
August/September Farm & Market Report

8/25/21

COMMISSIONER'S COLUMN

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UPCOMING EVENTS/WORKSHOPS

CLASSIFIED

COMMISSIONER'S COLUMN



Greetings, Mass. Agriculture and all its friends,

Last time I led off with some comments about how it was somewhat of a relief that a more traditional matter (the weather) was what was concerning us. After bouts of drought and heat, interrupted by much rain, including Tropical Storm Henri, I'm reminded how

completely dependent we are on weather conditions, and how the weather can turn a well-conceived business plan completely upside down. I hope you all are weathering the storms (both actual and metaphorical) and are pivoting and adjusting to present circumstances.

I know it's a very busy time of year for all of you, as it is at MDAR, and I'd like to update you on certain activities.

I guess I'll begin with a difficult topic, one we don't like to talk about much, but needs to be discussed. Several years ago at a National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) meeting, then Colorado Ag Commissioner Don Brown made a presentation on an extremely sobering, but very real subject: the extreme stress and mental health issues that some in ag face (often created by forces the farmer cannot control or even influence), and what can be done to assist. Don introduced us to the realities of the problem in his state, and a program that government, academia, and other organizations jointly developed to respond. It was probably the quietest half hour I have ever witnessed at one of these meetings, and by the end, many of us were reaching for tissues to wipe our eyes.

I came home, flagged it for staff as a potential new initiative, and looked for opportunities to do something about it in MA.

That opportunity presented itself this year when USDA rolled out a Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) grant program that was open to state departments of agriculture.

Through the leadership of MDAR Deputy Commissioner Ashley Randle, and under a very tight timeline, MDAR applied for and was awarded a \$500,000 grant to establish a network that connects individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupations to stress assistance programs and address the current mental health and wellness gaps that exist within the state and expand the availability of resources to farmers, state staff, service providers, and partner organizations.

Principal objectives of the MA FRSAN program are:

- Provide Training for Farmers, State Staff, Sub-Contractors, and Service Providers
- Develop and Disseminate a Mental Health and Wellness Toolkit
- Partner Organizations as Education and Awareness Providers

Too often this is a topic that lends itself to very quiet, private conversations at best, but it's an issue that needs to be addressed broadly and openly and without any stigma associated. As tough as the subject is, it's real, and it's not going away if it's ignored, so I am pleased that we can get involved.

I want to recognize Ashley's initiative to identify and take on this effort. She was very ably assisted by Rob Monahan and Keri Cornman from our Fiscal team, Melissa Adams and Rose Arruda from Ag Conservation and Technical Assistance (DACTA), and Myron Inglis from our office. Several from this team will continue to work with Ashley on project management for the program which will run for a year beginning September 1 with a goal to train three hundred people. I also want to recognize Land for Good, **New Entry Sustainable Farming Project**, and National Young Farmers Coalition for each of those organization's support of our application.

We had looked forward to the Northeastern Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NEASDA) meeting in June, hosted by Pennsylvania Ag Secretary Russell Redding, in Hershey. Due to Covid considerations, the meeting was held virtually. We had the usual series of educational and policy discussions, but greatly missed the personal interactions, and especially, the farm tours. The September NASDA meeting in Louisville KY will be held in a hybrid manner, and MDAR hopes to be in The Bluegrass State next month!

Also next month, [The Big E](#) is back, and so is the [Massachusetts State Exposition Building](#)!!! We have taken advantage of the long downtime provided by the pandemic to make some capital improvements, some of which are ongoing.

I'm very pleased that a people counter system is being installed in the building. I've long advocated for that so we could demonstrate to any interested parties how much foot traffic flows through the building. We do know that in surveys, the Avenue of States is listed as either the top or one of the leading "must-see" stops at the fair.

Also on track for completion before the fair is a large ceiling fan to keep air moving to make people more comfortable and prevent the floor from getting damp during certain humid weather conditions.

Like with many upgrade projects, there have been certain originally unexpected but required actions to stay in compliance with building codes. Massachusetts Building Manager, Fran Pearson, has done a great job keeping everything coordinated with other agencies and vendors.

