



NEWSLETTER



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WRIGHT WINS YF&R CONTEST

Valerie Wright of Wakefield, RI won the Discussion Meet contest and will be representing RI at the American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in San Antonio in January.

The Discussion Meet Winner in San Antonio will receive their choice of a 2014 Chevrolet Silverado, or 2014 GMC Sierra, courtesy of GM, and paid registration to the 2014 YF&R Leadership Conference in Virginia Beach, Feb. 7-10. Three national finalists will receive a Case IH Farmall 55A, courtesy of Case IH, and a \$2,500 cash prize and \$500 in STIHL merchandise, courtesy of STIHL.

This is the first time in over 15 years that RI Farm Bureau will send someone to the national contest. Valerie won \$500 for her RI victory.

Other participants in the contest were, Bethany Wright, Jessica Vincent and Matt Crudale.

The Moderator of the Meet was YF&R Chairman, Bryan Salisbury. Judges were Lyn Spinella, Loren Thurn and Bill Stamp, III.

The YF&R will be conducting an extensive recruitment drive soon. Contact Bryan Salisbury at salisbury.bryan@gmail.com

STALLMAN KEY NOTE SPEAKER

Bob Stallman, President of American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) for the past 14 years, took time from his busy schedule to be with RIFB for our 60th Anniversary and to give Bill Stamp an AFBF sendoff.



Stallman had high praise for RI Farm Bureau President Bill Stamp, Jr. who presided over his last Annual Dinner Meeting. (Stamp will step down as president next November.) When he steps down he will have been president for 40 years, the longest serving president in the United States.

He discussed the Farm Bill and the new Food Safety and Modernization Act (FSMA) as well as immigration issues.

The next day he participated in a press conference at Pezza Farm in Johnston. He was joined in the conference by Bill Stamp and Ken Payne of the RI Ag Partnership. They also discussed FSMA.

THANKS TO PEZZA FARM

Special thanks to Doreen Pezza and Pezza farm for donating the center pieces at our Annual Meeting. Great Job!!!

"The Entwistles file returns for three entities, as well as nine personal returns. It gets complex during tax time. My goal is to help them use good strategies to succeed, including the use of prepayments, timing capital purchase decisions and/or transferring assets to the next generation."

Paul VanDenburgh

Successful Tax Strategies

"As far as taxes are concerned, our business is complicated. Paul keeps us up to speed on tax law and lets us know about changes ahead of time so we can plan our year. He's always looking out for our businesses' best interest."

James Entwistle

For more information, call 800.562.2235 or your local branch office or watch our video on tax preparation services at FarmCreditEast.com/Taxes.

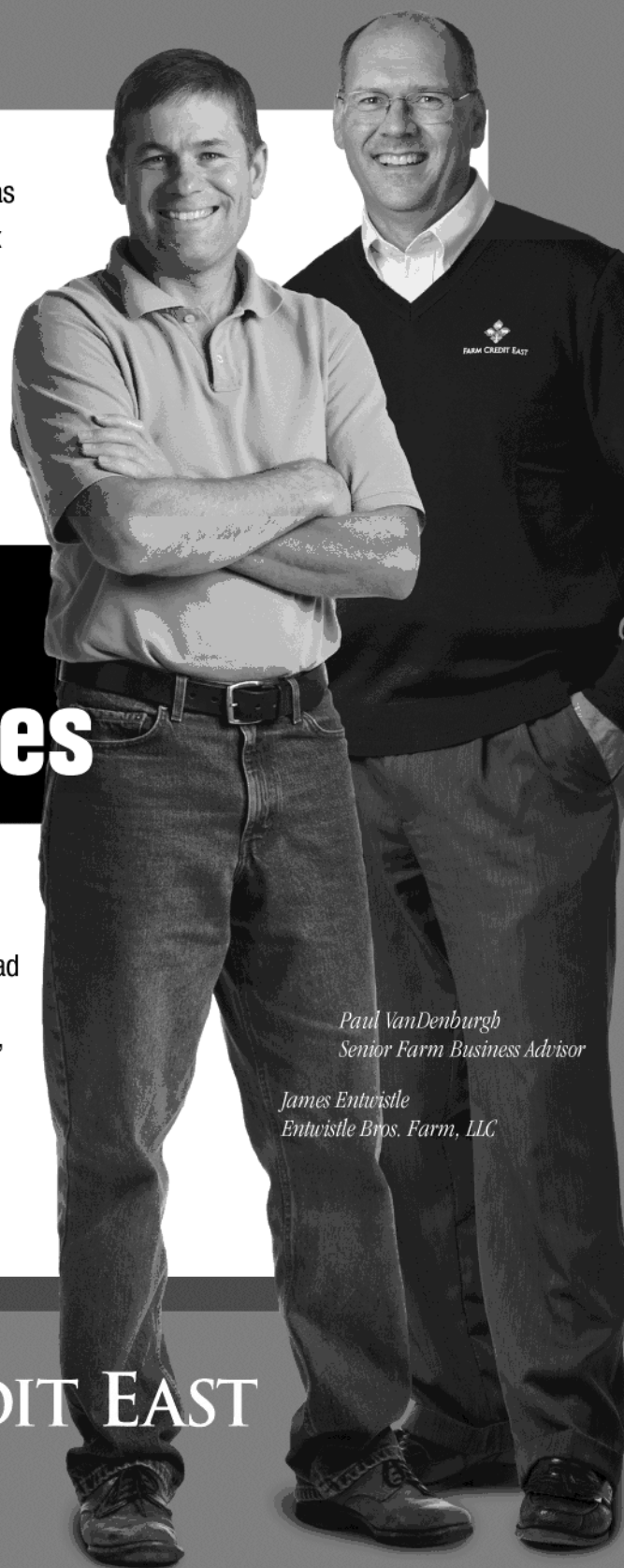
*Paul VanDenburgh
Senior Farm Business Advisor*

