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COMMISSIONER'S COLUMN



It seems like every time I write a column I begin with some reference to the weather- and rightfully so because it has such a profound effect on the essence of so many agricultural practices. This spring we've had dry spells with good rain (but often at the exact worst time for many of you), and abnormally cool/cold temperatures demanding frost protection, but with the obligatory overly hot days mixed in. My dad used to tell me that a stretch of good weather made most of his business decisions seem right on point, but with bad weather similar decisions seemed not to have been his smartest moves. The economic impact of weather on the bottom line is profound, and though it's

most obvious for agriculture and seasonal operations like ski areas, it's far wider than that. Talk to a restaurateur or someone in the retail shoe, paint, or tire business and you'll think you're listening to a farmer when you hear how they bemoan the weather and curse those darn weather forecasters.

Just writing about the weather immediately puts me back at my business fretting over today's, tomorrow's and next weekend's forecast. Please excuse my digression here but I am compelled to share one weather related story.

One late April/early May night when we had just begun putting a few tender flowering annuals outside at our garden center for display purposes, I checked the weather before we closed in case we had to cover them or bring them undercover. The forecast was for a low in the 40's so we needn't do anything. A few hours later I'm listening to the 11 PM news and I hear that there will be pockets of hard frost in Worcester County.

I rushed back to work and started carrying trays into a greenhouse as fast as I could, all the while appropriately verbalizing my thoughts on weather forecasting. On one of my trips I started out of the greenhouse still muttering to myself only to be surprised to encounter a local police officer who ordered me to stop and come out into open. I didn't know the officer and he asked me to produce identification and explain myself. In my haste to get to the nursery so I could go back home and get to bed I forgot my wallet so I had no ID. The officer told me that a motorist reported someone stealing plants at our business.

I explained to him what I was doing. He was obviously not a gardener because he wasn't buying my story at all. He started to tell me that we would be going to the station so we could "straighten the matter out" as he spoke into the radio on his person. "Sarge, the subject tells me that he's carrying the plants inside because it's going to be cold tonight..." the officer reported to his superior. His tone communicated his extreme and complete skepticism with my explanation. Fortunately, the sergeant was a veteran officer; we knew each other well, and over the radio we were able to establish my identity. I thanked the officer for protecting our property; he even carried two trays of plants into the greenhouse before he left.

Now that I have that out of the way, let me tell some of the things going on at MDAR. In my last column I reported that I had appointed Taryn LaScola as Acting Director of our Crop and Pest Services (C&PS) Division. Statute requires that my permanent appointment be approved by the Board of Agriculture and the Pesticide Board. I am now extremely pleased to announce that with both of those boards' unanimous approvals, Taryn is the Director of C&PS. I cannot be more pleased in how she is moving the division forward since she assumed her position.

In other personnel matters, Asian Longhorned Beetle Outreach Coordinator Katharine Robb has transferred to our Agricultural Markets Division, in which among other things she will concentrate on the management of the Massachusetts Building at the Eastern States Exposition. She has been replaced in her ALB position by Josh Bruckner. Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator Felicia Bakaj has left MDAR to accept a position with another state agency. We wish them all our best in their new positions.

As part of our efforts to improve the agency's operations, I'm pleased to report that several of our managers participated in the Commonwealth Management Certificate Program (CMCP). As the CMCP website explains, "The program prepares managers to take on management and leadership roles in their organization. It is ideal for those who wish to expand their knowledge and skill set as it relates to general management concepts and practices." Division Directors Mike Cahill (Animal Health), Mary Jordan (Agricultural Markets), Gerard Kennedy (Agricultural Conservation and Technical Assistance) along with Chief of Staff Alisha Bouchard and General Counsel Tara Zadeh participated. CMCP is composed of seven all day trainings and the presentation of a final project. I recently attended all MDAR's very impressive presentations. I think the net result is that the program improves managers' skillsets,

allowing them to find greater efficiencies in their respective units. I am very pleased with MDAR's participation in the program.

