



RIFB Newsletter

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Farm Bureau

June, 2011
Volume 12, Issue 4

DID WE DODGE THE BULLET?

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(Cont. P. 2 RIFB Directors)

It appears that most farmers have dodged the new taxes bullet proposed by Governor Chafee. However, if you have a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) you will probably have to pay the Minimum Corporation Tax which is \$500. Another tax is a 7% tax on over the counter drugs. As this newsletter is being written, the House Finance Committee has passed a budget. It will now be debated in the House and Senate. The House is expected to vote on the budget on Friday June 24. (This newsletter is being finalized on June 20).

It appears that the responsibilities of the Water Resources Board will be transferred to the State Planning Department. As this newsletter is being written, it is not clear whether or not the personnel will be transferred. We have concerns as to how this will effect the agricultural community.

Most of the time when a budget is passed by the House there are few changes made. We will be studying the 292 page budget this week to see how it effects farmers. In fact, you will probably know the results of the budget before you get this newsletter. We will give you a final report on the entire session in next month's newsletter.

No Farmers, No Food!

SHEEP CO-OP AGREEMENT



The RI Department of Environmental Management/Division of Agriculture has received \$2000 in the form of a Cooperative Agreement with the USDA/APHIS. This money has been allocated to RI to support scrapie surveillance in the state's sheep flocks. As a sheep producer, this money is available to you in the form of support for the diagnosis of mortality in adult sheep in your flocks.

The money will be allocated to help defray the cost of a complete post-mortem (necropsy) examination at the University of Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab. Specifically, this Cooperative Agreement will

(Cont. on P 2, Sheep Co-op)

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 soon.

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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SHEEP CO-OP AGREEMENT

(Cont. from P1)

subsidize the complete necropsy fee of up to twenty (20) RI origin adult sheep. The amount of the subsidy will be \$100 per animal. Each animal will receive a complete necropsy examination, testing for scrapie, testing for at least one other disease based on the clinical history of the animal, and the carcass will be properly disposed of by the lab. The owner of the animal will be responsible for the remainder of the necropsy fee (between \$20 and \$50 depending on the size of the animal) and transportation of the animal to the lab.

The main goals of offering this subsidy to sheep farmers are to assist them in better determining the cause of mortalities in their flocks, thus improving overall flock health, and, increasing the number of animals submitted for scrapie surveillance so that the state meets surveillance quotas, and therefore is not at risk for losing low-risk classification from failing to meet those quotas. I sincerely hope that you take advantage of this opportunity. This program will be administered on a first-come-first-served basis and will end when the agreement funds have been exhausted. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this opportunity.

Kind regards,
Scott Marshall, DVM
RI State Veterinarian

“THE PEOPLE’S GARDEN” INITIATIVE

WARWICK, RI (June 2, 2011) – The Northern Rhode Island Conservation District (NRICD) recently partnered with NRCS to design portable vegetable garden planters which are located at the district office in Johnston,

Rhode Island. The garden is the result of USDA’s ‘The People’s Garden’ initiative where well over 1,200 gardens have been planted across the nation since 2009.

‘The People’s Garden’ initiative is a collaborative, volunteer effort between USDA and outside organizations within the community such as the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District where there are several community benefits including harvesting fruits and vegetables for local food banks and providing aesthetically pleasing space for the public. In addition, the gardens incorporate sustainable practices such as composting, mulching and planting native species.

NRCS unveiled the garden planters to the public as part of the NRICD 2011 Seedling Sale where Kanseese Xiong, NRCS Landscape Architect, conducted an educational Edible Landscaping workshop on Friday, April 22, 2011. Showcasing an edible landscape design, the portable garden planters consist of a combination of bok choy, mixed lettuce, scallions, mint, beets, and cabbage in organic soil where the planters are constructed of recycled wood pallets with plastic liners to act as a protective barrier. Remnants of sheep’s wool are planted in the soil to allow the retention of water in the soil. In addition, the planters have built in composting bins for organic food waste.

