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# June/July Farm & Market Report

6/10/21

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### CLASSIFIED

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## COMMISSIONER'S COLUMN



Greetings, Mass. Agriculture and all its friends,

It's sort of nice to find ourselves in a situation where the weather has returned at or near the very top of the list of things to be thinking about, don't you think? Considering the extremely different weather weekends we just experienced- an extremely cold and wet Memorial Day weekend followed by a sweltering heatwave the next can certainly be a challenge to agriculture, but it's the type of challenge we are all accustomed to address.

One result is a tremendous early crop of strawberries-the timing of the heavy rain followed by sun and heat was just about perfect conditions to produce a very heavy (and delicious) crop. We all may not grow strawberries, but most of us like to eat them, so let's all pitch in and do our parts to take advantage of the delicious local crop. If you happen to need suggestions as to where to source, over 100 strawberry growers across the state that are open to retail consumers may be found at [MDAR's MassGrown Map](#). And if you're looking for wholesale, checkout the [MassGrown Exchange](#)!

I did venture out to a local garden center over Memorial Day weekend, and I admit I was a little worried at what I might hear about essentially losing one of the very busiest weekends in the absolutely busiest month of the year, and how that might hurt the bottom line. (My family still collectively winces recalling how "well" my dad handled a bad May weekend!) However, what I heard most was that the season had been great to date, that having sufficient staff and product were the challenges at hand, and folks were taking the bad weekend in stride.

Thankfully, we seem to be very much on the road to normalcy. We all know the Governor has taken steps to do so, and so has MDAR. Accordingly, most of our Covid guidance has been removed from our website.

But we're not out of it yet. Presidents and Governors have historically asked the general population to take steps to benefit the common good (the commonwealth) in dangerous times, and our President and Governor have now asked us all to take certain actions. Everyone has the right to make their own decisions; I simply ask those who have been hesitant to follow that request to date to take a moment to consider where we've been, where we are now, and how we got to this better place.

We are planning to be out in the field as much as we can this year! In honor of June is National Dairy Month, we'll be doing some dairy tours at various places across the state next week, and we are planning out a variety of visits through fall. We've heard from many making inquiries; please email if your operation or organization might be interested in a visit.

Speaking of Dairy Month, 4<sup>th</sup> generation dairy farmer, MDAR Deputy Commissioner, my designee as chair of the MA Dairy Promotion Board Ashley Sears Randle taped an excellent short video commemorating the occasion and toasting our MA Dairy Farmers (with a nice glass of milk, of course). It's up on our social media [here](#). In addition to the excellent message, I must report there are the inevitable wiseguys in the background, mugging for the camera and generally carrying on, trying to get seen in the shot. Check them out! Thanks Ashley, and thanks to your talented (and cheap) production crew, husband Nick who allowed her "2 takes and 2 takes only!"

Since last time, we attended the virtual Norfolk County Farm Bureau Legislative Breakfast, and I was guest speaker at the April meeting of the MA State Grange.

As things were slowly opening up, to celebrate Earth Week, Deputy Commissioner Alisha Bouchard, Ashley, and I toured the [Urban Farming Institute's](#) beautiful location at the Fowler Clark Epstein Farm in Mattapan and gained a greater understanding of the great work the UFI team does providing good food and training people for good jobs. I also toured [Just Roots](#) in Greenfield for Earth Week and saw the wide range of activities Jessica O'Neill and team are doing there to support food access in that region.

In May, [Bristol County Agricultural High School](#) Trustee Darrin Mendes and Superintendent/Director Adele Sands treated Ashley and me to a tour of the fabulous construction and renovation project that is approaching completion. Bristol Aggie has delivered great educations to its students for more than 100 years; many graduates are immediately hired into good paying jobs, while others continue their educations. This



major upgrade provides the necessary infrastructure for their excellent programs to continue to flourish in its second hundred years!

Also in May, I attended the event celebrating the legislation protecting the Lampson Brook Farm property in Belchertown. The state-owned historic farm site of approximately 430 acres will be preserved primarily as commercial ag, community farming, and forest land. MDAR is delighted to have a seat on the [board of directors](#) that will lead planning to support the intent of the legislation.