*James Entwistle
Entwistle Bros. Farm, LLC*



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RESOLUTIONS FOR 2014

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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 and solar power are renewable energies compatible to Rhode Island's environment, and **Whereas** farmers have land suitable to safely construct renewable sources of energy, **Be It Resolved** RI Farm Bureau supports the voluntary construction of renewable energy plants of all sizes and capacity on farms in RI. **Be it Further Resolved** that the State of RI be empowered to site these facilities within the State of RI with reasonable restrictions.

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** equipment used to make renewable energy sources are farm equipment used to harvest the wind and solar energy on a farm. **Be It Resolved** farmland used by renewable energy should be taxed as farmland and the equipment used to generate the power 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 its 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 require all farmland be appraised at its current use value rather than its highest and best use.

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 takes actions and measures with government entities to insure that the bidding process for such properties is open and competitive.

(continued on page 9)

SOSNOWSKI RECEIVES GOLDEN TRACTOR AWARD



Were it not for the unfailing, consistent efforts of Senator Sue Sosnowski at the helm of the Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee, Rhode Island farmers would not have the dependable champion of agriculture that personifies Senator Sosnowski. We can think of no other legislator who has done more for Rhode Island farmers during their tenure in state government than she. Her accomplishments span a very broad range of issues, and always in the best interest of Rhode Island agriculture.

A farmer herself, we are convinced there is no one in the General Assembly more passionate or zealous about supporting Rhode Island agriculture than Senator Sue Sosnowski. We are humbly grateful and enthusiastically proud to call Senator Sue Sosnowski a loyal and steadfast advocate for Rhode Island agriculture. In recognition of your dedication to farming, it gives us great pleasure to present the Golden Tractor Award to Senator V. Susan Sosnowski.

WALSH RECEIVES NAVIGATOR AWARD

The Navigator Award is a newly created commemorative in honor of Rhode Island Farm Bureau's 60th Anniversary. This award recognizes outstanding achievement by government officials who are successful in steering agricultural interests through the many hurdles and barriers often encountered when attempting to gain passage of new legislation. Representative Walsh has been a champion of agriculture since gaining a seat in the General Assembly in 2006. For several years she has introduced legislation to reduce inheritance tax for farmers. The 2013 legislative session proved receptive to the bill and, as a result, when farmland is inherited it will be appraised as farmland rather than at its full and fair market value. The anticipated savings to farmer will be substantial.

As further evidence of her dedication to agriculture, Representative Walsh received the Golden Tractor Award from Rhode Island Farm Bureau in 2012 for successfully introducing legislation which resulted in the exemption of animal feed.



STAMP RECEIVES GOLDEN TRACTOR AWARD



Bill Stamp Jr. has significantly contributed to the presence and health of agriculture in the state of Rhode Island. A tireless champion of farmer and property rights, Bill has served as President of the Rhode Island Farm Bureau since 1973, the longest of any farmer in the nation to serve as a state president. He has been an outspoken advocate of farmers' rights. During his 40 year tenure, RIFB spearheaded one of the strongest "right-to-farm" laws in the country and the state's Farm Forest and Open Space Act, which allows property enrolled in the program to be assessed at its current use, not its value for development. In the 1970's, along with then Gov. J. Joseph Garrahy, Bill was instrumental in the establishment of the Development Rights Program to further protect open space and farmland in the state. Recently, along with other initiatives, RIFB has helped to ensure passage of Inheritance Tax Legislation which allows future generations to continue farming. No one has done more for agriculture in RI than Bill Stamp, Jr.