Since last time, we've gotten back in the field a lot more, similarly to what we normally do than what we did last year. I find it very important to get out in the field. It affords me the opportunity to hear directly from our constituents and learn what is on their minds. There is much valuable information that can be learned from these direct interactions that I often think I wouldn't learn any other way.

As part of Dairy Week in June, we toured Hornstra Dairy Farm in Norwell. The over one hundred year old farm operation does it all: cares for its herd, processes the milk, and sells directly to consumers at the farm and by delivery.

June was also Pollinator Week, so MDAR's Chief Apiary Inspector, Dr. Kim Skyrms, offered a media event at MDAR's State Apiary at the UMass Amherst Student Farm. Kim is a great educator; I learn something from him every time we speak, and it's great fun to put on a bee suit and get right into the action. MDAR also manages a second State Apiary at Essex Technical-Agricultural High School in Danvers. Learn more about the program Kim and his team has in place to benefit commercial beekeepers, sideliners and hobbyists [here](#).

Once July came, we continued in earnest on what I'm calling *MDAR's Back on the Road 2021 Tour!* Margaret Moulton and the team at [Berkshire Grown](#) treated us to a tour of farms that do not own the property on which they farm. Thank you to the farmers at Colfax Farm, Alford; Indian Line Farm, S. Egremont; and Off the Shelf Farm and Hidden Mountain Farm, both in New Marlborough, to walk us through their operations!

Our next stop Back on the Road was the [MA Fruit Growers Association](#) meeting at Clarkdale Fruit Farm in Deerfield. Ashley and I learned a lot about up-to-date practices and got to see a lot of faces we hadn't seen in quite some time. Many thanks to Tom and Ben Clark for hosting, and for last minute planning to accommodate ground that had taken on a lot of water with all the rain!

Though it might not be the normal progression on a menu, we went from fruit farming to aquaculture when Stephanie and John Lowell treated an MDAR delegation to a hands-on demonstration of their East Dennis Oyster Farm operation on the shores of Cape Cod Bay! Though maybe not what many think of as "traditional" farming, aquaculture is farming, and though 2020 was a very tough year for an industry that relies heavily on restaurants, MA aquaculture at over \$29M in sales (per 2017 USDA NASS Ag Census) is the fastest growing MA agricultural sector. Full confession: in addition to the hands-on demonstration, there may have been a little product sampling as well!

As Agricultural Fairs resumed in 2021, Ashley and I visited the [Barnstable County Fair](#) in Falmouth and were treated to a great tour! We learned from Fair President Jay Zavala and Livestock Superintendent Karen Schwalbe about the fair's solar project to provide it reliable non-fair revenue. Though success of one fair doesn't guarantee the same for others, we were pleased to learn there was excellent attendance at Barnstable in 2021! And I can't forget to mention the beautiful display gardens there managed by Russ Norton of [Cape Cod Cooperative Extension](#)!

Later in July, wearing her day-job hat as Executive Director of the [Southeastern MA Agricultural Partnership](#), Karen Schwalbe and the SEMAP team organized a tour we attended that took us to C & C Reading Farm, W. Bridgewater; Revival Farm, Plympton; Soule Homestead Education Center, and Lolans Farm, both in Middleboro; and 2 Rocks Oysters in Duxbury, where there was more hands-on learning (and maybe a little more product sampling!)

That lead us to Farmers Market Week in August, when we visited markets in [Truro](#) (with USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator Lizbeth Silbermann), [New Bedford](#), [Ashland](#), and [Roslindale](#). On our way to the Barnstable County Fair, we also visited the [Falmouth Farmers Market](#).

Moving into August, fairs ramped up with visits by Ashley and/or me to date to [Bolton](#), [Middlefield](#), [Hardwick](#), [Heath](#), and [Westfield](#), and Ashley's visit to the Berkshire County Farm Bureau Summer Meeting.

One other recent stop was the [Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association](#) Summer Meeting in Plympton. New Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Undersecretary for Environment and Climate Bethany (Beth) Card represented the Baker-Polito Administration at the very well attended event.

