

NEWSLETTER

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ANIMAL CARE BILLS

Politics will determine which animal bills emerge from the General Assembly and in what form. Currently two bills are in question. One bill, 2618, by Sosnowski in the Senate and 8173 by Chippendale in the House, would establish an animal care commission consisting of an appointee from the Farm Bureau, a farmer, a URI animal care specialist, the State Vet and three animal rights people. RI Farm Bureau favors this bill which has passed the Senate but has gone nowhere in the House.

Another bill, 2191 by Majority Leader Ruggerio in the Senate and 7180 by Serpa in the House, would force

farmers to re-engineer gestation crates and veal crates to allow animals to stand up, extend their limbs and turn around. There is confusion about how the bill would effect farrowing crates which are used to protect baby pigs from their mother rolling over on them. No one in RI is

using gestation crates or veal crates, but several farmers are using farrowing crates. Farm Bureau is against this bill in its current form. This bill has passed the House but has not even been assigned to a committee in the Senate as this newsletter is being written.



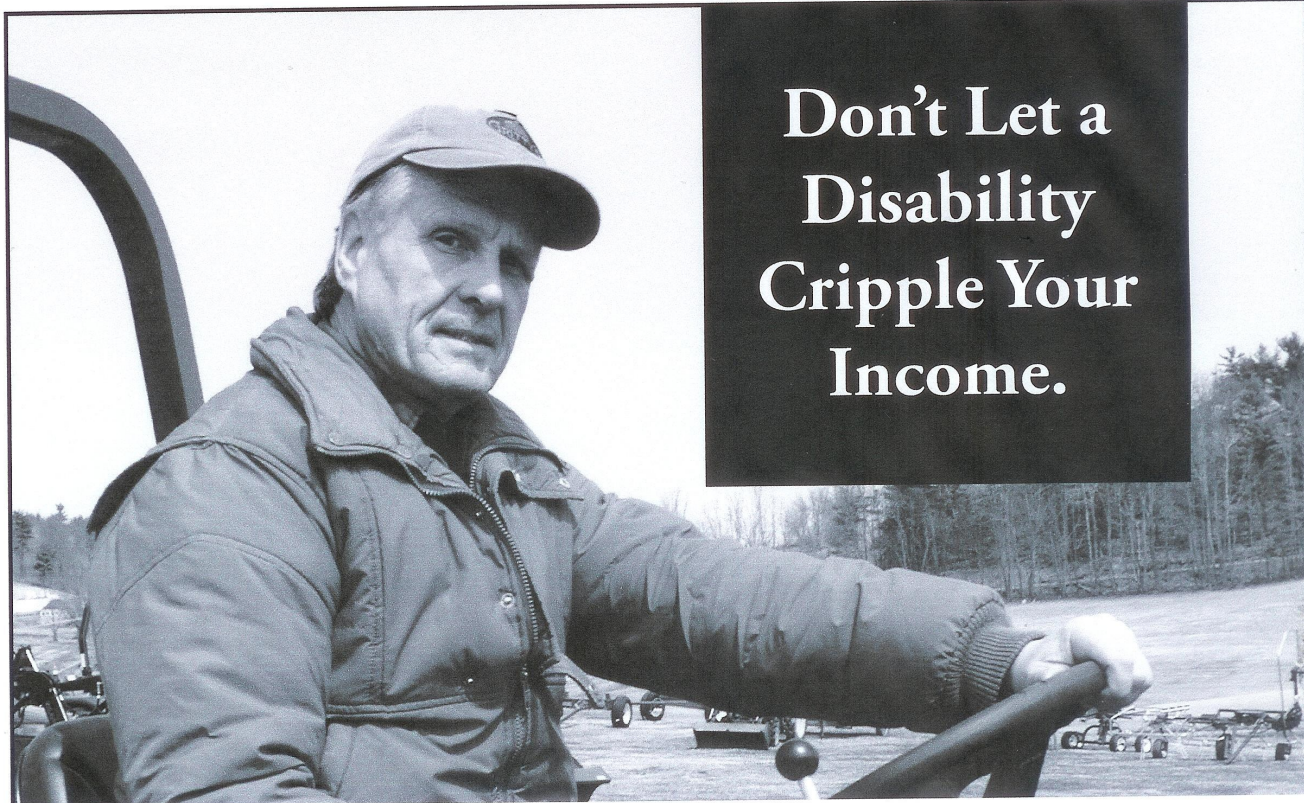
Farrowing Crates Protect Little Pigs

CALL OR WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS

It's crunch time at the General Assembly. Please call your representative and senator as well as the President of the Senate, Teresa Pavia-Weed and the Speaker of the House,

Gordon Fox, and tell them you want them to pass bill 2172 in the Senate and 7969 in the House. These bills will allow farmers to have inherited farmland appraised as farmland ra-

ther than house lots. Pavia-Weed's number is 222-2967 and Fox's is 222-2466. Call Farm Bureau if you do not know who your rep or senator is.



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Disability
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Income.**

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While most Americans insure their lives and material assets, such as their homes, cars, etc., many overlook the need to protect their most valuable asset - the ability to earn an income!

