



RIFB Newsletter

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Farm Bureau

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TAX INCREASE STOPPED!

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(Cont. P. 2 RIFB Directors)

Farmers should be proud. Farm Bureau asked you to attend the hearing at the State House on the Governor's proposed budget and you showed up in force. Over 50 farmers attended the hearing along with hundreds of other people from just about any kind of business you can think of. Seven farmers testified along with our colleagues from the RI Nurserymen and Landscapers Association who had three people testify. The results, Gordon Fox, the Speaker of the House has stated he does support the Governor's budget in its current form and he said he was reluctant to raise taxes. Thus, the pressure worked!

The Governor's budget would have put a 1% sales tax on all the items that are now exempt, including the exemptions the farmers enjoy. A 6% tax would have applied to the installation of nursery products as well as maintenance services.

A special thanks to all the farmers who attended the hearing and/or wrote letters.

It worked. However, we need to remain diligent and not rest on our laurels. We are not all of the way out of the woods yet.



THE FARM BILL

With congress looking for deep budget cuts, agriculture can expect large cuts too. Many people get upset when they hear about us subsidizing farmers, especially large corporate farms. We need to get the word out that subsidies to farmers are really a very small part of the budget. The entire agriculture budget is less than 2% of the entire federal budget. When you take out nutrition programs, the agriculture portion of the entire budget shrinks to .53%. Most of the agriculture budget is for nutrition programs. In the proposed agriculture budget (\$924 billion) for 2010-2011, nutrition programs (food stamps, WIC etc) made up 75% of the budget (\$695 billion).

The next biggest amounts are for crop insurance, (\$83 billion or 9%); conservation programs (\$65 billion or 7%); farm programs (\$64 billion or 7%); other programs (\$17 billion or 2%). Thus out of an agricultural budget of \$924 billion only \$64 billion goes for farm programs which represents .13% of the entire federal budget.

As a result of farm programs, we have the most stable agricultural industry in the world, which provides us with the safest, most abundant, cheapest food supply in the world. Isn't that worth .13% of the budget?

DON'T FORGET YOUR BENEFITS

DODGE PROGRAM ENDS

We are no longer offering \$500 rebate on Dodge vehicles. We will have a new incentive program with another major motor vehicle company in May.

DISCOUNTS

Farm Family

- Suburban Propane
- Sears
- T-Mobile
- Grainger
- Choice Hotels
- Hertz Rental Cars
- Over 100,000 companies nationwide
 - Subway
 - Jiffy Lube
 - Hotels
 - Spas
 - Entertainment

(Cont. from P. 1 RIFB Board of Directors)

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Emma Acres Receives Prestigious New England Green Pastures Award

WARWICK, RI (April 6, 2011) – Emma Acres in Exeter Rhode Island recently received the New England Green Pastures Award which recognized the dairy farm as Rhode Island's 2010 Outstanding Dairy Farm of the Year. The farm was selected for the award by the Rhode Island Green Pastures Committee based on its quality animal care, implementation of several conservation practices, and quality dairy products. The Rhode Island Green Pastures Committee is led by DEM's Department of Agriculture and includes the R.I. Farm Bureau, RI Dairy Farmers Cooperative, RI Farm Service Agency, and Agri-Mark Cooperative.

Emma Acres is owned by Scooter (Edwin) and Cynthia LaPrise who interestingly transformed the property to a dairy farm in 2002 as part of their children's 4-H project. Since then, the farm has grown dramatically to include a milking facility installed in 2008 where 31 cows, mostly Jersey, are milked daily. Emma Acres is a member of the RI Dairy Farms Cooperative where it sells its milk under the Rhody Fresh Milk label to local institutions and retailers.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) played an integral role in the success of Emma Acres where it provided beneficial technical and financial assistance including cost share to implement numerous conservation practices. Since 2005, NRCS worked closely with the LaPrise family to design and install a roofed heavy use area and roofed manure waste storage facility including roof runoff

control systems (i.e., gutters) for the animals. In addition, NRCS designed a milk house waste water treatment system and animal trails and walkways for the cows. Other conservation practices NRCS completed include the design and installation of a pipeline for watering facilities and installation of fencing to prevent the farm animals from entering nearby wetlands. Such conservation improvements contributed to the success of the dairy operation and were funded under the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

NRCS accepts program applications throughout the year and periodically sets deadlines to rank application for program funding. Farmers who would like assistance are encouraged to call or visit their local USDA Service Center to submit an application to establish program eligibility. Simply call the Rhode Island USDA Service Center at 401- 822-8848, E-mail NRCSInfo@ri.usda.gov or visit the NRCS Web site at www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov.