The Cranberry Revitalization Task Force recently completed its work. Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Matt Beaton and I co-chaired the group composed of grower, processor, educator, legislative and administrative representatives. It studied the industry and suggested action items to help stabilize it from the significant challenges it currently faces. MDAR provided all the staff support to the Task Force throughout its meeting process and the development of its Final Report. A brief summary of the Task Force and a link to its complete Report may be viewed [here](#).

In April I was invited to participate in a very special event-a presentation to Boston's Tavern Club on MDAR's history. Presenting were former Commissioners Fred Winthrop, Gus Schumacher, Greg Watson, Scott Soares and me. It was a great personal treat to hear my predecessors recall highlights from their tenures. ([picture here](#))

May was the Flower Growers and Nursery and Landscaping Associations' Plant Something! Month. Last year Secretary Beaton and I planted a tree out in Charlemont in Franklin County. This year the event featured gardening in a more urban location. It was a great treat that Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito joined MNLA Director Kerry Preston and her staff from Wisteria & Rose for a planting event a couple blocks from the State House on Beacon Hill! ([picture here](#))

As the longest days of the year approach, everyone at MDAR wishes you both literally and figuratively that you successfully make hay while the sun shines!

John Lebeaux



FOREFRONT

Energy News

Energy Audits – Now is a great time!

As the warmer weather sets in and grant opportunities for the coming year begin, the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program is able to help provide energy audits and technical assessments, providing up to 75% of the cost of an energy audit/assessment. Audits/assessments are good for five years, and required for many if not all grants. Request yours now – Call 413-727-3090, info@massfarmenergy.com or visit www.massfarmenergy.com and submit a *Request Form* to be contacted.

REAP Application Assistance

Need help preparing your REAP application? The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program is able to provide it! Our program recently received a grant to help farms prepare their REAP applications, at no cost. But don't wait until the deadline approaches; REAP applications can be submitted any time, so contact us now!

MassCEC Solar Loan Program

The MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center have launched a new \$30 million loan program for residentially metered and low income properties. The program also helps pay for the first 20 or 30% of the project costs.

Certain agricultural operations may qualify for this program. Please visit www.masssolarloan.com/ under the Consumers and Residents tab for more information. For more information, you can contact MassCEC's main telephone number 617-315-9355 and ask for the Mass Solar Loan Program staff. You can also contact Gerry Palano @ MDAR 617-626-1706.

DPU - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS RE SOLAR NET METERING

On May 11, 2016, the Department of Public Utilities ("Department"), issued an Order commencing a rulemaking proceeding, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, Executive Order 562, and 220 C.M.R. § 2.00 et seq., to adopt emergency regulations amending 220 C.M.R. § 18.00 et seq. ("Net Metering Regulations"). Specifically, the Department amended its Net Metering Regulations to implement the net metering provisions of An Act Relative to Solar Energy, St. 2016, c. 75, §§ 3-9, and to make additional clerical changes to the Net Metering Regulations. To maintain the stability of the renewable and alternative energy market and to foster continued growth of net metering projects by the public and private sectors, the Department finds that implementation of the Emergency Net Metering Regulations, without delay, will allow for expansion of net metering services with direct benefits and value realized by electric distribution customers, consistent with the Legislature's intent to transition to a stable and equitable solar market at a reasonable cost to ratepayers in the Commonwealth. St. 2016, c. 75, Emergency Preamble. The Emergency Net Metering Regulations are designated as 220 C.M.R. § 18.00 et seq. and are effective upon filing with the Secretary of the Commonwealth. A copy of the Department's Order and Emergency Net Metering Regulations may be viewed at the Department's offices at the South Station address listed below. The Department also has posted a copy of the Order and Net Metering Regulations on its website, <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber> (insert 16-64).

To provide opportunity for public comment, and pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §§ 2 and 4, and 220 C.M.R. § 2.05, the Department will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at 10:00 am, at the Department's offices, One South Station, Fifth Floor, Boston, Massachusetts. The Department's office is wheelchair accessible. Any person seeking an accommodation to meaningfully participate at the public hearing should contact Staci Rubin, Hearing Officer, at (617) 305-3500 or Staci.Rubin@state.ma.us at least two days prior to the public hearing with requests for such accommodations.

