

Dept. of Agricultural Resources' Work Across Western Massachusetts *Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties*

\$226,691 Senior Farmers' Market, WIC Coupons and Homebound Distribution— WIC coupons are provided, and vouchers are distributed, to seniors who can travel to a farmers' market, and a delivery service is provided to homebound seniors to help them purchase local fresh products.

48 Farmers' Markets, including 4 Winter 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.

588 Schools 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 the General Laws, and makes those available to the public for review.

1,171 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.

36 Animal Adoption Centers and Pet Rescues/ 22 Pet shops – Operations that are authorized by MDAR are subject to inspections and are under MDAR regulatory oversight.

*Our Farms:
There are 2,482 farms in
Western Massachusetts
working 235,414 acres to
produce \$141.7M in
products. The average
farm produces \$57,091 of
agricultural products on
just 95 acres.*

412 Horse Riding Stables and Riding Instructor Licenses – all stables are inspected and licensed by MDAR; all instructors undergo testing prior to licensing.

13 Composting Facilities –MDAR operates under a MOU with DEP to oversee commercial composting on farms that take in outside waste. All such facilities undergo an initial review and registration process as well as ongoing regulatory oversight by MDAR.

39,536 Acres Permanently Preserved Farmland / 518 Acres with Term Easements – MDAR purchases easements in exchange for grants to improve economic viability.

Statewide Agricultural Statistics of Interest

USDA's five-year agricultural census report was last released in 2007. It shows some interesting things for Massachusetts Agriculture. Here are just a few:

The Number of Farms is Rising!

- ✓ 2002-2007 saw a growth in the number of farms across the US – nationally farm numbers grew 4%. Across the northeast they grew 16%; in Massachusetts **farm numbers grew 27% to 7,691**
- ✓ 2002-2007 saw a relatively small (700 acre) drop in the **total acreage of farmland in the state to 517,879 acres**

Our Farms Are Directly Supporting Local Communities!

- ✓ Massachusetts **farms paid \$32.5M in property taxes** in 2007
- ✓ The value of Massachusetts **farm land and buildings was \$6.38B** in 2007
- ✓ The cost to deliver community services to municipalities to agriculture and open land are on average 72% less than the cost of residential properties**

Both Large and Small Farms Are Increasing Their Sales!

- ✓ **Farms with under \$20,000 in revenue a year went up 29%** from 2002 to 2007, while the total revenue to those farms rose 83%
- ✓ **Farms with over \$100,000 in revenue a year went up 16%** from 2002 to 2007, while the total revenue to those farms rose 29%

We Are Leading the Way in Direct Sales!

- ✓ The **value of agricultural products sold rose 27%** from 2002-2007. For 2007 it hit \$490M
- ✓ **Farm payroll was over \$118M** for 2007
- ✓ **Six Massachusetts counties are in the top 1.5%** for total sales directly to the consumer

Many of Our Farmers Are on Rented Land!

- ✓ **671 (9%) of the farms are rented** in the Commonwealth – not just the land, but the entire farm

Farm Ownership is Becoming More Diverse!

- ✓ Between 2002 and 2007 the percentage of **farms that were principally operated by women rose from 21% to 30%**
- ✓ The average farm operator has **been on the same farm for 21 years and is 56.3 years old**
- ✓ **1,150 of our farms are owned by someone 70 years old or more**

Our Farms are Local, Family Owned Businesses – of the 7,691 farms, only 75 are owned by non-family corporations (and some of those are land trusts, towns, and not for profit entities)

*Farms by County**

Barnstable

406 farms on 5,233 acres w/
\$17.6 M in sales

Berkshire

522 farms on 66,352 acres
w/ \$20.6 M in sales

Bristol

777 farms on 39,252 acres
w/ \$44.2 M in sales

Dukes

81 farms on 7,916 acres
w/ \$3.3 M in sales

Essex

531 farms on 27,834 acres
w/ \$25 M in sales

Franklin

741 farms on 79,465 acres
w/ \$56.8 M in sales

Hampden

508 farms on 36,841 acres
w/ \$25.7 M in sales

Hampshire

711 farms on 52,756 acres
w/ \$38.6 M in sales

Middlesex

700 farms on 33,893 acres
w/ \$81.7 M in sales

Nantucket

14 farms on 615 acres
w/ \$2.9 M in sales

Norfolk

264 farms on 11,654 acres
w/ \$14 M in sales

Plymouth

882 farms on 49,612 acres
w/ \$78.4 M in sales

Suffolk

7 farms on 99 acres
w/ \$212,000 in sales

Worcester

1,547 farms on 106,357
w/ \$80.6 M in sales

*2007 Agricultural Census