



NEWSLETTER

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LEE COLLINS

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of our volunteer, Newsletter Editor, Lee Collins. Lee came to our office about three years ago and offered to help us in any capacity. At first, not wanting to overtax our new volunteer, Lee's duties at the RI Farm Bureau were minimal, mostly correction and some rewriting of articles within the newsletter. A few months into her time with the RIFB, Lee attended the 2010 RIFB Annual Meeting. Seated next to Gail Bettencourt, (my wife) Lee indicated that she would like more responsibility with the newsletter. From that point on she not only edited the newsletter, she did it soup to nuts. To our delight and the delight of all readers of the RIFB Newsletter, Lee is a brilliant writer and had innumerable skills in Graphic Design, taking our little newsletter to a new and higher quality of publication. A few months ago, Lee's health began to decline and she told me she could no longer do the newsletter. I have tried to replicate the quality product that Lee



Lee Collins 1937-2012

produced, but to no avail and we are back with Publisher again.

Lee was a professor at RI College in the Industrial Arts Dept. for 23 years. She has a BA and MA from RIC and a PHD from UConn. She has been married to Patrick Collins for 52 years, mom to sons, Patrick Jr. and Michael and grandmother to Patrick H. Collins III. We will miss her very much.

BAD NEWS ON ESTATE TAX

Regarding the Estate Tax, it appears I have misinterpreted what 2032A will save the family farm. The most the gross estate can be reduced is one million dollars, adjusted for inflation each year. The total value of the estate can be reduced by the value of

the farm appraised as farmland, but not replaced. As usual, the law is complicated and anyone who wants to use it should definitely contact an attorney or tax accountant. I apologize for getting everyone's hopes up. Back to the drawing board.

RI Pesticide General Permit for Discharges from Applica- tion of Pesticides.

The US Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit has made a ruling that discharges from pesticides and herbicides (including their residues) into waters of the United States requires a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit effective October 31, 2011.

This ruling is anticipated to have limited impact on RI farmers since it doesn't impact the long standing exemption from NPDES permits for irrigation return flow (which includes runoff from a crop field due to irrigation of that field) and agricultural storm water runoff. However, discharges from the application of pesticides, which includes applications of herbicides, into irrigation ditches and canals that are themselves Waters of the United States, are not exempt as irrigation return flows or agricultural storm water, and require NPDES permit coverage.

In response to the 6th Circuit Court, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a general NPDES permit to cover the affected activities. In RI, the authority to issue NPDES permits had been delegated to the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and these permits are administered through DEM's RI Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) program.

DEM has determined that four pesticide use patterns, which are generally consistent with those in EPA's general permit, will be permitted. These use patterns are the discharge of pesticides to Waters of the State resulting from 1) mosquito and other flying insect control, 2) weed and algae control, 3) animal pest control at cranberry bogs and 4) forest canopy pest control. Any discharges of pesticides to Waters of the State that are not included in these use patterns must be covered by an individual permit. However, permit coverage is not required for pesticide applications that do not result in a point discharge to Waters of the State, such as for the purpose of controlling pests on agricultural crops, forest floors or range lands.

The draft RIPDES permit is currently out for public notice and comment and DEM is accepting comments through May 18. There may be a hearing on the issue.

EARN MONEY!

Don't forget that RI Farm Bureau is now offering commissions to people who recruit members for us. If you recruit an Associate Member for \$45, we will pay you \$20. For each Farmer Member you recruit (from \$100 - \$300) we will pay half the amount you collect. Simply write your name and membership number on the application. Commissions will be paid each month. We will continue this program to the end of this membership year (October 31) and evaluate its success.