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may appear at the public hearing or submit initial written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 pm) on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, and reply written comments not later than the close of business (5:00 pm) on Monday, June 20, 2016. Written comments shall be limited in length to a maximum of twenty one-sided, double-spaced typewritten pages.

The Department welcomes specific recommended language changes to the Net Metering Emergency Regulations. Additionally, the Department seeks comments on the following topics:

1. The process for Distribution Companies to calculate Net Metering Credits for Solar Net Metering Facilities that are interconnected prior to the Notification Date and seek to expand such facilities after the Notification Date;
2. Whether the Act permits Distribution Companies to provide payment to Class III Solar Net Metering Facilities receiving Market Net Metering Credits in lieu of a net metering credit on an electric bill;

3. Whether the term “government entity” as used in the Act, Section 3, which states that “credits shall only be allocated to an account of a municipality or government entity,” should be interpreted to have the same meaning as “other governmental entity” as used in G.L. c. 164, § 139;
4. Whether including in the definitions of Class I Net Metering Facility and Class I Solar Net Metering Facility the phrase “is not a transmission facility” is appropriate; and if so, whether the definitions of Class II Net Metering Facility, Class II Solar Net Metering Facility, Class III Net Metering Facility, and Class III Solar Net Metering Facility also should reference that the facility is not a transmission facility;
5. At what time and under what circumstances the Department may consider proposals for a monthly minimum reliability contribution;
6. What process should the Department use to consider the monthly minimum reliability contribution;
7. Whether the Department should exempt or modify a monthly minimum reliability contribution for low-income ratepayers;
8. Whether the Department should exempt any class or sub-class of net metering facilities that were in service before December 31, 2016;
9. What would be a reasonable amount of time between (a) the Department of Energy Resource’s (“DOER”) determination that the aggregate nameplate capacity of Solar Net Metering Facilities qualified under G.L. c. 25A, § 11F(g), is equal to or greater than 1,600 MW direct current and (b) the Notification Date to be established pursuant to Department Order following receipt of the DOER’s determination; and
10. In defining the process for calculating Net Metering Credits in 220 C.M.R. § 18.04, should the term “Basic Service” be used rather than the term “Default Service.” D.P.U. 16-64 Page 3.

Any person who desires to file written comments shall file an original and one (1) copy of such written comments with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110. All documents should also be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@state.ma.us and the hearing officer [<mailto:Staci.Rubin@state.ma.us>]; or (2) on a CD-ROM. The text of the e-mail or CD-ROM must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 16-64); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Documents filed with the Department will be available for public inspection at its offices during business hours and through our website by looking up the docket by its number in the docket database at: <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber> (insert 16-64). Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Staci Rubin, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at (617) 305-3500. By Order of the Department, Mark D. Marini, Secretary.

Apiary Updates

State Apiary at UMass – MDAR has created a state apiary in collaboration with the UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the Agricultural Learning Center, 911 North Pleasant St., Amherst. The apiary includes 12 active hives. MDAR and student interns will use the hives for research and to learn more about honey bees, beekeeping & honey production. The apiary will also serve as a resource for beekeepers and beekeeping clubs and associations. If you are interested in scheduling hive opening demos, etc., contact Kim.Skyrm@state.ma.us to schedule a time.

MA Pollinator Week - Governor Baker will declare the week of June 20th *MA Pollinator Week*. Government officials will visit and learn more about the state apiary. The declaration recognizes the impacts of pollinators on agriculture and encourages the public’s support of pollinators. The kick-off is on Monday June 20 at 10 am, and the event is open to the public. Contact: Julia.Grimaldi@state.ma.us.

UMass Research – MDAR has partnered with UMass to do a research project on the health of hives in MA. If you have an interest in students coming out to visit the apiary and doing Varroa mite washes and Nosema counts, etc. please contact the student in charge of the project: Mackay Eyster, meyster@umass.edu.

