

NEWSLETTER

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RIFB Board of Directors

Bill Stamp, Jr. President
Tyler Young, Vice Pres.
Wayne Salisbury, Sec.
Jean Helger-Bento, Treas.
Vinny Confreda
Stook MacDonald
Peter Gavitt
Doreen Pezza
Richard Schartner
Bill Stamp, III
Henry Wright
Scooter Laprise
Jim Pagliarini
Lyn Spinella
Brenda Frederickson

Staff

Al Bettencourt,
Executive Director

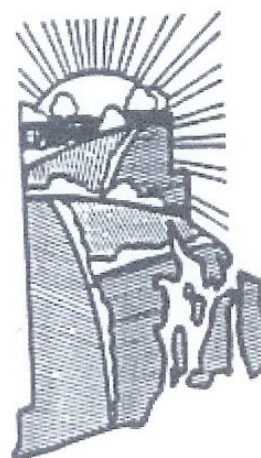
Doreen Pagliarini,
Administrative Asst.

LOGO CONTEST DIAMOND JUBILEE

Next year RI Farm Bureau will celebrate its 60th Anniversary. While we are still in the planning process stage how we plan to celebrate the event, we have decided we want a new logo. We currently use the national FB logo, as seen on the right. We previously had a logo that was a map of the state of RI, on right below. We now use that logo for the Land Trust. We are sponsoring a contest for the new logo. It has not been decided, as of the writing of this newsletter, what the prize will be for submitting the logo we ultimately use, but it will be worth your while to submit an entry.

We would like to see some entries that incorporate the FB, but we will consider logos that do not use the FB.

The winner of the contest will be announced in March and be put into effect by May. We plan to have Membership signs made (approximately one square foot) using the new logo, and distribute them to all Farmer Members and Associate Members who request them.



TELL COX TO GET RFD TV

If you subscribe to Cox for your Cable TV, please send them a note or call them and ask them to put RFD TV in their line up so that you can watch great shows about the rural areas in our country, including the Farm Bureau sponsored show, America's Heartland.



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RESOLUTIONS FOR 2013

Listed below and on page 7, are the proposed resolutions as recommended by the RIFB Board of Directors. Resolutions will be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting on November 15 at the Meadow Brook Inn in Charlestown. The Business Meeting is at 4:00 pm (Informational Meeting is at 3 and Dinner at 6).

Free Vet Service for 4-H: Whereas the farming community needs young people in order to survive into the future, and Whereas many young farmers participate in 4-H program and other youth program competitions that require a veterinarian to inspect all animals in a fair, and Whereas many youth cannot afford to pay a vet. Be It Resolved that the State should provide free veterinarian services for 4-H Youth Programs and other youth programs.

Office Building: We will continue with our efforts to construct or purchase an office building suitable for renting space, at a reasonable cost, to other organizations that aid agriculture. To that end, we will pursue raising funds through grants.

RI Division of Ag: Whereas the Division of Agriculture is imperative for a successful farm industry in Rhode Island, Whereas The Five Year Strategic Plan for Agriculture suggests a stronger Division of Agriculture. Be It Resolved that RI Farm Bureau will do all it can to preserve the Division of Ag by requesting an increase in funding for the Division and will pursue the creation of a new Department of Agriculture.

Renewable Energy: Whereas the United States and the State of RI is looking for alternative energy to eliminate dependence on foreign oil, and Whereas wind power is a renewable energy compatible to Rhode Island's environment, and Whereas farmers have land suitable to safely construct windmills. Be It Resolved RI Farm Bureau supports the voluntary construction of windmills of all sizes and capacity on farms in RI.

Taxation of Renewable Energy Land: Whereas land used for renewable energy is contributing to the well being of the environment, and Whereas using land for renewable energy is another ancillary activity on a farm, and Whereas the land used by the renewable energy is still farmed, and Whereas windmills are farm equipment used to harvest the wind on a farm. Be It Resolved farmland used by renewable energy should be taxed as farmland and windmills should be taxed as farm equipment.

