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Thursday, September 22nd -- Massachusetts Day at the Eastern States Exposition (Big E) is Just Around the Corner!



Come celebrate Massachusetts' finest at the Massachusetts Building located along the famous Avenue of States. This year's theme is "Local Foods...Local Farms...Healthy Choices" that will feature a cooking demonstration by celebrity chef Ann Sortun (owner of Orleana Restaurant in Cambridge), a fun exercise segment with New England Patriots cheerleaders and more! There are over 30 exhibitors inside the Massachusetts Building as well as many outdoor displays in the backyard area. Many participating vendors will be donating up to 5% of proceeds from Massachusetts Day to the Farm Disaster Relief Fund established in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene. For directions to the Big E [click here](#).

Commissioner Soares Elected Second Vice-President of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)

At NASDA's recent annual meeting held in Salt Lake City Utah (9/14 through 9/19), members voted Commissioner Scott J. Soares of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) as the second Vice President of the Association. In 2014, Commissioner Soares will then serve as President of NASDA and the association's annual meeting will be hosted in Massachusetts.

NASDA is governed by a 10-member Board of Directors consisting of a five member Executive Committee; one At-Large member; and the presidents of the four NASDA regions. Executive Committee members are the officers of the association and serve a five-year term (each region has at least one member serving on the Executive Committee). The regional presidents serve a one year term. The At-Large member is selected by the Executive Committee.

"This is a great honor for Massachusetts and a great reflection of the commitment and hard work being done by this Administration and the agricultural community on behalf of a sustainable "ag" future in our Commonwealth," said Commissioner Soares.

Whole Farm Planning Workshop For Women

CISA (Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture), a non-profit organization comprised of farmers, consumers, and professionals working together to strengthen local agriculture by building connections between farmers and the community in Western Massachusetts, is excited to offer a workshop series aimed specifically at beginning women farmers. CISA and Holistic Management International (HMI) have teamed up to offer a workshop series specifically aimed at women farmers in the state of Massachusetts

Whole Farm Planning for Beginning Women Farmers, 2011-2012 Session:

If you're a woman who has been farming for less than ten years, the Whole Farm Planning series is an opportunity to learn from other women farmers and experienced mentors. The program consists of one-on-one mentorships, on-farm field days, business planning workshops, and round-table discussions with a network of women farmers to share concerns and successes. In order to cultivate a holistic understanding of farming, each aspect of farm planning will be laid out, from creating a business plan to financial management in order to cultivate a holistic understanding of farming.

This is a 10-workshop series that has 6 sessions held in the winter months and 4 farm tour sessions in spring and early summer. The first class is expected to begin the end of October. Dates, times and locations for the workshops are to be decided. Participants must attend all 10 sessions and the class size is limited to fifteen attendees who are Massachusetts residents. If you're interested in learning more or signing up for this program, contact Devon at 413-665-7100 or devon@buylocalfood.org. The enrollment form is available on CISA's website www.buylocalfood.org. The application deadline is September 23rd.

USDA is Conducting a Crop Loss Adjustor Training Program

Persons interested in becoming certified as Crop Loss Adjustors can attend one of three informational sessions to learn about the job of a Crop Loss Adjustor and how they can become certified. The sessions will be held October 4 at the Hampshire/Hampden Farm Service Agency office, 195 Russell Street, Hadley MA; October 6 at the Massachusetts Farm Bureau office, 249 Lakeside Avenue, Marlborough, MA; and October 13 at the Connecticut State Farm Service Agency office, 344 Merrow Road, Suite B, Tolland, CT. Each session runs from 9 am – 12 noon. Interested persons only need to attend one of the sessions.

A Crop Loss Adjustor is a self-employed contractor with no benefits. They coordinate with USDA Farm Service Agency county offices to inspect crops for pre-season, growing season and harvest inspections of farms. Crop Loss Adjustors must have knowledge of crops grown in New England, willingness to learn how to use GPS, ability to fill out paperwork and strong people skills. You must provide your own transportation and equipment. Work is seasonal, varied and dependent upon crop conditions. The informational session will include information on the job of the Loss Adjustor, the fruit and vegetable insurance available through Farm Service Agency offices, and types of loss adjustment inspections. There will be time for questions and additional information on upcoming training sessions to obtain Loss Adjustor Certification.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Massachusetts State Farm Service Agency office at 413-253-4500, or the Connecticut State Farm Service Agency office at 860-871-4090.

Farmers Wanted for Roxbury Community College's 3rd Annual Farmers' and Flea Market

Saturday, October 1, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Healthy Start, Healthy Living. Contact Carol Bliss-Furr, 617-541-5394 or cbliss@rcc.mass.edu for more information. \$25 vendor fee. Proceeds from vendor fees will go to the Roxbury Community College Foundation and will benefit alumni programs and student scholarships. www.rcc.mass.edu

Audubon's Hey Day / Farm Day Looking for Vendors

Saturday, October 1 - 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Mass Audubon's Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary, Princeton, MA. Exhibits and hands on farm-related activities for people of all ages including cider pressing, blacksmithing, hay rides and canoeing. \$20 vendor fee. Questions? 978-464-2712, www.massaudubon.org



MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Agricultural Markets, Animal Health, and Crop and Pest Services – MDAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth's agricultural community to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit MDAR's website at mass.gov/agr, and/or follow at twitter.com/agcommishsoares.