A Little Humor

A man from the city is out plowing his field and gets his tractor stuck in the wet ground. A farmer driving by stops his truck and walks to the fence to call over the city feller. You need a mule to plow such wet ground he says. "Where can I buy one?" he is asked. "Well, I just happened to have one for 100 dollars he says. "I'll take him," says the other man as he counts out the money. "I can't bring him over today. I don't work on Sunday morrow OK?" "Sure." The next day the truck pulls up and the old farmer gets out. He says, "sorry, bad news. I went out after breakfast and the mule was dead." The city feller says, "just give me my money back then." "Can't, spent it already!" "Well... unload the mule then." What ya gonna do with him?" "Raffle him off!" "Naw, ya cant raffle off a dead mule!" "Just watch me us! City fellers know a few tricks." One month goes by and the city feller and farmer run into each other at the barber shop. "What did ya do with that dead mule?" "Raffled him off, sold 100 tickets at two dollars each and made 98 dollars profit." "Didn't anyone complain?" "Just one guy so I gave him his two dollars back!"

Farm Credit Photo Calendar Contest

Have you uploaded your best shots yet?

Spring is here! It's time to dust off your digital cameras and get out to take some of your best shots around the farm, forest, greenhouse, dock or shipyard. The folks at Farm Credit East hope you will continue to amaze with your ability to capture a picture-perfect moment, just like Joanne Van Wingerden did with the photo of her daughter that's on the cover of the 2012 Farm Credit East calendar. If you stop by FarmCreditEast.com, you'll see a copy of last years' calendar with the photo that John Halliwell, of Richmond, R.I., captured of Courtney leading "Little One" back to the barn ... or how Moreen Weaver found the perfect light to shoot side-by-side combines in a wheat field ... and how Dennis Dering captured Caicos, the wonder dog, flying over a frozen cornfield.



Courtney and "Little One"

Winning photos will be featured in Farm Credit's 2013 calendar. Photographers selected receive a \$100 prize when their photo is the featured shot for a month and \$25 for small shots. Judges select two types of entries. First, they look for photos that show off the best of Northeast farming, horticulture, forestry and commercial fishing. And, second, they are equally interested in photos that celebrate country life in New England, New York or New Jersey. Only digital shots are accepted. You will find contest rules and an entry form, as well as photos from last year's calendar, at FarmCreditEast.com/news-and-events.

Howard Inducted into Farm Family Hall of Fame

John Howard, LUTCF, of Exeter, Qualified Senior Agent with Farm Family Life Insurance Company and Farm Family Casualty Insurance Company, was inducted into Farm Family's prestigious Senior Agent Hall of Fame.

The Senior Agent Hall of Fame is one of Farm Family's most renowned honors. The qualifications are extremely challenging for this "lifetime achievement award." Howard joins just 30 other insurance agents in the Senior Agent Hall of Fame.

This year Howard was also honored with Farm Family's top honor, the Distinguished Sales Award for Multiline (property/casualty and life) insurance sales.

"John's knowledge, integrity, service and dedication to his clients and the community make him stand out at Farm Family," said President & CEO Timothy A. Walsh. "He is certainly deserving of these honors."

Howard began his career with Farm Family in 1986 and has received recognition for quality service and productivity. He has won the Rhode Island Farm Bureau Award nine times. He has qualified for Farm Family's President's Club twice (reserved for our top 10 agents each year). He is a 10-time marketing conference qualifier and the exclusive Gathering of Eagles qualifier. He is a multiple winner of the several other quality and sales awards.

Howard's agency is located in West Greenwich, R.I. He can be contacted at (401) 397-1050

Farm Family Casualty Insurance Company, Farm Family Life Insurance Company and United Farm Family Insurance Company, headquartered in Glenmont, N.Y., have been protecting the plans and property of individuals and businesses for more than 50 years. The Farm Family companies serve 13 northeastern states with a force of more than 850 agents and employees, and are members of the American National family of companies.