Though the border between the US and Canada has largely been closed during Covid, it didn't stop a destructive invasive insect, the Box Tree Moth from being shipped from an Ontario production nursery to plant sellers at 25 facilities in 6 states including MA. According to USDA, "The box tree moth is native to East Asia and has become a serious invasive pest in Europe, where it continues to spread. In 2018, it was found in the Toronto area of Canada. The caterpillars feed mostly on boxwood and heavy infestations can defoliate host plants. Once the leaves are gone, larvae consume the bark, leading to girdling and plant death."

USDA Animal Health and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is taking action including issuing an Order halting importation of Canadian host plants Boxwood (Buxus), Holly (Ilex) and Euonymus into the US. All three of those plant genera are widely used in the US and Ontario is a major source for the US market. MDAR's Crop & Pest Division is engaged with USDA and other states. USDA's announcement is [here](#).

We've managed one visit so far in June. At Weston Nurseries in Hopkinton, Weston Chairman Wayne Mezitt representing the [MA Nursery and Landscape Association \(MNLA\)](#), Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Jim Montgomery, and I celebrated the launch of the [Growing Wild Massachusetts](#) program, a campaign to highlight the efforts of DCR, DAR and MNLA to support Massachusetts native plant communities and promote the sale of native plants through the state's nurseries.

MDAR, working closely with the State Reclamation Board (SRB) and the regional Mosquito Control Districts (MCDs) remains very heavily engaged in mosquito control and related issues. Testing of trapped samples commences this month for the Department of Public Health to gauge presence and magnitude of the Eastern Equine Encephalitis and other arboviruses in species of concern. We are also heavily engaged with the [Mosquito Control for the Twenty-First Task Force](#) in order to ascertain the best approach to manage an animal annually responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths globally.



Last time, reminiscent of my nursery industry background I started to feature outstanding plants for your consideration. Today's outstanding plant may not be uncommon (thankfully it's not overplanted-don't get me going on ornamental pears!) but it's just a great landscape tree. Though not a native like the May blooming Flowering Dogwood (its North American cousin), the Kousa Dogwood (Cornus Kousa) is a shrubby multi-branched tree that reaches a height of 20-25'. Its 4 large petals (all the nursery people are quietly saying to themselves "they aren't petals, they are bracts") begin blooming creamy white star-shaped flowers in very late May/early June and last all through June into early July. In the fall the tree displays good-sized pinkish/red raspberry-shaped fruit the birds enjoy, along with attractive dark red fall foliage.

More mature trees display mottled and flaky (exfoliating to the nursery folk) bark in the winter.

Though I generally prefer natives, Kousa Dogwood is much more winter-hardy than the native Flowering Dogwood, has no significant insect or disease issues, and flowers when far fewer trees are blooming than just a month earlier. It's simply a great small tree!

I couldn't plant the garden over Memorial Day weekend as I planned, managed to do it in the heat last weekend. We'll let you know how the electric fence does in the Woodchuck Wars!

There's a lot to do these days, fortunately the days are long-hope to see many of you very soon!

Be well and stay safe, everyone,



John Lebeaux

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## FOREFRONT

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### Energy News

#### **MDAR's MA Farm Energy Program (MFEP) - Energy Audits - Technical Assistance – Be Prepared for the Upcoming Grant Season**

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; MDAR CSAP has just been announced and is due June 11, 2021. 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](mailto:info@massfarmenergy.com), or visit [www.massfarmenergy.com](http://www.massfarmenergy.com), submit a *Request Form*, and then you will be contacted.

#### **FY2022 CSAP Request for Responses Still Accepting Applications Through June 11, 2021**

MDAR is now accepting applications from agricultural operations who wish to participate in the Department's grant programs. Grants are 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. Interested farm operators are encouraged to

review the information and applications on each program's webpage. If interested in applying, applications must be submitted with any supporting documentation by the program's deadline.

Below are brief descriptions of programs, with more information (including applications) available at each program's website.