Scooter and Cynthia LaPrise pose in front of the NRCS funded covered heavy use area.

No Farmers, No Food!

AG DAY

The Division of Agriculture, RIDEM is pleased to announce that RI Agricultural Day will be celebrated at the State House on May 12th, 2011.

The State House Rotunda as usual will be reserved for booths/displays from 11 am to 6 pm, the speaking ceremony in the State Room is planned to begin around 2 or 3 pm, details to be finalized and confirmed soon. We are happy to announce that URI President Dooley and USDA Under Secretary Avalos will be guest speakers, DEM Director Janet Coit will MC the event.

RI Agricultural Day serves each year to highlight the contributions that agriculture makes to the economy, environment, health and welfare of Rhode Island. This year is especially significant in that RI Agricultural Day will serve as the roll out for the Agricultural Partnership Five Year Strategic Plan as well as preliminary results for the ongoing RI Agricultural Economic Impact Study. Additionally, there are other related efforts in Rhode Island around agriculture, economic development, food system development etc. that will be highlighted and presented.

RHODE ISLAND FARM TO SCHOOL 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

Kids First is proud to report that we reached over 28,000 students and school community members with our Rhode Island Farm to School programs in 2010.

Classroom visits and cafeteria events gave students the opportunity to meet the farmers who grow their food. They were able to taste new things, understand their nutrition and learn about the importance of farms to our economy, environment and communities.

Farm tours followed many of these visits and allowed 1829 students to experience first hand the lessons they learned about the job of the farmer and what happens on a farm.

Over 300 school community members participated in our "Eating Healthy on a Budget" workshops featuring healthy cooking demonstrations that highlighted seasonal Rhode Island Grown produce.

We were able to support a myriad of cafeteria and after school initiatives by school food service providers, after school programs and community partners. Our activities included series of garden related nutrition education programs, "All Local Lunch Day" celebrations with entire meals of RI produced foods, Harvest Festivals, RI Grown Carrot Festivals, RI Grown Strawberry Festivals, "Fresh to You Market" healthy cooking demonstrations, a statewide Family and Consumer Science Teacher workshop and even a Gardening with Youth program with the SCLT.

We helped to celebrate Rhode Island Grown being served in 30 out of 36 public school districts and have documented purchases by 34 districts so far in from the 2010 harvest.

In the coming year our goal is to help increase the amount and variety of RI Grown foods in schools. We believe that more consistent purchases would be best facilitated by a contract between school food service providers and a local produce distributor, specifically for RI Grown. Kids First would like to assist in an RFP process with any one of the school food service providers to identify a distributor and processor to work with farmers before the next growing season begins. The advance planning involved in that process would economize all aspects of serving RI Grown in RI schools and create a sustainable supply chain, benefiting all involved - especially RI school kids!

(See Chart, P. 4)

YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS PROGRAM

Salutations, friends!

A quick update on the Young Farmers & Ranchers program: I am very happy to announce that we have some R.I. Farmers who are interested in hosting interns this season! Some of you may have recieved the flyer to generate interest amongst young people. If you are interested in participating in this effort to join forces but just haven't gotten around to saying it, by all means, please do write me! There is always plenty of space for more participants! You can reach me by e-mail at youngfarmersandranchersri@gmail.com; by phone, (401)567-0232; or by good old-fashioned snail-mail,

Casey Ryan
Mapleville Farm
P.O. Box 346
Mapleville, RI 02839

Cheers!

Comparison of 2006-2010 Farm to School Purchases
Locally Grown and Produced Foods
Rhode Island School Districts
As of March 25, 2011*

