



RI Farm Bureau

Volume 16 Number 1

February 26, 2015

# NEWSLETTER

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## FUSION CONFERENCE A HUGE SUCCESS IN NASHVILLE!

By Lyn Spinella

For the first time ever, AFBF hosted FUSION, a conference which united the Women's Leadership, Young Farmer and Rancher and the Promotion & Education Committees for what turned out to be an extraordinary experience designed to create a synergy among the three committees. The February 13 - 16 meeting site was the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center in Nashville, TN and it was the first time that attendees, regardless of the committee being represented, were invited to attend any of the breakout sessions. It was a stellar opportunity to meet and mingle with participants from all over the country and share ideas, initiatives, and viewpoints. Aside from the ice storm which paralyzed the entire city and wreaked havoc with everyone's travel plans, the end result was a victory for all. There were eight basic "track objectives" offered: Advocacy, Business, Collegiate, Communication, Education, Leadership, Rural Development and Technology. Whether your interest was learning how Washington works, honing your communication skills, boning up on social media networking, learning about new technology for more efficient farming, to improving your time management skills, the days were jam packed with informative sessions that provided something for everyone. There were meet and greets, a collegiate discussion meet competition, round table discussions and an opportunity to learn and listen to a host of well-prepared breakout session leaders.

It wasn't all work, however! There were entertaining events such as the

YF&R Farm Bureau Olympics, a night out on the General Jackson Showboat, and the grand finale event at the Wild Horse Saloon. Unfortunately, due to the ice storm, all the Monday tours had to be cancelled. As an alternative, AFBF held some impromptu professional development sessions for those that found themselves stranded. In addition, each state donated an item for a silent auction, the proceeds from which benefited the Ag Foundation.

Attendees were treated to three dynamic motivational speakers during the conference: On Saturday, Keni Thomas, a country singer and former combat veteran who survived the nightmare that would be reenacted in the movie, "Blackhawk Down," spoke about teamwork and leading by example: On Sunday, Paul Vitale, a communication and marketing expert and author of several best selling motivational books, spoke about the significance of optimism and having a strong work ethic: On Monday, Dr. Dale Henry delighted his audience with his uplifting and often times hysterical take on the importance of customer service and the two things he suggests you never say, "I wish I had...." and "It's not my job."

Overall, the experience was exceptional and everyone departed Nashville having learned something new and having made some new farming friends.





FARM BUREAU® YOUNG FARMERS &amp; 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 competitions, 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.



Stuart Zichm



As part of the YF&R competitions, winners in the Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag areas will receive their choice of a **2015 Chevrolet Silverado** or **GMC Sierra** truck, courtesy of GM; three national finalists in each competition 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](mailto:yfr@fb.org) or 202-406-3600

**Farm Bureau®**

See Page 4



FARM BUREAU MEMBERS



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**CURRENT FARM BUREAU MEMBERS GET AN ADDITIONAL \$500 TOWARD A PURCHASE OF A NEW VEHICLE!**

**2014 CRUZE LTZ**

FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS<sup>1</sup> WHO ARE CURRENT GM OWNERS<sup>2</sup> ON ELIGIBLE VEHICLES IN STOCK THE LONGEST<sup>3</sup>

**\$4,000** TOTAL CASH ALLOWANCE

INCLUDES \$500 CASH ALLOWANCE<sup>1</sup>



**38** MPG HWY<sup>4</sup>

**2015 MALIBU**

FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS<sup>1</sup> WHO ARE CURRENT GM OWNERS<sup>2</sup>

**\$3,000** TOTAL CASH ALLOWANCE

INCLUDES \$500 CASH ALLOWANCE<sup>1</sup>



**36** MPG HWY<sup>4</sup>

**2015 EQUINOX**

FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS<sup>1</sup> WHO ARE CURRENT GM OWNERS<sup>2</sup>

**\$1,750** TOTAL CASH ALLOWANCE

INCLUDES \$500 CASH ALLOWANCE<sup>1</sup>



**32** MPG HWY<sup>4</sup>

**2015 TRAVERSE**

FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS<sup>1</sup> WHO ARE CURRENT GM OWNERS<sup>2</sup>