### **Climate Smart Agriculture Program (CSAP)**

The Climate Smart Agriculture Program links MDAR's water, energy and climate grants together into one application. This includes the Agricultural Climate Resiliency & Efficiencies (ACRE) Program, the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP), and the Agricultural Energy Grant Program (ENER). By bringing these three grants under one program, MDAR is seeking to simplify the application process for applicants. This program continues the goals of the three individual grants by implementing projects that help the agricultural sector adapt to climate change, mitigate climate change, reducing or preventing impacts to natural resources that may result from agricultural practices, and that improve energy efficiency and facilitate adoption of alternative clean energy technologies.

The CSAP grant is broken into two sections. Section I: Environment is for environmental projects such as soil health, water use efficiency, or other projects working towards reducing or limiting greenhouse gas emissions. Section II: Energy is Ag-Energy projects to improve energy efficiency or to facilitate clean energy adoption.

Applicants can apply to either or both sections.

Participants selected for funding under either section are provided with reimbursement grants for 80% of total project costs up to \$50,000.

[www.mass.gov/how-to/how-to-apply-to-the-climate-smart-agriculture-program](http://www.mass.gov/how-to/how-to-apply-to-the-climate-smart-agriculture-program)

**Application due: Friday, June 11, 2021 by 4:00pm**

For more information contact:

Section I: Environment - Laura Maul at (617) 626-1739 or at [Laura.Maul@mass.gov](mailto:Laura.Maul@mass.gov)

Section II Energy - Gerry Palano at (617) 626-1706 or at [Gerald.Palano@mass.gov](mailto:Gerald.Palano@mass.gov)

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## **Apiary Program**

**Next New England Honey Bee Updates** - August 6<sup>th</sup>. Details and Zoom links in the [2021 Spring 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.](#)

### **Voluntarily Register Your Apiary Now!**

A total of 601 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](mailto:bees@mass.gov).

**Pollinator Week June 21 – 25<sup>th</sup>** – Follow MDAR on social media for events and posts celebrating pollinators all week long!

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## The Markets Corner

Mary Jordan, Director – [Division of Agricultural Markets](#), [Mary.Jordan@mass.gov](mailto:Mary.Jordan@mass.gov).

As the growing and harvest seasons gear up – look for resources from the Division of Agricultural Markets to elevate opportunities for sales and connecting to consumers! Information noted below will give you the tools to expand market access.

## The MassGrown Exchange



The Exchange is heating up! Recent listings include: [Red Fire Farm](#) with strawberries, kale, cucumbers and spinach; [Winters Farm](#) - ground beef; [CommonWealth Kitchen](#) offering value-added processing of farm produce; [Worcester Regional Food Hub](#) looking for Thai Basil or Lemon Basil; [Jonathan Sprouts](#) with fresh organic sprouts and Microgreens; and [The Country Hen's](#) Organic Omega-3: Retail egg packs. All products and

services can be [searched here](#).

Want to join in on the action? Attend the sign-up session hosted by the MassGrown Exchange team on Wednesday, June 23rd at 2pm. You'll learn all about the business-business platform, its features, and how to register and list products. The MassGrown Exchange has over 200 businesses registered, and new products and services are listed every day. By the end of the session, you will have everything you need to start making connections with buyers and sellers! Register for the sign-up session [here](#).

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

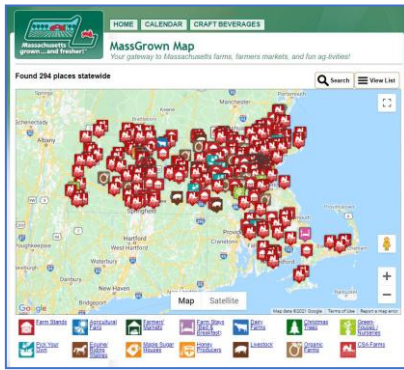
## Farmers Market Season is Starting Up: Markets are Seeking Farmers!

Farmers markets across the state are continuing to open for the season and farmers market managers are looking forward to a busy year. There are new and returning markets with over 200 farmers markets open this summer and fall.