I think that finishes us up on travel to date, but there's a lot more ahead that we'll report upon in future columns.



Finally, my outstanding landscape plant for this time is *Asclepias tuberosa*, commonly referred to as Butterfly Weed. This relatively small (2' tall x 2' wide) native cousin to Milkweed is ridiculously easy to grow: it easily adapts to poor soil and extremely dry conditions (It doesn't like wet feet, though!), has no major insect or disease issues, provides outstanding orange flowers for an extended time late June-July that provide nectar to butterflies, serves as a food source to several butterfly larvae including Monarchs, and readily self-sows (but it's not an invasive species). What's not to like? Plant it, trust me.

That's all for this time. Hope everyone is well. I know everyone is super busy. We are still essentially at war, folks - stay safe, protect your families and yourselves!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John'.

John Lebeaux

Energy News

MDAR's MA Farm Energy Program (MFEP) - Energy Audits - Technical Assistance – Be Prepared!

Remember, MDAR's [Massachusetts Farm Energy Program \(MFEP\)](#) has funds to help farms cover audits, energy efficient projects, and select renewable energy projects. We are still providing these services remotely.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Now is the time to have a technical assessment completed for any energy project you are considering in preparation for upcoming energy grants! You will need a technical assessment to file an energy grant application whether with MDAR or USDA. So start planning now. If you wait too long you may not be able to have one scheduled in time! Remember our MFEP pays 75% of the technical assessment, first come, first served. Our MFEP is providing tele-assessments during this trying time.

Contact MFEP now for more information through the Center for EcoTechnology (CET), our partner carrying out the MFEP: 413-727-3090, info@massfarmenergy.com, or visit www.massfarmenergy.com, submit a *Request Form*, and then you will be contacted.

FY2022 CSAP Request for Responses Now Closed

MDAR's FY2022 Climate Smart Agricultural Program (CSAP), due June 11, 2021, is now closed. Grants were available to help agricultural operations make farm improvements that enhance their economic viability, help prevent negative impacts to environmental resources, adapt to and mitigate climate change, improve energy efficiency, and/or adopt renewable energy.

MDAR is pleased to report the receipt of eighty-nine (89) total CSAP Grant applications with an overall funding request of over \$2.84 million dollars. Of those twenty-eight were for AgEnergy with a total request of over \$998,500. MDAR is currently reviewing all applications, working toward finalizing award recommendations.

Apiary Program

Meet The New Seasonal Apiary Inspectors: David Saleh and Shay Willette!

We are thrilled to have a David Saleh and Shay Willette join the MDAR Apiary Program Team as Seasonal Inspectors! They both started in July 2021 and have been busy providing support to beekeepers in Middlesex, Essex, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Nantucket counties. Please free to reach out to them directly with your questions via email:

David.saleh@mass.gov; Shay.Willette@mass.gov.

If interested in an inspection in these counties or any other county in Massachusetts, simply go online and submit your Inspection Request [here](#).

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to work as a team to respond to as many of these requests as possible before the end of the season.



Left to right: Ken Warchol, David Saleh, Shay Willette, Kim Skyrn and Paul Tessier.

Next New England Honey Bee Updates – Next session October 1st. Details and Zoom links in the [2021 Fall newsletter \(.pdf\)](#)

2021 Honey Bee Education Days at State Apiaries

Are you interested in learning more about honey bees, their health and colony management techniques? Join the Bee Team from the MDAR Apiary Program to get a tour of live working honey bee colonies, hands-on demonstrations of hive management techniques, and exposure to the latest knowledge on how to best sustain healthy honey bee colonies in Massachusetts. These events are virtual this year, free and open to the public, but will focus on topics of interest to beekeepers. Registration is not necessary to attend. The events will be held on Saturdays from 10 am-12 pm unless listed below. [Dates and details here.](#)

What is YOUR Varroa Mite Count? Registered Pesticides for Honey Bee Hives - [Details in Fall newsletter.](#)

Voluntarily Register Your Apiary Now!

A total of [894 beekeepers](#) have voluntarily registered their apiaries with MDAR since April, 2017 by using the [new online form](#). Please consider taking a quick second to register your apiary today so that we can best communicate with beekeepers and investigate honey bee health issues in your area.

Note the NEW Apiary Program Message Line phone number: 508-281-6784. This will replace the existing message line number: 617-626-1801. [Apiary Program here.](#) Questions, send to bees@mass.gov.

The Markets Corner

The MassGrown Exchange

The Exchange is heating up! Recent listings include: Peaches, Apples, and a Job Posting from [Outlook Farm](#); Native yellow and white peaches, and field grown tomatoes by [Davis Farms/Bolton Orchards](#); and beef, chicken, pork, chevron, lamb, eggs by [Hubbards Farm](#). All products and services can be [searched here](#).

Since last year, when MDAR launched the site in August 2020, the MassGrown Exchange has had 312 profiles created with 408 products and services listed. There have been 15,657 email notifications and over 40,000 page views on the website. Keep in mind, that products come and go, so visit often, or [register](#) to get automatic email notifications.

If you'd like one-on-one support with the MassGrown Exchange, contact Richard.LeBlanc@Mass.gov. You can also watch the [demonstration video](#) for a tour of the platform.

Farmers Market Week 2021 Wrap-Up

Each year, the first week in August is Farmers Market Week. This year, the celebration was [August 1st – 7th as proclaimed by Governor Charlie Baker](#). MDAR, joined by federal, state, local officials, and community partners, celebrated with visits to four farmers markets, including markets in Truro, New Bedford, Ashland and Roslindale. These markets epitomize how farmers markets not only support local agriculture and food production but also



make tremendous impacts to the cities and towns where they are located by increasing food access and creating spaces that bring people together. Thank you to our hosts, market managers, farmers, food producers and community partners at each of these markets!



SNAP Processing Equipment Available for Farmers and Farmers Markets: Apply by Sept. 24th

Free mobile SNAP processing equipment from Novo Dia Group is now available to direct-marketing farms and farmers' markets through the Department of Transitional Assistance, in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Resources, and with financial support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Eligibility is limited to SNAP-authorized farms and markets that do not currently have working equipment received through previous federal grants. Equipment will not process credit/debit. For complete program details and a link to the application, go [here](#).

Are you looking for SNAP processing equipment but not eligible for this program? Learn about other options, [here](#).

Questions? Contact David Webber, 617-626-1754 or David.Webber@mass.gov or DTA.HIP@mass.gov.

Press Release: [Baker-Polito Administration Launches Grant Program to Expand Local Food Access for Low-Income Residents](#)

This project has been funded at least in part with Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

The MassGrown Farm Map

Summer is upon us, with Fall around the corner. [Is your farm or market listed on the MassGrown map?](#) Offer any new features on the farm: **Farm Dinners? Corn Mazes?** If so, be sure your website and description are up to date. Search yourself under the various query options. If you have updates or edits, please send to

Richard.LeBlanc@mass.gov. If you are not on the map and want to be included, please fill out our easy [two page survey \(.doc\)](#).



Did you know the "MassGrown" map is mobile phone friendly? On your phone, visit www.massncr.org/massgrown, then "add to home screen", and you will see the MassGrown logo. Now whenever you are looking farms and farmers markets on the road, you will always find one nearest to you!



We also offer "Massachusetts grown and fresher" marketing materials: price cards, stickers, and ten different designed posters to enhance your promotion of locally grown. [Take a look, and send in your order today!](#)

Tomato Contest at Boston Public Market - Winners Announced!

*State Agricultural Officials Announce Winners of 2021 Massachusetts Tomato Contest
Farmers from Agawam, Montague, Raynham, and Pepperell take top honors at 36th annual event.*



Yesterday, Massachusetts agricultural officials joined tomato farmers from across the state on the plaza of the Boston Public Market for the Commonwealth's 36th Annual Tomato Contest. Designed to increase awareness of locally grown produce, this year's contest drew 77 entries from 15 farms across the state. The contest is sponsored by MDAR, the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association and Mass Farmers' Markets and was hosted by the Boston Public Market Association.

