

NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Benefits</i>	3
<i>Farm Credit Scholar-</i>	5
<i>RIFB Scholarships</i>	5
<i>Earn Money</i>	5
<i>RICAPE</i>	7
<i>Farm to School</i>	8

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STOP THE FLOOD OF REGULATION

By: Bob Stallman
 President
 American Farm Bureau

Burdensome and unnecessary regulations are always a point of contention for farmers and ranchers, especially when we are being flooded with what seems to be never-ending, nonsensical rules. In keeping with the ebb and flow of bureaucracy, the Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers are planning an upheaval of the Clean Water Act (CWA) that would add more . . . you guessed it . . . rules and regulations to farms and ranches.

That's why the American Farm Bureau Federation is leading the way

to stop EPA and the Corps from literally regulating every drop of water on private landowners' property. Through a nationwide grassroots campaign, we are engaging Farm Bureau members to "Stop the Flood of Regulation."

A \$30,000 Ditch

For some time the EPA and Corps have been trying to remove the word "navigable" from the Clean Water Act through what is called a "Guidance Document." This would change the very meaning of the CWA to allow for such frivolous action as regulating a roadside ditch that holds water for only a few hours after a 4-inch rain.



Bob Stallman

The Guidance Document should be used to explain processes and policies of existing laws and regulations – not to expand or change the scope of current law. Importantly, a Guidance Document does not go through the rigors of the regulatory process that serve to protect the (cont: page 3)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Just a reminder that we have a grant to get farmers on the Social Media (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube). Give us a call if you want your farm on the Social Media.





You invest your business' trust in us, so we're giving loyal Farm Bureau members like you the ultimate return on investment: \$500 toward the purchase or lease of nearly any new Chevy vehicle—from Equinox to Express! Plus, if you're a business owner, purchase or lease any eligible Chevrolet truck or van for business use through GM Business Choice and receive even more great benefits, like a gift card or cash allowances toward vehicle accessories or upfitting.

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CLEAN WATER ACT (cont from page 1)

rights of the regulated community.

But, EPA and the Corps' action to improperly use the Guidance Document to remove "navigable" bypasses congressional intent and ignores Supreme Court precedent. For the past 10 years, Congress has voted specifically and repeatedly to keep the term "navigable" in the CWA. We believe this Guidance Document is not only bad policy but is being implemented through a regulatory sleight of hand. Farmers, ranchers and private landowners need to preserve the authority the CWA has granted states and localities for nearly 40 years and stop the deluge of regulations and permitting requirements that will likely result if the Guidance Document is finalized. The two agencies are piling on regulatory burdens with little regard for the costs for landowners. These costs, which could be upwards of \$30,000, with increased permit requirements and reduced nutrient applications, are very real and have direct impacts on the farm.

Engagement v. Regulation

It's important that every Farm Bureau member become engaged in pushing Congress and the administration to block the Guidance Document before the end of this Congress.

There are many ways to get involved. Visit the FBAct Insider page to learn more. For those who are social media savvy, follow @StoptheFlood on Twitter and post pictures of your soon to-be regulated ditches and puddles using the #stoptheflood hashtag, or "Like" the Stop the Flood of Regulation Facebook page, post your pictures and comments and get updates on the campaign.

It's time to show Congress how the Guidance Document could cost farmers, ranchers and private property owners tens of thousands of dollars. It's time to Stop the Flood of Regulation.

BENEFITS

Don't forget the discounts you can get with your RI Farm Bureau Membership

DISCOUNTS AT

*Farm Family Insurance
Grainger
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Superior Plus Energy
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TMobile
Medical Discounts
Hertz Car Rental
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And Don't Forget!

***Your Access Benefits Card
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***Gives you discounts at over
300,000 companies nationwide
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Cruise Ships * Hotels
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Home and Garden
And much , much more*

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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.

"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," said CEO Bill Lipinski. "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."

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 2013 scholarship, con-

tact a Farm Credit East branch office or visit FarmCreditEast.com. Applications will be available in January 2013.

RIFB OFFERS SCHOLASHIPS

RI Farm Bureau offers two \$500 scholarships each year for students majoring in agriculturally related fields and are the child of a Farm Bureau Member (Farmer or Associate Member). Simply send in a cover letter and resume to the RIFB office by October 1. Winners will be presented their scholarships at the RIFB Annual Meeting.

FARMER DISCOUNTS

The following farms offer discounts to RI Farm Bureau Members

EARTH CARE FARM
CHARLESTOWN

SALISBURY FARM
JOHNSTON

PEZZA FARM
JOHNSTON

YOUNG FARM
LITTLE COMPTON

BETTENCOURT FARM
BURRILLVILLE

Let us know if you would like your farm listed as giving a discount and we'll publish it in the newsletter and on our web page.

EARN \$\$\$ BY RECRUITING MEMBERS

Just a reminder that we are offering our members commi\$\$ions for each new member you recruit for the RI Farm Bureau. We will pay you \$20.00 for an Associate Member and half the dues of a new Farmer Member (\$25-\$150.00)

Call the Farm Bureau for details.



Earn Money!

Quote of the Month

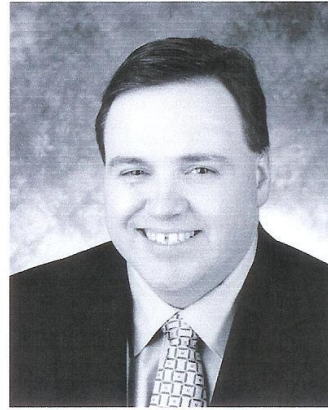
This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson
(1803 - 1882)*

Changing of the Guard



Craig Marsh



Richard Brock

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to General Agent Craig Marsh on his retirement after 30 years of service to Farm Family.