Edible landscaping is the use of food-producing plants such as fruit and nut trees, berry bushes, vegetables, herbs, and edible flowers in aesthetically pleasing designs in the residential landscape. Xiong provided

(Cont. on P 4, People’s Garden)

A Special Offer for Rhode Island Farm Bureau Members:

Do you use propane at your home?

If so, you can take advantage of this special offer to lower your propane costs.

Suburban Propane would like to extend a special offer to our local Rhode Island Farm Bureau members by offering you special propane pricing. This offer enables you to take advantage of group buying power for your home!

All eligible* active Rhode Island Farm Bureau members are encouraged to participate and receive the benefit of this low residential rate.

The special offer includes:

- Special members-only pricing
- Switch-out of your existing above-ground propane tank at NO CHARGE
- A complete system/safety test at NO CHARGE
- Re-starting all your propane appliances at NO CHARGE
- 24/7 emergency service
- Multiple payment options available

To take advantage of this special offer,
call Suburban Propane for more details
TODAY!

Call
today!

1-800-PROPANE

(776-7263)



**Our Business is
Customer Satisfaction**
www.suburbanpropane.com



Offer limited to members of Rhode Island Farm Bureau whose delivery address is within Suburban Propane of Rhode Island's customer service territory. New propane customers must sign a fuel service agreement that is subject to credit approval and all customers must sign up for Automatic Delivery service. Special pricing will remain in effect only for so long as you remain an active member of the Rhode Island Farm Bureau. Offer expires 10/31/11 unless earlier terminated upon 30 days advance notice. 8254.01

Suburban Propane®

FARMS IN RHODE ISLAND

NUMBER OF

FARMS..... 1220

Land in Farms (acres)

.....70,000

Average Farm Size

(acres).....57

LIVESTOCK INVENTORY

Cattle and Calves - All

(Jan. 1, 2011).....4900

Hogs & Pigs - All (Dec.

1, 2010).....1800

MILK

Milk Cows (Average

head) 1100

Milk Production per Cow

(lbs).....17,727

Production (lbs).....

.....19,500,000

PRINCIPAL

OPERATORS BY SEX:

Male922

Female.....297

Average age of

principal operator

(years).....56

GOLF WINNER

For the past several years, including this year, RI Farm Bureau has been a sponsor of the 4-H Annual Golf Tournament. This entitles us to a foursome to play golf that includes a golf cart, coffee &, and lunch. This year we auctioned it off via email. Tom Sandham won by being the highest bidder at \$400. The funds will be donated to the RI Farm Bureau Land Trust. Thanks Tom and congratulations!

"PEOPLE'S GARDEN INITIATIVE"

(Cont. from P3)



where you can reap the benefits of locally and organically grown food, native species, and providing nourishment for wildlife. Edible landscapes provide several other environmental benefits including the reduction of oil use, greenhouse gases, and pollution associated with purchasing food produced several miles from the consumer and sold at grocery stores. Edible landscapes also benefit the environment if they are organic which reduces the amount of chemicals in food, on the land, and in storm drains to the ocean. Other benefits include composting where waste is diverted from landfills and reduces oil use, pollution and greenhouse gas resulting from hauling away green trash to landfills.

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:

John T. Howard Agency

780 Victory Highway - Suite 1

West Greenwich, RI 02817

Phone: (401) 397-1050

Farm Family
Life Insurance Company
Casualty Insurance Company
Glenmont, NY

FF-33 (9/98)

FARM CREDIT EAST GIVES \$42,000 IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

28 Students Receive \$1,500 Each

ENFIELD, CONN. – Farm Credit East, the Northeast's largest agricultural lending cooperative, recently awarded \$42,000 in college scholarships to 28 student recipients. Each student received a \$1,500 scholarship to apply towards his or her higher education.

According to CEO Bill Lipinski, "This year's scholarship recipients aspire to make a difference in their communities and are well on their way to becoming agriculture's future leaders. Our program supports students with diverse career aspirations in agriculture, commercial fishing and the forest products industries from across our six-state territory. Our Board of Directors and staff sends its congratulations to these deserving students and best wishes for a successful educational experience."