Press release [here](#). Facebook post [here](#).

Stay Up to Date with MDAR's Pest Outreach Program



MDAR's Pest Outreach Program has rebooted their newsletter to give readers the info they need in a fast and easy to digest monthly alert. To make sure you get the latest info. and updates on introduced pests, [sign up here](#).

Growing Your Farm Business Planning Course

Tuesday evenings, January 11 to March 8, 2022 - Location to be determined

MDAR offers a hands-on course to help established farmers develop a business plan and financial projections for their farm business. This course covers topics including resource assessment, marketing strategy, financial

management, risk management, quality of life, and goal setting. The course is taught by professional business planners with years of experience working with Massachusetts farms and guest speakers on current topics such as succession planning and online marketing. The cost is \$200 per farm. Enrollment is open to farmers who have been operating a farm business in Massachusetts for at least the two prior years. Eight weekly classes will be held on Tuesday evenings starting January 11 and ending March 8 (with one vacation week).

Plans are for in-person class. Final decision in January based on current COVID conditions. Applications will be accepted until November 19 or until the course is full.

Farmers that complete a business plan by participating in the Growing Your Farm business planning course and then apply and get accepted to MDAR's APR Improvement Program or Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture may be able to waive the business planning phase of these programs, enabling them to move to the contract phase earlier to start implementing their projects.

The Growing Your Farm business planning course has been approved as a certified USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) borrower training for financial management.

TO APPLY: For a Growing Your Farm application, [click here](#), or contact Michael Parker at Michael.Parker@mass.gov, 857-895-0023.

FDA's Guidance for Industry: Evaluating the Safety of Flood-affected Food Crops for Human Consumption

With the excessive amount of rain we've received so far this season, and the projection of an active hurricane season this fall, flooding is an issue for many farms this year, particularly in the Western end of the state. If your farm is susceptible to flooding, please read the FDA's **Guidance for Industry: Evaluating the Safety of Flood-affected Food Crops for Human Consumption**, found at [this link](#).

Per the guidance: "If the edible portion of a crop is exposed to flood waters, it is considered adulterated under section 402(a)(4) (21 U.S.C. 342(a)(4)) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and should not enter human food channels. There is no practical method of reconditioning the edible portion of a crop that will provide a reasonable assurance of human food safety. Therefore, the FDA recommends that these crops be disposed of in a manner that ensures they are kept separate from crops that have not been flood damaged to avoid adulterating "clean" crops (Ref. 1, 2, 3)."

The guidance also addresses potential microbial, chemical and fungal contamination, the safety of food crops when flood waters did NOT contact the edible portion of the crop, as well as flooding vs. pooled water.

Please contact [MDAR's Produce Safety Division](#) if you have any questions regarding the safety of your crops.

MDAR Recently Closes on Two New APRs, Preserving Another 87 Acres

MDAR, in partnership with the [Westport Land Conservation Trust](#) and the Town of Westport, closed on an APR on 35.5 of the Pettey/Silvia property in Westport. The farm is currently being leased to a local beef operation for hay and pasture and adds to an expansive network of protected farmland in the Town of Westport.





MDAR also approved a private APR on the 51.5 acre Stonefield Farm in Acton. The Town of Acton, the Acton Conservation Trust, and Sudbury Valley Trustees, supported by generous individuals, foundations, and the residents of Acton, partnered to purchase the APR, preserving this vegetable and flower operation that has been farmed by the Simeone Family for nearly 100 years. The preservation of Stonefield Farm has allowed it to pass to its new owner the Boston Area Gleaners. While the APR will be held by the Town of Acton and Sudbury Valley Trustees, the Boston Area Gleaners will make Stonefield Farm the new headquarters for their Boston Food Hub operation. The farmland will allow the Boston Area Gleaners to expand their work to increase healthy food access for low-income households. Find out more about the project [here](#).

The protection of farmland through the APR program would not be possible without the invaluable partnerships with municipalities and land trusts, such as those mentioned above. If you'd like to learn more about the APR program or would like to contact our field reps, visit the [APR webpage](#).

Is Your Horse Protected?