To help growers find markets, MDAR keeps a list of farmers markets seeking vendors on our website. Market managers are seeking a variety of vendors for the upcoming season, including produce, meat, cheese and more! You can find a list [here](#). Check back often as the list is updated periodically throughout the year.

For more information on selling at farmers markets, contact David Webber, [David.Webber@mass.gov](mailto:David.Webber@mass.gov) or 617-626-1754. Map of farmers markets across the Commonwealth [here](#).

## The MassGrown Farm Map



Summer is upon us, Strawberries are ripening, farmers markets and farmstands opening up. [Is your farm or market listed on the MassGrown map?](#) 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](mailto: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.massnrc.org/massgrown](http://www.massnrc.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!](#)

## Massachusetts Fairs

Fairs can be a great market to sell local products. From the Berkshires all the way to Cape Cod, Massachusetts has 40 agricultural fairs that offer something for everyone. Visit our Mass Grown and Fresher [map link](#) to find a fair near you. Questions, contact Fran at [Frances.Pearson@mass.gov](mailto:Frances.Pearson@mass.gov).

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## Helping Massachusetts Dairy Farmers Navigate Grant Opportunities

Unsure of which grant best fits your farm's needs? MDAR has created [a new tool](#) to help dairy farmers navigate state and federal grant opportunities. The tool helps farmers narrow down which grants best fit certain project types and business operations. We want to make it easy for you to find grant opportunities. Try it out and contact Rebecca Davidson at [Rebecca.Davidson@mass.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Davidson@mass.gov) if you have any questions!

Also, be sure to check out our guide to [Cost savings and Energy Technologies for Dairy Farms](#).

\*\*Please note, you'll still want to look at the program's webpage for deadlines and an application. Filling out the webpage does not guarantee eligibility and does not constitute an application.\*\*

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## New Pest Information for Massachusetts



USDA has confirmed sightings of the invasive box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) at nurseries in CT, MI, NY, OH, and SC after infested plants were shipped from Canada. The preferred hosts of this moth are boxwoods, but it also reportedly attacks some *Euonymus* and holly species. Plants were shipped to Massachusetts but no moths were found. [Click here to learn more about this species.](#)

(An adult box wood moth. Photo credit Matteo Maspero and Andrea Tantardini)

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Spotted lanternfly eggs have hatched in Pennsylvania and other infested states, meaning nymphs are now active. While there is no established population in Massachusetts, traps and survey efforts are underway here. [Learn what the nymphs look like so you can report any that you may find!](#)



(A first instar spotted lanternfly nymph. Photo credit Gregory Hoover)

A good place to start looking for spotted lanternfly are on its many host plants, especially tree of heaven. [Find out what some of those plants look like!](#)

You may recall the news coverage of the Asian giant hornet invasion in Washington state last summer. While this pest has still not been found in the eastern USA, some large species of wasps are active in Massachusetts right now. Avoid confusion with these look-alikes by refreshing your memory with this [blog post](#). And don't panic if you see a large hornet this summer, just take a picture and [report it!](#)

## 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.

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

**MDAR**  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND FORESTRY

[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!**

## MA Agriculture Calendar Photo Contest – Deadline July 1<sup>st</sup>!

Celebrating the Seasons of Massachusetts Agriculture  
FEATURING THE MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

2021

WINNING COVER PHOTO TAKEN AT LAURENTE'S FARM, SUNDERLAND BY MARINA LAURENTE  
Honoree for Farm and Forest cover of the calendar for the 2021 Mass Grown Agriculture Photo Contest. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Massachusetts Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Massachusetts Department of State Police.

Send us your best farm photos! We are looking for farmers and the public to submit photos for the 2022 "Celebrating the Seasons of Massachusetts Agriculture" calendar. Winning cover photo gets a "Sweet" MassGrown basket!

Help us and [Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom](#) create an attractive, colorful and educational calendar that is a daily reminder of

our rich and diverse agricultural heritage in Massachusetts. It is a great tool for teachers, as it includes "Fun Facts" and "Teaching Tips." Each month will feature one full-size photograph portraying a local farm or farm product in season. See last year's winning photos [here](#).

