

Rhode Island Farm Bureau Newsletter



Perdue Appointed Secretary of Agriculture

Sonny Perdue came by his knowledge of agriculture the old fashioned way: he was born into a farming family in Bonaire, Georgia. From childhood, and through his life in business and elected office, Perdue has experienced the industry from every possible perspective. Uniquely qualified as a former farmer, agribusinessman, veterinarian, state legislator, and governor of Georgia, he became the 31st United States Secretary of Agriculture on April 25, 2017.

Perdue's policies as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture will be guided by four principles which will inform his decisions. First, he will maximize the ability of the men and women of America's agriculture and agribusiness sector to create jobs, to produce and sell the foods and fiber that feed and clothe the world, and to reap the earned reward of their labor. It should be the aim of the American government to remove every obstacle and give farmers, ranchers, and producers every opportunity to prosper. Second, he will prioritize customer service every day for American taxpayers and consumers. They will expect, (continued page 2)

to demand, that their government conduct the people's business efficiently, effectively, and with the utmost integrity. Third, as Americans expect a safe and secure food supply,



Sonny Perdue

EPA Reg Bigger Threat Than FSMA

A little known EPA regulation promises to be more in the face of farmers (literally) than FSMA regs. See page 2 for details.

Volume 2, Issue 1

May 2017

Special points of interest:

Watch Harvesting RI on Public Television on Thursdays at 7:00 pm.

There is a farmer's market open everyday of the week someplace in the state. Check the Division of Agriculture web site.

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/agriculture/>

Inside this issue:

EPA	2
Leg Update	5
President's Report	6
USDA Reorganize	7
Whole Milk	8
Electronic	9
Harvesting RI	9
4-H FFA	10

EPA Regulation is in the Face of Farmers

A little known EPA regulation has snuck under the radar of American Farmers. The regulation is the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) for Agricultural Pesticides. Much of the regulation is already in force but it comes into full force by January of 2018. The regulation requires intensive training of farm workers by trained instructors as well as extensive record keeping and all kinds of warning posters. But the most stringent part of the regulation is the requirement that farm “handlers” (those who handle pesticides on the farm) must be fitted with a respirator when the label on the pesticide requires a respirator. It is not enough for the handler to simply wear a respirator but they must have the respirator fitted to their face. There are 27 pages of instructions on how to properly fit the mask. Here are a few examples of the test procedures:

- ◆ Provide enough respirators so the employee can choose an acceptable model...
- ◆ There must be a mirror available for them to use when evaluating the position & fit.
- ◆ Once they choose a mask, have them wear it for five minutes to evaluate comfort
- ◆ Assessment of comfort must include
 - a) Position of mask on nose
 - b) Room for eye protection
 - c) Room to talk
 - d) Position of mask on face and cheek.
- ◆ Test Exercises
 - 1) Normal breathing
 - 2) Deep breathing
 - 3) Turning head side to side
 - 4) Moving head up and down.

The whole process takes about 25 minutes and must be done by someone who is trained to do it.

The above has only scratched the surface. The regulation instructions are over 120 pages long. There are some exemptions for farmers who have just immediate family members working but even family members must have the mask fitted properly.

For more information go to :
pesticideresources.org.

Also, the RI Division of Agriculture might have some hard copies of the “How to Comply” Manual.

Perdue Secretary of Ag (continued from page 1)

and have every right to demand, that their government conduct the people’s business efficiently, effectively, and with the utmost integrity. Third, as Americans expect a safe and secure food supply, USDA will continue to serve

in the critical role of ensuring the food we put on the table to feed our families meets the strict safety standards we’ve established. Food security is a key component of national security, because hunger and peace do not long coexist. And

today, those land resources sustain more than 320 million Americans and countless millions more around the globe. Perdue’s father’s words still ring true: We’re all stewards of the land, owned or rented, and our responsibility is to leave it better than we found it.


There are a number
of reasons to do
estate planning.
And one really good reason
to do it **NOW.**

Estate planning may be tough to talk about, but planning a secure future for your family isn't something you can afford to put off. In a farm business, high cost and tax-related obstacles could turn your property into a difficult burden for you or your heirs. If you're planning to retire, contribute and keep your business in the family for future generations, now is the time to make it happen.

Call a Farm Credit East advisor today so we can help you start the conversation, work through complex issues and develop a plan to keep your farm wealth within the family.

 **FARM CREDIT EAST**
888.527.8745
FarmCreditEast.com/EstatePlanning

WE ARE YOU.



YOU KNOW YOUR BUSINESS WE KNOW HOW TO HELP YOU INSURE IT

With everything you need to accomplish in a day insurance protection for your business might be the last thing on your mind. You do recognize, however, that a one-size-fits-all insurance policy isn't the smart way to run a business. Your operation is unique and we understand that.

Our **AGRIBUSINESS INSURANCE PROGRAM** can provide you with a flexible farm package that allows you to customize a policy to match your individual needs.

Contact me for more information or to find your local agent.