Mosquito-Borne Disease

IS YOUR HORSE PROTECTED?
Mosquitoes across Massachusetts and in surrounding states spread Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV).
In 2019, eight horses in Massachusetts died from EEE.
In 2020, interventions including vaccination eliminated cases of EEE in horses!
Vaccination can prevent EEE and WNV in horses. Protect your horses!

Funded through USDA APHIS Cooperative Agreement

Call your veterinarian to schedule this life-saving vaccination.

MDAR
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

MA residents: Can't afford this vaccine? Ask your vet if MDAR can help.

[Eastern Equine Encephalitis \(EEE\) and West Nile Virus \(WNV\)](#) are spread by mosquitos and can cause fatal neurologic disease in horses, other animals, and people.

Routine vaccination can prevent these diseases in horses.

Cannot afford this life-saving vaccine? MDAR is partnering with local veterinarians to offer discounted EEE vaccination for equine owners with financial need. Ask your veterinarian for more information.

[Click here for video](#). For updates and to learn more, [click here](#). **Protect your horse!**

Hemp Updates

UMass Extension Diagnostic Lab Now Accepting Hemp Samples from Licensed Growers

The UMass Extension Diagnostic Lab is now accepting hemp samples for analysis and evaluation of insect and disease problems after July 15, 2021. Samples will be accepted only from licensed hemp growers. Submission of a copy of the grower's license is required. For information on collecting, packaging, and shipping hemp samples to the lab, [click here](#).

Free Nematode Assay and Evaluation for Hemp Growers

Plant parasitic nematodes can be very damaging to agricultural crops, but very little research has been carried out on the nematodes that feed on hemp roots. We are looking for growers that are willing to participate in a survey of plant parasitic nematodes in hemp. If you are willing to participate, researchers will come to your facility to take soil samples, bring them back to the lab, and extract and identify the plant parasitic nematodes. Farms closest to UMass will be given priority. Depending on the level of interest, we may not be able to visit all growers. You will receive a written report of the results. We may return for a second round of sampling in the fall

when nematode populations are potentially higher. Results from the second sample will inform us if certain plant parasitic nematodes are stimulated by the presence of the crop.

Hemp nematode assays are free of charge for the summer of 2021 only. In 2022, a fee of \$50 per sample will be charged. Final results will be reported by county, not by farm, GPS, or any other way that would identify the farm.

If you are willing to participate, please send an email to Rob Wick at rlwick@umass.edu. Please put Nematode Assay in the subject line and include your name and address or a description where the field is located. Please provide a phone number where you can be reached.

MSFA and Pemberton Farms Offer an Opportunity to Thank First Responders, Essential Workers, Friends and Family

The Massachusetts Specialty Foods Association is proud to announce the "Massachusetts Specialty Foods Thank You Gift Baskets" made up entirely of members products, and featured on the home page of Pemberton Farms, www.pembertonfarms.com.

These baskets offer a wonderful way to say "thank you" to our first responders and essential workers in the pandemic OR just to say "thank you" to a deserving friend or colleague. A thank you card illustrated by member Johanna Bohoy of Bohoy Design is included in each order.

The three baskets offer different price points and product combinations, and can be accessed directly [here](#).

The large basket is filled items including:

- Golden Girl Granola 10 oz Granola (various flavors)
 - Harbor Sweets 10 pcs Assorted Box of chocolates
 - Coops Microcreamery Hot Fudge 10.6 oz jar
 - Venus Wafers Crisp Flatbread 5 oz - (various flavors)
 - Meal Mantra 10 oz Simmer Sauce
 - McCrea's Candies Caramels in pillow box
 - Keto and Co 9.3 oz Pancake Mix
 - Victoria Gourmet 3.8 oz Seasoning (various flavors)
 - Seven Hills Pasta 16 oz Rigatoni
 - Boyajian 8 oz Garlic Oil
 - Effie's Homemade 7.2 oz Biscuits
 - Annie's Gluten-free Bakery 3 Chocolate Chip Cookies
 - Off Our Rocker Cookies 1 Cookie Ball
 - Hillside Harvest 6.5 oz Jamaican Jerky Marinade
 - Yogi Balls 8 oz Yogi Balls
-

Boston Local Food Festival - Vendor Application Deadline Extended to August 30!