We're pleased to introduce Richard Brock as our new General Agent in Rhode Island. A Farm Family agent for more than 10 years, Richard is well respected in the industry.

Farming is in Richard's blood. He grew up on his family's dairy farm, established in 1652, which he and his family still operate. Today the farm grows chrysanthemums and pumpkins, and they are considering branching out into vineyards. Richard is a former state FFA president and currently serves as the USDA FSA county chairman for Middlesex/New Haven County (Connecticut).

**Many Thanks and Best Wishes to Craig
and a Warm Welcome to Rich!**



1-800-THE-FARM

www.farmfamily.com

**RHODE ISLAND
GENERAL AGENT
Richard Brock
(860) 329-0103**



FF-338 (0012)

LANGEVIN, RICAPE, DETAIL FUNDING

WARWICK, RI – Recognizing that Rhode Island must take full advantage of opportunities in its sizable agricultural community to rebuild the state's economy, Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI) joined representatives of the RI Center for Agriculture Promotion and Education (RICAPE) and other industry leaders to provide information about the impact of recently-announced federal funding and discuss industry priorities.

The group met in South Kingstown at The Farmer's Daughter's garden center as part of Langevin's effort to highlight the economic opportunity that exists in the farming community. Langevin and RICAPE Director Stu Nunnery opened the discussion by addressing an \$85,000 grant that the organization received from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to help promote the state's farms to in- and out-of-state visitors.

"This award is a great testament to the fantastic work being done by RICAPE, and to all of the exciting developments we are seeing in Rhode Island agriculture," said Langevin. "The last Agriculture Census found a 42 percent increase in the number of farms in Rhode Island, the second highest of any state in the country. We must utilize all of our resources if we expect to successfully revive our economy, and it's clear that further growth is possible in agriculture."

RICAPE's award, from the Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program, will be used to launch and deliver a web-based, broadcast-quality series of video training programs to Rhode Island's farm operators and staff called "The Destination Farm in Transition." A destination farm provides visitor experiences, activities and amenities beyond traditional farm products. Ultimately, the goal is to expand tourism around Rhode Island's farms and rural areas. In addition, USDA estimates the grant will create 15-20 full-time jobs as well as part-time jobs.

"This award allows us to continue to build a broad based training platform for farmers engaged in agritourism – those seeking to expand their visitor amenities and activities," said Nunnery, who noted that RICAPE will now be able to deliver training programs direct to the farmer via video and the web, allowing for viewing at the farmer's convenience. "Between 2002 and 2007, agritourism in Rhode Island grew sevenfold and has become a principal source of new revenues for farmers not only here but throughout New England.

"This event is an important threshold for us, our Congressman and our state leaders. Together, we acknowledge that farming is a business and agriculture an industry and that both are critical players in Rhode Island's economic future. Through this grant, we can expand our training programs to assist farmers to further develop their skill sets and profit-making potential."

According to a study released in April by the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association, the state Department of Environmental Management, the University of Rhode Island and other partners, Rhode Island's Green-Related Industries, including agriculture and landscape, have a total annual economic impact of at least \$1.7 billion and a total jobs impact of more than 12,000.

Today's event followed the House Agriculture Committee's passage of the federal Farm Bill, which sets national farm and food policy every five years, last Thursday. Langevin emphasized the importance of supporting efforts by RICAPE and their partners through policies that give Rhode Island farmers a fair shot to compete with larger farms.

The House bill includes key portions of the Local Farms, Food and Jobs Act, which Langevin cosponsored to better ensure adequate support for the specialty crops and local and regional farms that predominate in Rhode Island. One of the provisions benefits Farm-to-School programs by allowing schools to spend their federal commodity funding to buy food from local farmers. Earlier this year, Langevin brought the USDA's top New England official to Rhode Island schools to highlight the state's lead role in this initiative, which results in healthier student meals and a boost for the local economy.

"I hope we can continue to expand these and other efforts to buy local," said Langevin. "However, while we have been making progress, there is certainly more work to do to level the playing field for our farmers. I am also concerned about the major cuts to food stamps in the committee's bill. This is a vital program for people struggling the most, and it has proven to help the economy. We can address this issue in a fiscally responsible way that also reduces the deficit by eliminating more unnecessary subsidies that big corporate farms receive."

Among other parts of the Local Farms, Food and Jobs Act it incorporates, the House bill would:

- *Diversify crop insurance to benefit small farms by allowing farmers who grow a wide range of products get insurance for their crops like large scale commodity farmers do now.
- *Support organic crop insurance, which treats organic farmers more equitably.
- *Provide for value-added producer grants, which allow farmers to make investments that will increase the value of their crops.

Rhode Island Farm Bureau

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RI FARM TO PRESCHOOL AND FFRI VEGGIE BOX AT THE CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

Students at the Lincoln Children's Workshop have been enjoying Farm Fresh Veggie Boxes and visits from Farm to School Chef Kimberly Clark this month.

Every Wednesday, the veggie boxes arrive brimming with fresh fruits and veggies like corn, squash, green beans, carrots and blueberries. The kids get to explore the contents of the box, learn about how they grown on farms in our state and taste everything!

After tasting the contents of the veggie box, each student puts on a chef hat and prepares a healthy snack. The little chefs are learning the environmental, economic and nutritional benefits of supporting local agriculture while enjoying RI farm fresh produce. We are all looking forward to a fun-filled, farm field trip to Morris Farm in Warwick during the month of August!



Pre-K students make parfaits with Scharfner Farm berries, Naragansett Creamery Yogurt and Hidden Vally Farm honey

NO FARMERS NO FOOD