**\$2,250** TOTAL CASH ALLOWANCE

INCLUDES \$500 CASH ALLOWANCE<sup>1</sup>



**24** MPG HWY<sup>4</sup>

**2014 SILVERADO 1500 CREW CAB ALL STAR EDITION**

FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS<sup>1</sup> WHO ARE CURRENT GM OWNERS<sup>2</sup> ON ELIGIBLE VEHICLES IN STOCK THE LONGEST<sup>3</sup> WHEN YOU TRADE IN AN ELIGIBLE VEHICLE<sup>5</sup>

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INCLUDES \$500 CASH ALLOWANCE<sup>1</sup>



**22** MPG HWY<sup>4</sup>

**Farm Bureau**

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<sup>1</sup> Offer available through 4/1/17. Available on qualified 2014 and 2015 Chevrolet vehicles. This offer is not available with some other offers. Only customers who have been active members of an eligible Farm Bureau for a minimum of 30 days will be eligible to receive a certificate. Customers can obtain certificates at [www.fvverify.com/gm](http://www.fvverify.com/gm). Farm Bureau and the FB logo are registered trademarks of the American Farm Bureau Federation and are used herein under license by General Motors. <sup>2</sup> Must show proof of current ownership of a 1999 or newer GM vehicle. Not compatible with lease and some other offers. Take delivery by 3/2/15. See dealer for details. <sup>3</sup> On the oldest 15% of inventory as of 2/2/15 while stock lasts. Not compatible with special finance, lease and some other offers. Take delivery by 3/2/15. See dealer for details. <sup>4</sup> EPA estimated. <sup>5</sup> On the oldest 10% of inventory as of 2/2/15 while stock lasts. Not compatible with special finance, lease and some other offers. Take delivery by 3/2/15. See dealer for details. <sup>6</sup> Must show proof of ownership and trade in a 1999 model year or newer vehicle. Not available with lease and some other offers. Take delivery by 3/2/15. Residency restrictions apply. See dealer for details. ©2015 General Motors.

## YF&R COMPETE

RIFB Young Farmers and Ranchers attended the Nashville FUSION Leadership Conference. Matthew Crudale competed in the Collegiate Discussion meet, where he participated in a lively discussion focused on pros and cons of Federal Government ownership of land, and another discussion on the topic of should a safety net for livestock producer be developed. More information about the Discussion Meets, including a video of the Final Four Discussion Meet can be found on the AFBF website. The conference attendees also participated in workshops and breakout sessions aimed to identify personality traits, as well as develop leadership qualities.

## JOIN YF&R

How would you like to win a brand new Chevy or GMC pickup truck? Or win a Farmall Tractor (See page 2 for details.)

The first step to winning the truck or tractor is joining the YF&R Committee in RI. You can join if you are between 18-35. Call the RI Farm Bureau if you would like to join.



## GREENHOUSE GROWERS

The RI Farm Bureau Greenhouse growers had a twilight meeting on January 28th at URI. The featured speakers were Brian Maynard, Elwood Roberts and Larry Manire.

Brian gave a tour of one of the Greenhouses at URI.



Elwood Roberts discusses biological control

Elwood Roberts, from URI, discussed using biological control to control unwanted insects using beneficial insects.

Larry Manire, from Databasics, showed farmers how they can monitor their greenhouses and crops in the field using remote monitoring systems.

Two pesticide credits were given to those who attended the meeting and a light meal was served.

A door prize, a monitoring system, was donated by RI Farm Bureau and URI. Winner of the monitoring system was Steven Marcott and his wife Linda who own Pine Crest Farm in Carolina, RI.

Brenda Frederickson, chair of the Greenhouse Growers, presided over the meeting.

The next twilight meeting will be in August at Pippin Orchards in Cranston.

The topic will be hydroponics.