Appraisal of Farmland for Inheritance Tax Purposes: Whereas the national inheritance tax has been re-instituted after being eliminated for one year, and Whereas the tax can make it almost impossible to turn farmland over to the next generation because the land is appraised at it's highest and best use. Be It Resolved: That Title 26 Subtitle B CHAPTER 11 Subchapter A Part III & 2032A (a) (2) shall be amended to allow all farmland be appraised at its current use value rather than its highest and best use. Farmland should be appraised at its use value for State inheritance taxes too.

FDA on Farms.: Whereas the FDA has been visiting farms unannounced and requesting and testing products from those farms and, Whereas RI Farm Bureau is not familiar with any programs that require this kind of activity. Be It Resolved that the RI Farm Bureau will investigate this program and take necessary actions to protect RI farmers.

Management of State Agricultural Properties: Whereas the State of RI owns property that it leases to farmers and Whereas The Fish and Wildlife Division manages said properties and Whereas the RI Farm Bureau does not believe the Fish and Wildlife Division has the expertise to manage agricultural properties. Be It Resolved that the RI Division of Agriculture should manage state agricultural properties.

Open bidding process for Government owned land: Whereas the State of RI and Cities and Towns own land that is leased to farmers and Whereas the RI Farm Bureau does not support the concept of the government owning such properties. Be It Resolved that the RI Farm Bureau take actions and measures with government entities to insure that the bidding process for such properties is open and competitive.

IT'S TIME FOR AN INSURANCE REVIEW

If you decide to “shop around,” be sure you’re comparing apples to apples. Are you getting the same coverage for the same premium dollar?



Toward the end of the year, we tend to take stock of what we've accomplished in the past year. Maybe you've made additions to your barn or home, purchased new equipment or vehicles, or hired new employees. Or maybe you've had an addition to your family.

If you've made any major improvements to your farm but haven't reported them to your insurance agent, you could be underinsured. For many, it's only after a loss happens that they realize they failed to maintain sufficient coverage to keep up with the increasing cost of replacing their business.

An annual review with your agent can help make certain 1) you've got the right type of insurance; 2) your current level of coverage is sufficient; and 3) you receive credits for improvements you've made to your property.

If you decide to “shop around,” be sure you're comparing apples to apples. Are you getting the same coverage for the same premium dollar? All too often, another company may not be offering you the same insurance protection as your current policy provides. Is it the right protection? Do you have enough insurance? Do you have gaps in your coverage? You may get a quote for a lower price – and then discover when it's too late that you don't have the same amount, or even the same kind, of coverage. Will you qualify for discounts/reductions with a new company? You could lose any discounts if, for example, your business and auto policies are currently packaged with one company and you decide to move one of them.

So when you take stock of what you've accomplished this year, don't forget to contact your local Farm Family Agent to be sure the fruits of your labor are fully protected.

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LANDS' END



NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE



A LITTLE HUMOR

A busload of politicians were driving down a country road, when suddenly the bus ran off the road and crashed into an old farmer's barn. The old farmer got off his tractor and went to investigate. Soon he dug a hole and buried the politicians. A few days later, the local sheriff came out, saw the crashed bus and asked the old farmer where all the politicians had gone.

The old farmer told him he had buried them.



The sheriff asked the old farmer, "Lordy, were they ALL dead?"

The old farmer said, "Well, some of them said they weren't, but you know how them crooked politicians lie."

NO FARMERS NO FOOD

BOARD ELECTIONS

There are six Board positions up for election at the Annual Meeting on November 15 including the President and Vice President. All six incumbent Board Members have indicated they wish to be re-elected. Bill Stamp and Tyler Young have indicated they wish to be re-elected President and Vice President.

The other four board positions are currently occupied by Vinny Confreda, Peter Gavitt, Richard Schartner and Henry Wright.

SURVEY

As many of you know, we have been doing a lot of work on our Facebook Page and posting a lot of videos on YouTube.