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For more details, talk to your local Farm Family agent or to find an agent near you visit www.farmfamily.com or call:

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(860) 376-2393**



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FAMILY OF COMPANIES

FF-257a (0412)

HOW MUCH NUTRITION IS IN VEGETABLES?

Vegetable	Cal	Carbs grams	Fiber grams	Protein grams	Potas. mg	Calc % dr*
Asparagus 5 sp	60	13	7	4	470	10
Beets 1 medium	35	8	2	1	270	<2
Grn Peppers 1 m	30	8	2	1	210	<2
Red Peppers 1 m	30	8	2	1	210	<2
Radishes 50 gr	10	2	<1	<1	—	<2
Broccoli 3 sp	25	5	3	3	140	4
Brussels Sp 5	40	9	4	3	130	8
Red Cab 200 g	50	12	4	3	410	10
Carrot 1 med	35	8	7	1	280	2
Cauliflower 1/4	35	7	3	3	400	2
Celery 1 stalk	10	3	1	<1	180	<2
Collard 100 g	30	6	4	2	170	<2
Sweet Corn 1 ear	120	27	4	5	390	<2
Cuke 1 med	45	9	3	3	520	6
Eggplant 1 med	140	33	14	6	1190	8
Garlic 2 cloves	10	2	<1	<1	2	<2
Green Bns 100 g	30	6	4	1	240	4
Kale 100 gr.	50	10	2	3	450	10
Leeks 1 med	50	13	2	1	160	10
Lettuce Leaf 1/2	10	2	1	1	210	1
Lettuce Head 1/2	45	9	3	3	350	6
Mushrooms 10	10	2	<1	<1	115	<2
Onion 1 med	40	9	2	1	160	<2
Parsley 1 cup	20	4	2	2	330	20
Potato 1 med	100	25	3	4	720	2
Pumpkin 1 cup	50	12	3	2	560	4
Rhubarb 1 cup	25	6	2	1	350	<2
Scallion 100 gr	30	7	3	2	280	8
Snow Pea 100 gr	40	8	3	3	200	4
Spinach 100 gr	20	4	3	3	560	15
Butternut 1 cup	60	16	5	1	490	6
Sweet Potato 1	130	33	4	2	440	2
Swiss Cha 100 g	20	4	2	2	380	6
Tomato 1 med	35	7	1	1	360	2
Turnip 1 med	35	6	2	1	230	4
Zucchini 1 lg	45	9	4	4	800	4

* % of daily requirement

Source: USDA

Benefits

Discounts

Farm Family Insurance
Auto and Farm Package

Hertz Car Rental

Lands End

Medical Discounts with
New Benefits

Pet Insurance
Pet Partners

T Mobile

Hop Energy

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and More

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FARM CREDIT EAST

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Bill Number	Sponsor	Description	Committee	Status	Our Position
2109 7070	Sosnowski, Walsh	10 % credit on cistern	Finance	Introduced Hearing H FS	Pro, Ours
2104 7071	Sosnowski, Walsh	Checkoff for Ag Pres	Finance	Introduced Hearing H FS	Pro, Ours
2191 7180	Ruggerio Serpa	Ban veal crates, sow crates	Environ & Ag, Judiciary	House Floor	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	Will pass senate	??
2172 7635	Felag Walsh	Limit inheritance tax	Finance	Revised Withdrawn	Pro Our Bill
7157 2283	Walsh Pichardo	Animal Feed exemption	Finance	Hearing, FS	Pro,Ours
2082	Walaska	Regulate outdoor boilers	Env & Ag	Intro	??
2085	Jabour	Ban wood stoves	Env & Ag	Intro	??
2192	Ruggeri	Ban docking tails cattle	Env & Ag	Passed Senate	Pro
7301	Nunes	Allow sale of wine at farmer's mar- kets	Corporations	Hearing 3/31 FS	Pro
7494	Hull	Require labeling of GMO	HEW	Hearing March 14	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	Law	Pro?
7780 2562	Valencia Sosnowski	Exempt barns and grn houses from fire code	Corporations	Hearing on Sen bill 3/13	Pro our bill
2442 7963	Sosnowski Tanzi	Allow plant agriculture in land ad- ministered by Cost	Environ Ag	Hearing held Feb 27 FS	Pro
2618 8173	Sosnowski Chippendale	Animal welfare committee	Environ Ag	Passed Senate Hearing Scheduled	Pro
7433	Gallison	Prohibit hunting of water fowl in Portsmouth	Municipal Govt	Hearing held	Con
7969 2172	Walsh Felag	Appraise farmland at use value for estate tax	Finance	Hearing	Pro, Our bill
7590	Lima	Add aboriculture to Right to Farm Law	Ag and Environ	Hearing FS	Con
7833	Lima	Label GMO Food	HEW	Hearing Scheduled	Con
7371	Handy	Phase out wood stoves	Envir & Ag	Hearing, FS	??
7633	Flaherty	Restrict Wood Stoves	Envir & Ag	Hearing, FS	??