## USDA "GROWING ROOTS IN FARM TO SCHOOL" WEBINAR SERIES!

USDA Farm to School has a webinar series designed to help you start or expand your "farm to school" program. This 11-part webinar series will help you build your "farm to school" skills and develop new strategies for bringing local foods into the lunchroom. To join the webinars send an email to Kim Clark [kimclark@farmfreshri.org](mailto:kimclark@farmfreshri.org)

Farm to School Planning and Building a Team, January 15, 2:00 pm

Setting Goals and Establishing an Evaluation Baseline, January 28, 2:00 pm

Finding and Buying Local Foods, February 5, 2:00 pm

Farm to School Menu Planning, February 19, 2:00 pm

Food Safety, March 5, 2:00 pm

Promoting Your Farm to School Program, March 19, 2:00 pm

School Gardening, April 2, 2:00 pm

Curriculum Integration, April 16, 2:00 pm

Program Sustainability, April 30, 2:00 pm

Evaluating Your Program, May 13, 2:00 pm

Tying it All Together and Digging In, May 28, 2:00 pm

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## BUYING OF LOCAL FOOD BY INSTITUTIONS

While we have made great strides in selling local food to our schools, we have not had much success in selling local food to other institutions. RI General Law 37-2-8 Rhode Island foodstuffs. states: When foodstuffs of good quality grown or produced in Rhode Island by Rhode Island farmers are available, the purchasing agent is directed to purchase those foodstuffs at the prevailing market prices when any of those foodstuffs are required by the state institutions.



State Prison

So why don't more institutions such as the state prison or local hospitals, nursing homes, etc, buy local food?

RI Farm Bureau has requested funds from the LASA

Grant program to do research and bridge this gap, bringing local farmers and institutions together.

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THESE BENEFITS.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Too much snow? Feeling housebound? Have extra energy and want to put it to good use? Well the RI Farm Bureau has just the outlet for your creativity. We are in need of energetic, vibrant people to volunteer at our office. Volunteers are needed during staff absences. We need help with our FaceBook page, web page and other outreach programs such as setting up and manning a booth at various fairs and getting an Ag in the Classroom program off the ground. Even this newsletter could use a sprucing. If you would love to be a part of farming, minus the dirt, this is the opportunity for you. Contact the office and let's grow together.



## BETTENCOURT TO RETIRE

After 15 years of service to the RI Farm Bureau, executive director, Al Bettencourt, has decided to retire.

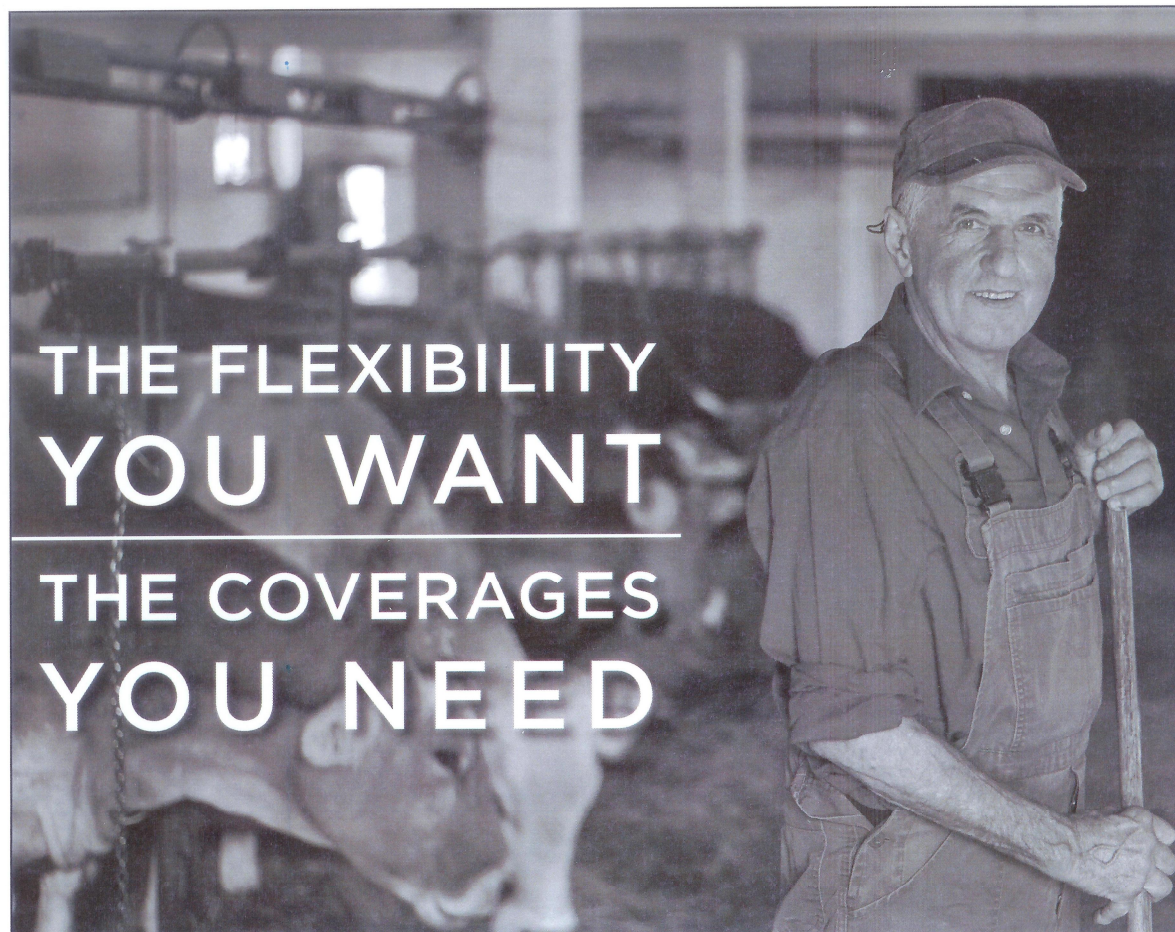
"The primary reason for my retirement is that my wife, Gail, and I want to travel more