We are doing this work with a grant from USDA, which means we need to do a report. The report needs to have feedback from people who have seen information on our Facebook page. Simply go to our Facebook page [rifarm-bureau](#), and using the Survey Monkey,

take the survey. You'll get a chance to win a \$10.00 gift certificate to the Farm Fresh Wintertime Market.

Also, if you would like your farm featured on our page, let us know and we'll gladly feature your farm.



Quotes

of the

Day

*Men do less than they
ought,
unless they do all they
can.*

Thomas Carlyle

*When everything seems
to be going against you,
remember that the
airplane takes off
against the wind, not
with it.*

— Henry Ford

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FF-332 (06/02)

RESOLUTIONS (cont from page 3)

Issuance of Wildlife Damage Permits: Whereas wildlife can be a nuisance to crops in a short amount of time and Whereas DEM is often not responsive in a reasonable amount of time. Be It Resolved that a law shall be passed that requires DEM to issue wildlife damage permits within 30 days and if such permit is not issued farmers may proceed to take action against such wildlife without a permit. Be It Further Resolved that when such permits are issued, they will be issued for a period of five years.

Crossbow Permits: Whereas firing a gun is prohibited in certain municipalities and Whereas older citizens can have a difficult time using a regular bow and arrow and Whereas there are many older farmers who have problems with deer on their property. Be It Resolved that farmers who are issued Deer Damage permits may use a crossbow.

Impact Statements: Whereas government laws, rules and regulations can have a detrimental effect on agriculture. Be It Resolved that cities and towns shall do an informal impact statement on how a proposed ordinance, rule or regulation will effect agriculture and shall avoid passing ordinances, rules and regulations that will curtail agricultural operations in the community.

Fire Code: Whereas the State of RI has one of the most strict fire codes in the nation, more strict than the national fire code, and Whereas the implementation of fire code regulations can be very expensive, especially on older buildings, and Whereas the cost can be so prohibitive that it forces farmers out of business. Be It Resolved: That barns built before the year 2012 should be exempt from the fire code.

Animal Agriculture: Whereas the Five Year Strategic Plan for RI Agriculture calls for an expansion of agriculture in the State of RI and Whereas the amount of land for farming is very limited and Whereas there are zoning laws that prohibit Animal Agriculture. Be It Resolved that Animal Agriculture should be allowed in all zones where the farmer owns more than 10 contiguous acres of land.

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's): Whereas the Food and Drug Administration of the United States has deemed GMOs to be safe and Whereas food production must be increased in order to feed a growing world population. Be It Resolved that RI Farm Bureau supports the use of GMOs in the United States.

GM DISCOUNTS

Don't Forget! Your RIFB membership can get you a \$500 discount on GM products including Chevy and Buick.



**Rhode Island
Farm Bureau**

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**We're on TV
Cox Channel 13
Weds 3:30**

Thank a farmer 3 times per day.



RICAPE NEWS

RICAPE is in the field shooting a series of training videos for farm operators about agri-tourism in Rhode Island called the "Destination Farm in Transition" in partnership with First Priority Media and funded by a Rural Business Enterprise Grant from USDA. The series will be ready for broadcast regionally in January 2013. Stu Nunnery, RICAPE Director is writing and hosting the series.

We are trying to get the Ag in the Classroom program off the ground in RI. Ag in the Classroom is a national program, usually run by Farm Bureau in many states. The purpose of the program is to educate students about where their food comes from. Usually lessons are designed to fit in with the existing curriculum in schools. We don't want to give teachers an additional subject to teach, we know they are busy enough.

We have been trying to develop an email list of teachers (usually middle school) so that we can email them les-



sons and facts about RI agriculture. If you know how we can develop this list, please call the RI Farm Bureau office. We especially want to direct teachers and students to our web site and the "My American Farm" program (a link at the bottom of the home page) This program has a lot of facts about agriculture in the USA as well as a lot of games.

We could also use a volunteer or two to try to get the Ag in the Classroom program off the ground. A retired teacher or someone who enjoys educating students would be ideal.

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AG IN THE CLASSROOM