Here is this year's Farm Credit East scholarship recipients list by the branch office that they represent:

- From the Batavia, N.Y. office territory: **Molly Koerner**, of Portageville, N.Y., will attend Niagara University to major in biology. **Emmaline Long**, of Bergen, N.Y., attends Cornell University where she majors in agricultural sciences.
- From the Bedford, N.H. office territory: **Adam McFarland**, of Chester, N.H., attends The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute where he is studying swine production and management. **Jacob Uretsky**, of Portsmouth, N.H., majors in plant biology and attends University of New Hampshire.
- From the Bridgeton, N.J. office territory: **Eric Hensel**, of Milmay, N.J., will attend Delaware Valley College where he will major in agribusiness and environmental science.

HARVEST to HAND

**Watch for this
coming soon!**

A New Way to Promote Locally Grown Goods



Farmers Markets
Local Festivals
Pick-Your-Own
Locally Made Products
Family-Friendly Farms
**Wineries, Breweries and
Local Food Eateries**
Seasonal Agritourism Venues

This new iPhone® app will connect consumers to locally harvested food, agritourism, food festivals and more across America.
Harvest to Hand will be available on the App Store for download in July!



Have a farm, local venue, farmers market or event you'd like to promote?

Go to **www.HarvestToHand.com** today
and follow the easy instructions to "Enter your Information."
Don't wait to get listed!

The app is open to everyone*: the main criteria are that your venue, event or farm must be accessible to the general public and feature locally grown or produced products.



Brought to you by:
Farm Family group of insurance companies
www.farmfamily.com
American National Property And Casualty Company
www.anpac.com
American National Insurance Company
www.anico.com



The Farm Family group of insurance companies operates in 13 states in the Northeast and Mid Atlantic regions and includes Farm Family Casualty Insurance Company, United Farm Family Insurance Company and Farm Family Life Insurance Company, all headquartered in Glenmont, NY. Affiliate American National Property And Casualty Company, operates in 34 states across the USA and is headquartered in Springfield, MO. All are subsidiaries of American National Insurance Company headquartered in Galveston, TX.

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* Subject to terms of use at www.harvesttohand.com.

FFH2H1 (0611)



CONTACT: Carol Burns
(518) 431-5741

Free Harvest to Hand iPhone® App supports local agriculture *New app offers new way to find – and promote – locally grown goods*

GLENMONT, N.Y. – Farm Family and American National are bringing rural America’s bounty to consumers’ tables, one farm stand at a time, through a unique, new free iPhone app, now available on the [App Store](#).

Through this easy-to-use app for the iPhone or iPod Touch®, consumers can locate farmers markets, local festivals, locally made products, family-friendly farms, local wineries, breweries and local eateries, and agritourism venues in their town or wherever the road takes them. The venues may be categorized several different ways, and users can map out directions directly from the app wherever they may be located. Harvest to Hand app users can also add venues to their favorites, and share finds with friends and family a number of ways.

“Farm Family and American National are excited about this new technology and what it can do to help promote buying local. Agriculture and successful farm families are so very vital to our rural way of life and to our economy,” said Timothy Walsh, President & CEO of the Farm Family group of insurance companies. “More than 100 million consumers own iPhones, and that number is growing every day as other telecommunications companies offer the iPhone to their subscribers. This is an incredible opportunity to help promote farmers and the agricultural community that we are dedicated to serve.”

Participants do not have to be clients of Farm Family or American National to participate. The main criteria are that the venue, event or farm must be accessible to the general public and feature locally produced or grown and harvested products. If you would like to get your event, agritourism venue or farmers market listed, simply go to www.harvesttohand.com and complete the online form. And if you have an iPhone you can also find a link to the app store to download this free app on this website.

The Farm Family group of insurance companies operates in 13 states in the Northeast and Mid Atlantic regions and includes Farm Family Casualty Insurance Company, United Farm Family Insurance Company and Farm Family Life Insurance Company, all headquartered in Glenmont, NY. Affiliate American National Property And Casualty Company, operates in 34 states across the USA and is headquartered in Springfield, MO. All are subsidiaries of American National Insurance Company headquartered in Galveston, TX.