USDA Hive Survey Research – The MDAR is participating this year with the national hive survey sponsored by the USDA/BEE Informed partnership labs. We are seeking apiaries to be part of the survey - so if you have at least 8-10 hives and are willing to let us come out and get a sample of workers and pollen, please let us know ASAP. The workers will be analyzed for 11 honey bee viruses, pests and other pathogens and the pollen will be analyzed for 170+ pesticides. We need a total of 24 MA apiaries for the survey. The samples will be sent off to the USDA lab in Maryland and results will be disseminated once testing is complete. See complete details about the survey [here](#).

Virus Testing at UMass – MDAR has partnered with UMass to create a virus testing program for 2016. They are testing for 5 common honey bee viruses so please let us know if you are interested in having your hives tested and we will visit you to take samples. Contact Kim.Skyrm@state.ma.us.

Inspection Services – The season has started off very busy for the inspection team since we have visited over 150 beekeepers so far with more added each day. If you are interested in getting an inspection either contact your inspector directly via phone/email or send a request to the email address listed on the [request form](#).

USDA Hive Loss Program – If you suffered from hive loss and want to seek potential compensation consider learning more about the USDA ELAP, click [here](#).

[MDAR Apiary Program](#); [Massgrown Honey](#)

Urban Farmers: MDAR FY2017 Urban Agriculture RFR Posted



The [MDAR FY2017 Urban Agriculture RFR](#) has been posted to [Commbuys](#).

Please visit the recently updated MDAR's [Urban Agriculture Program Resource webpage](#). In the 2016 MA Urban Farming Conference section, you will find panelist and keynote [presentations](#)!

MDAR continues to support our partners in cities across the Commonwealth to advance urban food production. **Municipal planners and urban farmers** can find a listing of

[Toolkits, Resources and Publications](#), as well as a comprehensive listing of examples from dozens of US cities' zoning and ordinances for urban commercial farms and community gardens.

Want to Share Your *Farm to School* Experience?

Apply to present a workshop at the Massachusetts Farm & Sea to School Conference on November 4, 2016. Share your experience as a member of the farm and sea to school community by presenting a workshop at the conference. The [Mass. Farm to School Team & Conference Planning Committee](#) encourages collaborative workshops that bring together multiple perspectives. The team seeks workshops that represent a variety of program approaches and reflect the diversity of our state.

Workshop Topic Areas Include:*

- Local food procurement and promotion
- Experiential food and nutrition education
- Food, farm, and nutrition policy
- Growing or producing food for the institutional market

**For a more detailed listing of suggested topics, please visit [website](#).*

These topics are priority areas, but we welcome additional workshop topics that highlight your particular expertise with farm to school. To submit an application for a workshop, please complete the [online form](#). Applications are due by July 10th and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Selected workshops will be confirmed in early August. [Click here](#) for more detailed information about submitting a workshop.

Don't Put All Your Tomatoes in One Basket – Bring Some to the Annual Tomato Contest

Commercial Tomato Growers - Please join us for the 32nd annual Massachusetts Tomato Contest on **Wednesday, August 24** in the [KITCHEN](#) at the Boston Public Market, 100 Hanover Street, Boston. Tomatoes will be judged by a panel of experts on flavor, firmness/slicing quality, exterior color and shape. The contest is sponsored by the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and Mass Farmers' Markets and hosted by the Boston Public Market Association and Trustees of Reservations. This friendly contest is open to commercial tomato growers and is designed to increase consumer's awareness of local agriculture.

Schedule of Events:

- 9:00 am to 10:45 am – Tomato drop-off and registration
- 11:00 am – Judging of tomatoes by panel of experts
- 1:00 pm– Presentation of awards

How to Register:

Each farm entry is required to submit a registration form doc format of [tomato registration form](#). All of the required tomato details and categories are explained on the registration form.

Drop-off Locations - If you are unable to bring your entry(s) to Boston, drop them at one of the locations below.

Drop off is scheduled for Tuesday, August 23 from 9:00am - 3:00pm at the following locations. *A registration form is required with each farm entry.

Eastern Massachusetts: Mass Farmers Markets Office, 240 Beaver Street, 2nd Floor, Waltham - 781-893-8222

- Central Massachusetts: Davidian Bros. Farm, 500 Church St, Northboro - 508-393-3444
- Western Massachusetts: MDAR Western MA Office, 101 University Drive, Suite C4, Amherst, 01002 - 413-548-1900

For more information or questions regarding the Tomato Contest contact Julia.Grimaldi@state.ma.us, 617-626-1763.