FELAG RECEIVES NAVIGATOR AWARD



See article on left for what the Navigator Award is.

For the past several years, Senator Felag has introduced legislation to reduce the inheritance tax for all Rhode Island citizens and especially farmers. The 2013 legislative session proved receptive to Senator Felag's bill requiring that upon inheriting farmland, the State of Rhode Island shall appraise farmland as such rather than at its full and fair market value. The savings to farmers in Rhode Island is expected to be quite substantial.



Best Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season!

Farm Family is proud to honor the tradition and hard work of farmers and their families across Rhode Island. Your year round dedication providing safe, wholesome products to our tables does not go unnoticed. We'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a happy holiday season.

To find an agent in your area, contact:

Richard Brock, General Agent

(860) 329-0103

Or visit our website:

www.farmfamily.com



FF-313C (1110)

FARM CREDIT EAST AND MAINE MERGE

ENFIELD, CONN. – Farm Credit East and Farm Credit of Maine are pleased to announce that the stockholders of both Farm Credit cooperatives have overwhelmingly voted to merge the two leading agricultural credit associations.

“Both association boards and management teams are excited about this opportunity to bring together two successful Farm Credit associations. The combined association will benefit from further diversification of its loan portfolio, increased size and impact within the national Farm Credit System,” said Andy Gilbert, chairman of the Farm Credit East Board of Directors. “The expanded pool of talent and experience will enhance member service and allow Farm Credit to continue to deliver long-term value for our customer-owners for generations.”

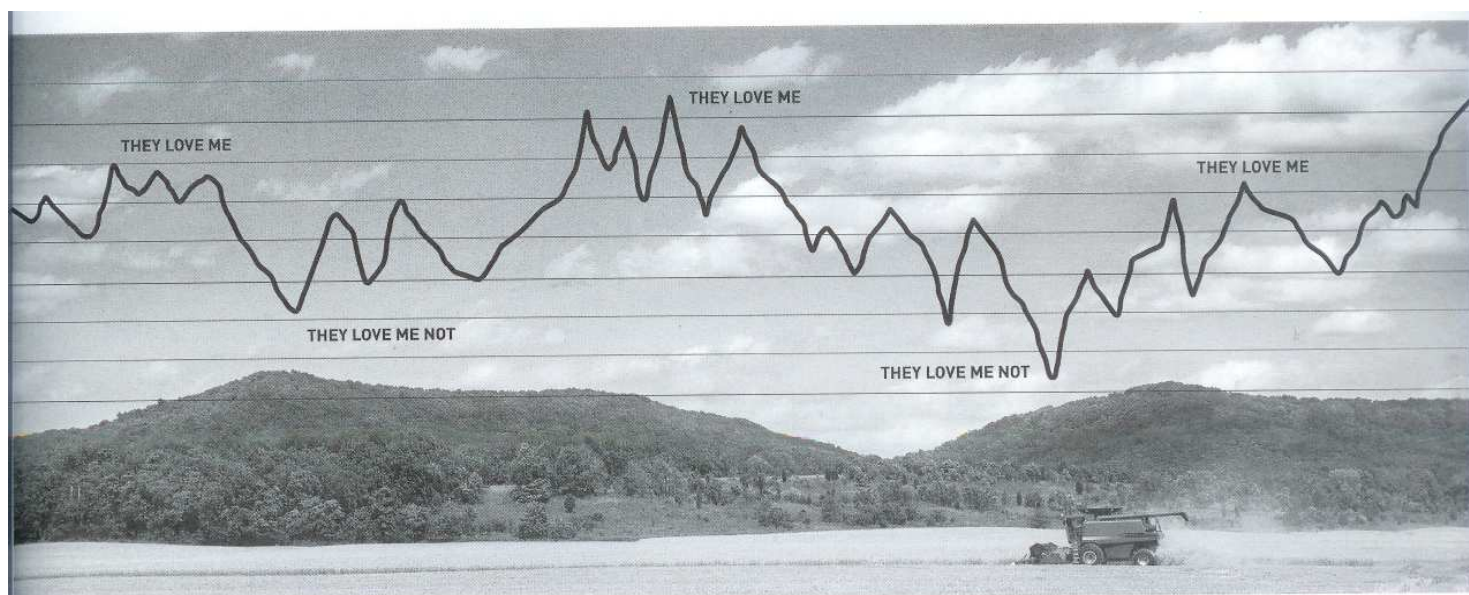
Final approval needs to be given to the merger by the Farm Credit Administration. If all conditions are met, the newly merged association is expected to begin operation on January 1, 2014 under the legal name of Farm Credit East, ACA.