before we get too old to travel. I also want to spend more time on my mini-farm" Bettencourt said.

Al plans to leave in June. Plans for Al's replacement are under review.







# THE FLEXIBILITY YOU WANT

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**860.329.0103**



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FF267 (REV 12/14)

# Legislative Update

The legislative session for 2015 has begun. To begin this year RI Farm Bureau is asking for one bill to be introduced which is a bill to eliminate the sales tax on seeds and plants used to grow food. This bill will help consumers more than it will help farmers. Farmers who have a tax exempt certificate (which is most commercial farmers) currently do not pay a sales tax on plants and seeds used to grow food. They also do not pay a sales tax on plants and seeds used to grow ornamental crops. In 2004 the state passed the Uniform Sales Tax Law which was a cooperative agreement between neighboring states to basically subject the same items to a sales tax. Up to that point in time, RI did not have a sales tax on plants and seeds used to produce food. Supposedly our neighboring states did, so we agree to tax them too. However, we found out recently that MA does not tax seeds and plants used to produce food. We received no response from CT. Regardless of what the other states do food is exempt from the sales tax in RI so why shouldn't seeds and plants used for food production be exempt for everyone? This legislation is an example of how RI Farm Bureau gives support to citizens who are not necessarily farmers. People should be encouraged to grow their own food and this legislation is a step in that direction.

Bill #	Sponsor	Explanation	Status	RIFB Position
5197 5078	Canario Hull	Label GMO	Introduced to HEW	Con
5081	Newberry	Allow direct shipping of wine	Hearing in Corporations Feb 24	Pro
91	Kettle	Allow raw milk	Intro to Environ and Ag	Con?
5151	Amore	Gradual ban on plastic bags	Intro to Environ Nat Res Hearing held 2/5 FS	Pro?
93	Walaska	Label GMO	Intro to Health and Human	Con
5141	Reilly	Exempts out of state wholesalers from \$500 fee charged to food processors	Intro to Finance	Con Exempt in
135	Cote	Employers of 3+ must use e-verify	Labor	??
11,30,50	Walaska, O'Neil,O'Neil	Trade in value of pickup trucks over 14k,8k,6k	Intro to Senate Finance	Pro?
41	Lombardi	Allows spouse to receive benefits from deceased spouse?	Intro to Senate Finance	??
113	Sheehan	Suspend minimum corp tax for 3 years	Intro to Senate Finance	Pro
5207	Trillo	Retirement income exempt from taxes	Intro to House Finance	Pro
5231	Ucci	Reduce corp tax to \$50 from \$500	Intro to House Finance	Pro
5240	McLaughlin	Lower corp tax from \$500 to \$250	Intro to House Finance	Pro
5215	Corvese	Need professional driver training to get license	Corporations Hearing set February 10.	Con?
5273	Ucci	Allow RIRC to incinerate trash	Hearing in Environment on February 26	Pro?
5395,215	Fogarty, Naug. Sosnowski	Exempt sales tax from seeds and plants used for food production	Introduction to Finance	Pro Our Bill

# FARM CREDIT AWARDS \$58,747

ENFIELD, CONN. — Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement Program recently awarded \$58,747 to 18 organizations to promote northeast agriculture, support young and beginning farmer initiatives and encourage agricultural youth programs.