RICHARD BROCK
Multiple Line General Agent

426 N MAIN ST
SOUTHINGTON, CT 06489-2520

SMART THINKING, REWARDED™

✉ richard.brock@farm-family.com

☎ 860.329.0103



<http://an.insure/richardbrock>

American National is a group of companies writing a broad array of insurance products and services. Products and services may not be available in all states. Terms, conditions and eligibility requirements will apply. Life insurance and annuity products may be underwritten by American National Insurance Company, Galveston, Texas. Property and casualty products and services may be underwritten by Farm Family Casualty Insurance Company, Glenmont, New York.

98736.V2.6.2016

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Bill # Position	Sponsor	Description	Status	RIFB
720	Sosnowski	Requires the Dir of DEM to to enforce FSMA	HFS	Support
570	Sosnowski	land where development rights have been sold	Finance	Support
6095	Handy	can be used for renewable energy.	HFS	Support
448	Sosnowski	Sale of seeds and plants used for food is exempt	Finance	Support
5772	Fogarty	sales tax.	Finance	Support
6023	Serpa	Larger chicken cages and can't sell eggs from cage.	HFS	Against
5921	Morin	City of Woonsocket can regulate sell farm produce.	HFS	Against
559	Sosnowski	Removes restrictions on who can perform routine	Passed Com	Support
5470	Skekarchi	animal husbandry practices.	HFS	Support
365	Calkin	Carbon pricing. Tax fossil fuels and use funds to	HFS	Against
5369	Regunberg	support renewable energy.	Postponed	Against

We support several bills that would lower the estate tax.
We have taken a position on over 40 bills.

RI Farm Bureau Seeks Volunteers

Want to go to the Washington County Fair for free?!? Just volunteer to help in the RI Farm Bureau booth for a few hours and we will pay for you and a guest to see the fair. The shifts are 9:30 –2:00, 2:00 –6:00 and 6:00 –10:00. The fair begins on Wed August 16 through Sunday August 20. Call RI Farm Bureau at 401-385-3339.



The RIFB booth at the Washington County Fair, 2015



PRESIDENT AND VP BUSY AT AT STATEHOUSE

President Henry B. Wright, III and Vice President Wayne Salisbury have been very busy testifying on behalf of RI Farmers not only to the RI General Assembly but personally speaking to the Governor as well.

One of the biggest issues they have been working on is the Food Safety and Modernization Act (FSMA). In addition to testifying on bills in the RI General Assembly (720 by Sosnowski) they have also been talking to the governor about how the rules and regs of this program will put a lot of farmers out of business. At the very least the RI Farm Bureau is hoping that legislation will pass that will transfer the authority to enforce the rules to the RI Division of Agriculture instead of the Dept. of Health.

Another program that threatens farmers in RI is the Worker Protection Standards established by the EPA (see article in this newsletter). President Wright has conferred with Senator Reed and Congressman Langevin about this burdensome rule.

President Wright and VP Salisbury as well as other Members testified against the proposal (6023 by Serpa) to expand the size of chicken cages, prohibit the sale of eggs from chickens that are raised in smaller cages even from out of state, basically eliminate the raising of veal and limit the use of gestation crates for hogs.

Solar Energy is a big issue at the General Assembly this year. RI Farm Bureau does not think it is fair that farmers who have sold their development rights (PDR land) cannot use their land for renewable energy. Several companies are offering farmers generous amounts of rental income for using their land for solar energy. Legislation has been introduced that would allow PDR owners to use their land for renewable energy (570 Sosnowski, 6095 Handy).

This year the RI Farm Bureau has employed the lobbying firm of FS Capitol. Carolyn Murray and Margaret Hogan have been working closely with Henry and Wayne to keep an eye on our legislation. We are currently tracking over 40 bills.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget your membership benefits. You can easily save the cost of your dues by taking advantage of these discounts:

Farm Family Insurance

Caterpillar

Case IH

Grainger

Suburban Propane

Disney World

Cruise Lines

Fast Food Restaurants

Automotive

We offer discounts at over 300,000 companies throughout the United States

How has agricultural touched your life today?

USDA TO REORGANIZE

USDA is reorganizing. Under the new reorganization, NRCS would be housed under the same umbrella as two other USDA agencies—the Farm Service Agency and the Risk Management Agency, both of which focus on helping farmers with on-the-ground production and risk management. There are pros and cons to this combination. A lot of the work the agencies are doing is complementary and it would be great for those agencies to work together.

Many experts agree that if NRCS programs, like planting cover crops to help ward off soil erosion, or taking highly erodible land out of commission in order to preserve soil health, were linked to federal crop insurance programs this could help give farmers more financial certainty when adopting conservation programs. All of which would be a net benefit for agricultural conservation. However some experts feel that NRCS might not get the attention it deserves.

John Howard Ad

Jerimoth Forestry

Custom Logging and Cordwood



Robert T. Thurber & Son
217 Hartford Pike H: 401-647-2913
Foster, RI 02873 C: 401-935-0318

Roberttthurberjr@jerimothforestry.com

Tree Length Firewood Available
Call for Pricing

Ashley McCullough Ad

Whole Milk Better for Children than Low Fat Milk

Young children who drink whole cow's milk tend to be leaner and have higher vitamin D levels than those who consume low-fat or skim milk, researchers say.