John Howard

KIDS FIRST ACCOMPLISHES MISSION



TO: The Thousands of RI Friends and Partners of Kids First:

From: Dorothy Brayley Executive Director Kids First

Thank you for your work with me and with the dedicated staff members of Kids First during the past 15 years. Together (and I mean TOGETHER!), we have transformed the nutrition environments in all of our public schools, a feat most thought impossible (or unimportant) when we started our work in 1997. In fifteen years of service to Rhode Island children, Kids First spearheaded major nutrition changes in our greatest and most influential public institution for children, our schools. Given Michelle Obama's recent announcement of new USDA nutrition requirements for school meals, which mirror those that RI implemented nearly 3 years ago, we can all feel incredibly innovative for having figured our own way -- ahead of the USDA -- through developing, testing and cost-effectively implementing superior nutrition standards for Rhode Island's school children.

Dorothy Brayley

Fifteen years ago, when I visited schools across RI, I saw vending machines filled with sugary beverages and junk food lining the halls and locker rooms of many middle and high schools. High schools sometimes had over 100 fundraisers centered around selling junk food in a single 180-day school year. Elementary students were offered tator tots, chicken nuggets and ice cream for lunch, birthday sweets in the afternoon and candy as a reward for good work - all in a single school day. There was very little in the way of fresh fruits and vegetables and none were grown in RI. All grains were highly processed and high in sugar and sodium. This was no one's fault -- it had simply become the norm for schools and in fact, unfortunately, this is still the norm for many schools across America.

Today, Rhode Islanders can be proud as we walk through our schools. Together, we have accomplished much to celebrate:

The formation of school district Wellness Committees that develop and implement locally generated solutions for improving the nutritional well-being and physical education of RI's students. Due to the early success of Wellness Committees, Rhode Islanders chose to require them by passing a law in 2005.

In 2003, the collaborative development of voluntary nutrition criteria for all foods sold and offered outside of the school lunch program during the school day. When the "Healthier Foods and Beverages in Schools Laws" were then passed in 2006 and 2007, we could more effectively ask industry to stop bringing junk food and sugary beverages to our schools.

Offering our children more fruits and vegetables, including a wide variety grown right here in RI. Kids First worked with the RI Department of Education to develop and test improved criteria for school breakfast and lunch, and as a result, students were exposed to the taste of whole grains and more fresh-prepared, scratch-cooked foods with lower sodium than the processed counterparts.

Implementation of a robust RI Farm to School program with 100% of RI districts now serving up RI grown foods along with local foods education and tasting opportunities in every cafeteria across the state.

The time has come for us to celebrate our success in improving school food environments and to finish out our work by the end of this school year. Kids First began with a clear mission to help RI schools become places where our children could learn and practice healthy eating every day.

In the years since we started our work, Rhode Island communities and stakeholders have taken ownership of the changes and, in some cases, continued to expand our initial work. While everyone will not agree with me, I believe that Kids First is no longer needed to lead the charge. We have achieved our initial mission. It is time for us to step aside so that others can dedicate themselves to the important work of sustaining our improvements and expanding them to childcare and other institutions.

Please, I ask that we never revert back to what I saw in schools 15 years ago. We need to now look to other RI institutions, especially healthcare-related institutions, to follow the lead of RI schools by becoming places where RI citizens can learn about and practice healthful eating by offering and promoting fresh, tasty (and RI grown) foods every day! The Kids First team and I remain available to RI schools and RI state agencies until the end of the school year (June 30). Please feel free to contact us for assistance in these next five months. Stay tuned to our website, as we share more details of winding down our operations, seeding other organizations with our highly dedicated and qualified staff members and finding homes for programs, like the RI Farm to School program, that will live on elsewhere. If you have any thoughts about how we might best complete and/or transition our work to others, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for being with me on this fantastic 15-year journey of RI school food transformation. To every