The program is a joint effort of Farm Credit East, Yankee Farm Credit and CoBank. Since its inception in 1996, Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement has awarded more than \$1.65 million through 618 grants.

## Recent grant recipients

The most recent grants highlight Farm Credit's ongoing partnership with organizations that make a significant difference in the lives of people involved in all aspects of agriculture.

*Eastern States FFA Star Farmer Program* will use their \$10,000 grant to bring together the best and brightest FFA stars, from Maine to Virginia and as far west as Ohio, as contestants to achieve one of the highest honors that FFA offers.

Cornell University will use their \$7,997 grant to conduct an *Urban Food Market Study* to evaluate the farm profitability impacts of sales through urban-based local food markets.

A \$7,500 grant will go towards the *Cornell Dairy Fellows Program*, a program which allows for students to engage with the dairy industry in exposure and quantitative decision making on dairy farms.

A \$6,000 grant to the *North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge – Northeast Region* will support this three day event which combines dairy students into mixed school teams to analyze a dairy farm & make recommendations to a panel of judges.

*UMass 2015 Winter Traveling Dairy Tour* was awarded a \$6,000 grant to support this annual week-long tour that allows undergraduate students the opportunity to explore the dairy industry in a discrete geographical region.

*American Farmland Trust (CT)* will use their \$3,000 grant to update and reprint the successful educational guide, "Planning for Agriculture: A Guide for Connecticut Municipalities".

*New York Farm Bureau's Foundation for Agricultural Education* will use their \$2,500 grant to create "Meet Your NY Farmers" YouTube videos.

A \$2,250 grant to *SUNY Cobleskill's NAMA Club* will be used to establish this student club and will allow them to compete in the National Agri-Marketing Association challenge to further leadership and marketing skills.

*New York Ag in the Classroom* was awarded a \$2,000 grant to support their 2015 Ag Literacy project, which reaches 2,700 classrooms and 51,000 students.

*Farm Fresh Rhode Island* was awarded a \$2,000 grant to support market promotion and enrichment activities at farmers markets in Providence, Pawtucket, Woonsocket and West Warwick, Rhode Island, including staff education activities and community outreach efforts.

*New York Holstein Association* will use their \$1,500 grant to support the New York Spring Dairy Carousel, a dairy judging contest for young adults to improve skills to evaluate, place and defend decisions made.

A \$1,500 grant to *Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom* will support teacher scholarships to attend three seminars that assist teachers and educators in connecting the farm to the classroom through agriculture-based activities.

*NJ Junior Breeders Association* will use their \$1,500 grant to support their annual educational symposium on sheep, goats, dairy, beef, poultry, horses and rabbits.

A \$1,000 grant to the *Horse Park of New Jersey* will support a Jersey Fresh Three Day Event, which provides educational programs for youth and young adults who are looking to pursue a career in agriculture in the Garden State.

*GardenShare* will put their \$1,000 grant towards the 2015 Food Day Youth Summit, an event that brings together high school students from across the nine counties of the North Country / Adirondack region to foster understanding and action on important food and agriculture issues.

A \$1,000 grant to the *New Hampshire Farms Network* will promote their Business-Farms Program, a program to develop a greater understanding of agriculture and to promote interest in the industry.

*Mill City Grows' Urban Farm Apprenticeship Program* will use their \$1,000 grant to engage aspiring urban farmers in developing the skills and experience necessary for a career in urban farming.

A \$1,000 grant to *Connecticut NOFA* will support their "Growing Together: Farmers and Chefs" program, a program that offers peer-to-peer learning and networking opportunities for farmers and chefs.

## Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement Program

Created: 1996. Total grant dollars since 1996: \$1,650,113 Total projects supported: 619

Proposal submission dates: April 1, August 1, December 1 Contact: Robert A. Smith, Farm Credit East, 2668 State Route 7, Suite 21, Cobleskill, NY 12043 Phone: 518.296.8188 Funding proposals to: [AgEnhancement@FarmCreditEast.com](mailto:AgEnhancement@FarmCreditEast.com)

For more information: [FarmCreditEast.com/IndustrySupport.aspx](http://FarmCreditEast.com/IndustrySupport.aspx)





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## RIFB LEADERSHIP ATTENDS ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

Henry B. Wright, III and Wayne Salisbury, newly elected president and vice president of RI Farm Bureau attended the Advocacy Conference, sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), in Washington, DC from February 24-26. This was the first year the AFBF sponsored such a conference. The purpose of the conference was to have Farm Bureau leadership advocate for certain issues promoted by the AFBF. The attendees were addressed by the popular political duo, Donna Brazile and Dana Perino. The conference agenda included training on Social Media basics and congressional visit role-playing. Participants received briefings on numerous issues including biotechnology, clean water act, endangered species act and immigration.

The keynote speaker of the conference was Dr. Ben Carson. In the past Carson has commented on several social and fiscal issues including political correctness, education, the national debt, health care and taxation. He has spoken favorably of a flat tax system.

Part of the conference activities was for the participants to visit Capitol Hill and meet with the Congressional Delegates from their states. In addition to the topics mentioned above, Henry and Wayne spoke to Senator Reed, Senator Whitehouse and Rep. Cicilino and Rep. Langevin about the inheritance tax and the Unified Carrier Registration System (see back page). The GMO labeling issue was also discussed.

## FARMERS EXEMPT FROM NATIONAL HEALTH CARD

Lately there has been some confusion as to which truck drivers have to have health cards in their possession when driving certain trucks. Generally, drivers of intrastate commercial trucks over 10,001 GVW must get a physical exam from a physician certified by the Federal Dept of Transportation and carry a card with them that indicates they have had such a physical. For decades truck drivers have had to do this. Last May some changes were made in the law and confusion ensued. Most people are of the opinion that CDL truck drivers have always had to get a health card but non-CDL licensed drivers did not until recently. This is not true. Non-CDL truck drivers have been required to get health cards for decades. What is new is that you have to get the card from a DOT certified physician. Also, CDL drivers do not have to carry a health card because their license is sufficient to demonstrate that they have been examined.

What has been in effect for decades is that drivers of farm vehicles are exempt from the medical requirements. Generally speaking, drivers of "straight job" farm vehicles (farm plated vehicles) are exempt but drivers of so called tractor trailers are not exempt. Go to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration ([fmcsa.dot.gov](http://fmcsa.dot.gov)) web site and see rule 391.2 under the "Regulations" tab. We are still researching whether RI Law requires a card.

If you feel you need a medical certificate you can navigate the above web site to find out how to get one or call Kevin Carter, at the local FMSCA office at 431-6010.

## NEW RIFB BOARD MEMBERS

### KEVIN BREENE

Kevin Breene, owner of Breene Hollow Farm, a dairy farm, in West Greenwich, RI was recently elected to the RI Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Kevin, who is the Town Manager in West Greenwich, operates the 360 acre farm with his children, Steven, Melissa and Hillary. The family farm, which was started in 1977, also has silage corn, hay land and pasture. Breene Hollow Farm is a Rhody Fresh Farm and a member of the Agri-Mark Coop. The farm received the Green Pastures Award in 2009. Kevin is a past chairman of the ASCS (FSA) Committee.

### JOE POLSENO

Joe Polseno, owner of Pippin Orchard Farm in Cranston, RI was recently elected to the RI Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Joe operates the 20 acre farm with his family. The farm consists mostly of fruit trees of apples, peaches, pears, plums and nectarines, all of which are sold at the farm stand. Their vegetable beds include eggplant, peppers and tomato plants. Pippin also grows a variety of annuals and perennials in their greenhouses, including an amazing assortment of geraniums and petunias. In the fall they have pumpkins and they sell a wide variety of native products at the stand.



# HOMEOWNERS USE MORE CHEMICALS THAN FARMERS

Who uses the greatest concentration of chemical pesticides per acre?