Massachusetts Building at the Big E: One-day Options to Exhibit

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) each year invites Massachusetts organizations and businesses to apply for the purpose of showcasing Massachusetts agriculture, commerce, culture, food or tourism through informational, educational, promotional and retail exhibits in the Massachusetts Building during the Eastern States Exposition (the Big E) located in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

2016 Big E dates are Friday, September 16 - Sunday, October 2

The 17 day option deadline has passed, but we offer one-day options to exhibit:

- **Massachusetts Day** - Thursday, September 22 - application [.pdf](#) or [.doc](#) format
- **Harvest New England Day** - Friday, September 30 - application [.pdf](#) or [.doc](#) format

Join the 2nd Annual Wachusett Mountain Farm Fresh Fest



August 27 – 28, Wachusett Mountain, Princeton

This two-day festival will feature a Farmers' Market, Craft Fair, Cooking Demos, Local Wine Growers, Agricultural Demonstrations, Workshops, Contests, Live Music with 4 Bands and much more!

Farms are invited to attend this two-day festival celebrating locally grown and produced foods, featuring a large farmers' market and craft fair, live music, family entertainment, cooking and educational demos, along with hands-on activities and shows. If interested in offering a demo or brief talk on a farm related subject, contact Audra Kirtland, audra@wachusett.com, 978-464-2300 x3703.

Applications are available now for vendors and crafters with a special 1-day option for busy farms. For more information, and links to applications, please visit [the Farm Fresh Fest webpage](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS / WORKSHOPS

Panel Event: Technology For Sustainable Agriculture: Feeding a Growing Population

June 9, 5:30 pm – Food & Networking, 6:00 pm – Program, at TechSandBox, 105B South St., Hopkinton, MA
Program Overview: Food systems account for 30% percent of the energy consumption, over 70% of freshwater withdrawals and more than 20% of GHG emissions worldwide. Forecasts indicate that we will need to produce at least 60% more food by 2050 to meet demands of growing populations and emerging economies, centered in urban areas.

Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) can help meet the nutritional needs of a growing population with greater resource efficiency and fewer environmental impacts. This panel will review the deployment of CEA methods (e.g. hydroponics, aquaponics) at residential and commercial scale. Our panelists will discuss advances in CEA grow methods and smart technologies (e.g. LED lighting, sensors), as well as some of the technical and financial challenges to scaling and widespread adoption.

Panelists:

- Jeff Barton - Founder and Owner of Water Fresh Farm
- Mike Zartarian - Director of Engineering at Grove Labs
- David Hamby - Principal Engineer, Advanced Technologies, OSRAM Corporate Innovation
- Kyle Seaman – Director, Farm Technology at Freight Farms
- Moderator: Sarah Brezniak - Principal at Captus Group LLC

For more information and to register: <http://techsandbox.org/clean-tech-energy.html>.

Growing Strawberries & Other Small Fruit Twilight Workshop

June 13 – SEMAP's Growing Strawberries & Other Small Fruit Twilight Workshop - 5:00 pm -7:00 pm, Ward's Berry Farm, Sharon. Interested in adding fruit to your farm or garden? Perhaps you've tried before but it didn't turn out exactly how you had hoped. Join Jim Ward of Ward's Berry Farm for an informative workshop on best practices for growing small fruits. Details [here](#).

Ag Com Boot Camp - Bee Inform

June 13 - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Bristol County Agricultural High School Auditorium, 135 Center St., Dighton. Pollinator Session: MDAR's Apiary Inspector Ken Warchol and Director of Crop and Pest Services, Tayrn LaScola, will provide an update on Pollinator Health. This will include information on the State and Federal status of pollinator health, including and addressing issues such as diseases, forage, pesticides and hive health. 2 Pesticide Credits. Register [here](#). Questions, contact Laura Sapienza-Grabski, MA Association of Agricultural Commissions, 781-248-4576, massagcoms.maac@gmail.com.

