast.net](mailto:ednodpa@comcast.net) ; [www.nodpa.com](http://www.nodpa.com) and  
<http://www.nodpa.com/2006fielddays.pdf>

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

### **How businesses just like yours are using federal funds for export development and support at domestic trade shows**

The Branded Program is a USDA FAS funded program that assists small to medium sized companies with eligible export marketing and promotional costs. For example, you can use the Branded Program to offset costs at domestic trade show where international buyers are in attendance. This program supports the promotion of branded and agricultural products in foreign markets. The Branded Program helps companies get the exposure needed to be a success in international markets. Companies that qualify for this unique cost-share program are eligible to receive up to 50% reimbursement for eligible marketing expenses. For more information, please contact [amy.bobrick@state.ma.us](mailto:amy.bobrick@state.ma.us) and also visit [www.foodexportusa.org/services/branded/htm](http://www.foodexportusa.org/services/branded/htm).

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

### **Consider joining the New Massachusetts Farm Wineries and Growers Association**

The newly formed Massachusetts Farm Wineries & Growers Association (MFWGA) invites you to join this new, progressive group of wineries and growers.

The executive committee of this association has been meeting almost biweekly these last few months to craft a new organization to represent and advance winery and grower interests. The new Association has already been successful in receiving several grants to promote and market the state's growers and wineries. In addition, the Association supported UMASS in a successful grant application to build an experimental winery.

The MFWGA is considering enlisting the services of an effective lobbyist on Beacon Hill, tackling specific regulatory issues of transportation and compliance, as well as marketing opportunities such as farmers markets and off-premise tasting rooms. To learn more about what can be accomplished by the MFWGA's organized effort centered around common goals, contact [info@turtlecreekwine.com](mailto:info@turtlecreekwine.com).

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## **Massachusetts Winery Wins at Second Annual Big E Northeast Gold Wine Competition**

Entered in the June 2, 2007 wine competition were 155 wines from 26 different vineyards representing New York and the New England region.

A Double Gold Medals was awarded to Obadiah McIntyre Farm Winery's 2006 Crimson Gold Red Raspberry and 2006 Cherry Wine from Massachusetts.

Obadiah McIntyre Farm Winery's (Charlton) 2006 Crimson Gold Red Raspberry also took "Best Massachusetts Wine."

A complete list of results from the second Annual Big E Northeast Gold Wine Competition is available online at Eastern States Exposition's website, [www.thebige.com/agriculture](http://www.thebige.com/agriculture). All medal winners will be showcased and on display in the Harvest New England Kitchen Theater during The Big E in West Springfield, Mass., Sept. 14-Sept.30.

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## **New Opportunity - The Massachusetts Wine and Cheese Trail**

Do you want to be listed in the Massachusetts Wine and Cheese Trail? Massachusetts Farm Wineries & Growers Association (MFWGA) is working with MDAR to develop a

Massachusetts Wine and Cheese trail brochure and website with support from USDA Rural Development. If you have interest to be listed/participate, please send an email to [bonita.ohlke@state.ma.us](mailto:bonita.ohlke@state.ma.us).

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## **Salute to New England Specialty Foods**

You're invited to sample and sell on the front lawn of the Massachusetts Building as part of the Salute to New England Specialty Foods at the Eastern States Exposition (Big E) in W. Springfield. The cost to participate is \$100. You must bring EVERYTHING you need for your exhibit – tables, décor, coolers, tents, etc. There is no electricity. The space is 10 feet by 10 feet. The hours are 9 am – 5 pm with the option to stay until the fair closes at 9. Cancellations can be made up until 48 hours in advance. For more information, send an email to [bonita.ohlke@state.ma.us](mailto:bonita.ohlke@state.ma.us).