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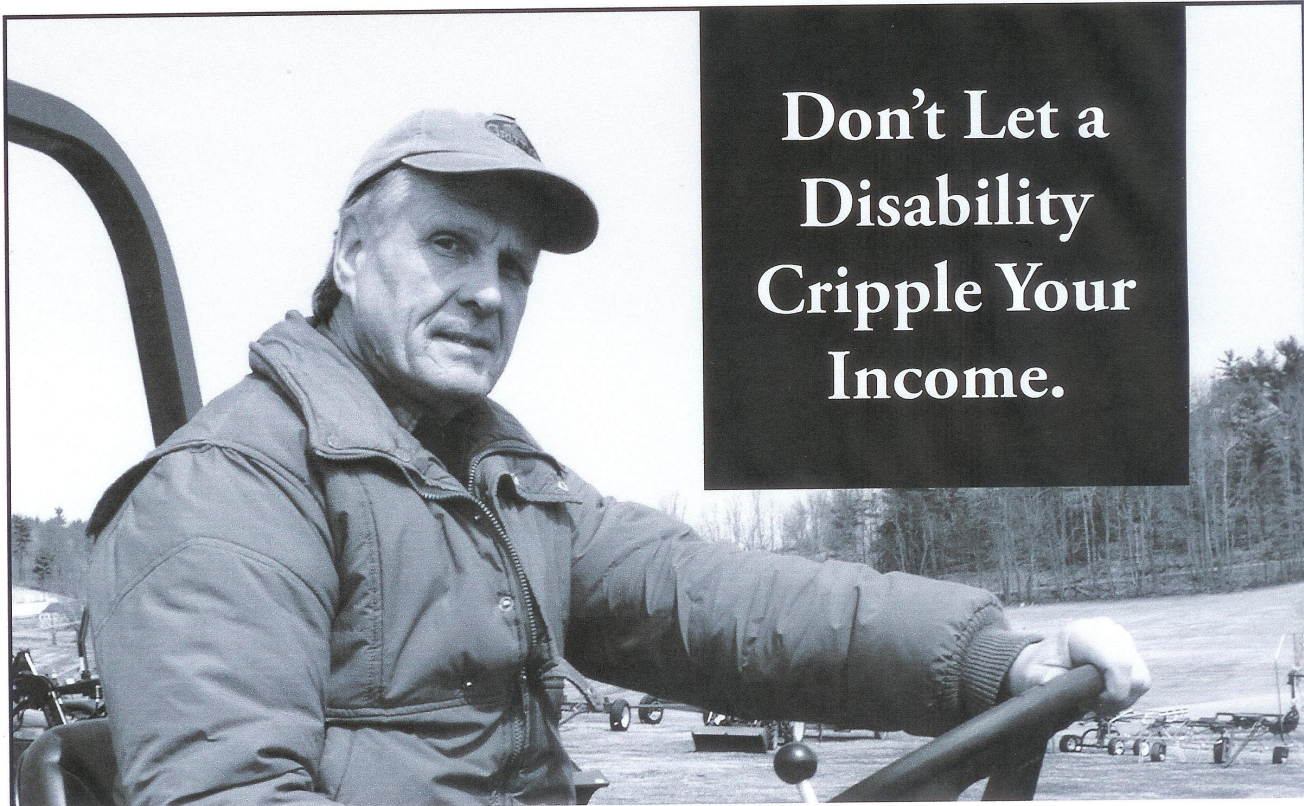
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FF-257a (0412)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Bill Number	Sponsor	Explanation	Committee	Status	RIFB Pos
2109 7070	Sosnowski, Walsh	10 % credit on cistern	Finance	Hearing Sched- uled H	Pro, Ours
2104 7071	Sosnowski, Walsh	Check off for Ag Pres	Finance	Hearing Sched- uled H	Pro, Ours
2191 7180	Ruggerio Serpa	Ban veal crates, sow crates	Environ & Ag, Judiciary	Hearing Held March 6,7 FS	Con
2045	Kettle	Eliminate minimum Corp tax	Finance	Intro	Pro
2048	Walaska	Reduce min corp tax to \$250	Finance	Intro	Pro
2034 7139	Tassoni, Petraca	Animal Advocate	Env & Ag Judiciary	Hearing Held	??
2172 7635	Felag Walsh	Limit inheritance tax	Finance	Intro	Pro Our Bill
7157 2283	Walsh Pichardo	Animal Feed exemption	Finance	Hearing Sched- uled H	Pro,Ours
2082 7633	Walaska Flaherty	Regulate outdoor boilers	Env & Ag	Intro Hearing FS	Con as written
2085 7371	Jabour Handy	Ban wood stoves	Env & Ag Hearing in H FS	Intro	Con as written
2192	Ruggeri	Ban docking tails cattle	Env & Ag	Hearing held March 2 FS	Pro
7301	Nunes	Allow sale of wine at farmer's markets	Corporations	Hearing FS	Pro
7494	Hull	Require labeling of GMO	HEW	Hearing March 14 FS	Con
2163	DiPalma	Allow spirits and beer to be sold at wineries	Special Legs	Hearing March 7 FS	Pro
2397	DiPalma	Amend the composting law	Env & Ag	Hearing March 7 FS	Con?
7701 2611	Ruggeiro Sosnowski	Support for local ag and sea food through grants	Environ	Passed both	Pro
7780 2562	Valencia Sosnowski	Exempt barns and grn houses from fire code	Corporations	Hearing on Sen bill 3/13 FS	Pro our bill
2442 7963	Sosnowski Tanzi	Allow plant agriculture in land administered by Cost	Environ Ag	Hearing held Feb 27 FS	Pro
2618	Sosnowski	Animal welfare committee	Environ Ag	Passed Senate	Pro
7433	Gallison	Prohibit hunting of water fowl in Portsmouth	Municipal Gov.	Hearing held, FS	Con
7969	Walsh	Appraise farmland at use val- ue for estate tax	Finance	Introduced	Pro, Our bill
7590	Lima	Add arboriculture to Right to Farm Law	Ag and Environ	Hearing FS	Con
7833	Lima	Label GMO Food	HEW	Hearing Held FS	Con