MORE BENEFITS

**\$500
DISCOUNT
ON
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PRODUCTS
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CHEVY**

**SUPERIOR
PLUS
ENERGY**

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PROPANE**

SEARS

**CHOICE
HOTELS**

FARM CREDIT EAST ANNOUNCES BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

ENFIELD, CONN. — Farm Credit East, ACA stockholder-customers recently elected three members to its Board of Directors:

In the Eastern region, Matthew W. Beaton was re-elected for a 4-year term. Matt is president and owner of Sure-Cran Services, Inc. and Beaton's, Inc., based in Wareham, Mass. Sure-Cran is a custom-management company, managing more than 550 acres of owned and leased cranberry bogs in southeastern Massachusetts.

Douglas W. Shelmine was elected to a 4-year term in the Central region. Doug owns Sheland Farms in Adams, N.Y. Sheland Farms is a multi-generational family business that Doug runs in partnership with his brother, Todd, and father, Donald. The family farms 1,500 acres and milks 700 cows.

Christine Fesko was re-elected to a 4-year term in the Western region. Chris, along with her daughter, Kim Fesko Brayman, and father-in-law, George Fesko, own Fesko Farms, Inc., a 2,000-acre, 600-cow dairy in Skaneateles, N.Y. Chris is involved in

planning and goal-setting. She also runs Chris Fesko Enterprises, which produces award-winning children's educational DVDs about agriculture.

In addition, at the April 25 reorganization meeting, the Board elected Andrew Gilbert, Potsdam, N.Y. as its chair and Matthew Beaton, Wareham, Mass. as vice chair. In addition to Chairman Gilbert and Vice Chairman Beaton, the Executive Committee includes Richard Janiga, East Aurora, N.Y. and June Hoefflich, Williamsville, N.Y.

Farm Credit East is a customer-owned agricultural cooperative and part of the nationwide Farm Credit System, which is celebrating 96 years of service to American agriculture. Farm Credit East serves Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island. The full Farm Credit East Board includes 12 stockholder-elected directors and three appointed directors who bring additional

skills and capabilities to the boardroom. In addition to those elected to leadership and Executive Committee positions the Board also includes: Henry Adams, Shortsville, N.Y.; Robert R. Brown II, Waterport, N.Y.; Samuel G. Conard, Hillsborough, N.J.; Benjamin J. Freund, East Canaan, Conn.; Laurie K. Griffen, Stillwater, N.Y.; Ann P. Hudson, Suffield, Conn.; Henry L. Huntington, Loudon, N.H.; Peggy Jo Jones, Boise, Idaho; and Abbott W. Lee, Chatsworth, N.J.

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Farm Credit East extends more than \$4.35 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 15-person board of directors.

For more information, go to FarmCreditEast.com

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

I have always said there is only one thing that can bring our nation down - our dependence on foreign countries for food and energy. Agriculture is the backbone of our economy.

John Salazar

CONFREDA CELEBRATES 90 YEARS IN FARMING

The Confreda Family has been in the farming business for 90 years. The fourth generation of Confreda's is now working on the farm.

The family recently celebrated the occasion by inviting numerous people to a season kick-off celebration on May 4. Attending the event was Warwick Mayor Scott

Avedsian and Cranston Mayor Allan Fung, DEM Director, Janet Coit and Chief of Agriculture, Ken Ayars as well as USDA personnel attended.

Mayor Fung presents citation to Vinny Confreda



Three generations of Confredas



DISCOUNTS FOR FARMER'S MARKET AND STANDS

As you know, the RI Farm Bureau offers a wide range of discounts for various companies. But the discount that we would like to offer more than any other is a discount at Farmer's Markets and Farm Stands. If

you would like to give a discount to Farm Bureau Members, please let us know and we will promote your stand in our newsletter and on our web page.

Let's Give Our Members Discounts at Farm Stands and Farmer's Markets!

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.

RICAPE GETS GRANT

RICAPE has received a USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant to produce this spring and summer distance learning training videos for the web for RI farmers engaged or seeking to become engaged in agritourism. Call Stu Nunnery at 592-0209 for details.

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FIRE CODE

Recently Al Bet-tencourt met with a committee that is studying the fire code and will make recommendations on new rules. Barns and greenhouses were discussed. All farm buildings under 2,500 sq. ft. are currently exempt from having to install sprinklers and alarms. If only the family goes into the barn, it is exempt and barns with no electricity are also exempt. Greenhouses made of glass and steel are exempt from alarms and sprinklers.

The committee is



Changes in Fire Code?

considering increasing the square footage of barns to 10,000 sq. ft. and exempting all greenhouses. Standard greenhouses would have to have an entrance / exit at each end of the greenhouse. Wider greenhouses would

have to have an entrance / exit on all four sides.

Barns over 10,000 sq. ft. can still be appealed to the Board of Appeal and Review. Al shared a couple of horror stories about farmers who were required to put pull alarms in greenhouses and were

told they would have to install a cistern to build a farm stand even though there was a farm pond near by. Committee members said they are sure the Board of Appeal would have granted relief.