Homeowners actually apply the greatest concentration of chemical pesticides per acre. Pesticides are used when someone wants to get rid of a certain plant or pest. If you own a home, for example, you might use pesticides to remove dandelions from your yard or ants from your kitchen. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, homeowners apply pesticides at a rate up to ten times higher (per acre) than farmers. 67,000,000 pounds of synthetic pesticides are used on US lawns annually. That's equal to the weight of 22,000 Toyota Prius cars! Many farmers also use pesticides. According to the EPA, US Farmers spend \$4.1 billion on pesticides annually. Pesticides are a tool farmers use to grow crops efficiently. Thanks to increases in technology, farmers today produce 262% more food with 2% fewer inputs (like pesticides) compared to 1950.

## VILSACK ASSURES LAWMAKERS DIETARY GUIDELINES WILL FOCUS ON NUTRITION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 2015 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack assured lawmakers he would be personally involved in writing the government's new dietary guidelines and indicated he would keep them narrowly focused on nutrition.

Vilsack stopped short of saying that he would scrap a scientific advisory panel's proposal that the guidelines include environmental factors, a move that would encourage less consumption of meat.

The chairman of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, Robert Aderholt, R-Ala., asked Vilsack for assurance that the final guidelines, which will be drafted by USDA and the Department of Health and Human Services, would not include the environmental factors.

Vilsack didn't answer Aderholt directly but said he would "make sure we follow the appropriate approach within the statutory guidelines and directions that we've received. I understand we need to color inside the lines and don't have the luxury of coloring outside the lines."

The guidelines, which are revised every five years to reflect advancements in scientific knowledge, are used to guide federal nutrition programs, including school meal standards, and to inform consumers.

Vilsack said the agencies would consider extending the 45-day comment period, scheduled to end April 8, by another 60 days. Yesterday, the North American Meat Institute requested a 75-day extension.

## VILSACK: SMARTPHONES COULD TELL CONSUMERS WHAT'S IN FOOD

Vilsack told members of Congress on Wednesday that consumers could just use their phones to scan special bar codes or other symbols on food packages in the grocery store. All sorts of information could pop up, such as whether the food's ingredients include genetically modified organisms, or GMOs.

"Industry could solve that issue in a heartbeat," Vilsack said.

The Food and Drug Administration handles most food-package labeling, so Vilsack's idea isn't an official proposal. But the agriculture secretary suggested it could head off the debate between the food industry and those who have pushed for package labels that identify GMOs.

Vilsack has mentioned the idea before, but he said it could have new life as Congress becomes more involved in the issue. A Republican House bill would block any further state efforts to require GMO package labels. Last year Vermont became the first state to pass a law to requiring the labeling.

## RI Farm Bureau

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# UNIFIED CARRIER REGISTRATION SYSTEM UCR

Q: What is UCR?

UCR is the Unified Carrier Registration program. Created by federal legislation, it replaces the former system for registering the operators of vehicles engaged in interstate travel – the Single State Registration System (SSRS).

Q: Are there differences between the UCR and the former program? Yes. Most notably, the UCR applies not only to for-hire motor carriers (as was the case under SSRS) but rather to all operators of Commercial Motor Vehicles. That would include all Commercial Motor Vehicle carriers carrying their own goods and products across state lines. It also includes carriers transporting interstate goods even if your vehicles do not leave the state.

Q: Under the UCR program, what constitutes a "Commercial Motor Vehicle"?

Any self-propelled or towed (like a trailer) vehicle used on highways engaged in interstate travel that:

- has a gross weight of 10,001 pounds or more or,
- is designed to transport 11 or more passengers

(including the driver) or, is required to have hazardous waste placarding



If you own one of these you owe a UCR Fee

Q: What if I'm a Rhode Island baker delivering my own goods and I cross state lines? Must I register?

Yes, and the butcher and candlestick maker as well. Farm Plated Vehicles. (GVW 10,000+)

Q: What happens if I don't register for UCR?

An unregistered vehicle stopped in Rhode Island, for example, would be subjected to a \$400.00 fine for each occurrence. Keep in mind that that is

just for Rhode Island. A company traveling to Maine could be stopped in RI, Mass., N.H. and Maine and fined in each jurisdiction.

Here are the fees

1-2 Vehicles	\$76	21-100	\$1,576
3-5 Vehicles	\$227	101-1,000	\$7,511

If you have not paid the fee, you owe back to 2007 so multiply the above figures by 8.