

REMINDER!

WINTER AG COMMISSION GATHERINGS and FORUMS

offered at BOTH:

Deerfield Town Hall Saturday, Dec 12, 2009

and

Hancock Shaker Village Saturday, Jan 9, 2009

All Farmers, AgCom Members, and Others Invited
(Please Pass this Invitation On!)

- Ag Commission Roundtable Discussion – Reports from each Western Mass Ag Commission, Success Stories, Problems, What's Working
- Panel Discussion on New Agricultural Legislation, Current Laws and Issues, Hot Agricultural Topics
(MDAR General Counsel Bob Ritchie, Asst Commissioner Nathan L'Etoile, Rep Denis Guyer, Cris Coffin of American Farmland Trust)
 - Buffet Lunch and Informal Discussion
- Panel and Exhibits on New and Current Sources of Funding, Information, and Technical Assistance for Farmers – Energy Funding, Loan Programs, Incentives, Private & Government Programs, Farm Support Agencies, and More

For more information: Ann Gibson, RC&D, 413-256-1607; Pete Westover, 413-665-4077

**WESTERN MASS FARMER AND AG COMMISSION
GATHERINGS - AGENDA**

Saturday, Dec 12, 2009 – Deerfield Town Hall

Saturday, Jan 9, 2010 – Hancock Shaker Village

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. / \$10 Fee Includes Lunch, Coffee, Materials
(free registration if you attend only afternoon session)

8:30 – 9:00 **Registration and Coffee**

9:00 – 9:15 **Welcome and Overview** – Commissioner Scott Soares

FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS AND FRIENDS

9:15 – 10:45 **Roundtable for AgCom Members** – Successful AgCom Projects, Excise Tax Waivers, Right to Farm Signs, Farm-Neighbor Disputes, Promotion of Farm Products, & How to Stay Up-to-date on Who is Doing What – Kathy Orlando, Sheffield Land Trust, Moderator (Hancock), Phil Korman, CISA, Moderator (Deerfield)

10:45 – 11:00 **Break**

FOR ALL FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS

11:00 – 12:30 **Current Laws and Issues** – Food Safety, Standard Farm Practices, Crop Insurance, Dairy Loan Program, Chapter 61A, & many others – MDAR General Counsel Bob Ritchie, Asst Commissioner Nathan L'Etoile, Rep. Denis Guyer, Cris Coffin, AFT

12:30 – 1:15 **Buffet Lunch and Informal Discussion**

FOR ALL FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS

1:15 – 3:30 **Sources of Funding, Technical Assistance & Information for Farmers**
Panel and Displays by Various Federal, State, and Private Agencies: Grant Programs, Incentives, Loans, Farm Energy, Farmland Protection, Others.

Sponsors: MDAR, TTOR/Highland Communities Initiative, Berkshire Grown, CISA, Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D, Conservation Districts, Mass Farm Bureau, American Farmland Trust, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Sheffield Land Trust, Franklin Land Trust, Franklin Council of Governments, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, Deerfield Agricultural Commission, Hancock Agricultural Commission, Pittsfield Agricultural Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Town _____

Street Address _____ Town/Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

AgCom Member () Yes () No For: () Deerfield Dec 12 () Hancock Jan 9

\$10 Registration Fee Enclosed () Yes
(Afternoon only with no lunch – free registration)

Send to: Ann Gibson, Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D, 433 West St, #8, Amherst, MA 01002,
agibson@berkshirepioneerrcd.org - For more information, Ann Gibson at 413-256-1607. For
program info contact Pete Westover, 413-665-4077, westover03@comcast.net.
