



THIS MONTH IN RHODE ISLAND FARM BUREAU LOOKING BACK ON OCTOBER

October 2016

NO FARMERS, NO FOOD!

SENATOR JACK REED INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING USDA TO PURCHASE SURPLUS CHEESE TO AID DAIRY FARMERS. Thanks to President Henry B. Wright, III, Senator Jack Reed initiated the movement to purchase surplus cheese. Milk prices are so volatile, they go up and down like a roller coaster. However, this past year and a half, prices have come down and have stayed down. Oftentimes, the price for milk is below the breakeven cost of production. As a matter of fact, milk prices are the lowest they've been since 2009. President Wright met with Senator Reed during one of his trips to Washington, D.C. to bring the Senator up to speed on the plight of the dairy industry in Rhode Island. Senator Reed reached out to Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont, senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Together, both Senators were able to get the Agriculture Committee to commit to having USDA purchase up to \$20 million in surplus cheese. The purchase will help to lower inventories, increase consumption and provide much needed support to dairy farmers. At present American Farm Bureau Federation is evaluating a number of policy proposals with respect to dairy in the next Farm Bill. It is imperative that further aid is made available to the dairy industry because we are witnessing the demise of dairy in Rhode Island. What used to be a booming industry in this state of approximately 300 working dairy farms, the numbers have been reduced to single digits strictly due to economic hardships.

Senator Jack Reed will be the recipient of Rhode Island Farm Bureau's Golden Tractor Award at the Annual Meeting for his work on behalf of Rhode Island's dairy industry.

Thank you, Senator Reed!

THE RIGHT TO FARM ACT COMES UNDER ATTACK ON THE EAST BAY. Recently, the Sakonnet Times has published several Letters to the Editor as well as political candidate inquiries regarding ancillary activities on farms in that area. Apparently, one farm in particular, Carolyn's Sakonnet Vineyard, is being targeted due to the increase in the number of social events being held on the property. The consensus in that area is that ancillary activities should not be allowed on farmland.

The Rhode Island Right to Farm Act § 2-23-4 indicates that "...The mixed-use of farms and farmlands for other forms of enterprise including, but not limited to, the display of antique vehicles and equipment, retail sales, tours, classes, petting, feeding and viewing of animals, hay rides, crop mazes, festivals and other special events are hereby recognized as a valuable and viable means of contributing to the preservation of agriculture."

The outcome of the Little Compton Town Council's decision on the fate of Carolyn's Sakonnet Vineyard events will have a far reaching effect on the ancillary activities at other farms in the area. Additionally, a precedent will be set that other towns may decide to follow the lead of Little Compton when deciding on whether or not farms will be allowed to host social events that help subsidize expenses during our off season.

What many individuals don't understand is that our growing season is short compared to the warmer climates of Florida and California, for example. If farmers are restricted on having weddings, social events, concerts, wine tastings, etc. on their farms in the off season, they will not be able to survive. Beautiful pastures, open space, and grazing livestock will be replaced by bulldozers and cement mixers.

Rhode Island Farm Bureau intends to keep a very close watch on the issues being discussed in Tiverton and Little Compton and will be available to come to the defense of the farms under attack.

NEXT MONTH AT RHODE ISLAND FARM BUREAU LOOKING FORWARD TO NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT THE ALPINE COUNTRY CLUB.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR THE FREE SEMINAR 'HOW FARMERS CAN BECOME INVINCIBLE TO LAWSUITS AND SAVE THOUSANDS IN TAXES'

We will celebrate our 64th year with a buffet dinner at the Alpine Country Club on Pippin Orchard Road in Cranston, RI. As a service to our members, Joanna Larsen of the American Society for Asset Protection (ASAP) will conduct the free two hour seminar. Joanna Larsen is an expert in the areas of lawsuit protection, tax reduction, and estate planning.

***IT TAKES A LIFETIME TO
ACCUMULATE YOUR ASSETS.
TAKE 2 HOURS TO PROTECT
THEM!***

The business meeting will begin at 3:30 p.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. Social hour from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. will feature Lilly's Ladles (bone broths), a display of Rhody Fresh cheeses and a cash bar. The buffet dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Our special guest speaker for the evening is Zippy Duvall, President of American Farm Bureau Federation. This is Zippy's first visit to Rhode Island and we want to welcome him to our beautiful Ocean State. He hails from Georgia so he doesn't get to see much of the ocean!

President Duvall plans to bring the audience up to date on plans for the Farm Bill, what's new at American Farm Bureau and will most likely reflect on his first year as President of American Farm Bureau.

PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING. IT WILL BE A PLEASANT AND INFORMATIVE EVENING. RSVP to 401-385-3339

AN EASY NEW WAY TO PAY YOUR DUES!

Beginning in January of 2017 regular members will have the option to pay their membership dues over a ten month period. An automatic withdrawal system has been set up with Centreville Bank to deduct regular member dues at the rate of \$14 monthly from the members' checking, savings or credit card account from January to October. The program is designed so that dues are paid in full prior to the Annual Meeting so that the member is assured a vote. Regular members will be charged the prorated dues of \$12.50 plus a convenience fee of \$1.50 per month for 10 months. Hopefully, this program will allow members to retain their membership and ease the burden by spreading the payments over ten months. Any questions, give the RIFB office a call at 401-385-3339.

COMING SOON!

Rhode Island Farm Bureau has partnered with Farm Bureau Bank to offer farm and equipment loans to farmers at very competitive rates, most times the interest rate is lower than the banks. Watch your newsletter for more information. Once the details are finalized, we will publish the information. In addition, if you have a Farm Bureau Bank Credit Card and spend a certain amount of money, Farm Bureau Bank will pay your dues for you! The details of this special offer will also be forthcoming once it is finalized.

DON'T FORGET TO EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8. YOUR VOTE COUNTS! THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MORE IMPORTANT TIME TO TAKE THE TIME TO CAST YOUR BALLOT. OUR FUTURE DEPENDS UPON IT.

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www.rifb.org

RI Farm Bureau

16 B Nooseneck Hill Rd
West Greenwich, RI 02817
Phone: 401-385-3339
Fax: 401-385-3394
E-mail: rifarm@aol.com

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This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

We're on the Web!
example.com

Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your

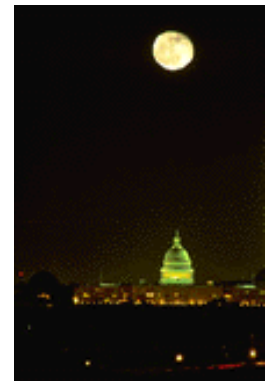
newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a

good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.



Caption describing picture or graphic.