Christmas Tree Twilight Meeting

June 15 - 5:30 pm - Maple Crest Farm, 102 Moulton St., West Newbury, MA. Hosts: Carol and John Elwell. Details here: <http://christmas-trees.org/calendar.htm> - Members and non-members welcomed.

Massachusetts Beekeepers Annual Meeting

June 18 - [Mass Bee Field Day 2016](#) - 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, Massachusetts Beekeepers Annual Meeting - University of Massachusetts Agronomy Farm, River Road, Deerfield. Details [here](#).

MA Cultivated Blueberry Grower's Association Spring Seminar Invitation

June 18 - 11:30 am – 3:00 pm - [Kenburn Orchards](#), (owners: Larry and Susan Flaccus), 1394 Mohawk Trail (Route 2) at North-South Road, Shelburne, MA

Subject: IPM Update on Major Blueberry Pest and Disease Issues for 2016 and the Worker Protection Standard and Pesticide Issues. This year we are pleased to have Sonia Schloemann, UMass Extension Small Fruit Specialist, give us an IPM Update on Major Blueberry Pest and Disease Issues for 2016. Laurie Rocco, MDAR Pesticide Inspector, will also speak to us on the Worker Protection Standard and Pesticide Issues (1 pesticide credit will be given). Nourse Farms will also provide promotional fertilizer/soil enhancement packages to the attendees. The cost for this seminar is free for MCBGA members and \$10 for non-members. Please register by emailing Elisabeth Patt at eap1226@verizon.net by June 10. Please bring a picnic lunch and lawn chairs.

Sheep Management Basics Twilight Meeting

June 23 - SEMAP – 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Soule Homestead Education Center, Middleboro, MA. Are you fascinated by fiber, a lover of lamb or just thinking about how to mow your grass without power? Then sheep might be the

perfect animal to add to your life. Whether it is just a few that you would like to get for your yard or if you are interested in starting a flock then come and learn the basics. [Register here.](#)

Specialty Food Association's Go To Market Educational Conference

July 13 - Educational program: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Boston Center for Adult Education, 122 Arlington Street, Boston

Join fellow entrepreneurs at the Specialty Food Association's one-day workshop to teach specialty food manufacturers how to sell to distributors, foodservice, specialty food retailers and supermarkets. Presentations feature industry practitioners, communicating material useful to both newcomers and experienced producers interested in expanding sales and building profit.

Presentations from industry peers will include:

- *How to Prepare for a Buyer Meeting*
- *How to Sell to Distributors*
- *How to Sell to Supermarkets*
- *How to Sell to Specialty Food Stores*
- *How to Sell to Foodservice*

Specialty Food Association & MSFA Members: \$79 (includes lunch) Non-Member: \$119 (includes lunch). Please contact esipos@specialtyfood.com with questions.

IPM Field Walks

In this series, learn to identify and scout for vegetable pests and select integrated pest management strategies that work for you, whether you are an experienced farmer, or just starting out, organically certified or not! We will use pheromone traps to monitor pests, use a microscope to identify plant pathogens, and learn to scout in multiple vegetable crops with UMass Extension Vegetable Program staff Katie Campbell-Nelson, and Plant Diagnostician Angie Madeiras. Scouting will be followed by a discussion of effective control strategies with growers in attendance. Bring a hand lens if you have one.

- **June 28**, Wards Berry Farm, 614 South Main Street, Sharon. Farmer: Jim Ward
- **July 19**, Alprilla Farm, 94 John Wise Avenue, Essex. Farmer: Noah Kellerman
- **August 2**, Red Fire Farm, 184 Meadow Rd, Montague. Farmer: Ryan Voiland

All from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Questions? Contact: Katie Campbell-Nelson, kcampbel@umass.edu, 413-545-1051.

Save the Dates:

July 13 - Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association Summer Meeting, [UMass Cold Spring Orchard](#), 391 Sabin Street, Belchertown. Details TBA.