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## **NOFA Welcomes New Organic Dairy Technical Advisor**

NOFA/Mass is very excited to welcome Melissa Adams as the new Organic Dairy Technical Advisor for NOFA/Mass. She will be working with Kate Rossiter, Organic Dairy Coordinator, to provide technical assistance to farmers considering the transition to organic production. This will include information on certification requirements, costs, available resources and potential barriers, along with assistance in finding solutions to help each farm make a successful transition. Contact Melissa with questions about how you can transition your farm. Melissa can be reached at (413) 268-8269, or [melissa@nofamass.org](mailto:melissa@nofamass.org).

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## **NEWS FROM USDA**

### **Summer Pasture Walk Series**

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, UMass Extension, the Northeast Organic Farming Association/Massachusetts Chapter will host a series of pasture workshops for livestock owners this summer.

All pasture walks will take place from **10:00 am to 1:00 pm**, with the exception of the Woolly Mammoth Farm workshop. Please bring your own lunch to the afternoon walks.

- [Tuesday, August 28, Appleton Farms, Ipswich](#)
- [Wednesday, September 12, Highlawn Farm, Lee](#)
- [Wednesday, September 26, Chase Hill Farm, Warwick](#)
- [Wednesday, October 17, Breese Hollow Farm, Hoosick Falls, NY](#)
- [Saturday, October 27, Woolly Mammoth Farm, South Dartmouth](#)

Please visit the sponsors' web sites: [www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov), [www.umass.edu/cdl/news.html](http://www.umass.edu/cdl/news.html) or [www.nofamass.org/programs/organicdairy](http://www.nofamass.org/programs/organicdairy) for dates, locations and details.

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

---

## IN EVERY ISSUE

### CLASSIFIED ADS

- ALPACAS FOR SALE - ARI female \$5000. and unregistered yearling female \$1800. Ari males \$1000. Located in Wilbraham, Massachusetts Call 1-413-596-9626 or email [alpacas@charter.net](mailto:alpacas@charter.net)
- For Sale: Certified organic Muscovy ducklings. Ducklings at various ages. \$5.00 each or 3/\$12.00. Also, fertile Muscovy eggs for setting or eating. You pick up on my farm in Acushnet. Call 508-763-5901. Leave name, number and best time to reach you.
- ATTENTION FARMSTANDS - Empire Packaging Company is now supplying specialty Foods. Jams , Jellies , Salsa's , Sauces and more. We can do private labeling. Our products are unique and consumers love them. But the # 1 highlight is they sell !!

Call for details (508) 426-7813 or (800) 562-5520.

- For Sale, Rotavator, Howard HR7. Working width is 60 inches and works with a 20 HP tractor or greater 3 point hitch and PTO. In good condition. Asking \$950. Call Dick Starkey, 413-774-4215.

### How to Place a Classified Ad

Classified ads are accepted free-of charge on a first-come basis. 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, [Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us](mailto:Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us).

[\[back to contents\]](#)