Hank McPherson, chairman of Farm Credit of Maine’s Board, said, “By merging, Farm Credit East and Farm Credit of Maine combine their services and

expertise to achieve the best possible value for agribusinesses across seven northeastern states. The enhanced geographical and industry diversification of the loan portfolio will benefit all customers by further improving the risk-bearing ability of the association.”

Gilbert added, “Our customer-owners recognized the advantages of this merger, which is why they overwhelmingly supported it through their positive vote. The merged association will create the opportunity for enhanced earnings, further diversification of the loan portfolio and a stronger capital base. The larger organization will be able to hold a substantially higher amount of large loans currently made and serviced by Farm Credit of Maine, with the enhanced earnings benefiting all customers.”

Farm Credit of Maine chief executive officer Raymond J. Nowak added, “From a strategic perspective, this strengthens Farm Credit’s ability to remain the most dependable and trusted source of credit for the region’s agricultural, commercial fishing and forest products industries. This should also help this customer-owned cooperative continue to grow as these industries evolve and fulfill its rural-based mission in the region.” (Continued on page 5)



The relationship with your lender should never keep you guessing.

Today, many lenders are smitten by Northeast agriculture. So are we.
The difference is that we'll still be here when the bloom is gone. Farm Credit East.
When you're in agriculture for keeps, it's good to know your lender is, too.



FARM CREDIT EAST

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FARM CREDIT EAST MERGER (CONT FROM 4)

Bill Lipinski, chief executive officer of Farm Credit East, concluded by saying, "Both ACAs are coming off excellent years and are financially and operationally strong, which is the most opportune time to implement a merger. This is a strategic opportunity to position Farm Credit in the Northeast for future change in order to maintain Northeast agriculture's continued access to global money markets and to compete with large regional banks and other funding institutions."

Farm Credit East will serve agricultural producers, forest product businesses, commercial fishermen and other rural landowners with combined assets of more than \$5 billion and a portfolio in excess of 14,000 loans.

A letter was mailed to all voting stockholders notifying them of the results of the merger vote.

##

Farm Credit East extends more than \$4.6 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.

Farm Credit of Maine extends more than \$580 million in loans and serves the state of Maine from two regional offices. Loans, leases, appraisal and crop insurance services are provided primarily to family businesses in Maine's agricultural, forest products and commercial fishing industries. The state-wide credit cooperative is governed by a seven-member board of directors, six of whom are elected by its customer-owners. For more information, go to FarmCreditMaine.com.

OTHER AWARDS AND RAFFLE WINNERS AT ANNUAL MEETING

Farm Family Agent, John Howard received an award for obtaining the most farmer members this past year for RI Farm Bureau.

Elizabeth Salisbury and Rose Kenyon received \$500 scholarships from RI Farm Bureau.

Nearly \$1,000 was made in the "Penny Social" for the RI Farm Bureau Land Trust.

Ruby D'Holekia was the \$2,000 winner in the Land Trust raffle. Jeb Schartner was the \$1,000 winner and Vincent Confreda, Jr was the \$500 win-



John Howard Gets Award

ner in the raffle.

Tickets were sold throughout the summer and fall. Only 200 tickets were available.

GRAINGER BIGGEST DONOR

Grainger, partnered with American Farm Bureau, was the largest donor of gifts to the "Penny Social" for the RI Farm Bureau Land Trust. They donated over \$250 worth of products including an emergency kit and an emergency radio.