Fruits-Vegetables	2006 Amounts	2007 Amounts	2008 Amounts	2009 Amounts	2010 Amounts
Apples	544 cases	2,632 cases	2,511 cases	4,810 cases	4,428.5 cases
Corn	52 bushels	100 bushels	157 bushels	135 bushels	296 bushel
Tomatoes	117 cases	201 cases	14 cases	124 cases	154.75 cases
Potatoes	1,700 pounds	28,850 pounds	40,285 pounds	30,350 pounds	31,850 pounds
Butternut Squash	2,160 pounds	406 pounds	1,960 pounds	831 pounds	2,169 pounds
Broccoli	0	50 pounds	420 pounds	574 pounds	402 pounds
Peaches	0	45 bushels	166 cases	401 cases	768.5 cases
Strawberries	0	260 quarts	255 quarts	866 quarts	444 quarts
Carrots	0	30 pounds	2,000 pounds	2,675 pounds	1,858 pounds
Cider	0	252 gallons	506 gallons	0	37 gallons
Cucumbers	0	1.5 cases	0	60.5 cases	64.25 cases
Cabbage	0	0	120 pounds	0	0
Cherry tomatoes	0	0	44 flats	18 flats	409.5 flats
Green beans	0	0	100 pounds	100 pounds	356 pounds
Lettuce	0	0	2 cases	22 cases	896 pounds
Zucchini	0	0	1,505 pounds	1,140 pounds	2,039 pounds
Summer squash	0	0	0	180 pounds	2,689 pounds
Blueberries	0	0	0	37 cases	0
Cantaloupe	0	0	0	2 bins	3.25 bins
Pears	0	0	0	1 case	1 case
Peppers	0	0	0	224 cases	267.75 cases
Plums	0	0	0	15 cases	11 cases
Celery	0	0	0	1 case	0
Eggs	0	0	0	6 dozen	91 dozen
Ground beef	0	0	0	40 pounds	0
Eggplant	0	0	0	144 cases	2 cases
Spinach	0	0	0	4 cases	12 pounds
Hot Dogs	0	0	0	0	1,415 pounds
Rhody Fresh Milk	0	0	0	250	53,750 cartons
Pasta Sauce	0	0	0	0	313 gallons
Fresh Pasta	0	0	0	0	1,790 pounds
Pumpkin	0	0	0	0	521 pounds
Nectarines	0	0	0	0	420 cases
Watermelon	0	0	0	0	20 each
Honey	0	0	0	0	146 pounds
Beets	0	0	0	0	1 case
Frozen Strawberries	0	0	0	0	442 pounds
Pea Pods	0	0	0	0	5 pounds

***Data for the 2010 Harvest is incomplete as school districts are still reporting purchases**

Afghan Raffle

The RI Farm Bureau Land Trust is sponsoring a raffle on a hand made afghan made by Shirley Tucker. The value of the afghan is \$2,000. Tickets are \$5.00 each and 6 for \$5.00. We will have the drawing for the afghan on Agriculture Day at the State House. Unlike the Big Boy raffle, this one will not be cancelled since we have the afghan in our possession. Call the RI Farm Bureau Office at 401-647-3570 for tickets.



THE VENTRILOQUIST

A young ventriloquist is touring through the southern United States and stops to entertain at a small bar in Texas. He's going through his usual stupid Redneck jokes, when a big burly guy in the audience stands up and says, "I've heard just about enough of your smart ass hillbilly jokes. We ain't all stupid here in the South."

Flustered, the ventriloquist begins to apologize, when the big guy pipes up, "You stay out of this mister, I'm talking to the smart ass little fella on your knee."

It Could Happen to You: The Need for Equipment Breakdown Coverage

- A circuit board failure caused controls for automatic dispensing pumps to fail and release more than 483,000 lbs. of liquid cattle feed. — Total paid loss: \$31,506

- A fruit farmer lost 825 lbs. of refrigerant when a failed piston rod caused a compressor breakdown. — Total paid loss: \$14,548

- A farmer's co-op had to replace a utility transformer shorted out by a power surge.

A rental generator also was needed.

— Total paid loss: \$78,234

BUSINESSES HAVE CHANGED. SO HAVE THE RISKS.

Today, farmers and ranchers rely on expensive equipment and increasingly sophisticated technology to meet growing demand for greater efficiency and output. New business directions such as precision farming and vertical integration also have intensified dependence on equipment.

Yet while technology has become critical to profitable operations, it's getting harder to repair and more expensive to replace. And all it takes is a power surge to cause a serious breakdown that can cost thousands and be compounded by the loss of income. That's why equipment breakdown coverage has become an essential part of farm and ranch protection.

INCREASED TECHNOLOGY. GREATER EXPOSURE. BETTER PROTECTION.

Equipment Breakdown insurance protects your operation against financial loss when accidental breakdown occurs and it covers you for physical damage caused by those risks. Plus, it applies to a wide range of equipment, including:

- Mechanical equipment such as deep well pumps, pivot irrigation systems, grain elevators and milking carousels;
- Electrical systems including transformers, electrical panels, generators and cable structures;
- Refrigeration system components like compressors, condensers, air handlers and the pumps and motors associated with them;
- Computers and electronically controlled equipment including automated feed systems,

computerized milking machines, office computers and alarm systems;

- Boilers and pressure vessels such as hot water heaters, sterilizers and air tanks.