Submit photos [online here!](#) Contest rules and details [here](#).



Send us pictures of Massachusetts flowers, maple syrup, cows, apples, urban ag, farmers markets, barns, sunsets over barns, and more!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS/WORKSHOPS

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### June

- **June 12 - Honey Bee Education Days - Summer Management** - Virtual – 10 am-12 pm. 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.](#)
- **June 14 - Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District's Commission Meeting** – 2:00 - 4:00 pm - [Details here.](#)
- **June 15 - UMass Mosquito Education Day** – 10:00 am – 12:10 pm. *Mosquitoes in Massachusetts, Arboviruses, & Protecting Yourself* with Dr. Jennifer Forman Orth, MDAR, *Dealing With the Asian Tiger Mosquito: Incorporating an Invasive Species into an Existing Mosquito Control Program* - Priscilla Matton, Superintendent, Bristol County Mosquito Control Project. (pesticide contact hours for categories 29, 35, 36, 37, 48 and Applicators (core) license) [Details here.](#)
- **June 15 - In-person Fruit Twilight Meeting**, Outlook Farm, Westhampton. Topics during orchard tour will include pear psylla/apple maggot fly/brown marmorated stink bug/spotted wing drosophila management and using PGR sprays to promote return bloom. 1 pesticide re-certification credit available. [Details and registration here.](#)
- **June 16 - Dairy Discussion - "Knowledge is Power"** - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Regional dairy producer web discussion on expectations and opportunities in Net Zero initiatives. Opportunity for dairy producers throughout the region to learn and share ideas about the industry's role in climate change. Each discussion will be kicked off by a panel of influencers, technical experts and resources to help producers better understand expectations and opportunities from the global Net-Zero initiatives. [Register here.](#)
- **June 16 - MA Food Policy Council Bylaws and Structure Committee Meeting** - 1-2pm - [Agenda and updates here.](#)
- **June 23 - MassGrown Exchange Webinar** - 2pm. Learn all about MDAR's business-business platform, its features, and how to register and list products and services. The Exchange has over 200 businesses registered, and new products and services are listed every day. By the end of the session, you will have everything you need to start making connections with buyers and sellers! Register for the sign-up session [here.](#)
- **June 28 - Ag Com Boot Camp Zoom Session** - 2021 Legislative Update on Agricultural Commission's Input on Board of Health Regulations – 7:00 - 8:00 pm. [Details here.](#)
- **June 29 - Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund Advisory Committee Meeting** – 10:00 – 12:00 pm - [Agenda and updates here.](#)

### July

- **July 10 - Honey Bee Education Days - Pests, Parasites and Pathogens** - Virtual – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. 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.](#)
- **July 14 - Massachusetts Fruit Grower's Association Annual Summer Meeting**, Clarkdale Fruit Farms, Deerfield. [Updates here.](#)
- **July 22 - MNLA Annual Conference Down to Earth Virtual Forum** - [Details here.](#)
- **July 30 - Massachusetts Food Policy Council Meeting** - [Details here.](#)

[MDAR Calendar](#)

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# USDA NEWS

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## Cooperative Agreements for Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction

USDA recently announced the availability of up to \$2 million for local governments to host Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) pilot projects for fiscal year 2021. The cooperative agreements support projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans and they are part of USDA's broader efforts to support urban agriculture.

USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (Office) will accept applications on Grants.gov until 11:59 pm Eastern Time on July 16, 2021. Projects should span two years with a start date of September 25, 2021 and completion date of September 25, 2023.

[News Release here.](#)

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## Classified

- **Job Postings:** Bookkeeper, Warehouse helper, Food Runner, Assistant Fruit Farmer - Find them all [listed on the MassGrown Exchange 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](mailto:David.Webber@mass.gov).

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

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## About the *Farm & Market Report*

Published bi-monthly by MDAR:

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- Michael Botelho, Director of Produce Safety, [Michael.Botelho@mass.gov](mailto:Michael.Botelho@mass.gov)

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

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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](http://www.mass.gov/agr).