---

## CALENDAR

- **August 9**, [Aquaculture Twilight Meeting](#), Farm Pond and Recirculating Systems, Northfield, MA, 4:30 to 6:30pm. Last summer, Four Star Farms began construction of three ponds to grow largemouth bass. Last fall, they constructed an indoor recirculating system to attempt early spawning of bass. Mtg. at the pond to discuss progress and challenges since last year. Then we will move to the barn to view the recirculating system. For Information, contact Craig Hollingsworth at 413 545-1055 or [chollingsworth@umext.umass.edu](mailto:chollingsworth@umext.umass.edu).
- **August 10-12**, [33rd Annual Northeast Organic Farming Association \(NOFA\) Annual Summer Fair](#) - Hampshire College in Amherst. Online registration available and complete schedule and info: [www.nofamass.org](http://www.nofamass.org).
- **August 15**, [UMASS Vegetable IPM Field School](#), 4-7 pm, Paradise Hill Farm, Westport, Cost \$20. For more information, [click here](#), or call Ruth Hazzard at 413-545-3696 or email [rhazzard@umext.umass.edu](mailto:rhazzard@umext.umass.edu).
- **August 17 & 18**, [Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance's 7th Annual Field Days](#). Freund's Farm Market, East Canaan, CT. For more information: Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director, Tel: 413-772-0444, [ednodpa@comcast.net](mailto:ednodpa@comcast.net) ; Website: [www.nodpa.com](http://www.nodpa.com) and <http://www.nodpa.com/2006fielddays.pdf>
- **August 18**, [Massachusetts Marketplace Festival](#), MHS's Elm Bank Horticulture Center in Wellesley. (Rain Date, Sunday, August 19) . Contact [jcourtney@masshort.org](mailto:jcourtney@masshort.org) or [bonita.oehlke@state.ma.us](mailto:bonita.oehlke@state.ma.us).
- **August 23**, [Weed Identification Workshop](#), UMass Amherst. UMass Extension Specialist Randy Prostack will help participants enhance their weed identification skills. Feel free to bring a weed or two to identify. For a registration form, [www.umassgreeninfo.org](http://www.umassgreeninfo.org).
- **August 28**, [Pasture Walk offered for livestock farmers](#), Appleton Farms, 215 County Road, Ipswich. 10am to 1pm, Mike Victor, farmer. A dairy and grass-fed Jersey beef operation. [Click here for directions and info](#).
- **September 9**, [Massachusetts Raw Milk Dairy Day](#), [click here for details](#).
- **September 12**, [Pasture Walk offered for livestock farmers](#), Highlawn Farm, 535 Summer Street, Lee, Brian Stone, manager. 10am to 1pm. Topics will include transitioning to pasture from a corn-based system, grazing plans, new seedings of pasture blends and species selection. [Click here for more info](#).
- **September 20**, [Massachusetts Day at the Eastern States Exposition](#), displays, exhibits on the front lawn. Contact: Rick LeBlanc, [richard.leblanc@state.ma.us](mailto:richard.leblanc@state.ma.us). Fair runs from Sept. 14 - 30, [www.thebige.com](http://www.thebige.com).

- **September 24 - 28**, Massachusetts Harvest for Students Week! Please feel free to contact Kate McKenney, Coordinator for Mass. Harvest for Students Week, at 413-584-4410 or 413-253-3844.
- **September 26**, Pasture Walk offered for livestock farmers, Chase Hill Farm, Chase Hill Road, Warwick, 10am to 1pm. Topics will include winter grazing, no grain feeding and multi species grazing. [Click here for more info.](#)
- **October 12 - 13**, Northeast Highland Cattle Association's Annual Fall Gathering and Show, Mallary Arena, Big E Fairgrounds, Springfield. Contact Marion Beausoleil 860-429-1392 or [beausoleilmc@mansfieldct.org](mailto:beausoleilmc@mansfieldct.org).
- **October 27**, Grass finished Natural and Organic Beef and Lamb with Matt Rulevich at Woolly Mammoth Farm, S. Dartmouth, MA, 1:30PM-4:30PM. [Click here for more information.](#)

If you have events you would like listed to our new ag industry calendar webpage, [http://www.mass.gov/agr/events/coming\\_up.htm](http://www.mass.gov/agr/events/coming_up.htm), or Consumer events at: <http://www.mass.gov/agr/events/index.htm>, email Rick LeBlanc at [richard.leblanc@state.ma.us](mailto:richard.leblanc@state.ma.us).

[\[back to contents\]](#)

---

## About the Farm & Market Report

Published bi-monthly by:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Deval Patrick, Governor  
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Ian Bowles  
Department of Agricultural Resources, Scott J. Soares, Acting Commissioner  
251 Causeway St., Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114  
617-626-1700, fax 617-626-1850  
[www.Mass.gov/AGR](http://www.Mass.gov/AGR)

- Kent Lage, Assistant Commissioner and Chief of Staff, [Kent.Lage@state.ma.us](mailto:Kent.Lage@state.ma.us)
- Mary Jordan, Director of Agricultural Development, [Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us](mailto:Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us)
- Brad Mitchell, Director of Bio-Security and Regulatory Services, [Brad.Mitchell@state.ma.us](mailto:Brad.Mitchell@state.ma.us)