July 28 - The Summer [MFGA](#) - [MNLA](#) Meeting - Norfolk Agricultural and Technical High School, Walpole

August 12 - 14 – [NOFA Summer Conference](#) - UMass, Amherst

November 9 & 10 - [Northeast Greenhouse Conference & Expo](#) - Holiday Inn, Boxborough

*More events at MDAR's [Calendar](#). Culinary and Agricultural Events [here](#).

USDA NEWS

Freeze Damage to Perennial Crops

Growers of perennial crops may be concerned with potential freeze damage, due to the extreme cold weather Massachusetts experienced in the past few months. As soon as a grower notices a problem, they must contact their crop insurance agent or Farm Service Agency. This must be within 72 hours of the initial discovery of damage. Failure to provide proper notification can affect a potential indemnity payment.

Crop Reporting deadline - July 15

Producers of annual crops, that are insured by crop insurance (potatoes, tobacco, sweet corn, field corn), are required to report your crop acreage to your crop insurance agent by July 15. Producers that have a Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy also must report their crop acreages to your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) by July 15. Failure to report timely and accurately can affect any potential indemnity claim for crop loss. We encourage growers to carefully review your records to help you accurately report the correct planting dates, field locations and crop acreage.

UMass Extension works in partnership with the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) to educate Massachusetts producers about Federal Crop Insurance and Risk Management Programs. For more information, please visit www.rma.usda.gov or contact UMass Risk Management Specialists Paul Russell at pmrrussell@umext.umass.edu or Tom Smiarowski at tsmiarowski@umext.umass.edu

CLASSIFIED / BRIEFS / JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- **The MDAR State Reclamation Board is accepting applications for the position of Program Coordinator III/SRB Operations Coordinator** – [click here](#).
- **The MDAR is accepting applications for the position of Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator** – [click here](#)
- **Mass Association of Conservation Districts announces availability of two positions in the West Wareham USDA Field Office:** 1) Administrative Program Assistant: This is an advanced administrative and technical support position responsible for providing program support for USDA NRCS conservation programs. 2) Conservation Planner: Provides conservation technical assistance to landowners in Southeast Mass with emphasis on cranberry production. Full position descriptions are available at <https://massacd.wordpress.com/employment/>. Interested parties should submit

an electronic letter of interest and resume to Jeff LaFleur, Executive Director at jefflmacd@gmail.com by 5:00 pm, Friday, June 24, 2016.

- **Notice of Sale - Friday, June 10 Public Auction** - Notice is hereby given that the USDA will sell by Public Auction the following described Chattel property. One 1991 John Deere Model 3155 Tractor, serial number L03155U721462 Cab Tractor with 265 Loader and four wheel drive. The property is being sold as-is with no implied or expressed warranties including, but not limited to, the condition, age, or completeness of item being sold. Credit Terms from the Farm Service Agency are not available for this sale. The property will be sold for cash unless otherwise indicated herein. USDA reserves the right to reject all bids. The property may be examined at 241 Greenfield Road, South Deerfield, MA. Public Auction will take place on Friday, June 10, 2016 at 6:00 pm via in-person bidding at 241 Greenfield Road, South Deerfield and internet bidding on the same day and time through Douglas Auctioneers, www.douglasauctioneers.com, 413-665-2877. Inquiries concerning the sale of the above property may be made at the Hampshire/Hampden County FSA Office, 195 Russell Street, Hadley, MA
- **Edible South Shore & South Coast seeks Client Services Representative** – seek a motivated and qualified Client Services Representative with a passion for local food and several years of outside print and online sales/customer service experience (or similar retail or food sales). This is a commission only position. The commission plan is generous and you will be taking over several existing accounts. Developing new business is an ongoing priority. Details here
- **Agricultural Excavation – Grading Services** - provide earth moving, drainage, land/pasture reclamation, greenhouse preparation, and rock raking services. Includes but not limited to orchards/equine facilities/cranberry bogs/nurseries. Chris Merrill Excavating merrilltrucks@comcast.net, 978-897-9977

About the *Farm & Market Report*

Published bi-monthly by MDAR:

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Next issue to be published for August/September. Please send news, calendar and/or classified information by August 5 to Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us. To unsubscribe or change your address, send an e-mail message to Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us or call 617-626-1759.

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/MDARCommish.