Department of Agriculture's Work Across Massachusetts
Franklin County

$24,410 in Senior Farmer's Market, WIC Coupons and Homebound Distribution – WIC coupons are provided, and vouchers are distributed, to seniors who can travel to a farmer's market, and a delivery service is provided to homebound seniors to help them purchase fresh, local products.

11 Farmers' Markets – Farmers' markets are one of our best tools for preserving farmland, economically viable small business, and a healthy population. They connect farmers with consumers. MDAR provides assistance with market organization, promotion, and regulatory compliance.

43 Schools and 23 daycares with MDAR Approved Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plans – IPM is a tool for reducing to a minimum the risk associated with pesticides in our schools and daycares. MDAR assists in the creation and submission of the plans as mandated by Massachusetts General Laws, and makes those available to the public for review.

235 Pesticide Applicator Licenses – MDAR licenses and regulates all commercial pesticide applicators in the state. Licensing requires extensive testing and continuing education credits. This includes all lawn and landscaping applications as well as indoor pest control applications.

Our Farms:
There are 741 farms in Franklin County working 79,465 acres to produce $57M in products. The average farm produces $76,712 of agricultural products on just 107 acres.

25 Schools Participating in the Farm-to-School Program – MDAR works with public and private schools (K-12), colleges, and universities to help facilitate purchases of local agricultural products.

6 Animal Adoption Centers and Pet Rescues/ 2 Pet Shops – Operations that are authorized by MDAR are subject to inspections and are under MDAR regulatory oversight.

10 Horse Stables and 18 Instruction Licenses – all stables are inspected and licensed by MDAR, and all instructors undergo testing prior to licensing.

2 Composting Facilities – MDAR operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with DEP to oversee commercial composting on farms taking in outside waste. All such facilities undergo an initial review and registration process as well as ongoing regulatory oversight by MDAR.

15,305 Acres of Permanently Preserved Farmland on 218 sites – MDAR purchases farmland in exchange for permanent deed restrictions. The restrictions preclude any use of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability.

9,284 Acres with Term Easements –MDAR purchases easements in exchange for grants to improve economic viability.