JANUARY 2020

LOOKING FORWARD: FARMLAND FOREVER

Please join MDAR Commissioner John Lebeaux, APR landowners, farmers, APR staff, Agricultural Lands Preservation Committee (ALPC), Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, state officials, land trusts, and individuals engaged in Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program efforts to preserve Massachusetts farmland. These are public events to review the APR program:

APR Program Updates (30 minutes) - MDAR staff will speak about policies, procedures, regulations, guidance, and efforts to improve and modernize the APR program after input from our 2018-2019 listening sessions.

Listening Sessions (90 minutes) - MDAR would like to hear your suggestions about APR program management, transfer and sale of APRs, long-term economic viability of APR farmlands including agritourism and nonagricultural uses, approvals, future farmland and legacy planning, and the application process for new APR farmland. MDAR is also interested in hearing from you about other topics like planning for climate resiliency: soil management, no-till agriculture, soil health, carbon sequestration; and weather-related issues like storms, flooding and increased frost/thaw frequency.

Online Comments – MDAR welcomes your input at events and/or online at www.mass.gov/apr-program-review “Online Form”.

Since 1980, the APR Program has permanently protected 932 farms and 73,368 acres in Massachusetts.

The APR program was the first in the nation and continues to protect and preserve working farms for generations to come.

For information contact Gerard.Kennedy@mass.gov

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Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program

MDAR
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES