

NEWSLETTER

Farm Bureau Annual Meeting is Nov 15 at the Meadow Brook, Inn Charlestown, RI

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ELECTIONS



The RI Farm Bureau does not endorse candidates for election. However, it is prudent to let you know who within the RI General Assembly is working

for you.

First and foremost, where would the farmers of RI be with Senator Sue Sosnowski, the Chairperson of the Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee? Over the course of her political career she has been a "safety valve" to defeat legislation which is detrimental to farmers while constantly introducing legislation which aids our farmers. This year, she stopped an animal welfare bill and amended that bill so that farmers in RI could continue using current methods. Another bill improved the ability of the RI Division of Agriculture to promote local agriculture.

Four years in row, Senator Juan Pichardo (Dist. 2 Providence) introduced a bill in the Senate to codify an existing regulation that exempts animal feed from the Sales Tax. The bill also cleaned up confusion in the regulation which allowed an exemption on animals used for food but not for fiber. The bill passed the Senate the



last three years, but did not pass the House. This year it passed both houses and became law without the Governor's signature. Senator Pichardo will receive the Golden Tractor Award this year at the RIFB Annual Meeting. Al Bettencourt recently gave Senator Pichardo a tour of several



farms in the State.

Rep. Donna Walsh (Dist. 36, Charlestown) introduced the Animal Feed bill in

the House. She also introduced the bill four years in a row and was able to guide it through the House this year. She has introduced other legislation for us as well such as the Inheritance Tax Bill, Cistern Bill and Income Tax Check-off Bill. She also will receive the Golden Tractor Award from the RI Farm Bureau at our Annual Meeting.



Rep Chippendale (Dist. 40 Coventry) introduced the Animal Welfare Committee Bill along with Senator Sosnowski in the Senate. The bill became law.

Rep. Valencia (Dist. 39 Richmond), along with Senator Sosnowski, introduced a bill to exempt barns from the fire code. The bill did not pass.

Senator Felag (Dist. 10 Warren) has introduced bills to help farmers as well as other citizens with the inheritance tax.

Farmer's Daughter, Customer Service Rep.

Robin Erickson

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**Preliminary Findings
of the Economic Impact Study
for Rhode Island Green-Related Industries**
Presented at RI Agriculture Day – April 26, 2012

- ▶ **Total Annual Economic Impact: \$1.7 Billion**
- ▶ **Total Green Industry Businesses: 2,500**
- ▶ **Total Jobs Impact: 12,300**

Economic Impact

Sector	Firms	Sales (\$M)	Indirect (\$M)	Total Value (\$M)
Agriculture	1,220	\$170.7	\$97.5	\$268.2
Landscape	930	\$317.6	\$255.7	\$573.3
Retail Supply & Florist	300	\$298.6	\$211.7	\$510.3
Golf Courses	60	\$144.6	\$120.7	\$265.3
Other	60	\$103.9	\$75.0	\$178.9
Total	2,570	\$1,035.3	\$760.7	\$1,795.9

Employment Impact

Sector	Firms	Jobs	Indirect	Total Jobs
Agriculture	1,220	1,790	540	2,330
Landscape	930	2,910	1,100	4,010
Retail Supply & Florist	300	1,720	740	2,460
Golf Courses	60	1,870	940	2,810
Other	60	420	340	760
Total	2,570	8,710	3,660	12,370

This study combined 1,100 green-related business listings from various sources, with industry profile data and listings from the Agricultural Census, the RI Department of Environmental Management, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the RI Secretary of State. All missing businesses were extrapolated according to highly conserva-

tive practices to avoid any over confidence in the estimates. The study also does not include many related businesses in the "Other" industries category, nor does it include any of Forestry, Wood Products, Fisheries, Aquaculture or Marine Resources. All estimated values are considered lower bounds.

SOCIAL MEDIA PROJECT



Call the Farm Bureau Office if you would like your farm to be on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

RI Farm Bureau has received a Specialty Crop Grant to get more farmers involved with the Social Media (YouTube, Facebook, Twitter). We have uploaded over 20 videos to YouTube and publicized them on our Facebook and Twitter pages. We have hired Melody Reynolds, of Reynolds Barn, to interview farmers on video tape. She is also writing articles about them. We have also hired Kelly Swanson of Greater Good Communications RI, to edit the articles and to generate other

interesting articles and to spruce up our Facebook and Twitter pages.

If you would like to have your farm featured on Facebook, call the RI Farm Bureau (647-3570) or Melody Reynolds at 294-6972 or email Melody at thereynoldsbarn@cox.net.

SCHOLARSHIPS

A reminder that RI Farm Bureau offers two \$500 scholarships to college students who are majoring in agriculturally related industries. The applicant's family must be a member of the RI Farm Bureau. To apply simply send a cover letter and resume to the RI Farm Bureau office by October 15.



OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH:

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR SMOKE ALARMS?

FACT: While an estimated 96% of U.S. households have at least one smoke alarm, smoke alarms do not work in almost 20% of those homes. (National Fire Protection Association, 2006-2010 Survey)

There's no doubt that smoke alarms save lives. We've all heard the stories of people being woken up in the middle of the night to the sound of their smoke alarms warning them of danger. Smoke alarms are a vital home safety device, but only if properly installed and maintained. Lest you take yours for granted, remember these four keys to a properly functioning smoke alarm system:

Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home, including the basement. For added protection, put one in each bedroom.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions concerning placement – most will indicate how many inches a ceiling mounted alarm should be from the wall and how many inches a wall mounted alarm should be from the ceiling.

Change the batteries in your smoke alarms at least one a year. Use a birthday, holiday or other event as an annual reminder to change the batteries. Test the alarms once a month per the manufacturer's instructions.

For more information on ensuring the safety of your loved ones, contact your Farm Family insurance agent.

FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Meeting of the RI Farm Bureau will be November 15 at the Meadow Brook Inn in Charlestown, RI. This article will serve as the official invitation to Associate Members who wish to attend the meeting. The first 10 Associate Members who sign up to attend our Business Meeting, may attend the Dinner Meeting for free. Other Associate Members must pay \$45 per person to attend the Dinner Meeting.

Farmer Members, who attend the Business Meeting, may attend the Dinner Meeting for free. Otherwise, they too must pay \$45 per person.

An Informational Meeting will be held at 3:00 pm, Business Meeting at 4:00 pm, Reception at 5:00 and Dinner at 6:00. Please RSVP by November 9.

SAY THAT IN ENGLISH

A LITTLE HUMOR

The farm was used to produce produce.
 The dump was so full, it had to refuse more refuse.
 We must polish the Polish furniture.
 He could lead if he could get the lead out.
 The soldier decided to desert in the desert.
 When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
 They were too close to the door to close it.
 The buck does funny things when does are present.
 A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer.

To help with planting,
 the farmer taught his
 sow to sow.

He thought it was time to
 present the present.

*The Annual
 Meeting of the RI
 Farm Bureau in
 November 15 at
 the Meadow
 Brook Inn,
 Charlestown, RI.*

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Quote of the Day

*If opportunity doesn't
 knock, build a door.*

Milton Berle

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Farm Fresh Veggie Box and Farm to Preschool

By Kimberly Clark, Farm to School Coordinator, Farm Fresh RI

Preschool students from The Children's Workshop in Lincoln enjoyed Farm Fresh's first Farm to Preschool Veggie Box program this summer. Veggie Boxes are filled with 8 to 10 different seasonal items from RI and MA farms and are delivered to worksites, community centers and schools once weekly. Chef Kimberly Clark visited the pre-school and pre-k classes during July and August when they received their Veggie Box and introduced the students to all the goodies inside.

Students learned about how the veggies grow while reading the story *Tops and Bottoms* by Janet Stevens. Children were able to touch, smell and explore the inside of each Veggie Box item while talking about how and why it is good to eat. Students tasted unfamiliar items such as sunflower sprouts, colored carrots and spaghetti squash. Each child put on a chef's hat and prepared their own healthy snack featuring RI Grown produce. Recipes prepared by students included Blueberry Yogurt Parfaits and Rainbow Pasta Salad.

On a sunny day in August, the preschool students took a field trip to Morris Farm in Warwick to see how all the produce they tasted in the classroom is grown. Mrs. Morris introduced everyone to what is grown on the farm during a tour of the farm stand and greenhouse. She led the group into the field where she demonstrated how the soil is worked and seeds are planted. In another field she pulled carrots out of the ground as if by magic! Students observed peppers, tomatoes, Swiss chard and broccoli growing all around them.

Other educational activities we enjoyed included transplanting flowers and seeding nasturtiums, touring the cow barn, meeting the chickens and learning all about the eggs the chickens lay. Students met the horses and pony and explored the stables where they live and prance. A walk through the equipment barn with all the big equipment used to work the farm was very impressive. The highlight of the trip was a hay ride out to the cow pasture. There we met the enormous Black Angus who ran right over to us when we arrived. Students got up close and personal with them as they fed the cows ears of sweet corn.

After a morning of farm fun, students relaxed in the shade of a big tree and enjoyed their picnic lunch. They left the farm with a good understanding of how vegetables grow and an appreciation for the job of a farmer. Each student took home their own seeded flower to nurture as a reminder of their farm adventure.

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NORTHEAST AGRICULTURE: THE OVERLOOKED ECONOMIC ENGINE

Farm Credit East Releases Report Analyzing the Economic Impact of Agriculture on the Northeast's Economy

By: Kristie Schmitt, Farm Credit East, ACA

The agricultural, commercial fishing and forest products industries are key economic engines in the Northeast. An economic impact report recently released by Farm Credit East indicated that the 64,570 farms and related businesses throughout the six-state region of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, New Hampshire and Rhode Island produced an estimated \$71 billion impact on state output in 2010 and resulted in 379,000 jobs on and off the farm.

"Agriculture is a major economic engine in the Northeast and this means jobs, local food production and economic activity in hundreds of communities," said Bill Lipinski, Farm Credit East CEO. "Agriculture has a bright future here in the Northeast and with appropriate state policies and community support will continue to enhance our Northeast economy."

Rhode Island's farming and fishing industries generated approximately \$1.1 billion impact on state economic

output and generated 7,500 jobs statewide. The commercial fishing industry alone creates 2,400 jobs and accounts for 64 percent of the Ocean State's total agricultural output value with \$172 million in output. The green industry is the second largest contributor to the state's economy, generating \$53 million in output and 830 jobs.

These on-farm activities give way to off-farm jobs in farm related services businesses, such as animal processing, seafood preparation and packaging and other agricultural processing activities. Altogether, the agricultural output impact amounted to \$1,000 per Rhode Island state resident.

This report titled Northeast Agriculture: The Overlooked Economic Engine was compiled by Farm Credit East based on information generated from an independent study completed by Dr. Rigoberto Lopez from the University of Connecticut. The purpose of the report was to illustrate the importance of agriculture and related industries to the Northeast economy. To view a full copy of the report contact your local Farm Credit East office or visit FarmCreditEast.com.