In a study of more than 2,700 children aged one to six, Toronto researchers found that those who drank whole milk had a body mass index score almost a full unit lower than kids who drank one percent or two percent milk.

That's comparable to the difference between having a healthy weight and being overweight, said Dr. Jonathon Maguire, a pediatrician at St. Michael's Hospital who led the study.

Kids who consumed whole-fat milk were roughly three times less likely to be overweight or obese and two times less likely to have a vitamin D deficiency compared with children who were given one percent milk, he said.

Health Canada, the U.S. National Institutes of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that children under two consume only whole milk, but parents are advised to switch to low-fat milk after a child turns two to reduce their risk of obesity. Yet children who drink lower-fat milk don't necessarily have less body fat and they also don't benefit from higher vitamin D levels they would get with whole milk, the study found.

"So it's a double-negative with low-fat milk," Maguire said.

While the study design doesn't allow a direct cause-and-effect relationship between a child's weight status and the type of milk consumed, Maguire speculated that children who down a glass of whole milk may feel more satiated, and therefore may end up eating less than kids who drink the same amount of milk with a lower fat content.

"If children aren't receiving fat, for example from whole cow's milk, they need to make up those calories in some other way," he said Wednesday. "So they may be consuming foods that are higher in calories and are maybe not as good for them. And that may be why these children's weight is a little higher."



Northeast Solar & Wind Power, LLC
Clean, Reliable & Affordable Energy

Attention farmers and land owners!

Solar Electric has incredible no money down lease and grant opportunities!

401 228 1900

Lease out an acre of your land and receive \$10,000 dollars a year for 20 years (pays your taxes).

Also eliminate your electric bills (net metering) related to farming with a USDA, RI Commerce and DEM grant (retirement money).

Special note:

Leasing of land is limited to farmers and land owners with three phase power and property with no shading!

Electronic Communications

As technology has advanced, more and more of us are using mobile phones, tablets or other devices to stay on top of our communication. The ability to provide you with timely updates on legislation, meetings and other important information has many advantages for your Farm Bureau. To help us communicate with you it is very important that we have up-to-date e-mail address so that you receive e-mail updates. Be assured your email address will remain confidential and not be used or sold to anyone.

NO FARMERS NO FOOD

THANK A FARMER THREE TIMES PER DAY



Harvesting RI

By Liz Klinkenberg / Special to The Journal
 Edited by Al Bettencourt

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Alex Caserta's love for farming is deeply entwined with his childhood. The executive producer of "Harvesting Rhode Island," the local PBS series that launched in 2015 profiling the state's rich farming culture, has been living around farms nearly all his life.

"I love working with farms — they've always intrigued me," said Caserta. "I grew up across from the Cornell's Farm on Phenix Avenue and I'd walk through their land as a kid. It was always very peaceful."

Caserta spent a large part of his adolescence kicking cow pies at Cornell's Dairy Farm, or helping a high school friend tend the beehives at his parent's farm in western Cranston. Western Hills Middle School now sits on the former Cornell's Farm pasture. "Just the nature of growing things and being with the animals is just really nice. It's very New England," said Caserta. "And it's very tranquil." For the past year, Caserta and his small team have been writing grants, coordinating interviews, researching farmers and editing nearly a hundred hours of footage to get ready for the second season of "Harvesting Rhode Island."

The first episode premiered on Rhode Island PBS, WSBE, at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 4 and will be seen each Thursday at 7:00 pm for the next 10 weeks or so.

"I want more people to experience the land and beauty that we have in Rhode Island. Everyone is so busy and so tuned into the latest technology that they've left that whole lifestyle behind," says Caserta. "Most people have never experienced that sense of peace, and they're really missing out." This year's season includes profiles of 22 farms in 11 30-minute episodes, more than double what was produced in the previous season. Both director Soren Sorensen and director of photography Jason Rossi have returned for season two.

Farms featured include: Sunset Farm in Narragansett, Windmist Farm in Jamestown, Manfredi Farm in Westerly, Confreda Farm in Hope, Sodco in North Kingstown, Titled Barn in Exeter (they grow hops), American Mussel Harvesters, Wicked Tulips Flower Farm, Farming Turtles (sprouts and micro greens), Hopkins Southdowns, Allen Harbor Oysters, Acopia Harvest (sprouts and education) and Joslin Hill Apiary.

Funds for the project were provided by a grant from DEM through the RI Farm Bureau.

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
Web: www.rifb.org



**We're on the
Web!
www.rifb.org**



Thank a farmer 3 times a day!

CALLING ALL 4-H AND FFA MEMBERS!



JOIN RI FARM BUREAU FOR FREE

Just a reminder that all 4-H and FFA Members can join RI Farm Bureau for free and receive all the benefits an Associate Member receives which includes discounts at thousands of businesses nationwide.



SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

RI Farm Bureau gives \$500 scholarships to qualifying Farm Bureau Members. The Member must be enrolled in an agricultural related course of study. After they present their transcripts from their first semester of study at the college they attend, they will receive the scholarship. Send a cover letter, resume and references to the RI Farm Bureau before August 1.