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MORE ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Farm Credit East scholarship program is for college bound students with career aspirations in agriculture, forest products and commercial fishing. Farm Credit East makes a strong commitment to promoting diversity as part of the scholarship program.

The industries supported by this scholarship are key contributors to the economy of the Northeast, providing billions of dollars of economic activity and extensive employment throughout the region. To be a candidate for a 2012 scholarship, contact a Farm Credit East branch office or log onto FarmCreditEast.com. Applications will be available in January 2012.

Farm Credit East extends more than \$4.3 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 board of directors from across the Northeast.

(From P. 4 Scholarships)

- Representing the Burrville, N.Y. office: **Summer Greenwood**, of Watertown, N.Y., will attend SUNY Jefferson and major in liberal arts math and science.

- **Adam Townsend**, of Pulaski, N.Y., attends Cornell University where he is working to obtain his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

- From the Claverack, N.Y. office territory: **Carl Cole, Jr.**, of Roxbury, Conn., will attend Paul Smith's College where he will study forest technology. **Rachel Freund**, of East Canaan, Conn., is working towards a career as a dairy farmer at the University of Vermont where she is majoring in community entrepreneurship.

- From the Cobleskill, N.Y. office territory: **Melissa Restifo**, of Middleburgh, N.Y., attends Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine where she is pursuing a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

- Representing the Cortland, N.Y. office: **Valerie Marcano**, of Ithaca, N.Y., is majoring in animal science at Cornell University. **Jessica Mras**, of Whitney Point, N.Y., attends Morrisville State College where she majors in dairy management. She plans a career in agribusiness. **Veronica Palladino**, of Groton, N.Y., attends Cornell University where she majors in international agriculture. **Abigail Stamp**, of Rock Stream, N.Y., majors in enology and viticulture at Cornell University.

- From the Dayville, Conn. office territory: **Brandon Smith**, of Lebanon, Conn., will attend SUNY Cobleskill where he will major in dairy management and production.

- From the Enfield, Conn. office territory: **Teddy Smiarowski**, of Hatfield, Mass., will attend Stockbridge School of Agriculture.

From the Flemington, N.J. office

territory: **Kaitlyn Davis**, of Chester, N.J., is attending Centenary College where she is studying business marketing and management.

- From the Greenwich, N.Y. office territory: **Justin Braun**, of Cambridge, N.Y., is majoring in dairy production and management.

- Representing the Hornell, N.Y. office territory: **Isaac Oman**, of Campbell, N.Y., will major in diesel mechanics at Alfred State.

- From the Mayville, N.Y. office territory: **Emily Knight**, of Jamestown, N.Y., attends Cornell University where she is studying communications and animal science.

- From the Middleboro, Mass. office territory: **Emily Pelletier**, of Rehoboth, Mass., will attend SUNY Cobleskill where she will major in agricultural business.

- Representing the Middletown, N.Y. office: **Katherine DeWitt**, of Accord, N.Y., will attend Cornell University and major in animal science. **Michael Mercado**, of Grahamsville, N.Y., is working towards a career in farm business planning.

- Representing the Riverhead, N.Y. office: **Samuel Nolan**, of East Patchogue, N.Y., attends SUNY Cobleskill where he majors in plant science. **Amanda Solomon**, of Jamaica, N.Y., will study animal science at Michigan State University.

- From the Sangerfield, N.Y. office territory: **Meghan Vaill**, of Vernon, N.Y., will attend Cornell University where she will study animal science.



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.
- Actions 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



FARM CREDIT EAST



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.

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	Hearing held	Pro
458	Ruggerio	Prohibit the docking of tails on cattle	Environment and Ag	Passed Senate	No position
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 560	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	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	Hearing held in House	Pro Our Bill
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	Hearing held	Pro
5282	Morgan	Exempt \$5 million from Estate Tax	Finance	Hearing held	Pro
47	Walaska	Restrictions on outdoor boilers	Environ & Ag	Hearing held	Con
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 held	Con



RI Farm Bureau

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Email: rifarm@aol.com

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



Check us out on
Facebook too!

Thank a farmer three times a day.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE INSIDE