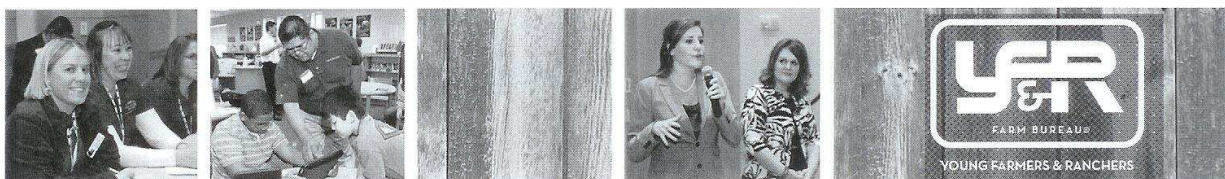


Banner at Annual Meeting

DON'T FORGET YOUR DISCOUNTS

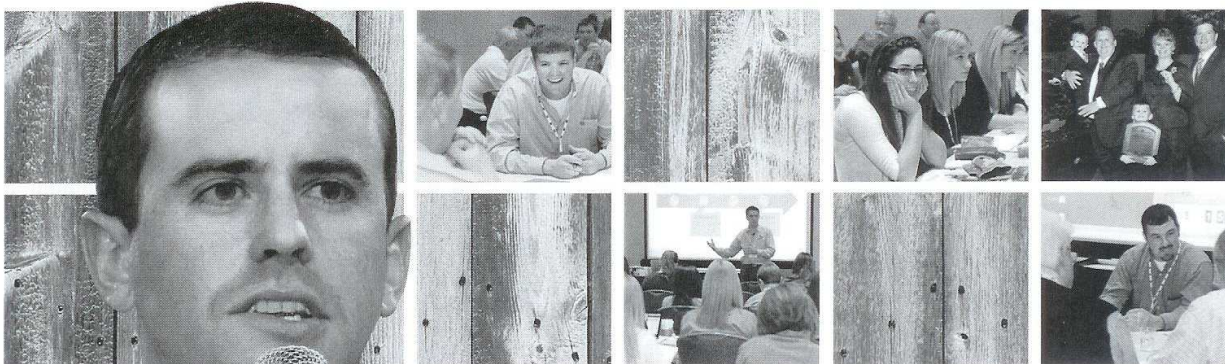
**FARM FAMILY
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**OVER
300,000
COMPANIES
NATIONWIDE**



Farm Bureau® Young Farmers & Ranchers Program

YF&R SHAPES THE FUTURE



The YF&R program helps young members shape the future of agriculture, as well as their individual futures, with leadership development and personal growth opportunities. Through three competitive events, members are able to showcase their leadership experience, communication skills and successful farm plans as they compete against the best of the best Farm Bureau has to offer.

As part of the YF&R competitive events, winners in the Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag areas will receive their choice of a **2014 Chevrolet Silverado** or **GMC Sierra** truck, courtesy of GM; nine national finalists will receive a **Case IH Farmall** tractor, courtesy of Case IH; as well as a **\$2,500 cash prize** and **\$500 in STIHL merchandise**.



For more information about YF&R competitive events and how you can get involved, contact your state Farm Bureau office or the American Farm Bureau Federation® at yfr@fb.org or 202-406-3600

RESOLUTIONS

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 .

Support of All Agriculture: **Whereas** food production must be increased to feed a growing world population **Be It Resolved** that RI Farm Bureau supports all agriculture in the United States.

Outdoor Water Boilers: **Whereas** the EPA has not approved of any large outdoor water boilers and **Whereas** many greenhouse growers need large boilers and **Whereas** DEM requires anyone who wants to get an outdoor boiler must get an EPA approved boiler as stated in Rule 48. **Be It Resolved** farmers should be exempt from rule 48.

Maintaining the Viability of Agriculture

Whereas Farmers in Rhode Island for many years have been impaired in their ability to maintain the long term viability of their agricultural operations and have in some instances been caused harm and injury and even to the point of actual demise by actions of State and Local agencies.

Be It Resolved:

- (1) The RI Farm Bureau will establish guidelines for assessing whether the ordinances, administrative programs, and policies of a city and town are "Agriculture Friendly" overall and issuing public commendations to those communities determined to be "Agriculture Friendly."
- (2) The RI Farm Bureau supports formal public expectations or policies that the treatment of agriculture will be consistent and constructive across state agencies and within state agencies; the absence of consistent and constructive treatment imperils the ability of farmers to maintain and improve the viability of their operations.
- (3) The RI Farm Bureau supports the establishment of a registry for Rhode Island farmers of actions proposed or taken at the state and local level that adversely impact on agriculture or farm operations. The registry shall include (a) a description of the nature of the action, (b) the name of the state or local agency taking the action or proposing to take to the action, (c) the date or period of time in which the action was taken or was proposed to be taken, and (d) the outcome or the effect of the action.

Food Safety and Modernization Act: RI Farm Bureau opposes the mandatory Food Safety and Modernization Act in its current form. We support the voluntary participation of RI farmers in the RI Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) program.

Paying for Licenses and Permits RI Farm Bureau supports mandating that the State of RI accept cash or checks to pay for fees for licenses, permits or any service.

Stealing Crops a Felony: **Whereas:** The stealing of crops in the field and on farm stands has dramatically increased in recent years. **Be It Resolved:** Stealing of crops in the field or from farm stands shall be a felony.

Rhode Island Farm Bureau

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We're on TV
Cox Channel 13
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Thank a farmer 3 times per day.



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MERRY CHRISTMAS



HAPPY NEW YEAR