FS Means Further Study

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GOLF FOURSOME AUCTION

RI Farm Bureau is a sponsor for the 4-H Annual Golf Tournament. As a result, we are entitled to a foursome to play golf at the tournament. We are auctioning off the foursome which includes lunch, a BBQ Dinner and a golf cart. You can call your bid in at 647-3570, email us at rifarm@aol.com or send it in. We need to receive your bid by May 15. The value of the foursome is pegged at about \$460. Proceeds from the auction will go to the RI Farm Bureau Land Trust.

DON'T FORGET YOUR BENEFITS

You can easily save the cost of your dues by taking advantage of the many discounts your RI Farm Bureau membership offers you. We offer discounts at over 300,000 companies nationwide. Here is an example of a few.

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AND MANY MANY MORE

FIRE CODE

There seems to be some confusion about recent developments with the state fire code. Some people are under the impression that stricter rules are being imposed by the Fire Marshal on farms. What is actually happening is the Fire Marshal is simply trying to enforce the existing fire code on farmers. We believe the current regulations are too strict and are trying to come up with a code that is reasonable. We recently held a meeting with farmers at the Farm Bureau Office in Johnston. This is an ongoing discussion and we are still looking for input from farmers. Currently barns are defined as storage facilities. We are going to try to come up with a definition of barns and have the code apply to them rather than storage facilities. Listed below are items we discussed at the meeting.

Proposed Law

Regarding Fire Code and Agricultural Buildings

The current fire code, which defines barns and greenhouses as storage facilities, requires reporting alarms and sprinkler systems in storage facilities. If applied to agricultural buildings, this can be very costly and force many farmers out of business. The emphasis on agricultural buildings such as barns, sheds, greenhouses and other facilities, should be on fire prevention rather than reacting to a fire.

Fire Code in Greenhouses

Greenhouses made of glass and steel shall be exempt from the alarm and sprinkler requirements of the fire code. (this is a current exemption)

All other greenhouses shall have at least two entrances (one on each end). Greenhouses that allow the public to enter shall have a fire extinguisher or a hose hooked up to running water.