You know how much your equipment is worth and how costly it can be to repair or replace it. So you can appreciate the value of this insurance protection. But there's more. Equipment Breakdown insurance also includes these important coverage extensions:

- Business Income protection that pays you for income lost as a result of a covered equipment breakdown;
- Spoilage of products and materials if your refrigeration system, pasteurization equipment or other food processing equipment breaks down;
- Extra expenses you incur, such as renting equipment needed to maintain operations following a breakdown;
- Expediting expenses you pay to rush repair service or replacement parts.

Today more than ever, the risk of equipment breakdown is real. As a separate policy or part of your insurance package, equipment breakdown coverage protects the equipment you depend on every day.

This article was provided by Farm Family Casualty Insurance Company for informational purposes only. Farmers face unique issues. Talk to an insurance agent who understands agriculture insurance. To find an agent near you call 1-800-THE-FARM or visit www.FarmFamily.com.

The Farm Family group of insurance companies, headquartered in Glenmont NY, operates in 13 states in the Northeast and is a subsidiary of American National Family of Companies.

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FARM CORN

It seems a farm boy accidentally overturned his wagon-load of corn. The farmer who lived nearby heard the noise. "Hey Wilmer!" the farmer yelled. "Forget your troubles. Come in and have a bite with us. Then I'll help you get the wagon up."

"That's mighty nice of you," Wilmer answered. "But I don't think Pa would like me to."

"Aw, come on," the farmer insisted.

"Well okay," the boy finally agreed, and added, "But Pa won't like it."

After a hearty dinner, Wilmer thanked his host. "I feel a lot better now, but I know Pa is going to be real upset."

"Don't be foolish!" the neighbor said with a smile. "By the way, where is your Pa?"

Wilmer replied, "Under the wagon."

MORE CORN

One early morning, a farmer was milking his cow. The farmer was just starting to get a good rhythm going when a bug flew into the barn and started circling his head. Suddenly, the bug flew into the cow's ear.

The farmer didn't think much about it, until the bug squirted out into his bucket. It went in one ear and out the udder!



Farm Credit East Hosts 2011 Annual Meeting

ENFIELD, CONN. — Farm Credit East, ACA, the Northeast's largest agricultural lending cooperative, held its 2011 Annual Meeting on Monday, March 21 at The Desmond in Albany, N.Y.

As part of this meeting, customer-owners received reports from the Board Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and the Farm Credit East Nominating Committee. The 2010 financial results shared with customer-owners are indicative of a strong finance cooperative focused on serving farmers, commercial fishermen and forest products businesses not only in today's marketplace, but for future generations.

Farm Credit East's loan portfolio grew 4.9% in 2010 to \$4.3 billion. Net income in 2010 was up 18% to \$101 million. Farm Credit East paid patronage dividends of a record \$35 million to nearly 11,000 customer-owners in February. Farm Credit East continues to build capital for future lending activity and finished 2010 with \$684 million in capital and other risk funds.

Farm Credit East Board Chairman Abbott Lee commented, "We are very pleased with our results this year. Although Northeast agriculture had difficult challenges in 2009, we worked closely with our farmer members to help them through the economic downturn and were able to pay \$35 million in patronage

to farmers, commercial fishermen and forest products operations."

Bill Lipinski, CEO of Farm Credit East noted, "Farm Credit East has a deep commitment to the future of Northeast agriculture. We have many strong farm operators in the Northeast that produce high quality farm products and are able to compete with farmers throughout the world. The Northeast economy benefits from having agricultural economic activity and farm employment opportunities; consumers benefit from having local food and horticultural products available."

At this year's meeting, retiring directors, John Dickinson, Don Jensen, Bruce Kidder, John Lyman, Gary Mahany and Lyle Wells were honored. The Nominating Committee formally reported its slate of 2011 director candidates. This year eight candidates are seeking election for four open seats on the Farm Credit East Board. Elections will take place by mail ballot in the weeks following the Annual Meeting. Information on the Farm Credit East director candidates can be found at www.FarmCreditEast.com.

Farm Credit East extends more than \$4.4 billion in loans and has 19 local offices in its six-state service area. In addition to loans and leases, the organization also offers a full range of agriculturally specific financial services for businesses related to farming, horticulture, forestry and commercial fishing. Farm Credit East is governed by a 20-person board of directors from across the Northeast. For more information, go to FarmCreditEast.com.

WATERMELON PATCH

A farmer in the country has a watermelon patch and upon inspection he discovers that some of the local kids have been helping themselves to a feast.

The farmer thinks of ways to discourage this profit-eating situation. So he puts up a sign that reads: "WARNING! ONE OF THESE WATERMELONS CONTAINS CYANIDE!"