The vendor application deadline has now been extended to Monday, August 30th. Please sign up using the vendor form below. SBN members will receive a discount upon sign up. Featuring fresh harvested produce from local farmers and fishermen, scrumptious affordable servings, featuring locally grown foods for takeaway, and zero waste promoting composting, recycling, and sustainable practices!

We are thrilled to announce that the celebrated [Boston Local Food Festival](#) will take place on Sunday, September 19th on the Rose Kennedy Greenway.

With recently lifted COVID-19 restrictions, we are able to bring the festival you love back! [Sign up here.](#)

Expanded Eligibility and Extended Deadline for Goat and Sheep Dairy Supply Chain Grant

The NE-DBIC is currently accepting applications from sheep and goat dairy farmers, processors, and industry associations for the Goat & Sheep Dairy Supply Chain Grant. The application is now open to applicants from across the Northeast region: Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania in addition to New England states. Grant range: \$15,000–\$50,000 with a 25% match commitment. This funding is for projects that accomplish at least one of the following objectives related to goat and/or sheep dairy products:

- Increase consumer awareness
- Develop market channels and distribution opportunities
- Support innovative strategies to increase consumption
- Increase business revenues

Projects must benefit the applicant and additional enterprises within their supply chain. Think: partnerships to reach new markets, business diversification, research and development, operational improvements, or your other creative ideas! Extended deadline to apply: September 30. [Details here.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS/WORKSHOPS

August

- **August 28 - Honey Bee Education Days - Honey Extraction** - Virtual - 10am-12pm. Join the MDAR Bee Team to tour live working honey bee colonies, hands-on demonstrations of hive management techniques, and exposure to the latest knowledge on how to best sustain healthy honey bee colonies in Massachusetts. Free and open to all. [Details here.](#)
- **August 31 - Webinar: Spotted Lanternfly Trapping Update** - 10-11:30am. Join UMass Ext. for this free grant-supported webinar for an update on the invasive spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*; SLF) as well as trapping research and monitoring efforts. Landscapers, arborists, grounds managers, foresters, urban foresters, orchardists, fruit growers, and many other land managers and professionals are encouraged to attend this free update that is open to all. [Online registration here.](#)

September

- **September 11 - Honey Bee Education Days - Fall Management - Part II** - Now in Person! (Virtual during inclement weather) - 10am-12pm. Join the MDAR Bee Team to tour live working honey bee colonies, hands-on demonstrations of hive management techniques, and exposure to the latest knowledge on how to best sustain healthy honey bee colonies in Massachusetts. Free and open to all. [Details here.](#)
- **September 18 - MA Christmas Tree Annual Mtg** - 9am. D.J. Hussey Farm, Townsend. Open to all. [Updates here.](#)
- **September 29 - MNLA Live** - Start Line Brewing, Hopkinton. [Details here.](#)

[MDAR Calendar](#)

Classified

- **Job Posting:** Mass. Farm to School is currently looking for a Program Associate to join the team. This is a part time position and could be a good fit for someone newer to work in the nonprofit sector looking to gain experience in food system advocacy and communications. [Full job description and application instructions here.](#)
- **Farmers Markets Seek Vendors** - MDAR posts an updated list of farmers markets looking for vendors [here.](#) The contacts for markets are posted [here.](#) Questions, contact David.Webber@mass.gov.
- **Job Postings:** Bookkeeper, Warehouse helper, Food Runner, Assistant Fruit Farmer - Find them [on the MassGrown Exchange here.](#)

Looking to buy or sell, visit the [MassGrown Exchange!](#)

About the *Farm & Market Report*

Published bi-monthly by MDAR:

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Complete staff directory [here](#). Next issue to be published in August. Please send news, events, or classified information by October 1st to Richard.LeBlanc@mass.gov. To unsubscribe, or change your email address, contact Richard.LeBlanc@mass.gov.

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 www.mass.gov/agr.