Fire Code in Barns and other Storage Facilities

Barns and storage facilities where the public is not invited are exempt from the alarm and sprinkler requirements of the fire code. Barns and storage facilities with no electricity are exempt from the alarm and sprinkler requirements of the fire code. (this is a current exemption).

In existing barns and storage facilities where the public is invited the following rules shall apply.

The State Fire Marshal and RI Farm Bureau shall develop a check list for electrical inspections that the building owner shall check each year and mail in to the local fire marshal. The list shall include items such as making sure there are no bare wires, keeping fuel and flammable materials away from hay and other animal feed, making sure there are proper fuses and circuit breakers. Once every 10 years a local official shall inspect the electrical system of the facility.

No smoking shall be allowed in the facility.

A local alarm set off by heat shall be installed.

There shall be a fire extinguisher for each 5000 sq. ft.

Rules for avoiding fires shall be posted on the wall in the barn.

In new construction the following shall apply.

Buildings that adhere to all these requirements shall be exempt from the alarm and sprinkler provisions of the fire code.

The buildings are constructed of concrete and/or steel or other inflammable materials.

There is a firewall installed between the feed (hay) and animals.

There is a local alarm set off by heat.

OR

The barn has "Dutch Doors" that allows each stall to have access to the outside and there is a local alarm set off by heat.

DOREEN PAGLIARINI ADDRESSES WOMEN IN AG CONFERENCE

These are the comments Doreen Pagliarini made at the Annual Women in Ag Conference at URI in March.

A MEMBERSHIP WITH THE RI FARM BUREAU HELPS KEEP AGRICULTURE ALIVE IN RI

Please consider a membership with the RI Farm Bureau. Why? Cuz' you just might be too busy to watch the RI General Assembly to make sure they are passing legislation that helps to keep you in business. You might be too busy to listen to the news to know if a hearing is going on somewhere in this state that could affect you and your business. Last month there were at least three bills that could have had detrimental affect on agriculture and on your business. Al Bettencourt, RIFB Executive Director was there and so were the RIBF Board Members. They were there for you and because of what they had to say those bills were effectively handled.

Last year when the governor decided to tax products which had never been taxed: agriculture products like the majority of your supplies, animal feed, and animals, all the RIFB board members were there in protest and brought with them many of our members, probably some of you and we beat that idea. Last year, the RIFB had legislation passed which allows plant agriculture in all zones including city residential areas. During RIFB's 59 year history, the Farm Bureau has been instrumental in getting laws past such as the Right To Farm Law, Sales Tax Exemption, Farm Forest and Opens Space Act, Ag-lands Preservation Act, and you know those farm plates you enjoy, yes, that was Farm Bureau doing its job. As you can see there is a lot of

things going on that you might be just too busy to keep your eye on.

So you're saying, "Why should I join Farm Bureau since you will already do this stuff for me even though I'm not a member?" Well without our members support we could cease to exist. And w/o the FB as your watchdog you would need to keep an eye on things, so ask yourself this question, "Do I have the time?" With a large and strong membership we have clout. You, our members, you are our strength. When we go before the General Assembly and say, "We are thousands of members strong and we are not going to stand for this", they listen. When we show up with our members in support of us and the bills we support or not support, they listen.

Farm Bureau is here for all farms, big, small, urban, and organic to traditional. We work for everyone in RI and our members are not all farmers. We have associate memberships too because we all like open space, farmers markets, and RI grown products and we all want to see beautiful farmland stay in RI. If you ever dreamed of being on TV, well the RI Farm Bureau is here to make your dreams come true. We have a TV show which airs every Wednesday at 3:30 on Cox channel 13 and we would like to feature you and your operation. So give us a call 401-647-3570, send us an email through our website rifb.org and talk to us, and join today. Contact us and we will tell you about all the discounts that come with a RIFB membership.

Members can come to our annual meeting, and we feed you!!! And that means, you busy people, you don't have to cook!

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the ones you
make."
Les Brown*

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2227 Plainfield Pike Rear
Johnston, RI 02919

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