The farmer returns a week later to discover that none of the watermelons have been eaten, but finds another sign that reads: "NOW THERE ARE TWO!"

Someone You Can Count On When It Counts

Our agents take the time to listen to your concerns, and learn about your goals. And like a trusted friend, they'll be there when you need them most.

For someone you can rely on tomorrow, get to know your Farm Family agent today.

For more information contact:

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780 Victory Highway - Suite 1
West Greenwich, RI 02817
Phone: (401) 397-1050

Farm Family
Life Insurance Company
Casualty Insurance Company
Greenwich, NY
RI-33 (8/98)

Country Living

2012 Photo Calendar Contest



Upload your best shots to our website by July 31

Help us fill Farm Credit East's Country Living 2012 Calendar with lots of fresh images that illustrate life in the country today.

Contest entries

- Planting, timber, irrigation, livestock or harvest scenes
- Industry shots of vineyards, commercial fishing or timber operations, farms, etc.
- Action shots, in the fields, forests, barns or docks
- Holiday photos
- County fairs, roadside markets and farmer markets
- 4-H or FFA events

Winning photos

14 photos will be selected for a \$100 cash prize each.

Timeline

Submission deadline: July 31, 2011

Winners contacted by: September 30, 2011

Two ways to enter

Send CDs to:
Photo Contest
Farm Credit East
240 South Road
Enfield, CT 06082-4451

On the web:
FarmCreditEast.com/news-and-events



Images will not be returned and each photo submitted comes with full and exclusive rights to print the photo, without credit, in Farm Credit East literature, without further obligation to the photographer or those people who have their persons or items pictured.



Your Operation Can Change

Our Commitment to You Never Will

For more than 50 years, Farm Family has been dedicated to serving farmers, agribusinesses and their families. *In fact, we are the leading insurer of farms in Rhode Island**. We've reached out to better understand your changing needs and provide the right mix of insurance coverages to meet them. Be assured that our commitment to farms, businesses and families is unwavering. In Farm Family you have a strong partner who takes a personal interest in protecting what you value most.

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 **Farm
Family**
Life Insurance Company
Casualty Insurance Company
Glenmont, New York



*SOURCE: 2008 Highline Data Farmowner Industry Comparison

Legislative Update 2011

Bill #	Sponsor	Explanation	Committee	Status	RIFB Position
7	Tassoni	Require landscapers to register and carry liability insurance	Corporations	Withdrawn	No position
48	Walaska	Application to alter wetland must be filed electronically and town has 45 days to respond	Environment & Ag	Hearing held	Con
58	Felag	Increase exemption from \$850,000 to \$1.5 million	Finance	Introduced	Pro
458	Ruggerio	Prohibit the docking of tails on animals	Environment and Ag	Introduced	Con
5060	Walsh	Eliminate corporate tax on businesses that earn less than \$250,000	Finance	Hearing held	Pro
5237 357	Walsh Sosnowski	Appraise Small Business Property at use value rather than highest use	Small Business	Hearing in House	Pro Our Bill
5210	Walsh Pichardo	Exempt Animal Feed from Tax	Finance	Hearing held in House	Pro Our Bill
5207 626	Walsh Sosnowski	Check-off on Tax Return to preserve farmland.	Finance	Hearing held in House	Pro Our Bill
5209 97	Walsh Felag	Limit the inheritance tax on farms	Finance	Hearing held in House	Pro Our Bill
5208 625	Walsh Sosnowski	Cistern tax credit	Finance	Hearing held in House	Pro Our Bill
5707 158	Naughton Sosnowski	Allow plant ag in all zones	Housing and Municipal Govt	Introduced	Pro Our Bill
??	Sheehan	Citizens can sue other citizens who pollute.	Environment?	Drafted	Con
5117	Ruggerio	Increase exemption to \$1.5 million	Finance	Hearing held	Pro
14	Sosnowski	Increase funding for URI	Finance	Introduced	Pro
147	O'Neil	Exempt first \$2 million from Estate Tax	Finance	Introduced	Pro
5282	Morgan	Exempt \$5 million from Estate Tax	Finance	Hearing held	Pro
5283	Morgan	Exempt first \$850,000 indexed	Finance	Hearing held	Pro
568	Hodgson	Exempt RIFBLT from Prop tax	Finance	Introduced	Pro Our Bill
5783	Flaherty	Ban outdoor water heaters	Municipal Govt	Hearing Postponed	Con



RI Farm Bureau

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We're on TV
Cox Channel 13
Wednesdays 3:30

Thank a farmer three times a day.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE INSIDE

SPONSORS & STATUS OF BILLS INTRODUCED