

# Rhode Island Farm Bureau Newsletter



## 2018 Annual Meeting

A quickly changing prediction of late day snow didn't stop over 80 people from attending the 2018 Annual Meeting at the Quonset 'O' Club on Thursday, November 15. This year's meeting celebrated 65 years of RI Farm Bureau. A seminar was held early in the day to provide an update regarding On Farm Readiness Reviews (OFFRs) for the Produce Safety Rule. After lunch, there was an Ice Cream Social featuring Rhody Fresh's new Ice Cream. Next, Chef Lou Rossi of Castle Hill Inn in Newport put on a 'now & later' cooking demo featuring Black Angus shanks from Blackbird Farm in Smithfield. Chef Rossi talked attendees through the process of making the braised shanks the day before, and he assembled all the ingredients for a second meal of delicious beef shank chili, which they brought for all to sample.

Later in the afternoon, during the business meeting, the following were re-elected to the Board of Directors for a two-year term: Kevin Breene, Vinny Confreda, Peter Gavitt and Joe Polseno. Prior director Tyler Young of Young Family Farm in Little Compton was elected at the meeting, replacing Richard 'Rit' Schartner.

Members voted to support six resolutions. Two of these were in regards to the Produce Safety Rule portion of FSMA, two were related to open space bond issues and two were in regards to agricultural lands owned by the state and/or Federal governments.

The evening program included Mace Thornton, Executive Director of Communications for AFBF. Mace spoke about the difficulties in public perception of farming, and how to put your best side forward when dealing with the public. Honored at the meeting were: Michael Stanton, Golden Tractor Award, for his many years of updates, revisions and installing functions to assist in verifying membership for our database. Michael has 40 years of Farm Bureau experience and has supported the small states volunteering his time remotely from Illinois. Senator Sue Sosnowski and Representative Art Handy were each presented with the Navigator Award for guiding agriculture into the future, and Kenneth Payne received our Volunteer of the Year Award for devoting countless hours of consultation and writing skills to RIFB in 2018. Seven scholarships were presented to college students pursuing agricultural careers. These scholarships will be distributed upon receipt of official transcripts verifying completion of a successful Fall Semester in an agriculture-related major.

*(cont. on pg 7)*

Volume 20, Issue 1

January 2019

### Farmers Markets

There are 7 Winter Markets and over 40 Summer Farmers Markets in Rhode Island!

Go to Farm Fresh RI to find days and locations!

Visit <https://www.farmfreshri.org/programs/farmers-markets/> and input your ZIP code for the markets nearest you.

### Inside this issue:

**Farm Bill & new Clean Water Rule** 2

**President's Corner** 5

**Food Fight By Josh Marshall** 8

**Passages** 9

**The Zipline- with Zippy Duvall** 10

## Farm Bill Signed

On December 20, a group of AFBF representatives was invited to the Whitehouse to watch President Donald J. Trump sign the 2018 Farm Bill into law. AFBF President Zippy Duvall released the following comment:

“The Agriculture Improvement Act—H.R. 2—is now law. Enactment means risk management tools, foreign market development and environmental stewardship programs continue to be available, and on terms that reflect a much tougher farm economy than the one we faced when the last farm bill became law.

“The farm bill helps to ensure the food security and economic security of our nation. Directly or indirectly, it benefits everyone in towns large and small. This farm bill:

- Brings another five years of certainty to farm and ranch families;
- Upholds fiscal responsibility by being budget neutral;
- Improves risk management programs;
- Protects crop insurance;
- Funds much-needed trade development;
- Invests in the future with funding for ag research and beginning farmer programs; and
- Continues nutrition assistance (three-quarters of total farm bill funding) for lower-income Americans.

“We are grateful to President Trump for his support. We also thank Chairmen Roberts and Conaway and Ranking Members Stabenow and Peterson for producing legislation that passed with strong, bi-partisan support. We look forward to working with Agriculture Secretary Perdue as he and his team at USDA implement this law and put new program provisions in place quickly.”

## Clean Water Bill Signed

On December 11, RIFB President Henry B. Wright was among State Farm Bureau presidents from across the nation that witnessed the signing of the proposed Clean Water Rule at Environmental Protection Agency headquarters in Washington. The Presidents broke away from the Resolutions meetings at the AFBF offices to attend. The following statement regarding the new Clean Water Rule is from AFBF President Zippy Duvall.

“Farmers and ranchers work every day to protect our nation’s waterways and drinking water. For more than five years we have advocated for a new water rule that protects clean water and provides clear rules for people and communities to follow. This new rule will empower farmers and ranchers to comply with the law, protect our water resources and productively work their land without having to hire an army of lawyers and consultants.

“We want to protect land and water in the communities where we live and work. Clean water is our way of life. Preserving our land and protecting our water means healthy places to live, work and play. We believe this new Clean Water Rule is rooted in common-sense. It will protect our nation’s water resources and allow farmers to farm.

“We appreciate the months of hard work that the administration, especially the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers, invested in making sure the new Clean Water Rule was done right. Unlike the 2015 WOTUS rule, this new rule protects our resources, respects the law and provides greater clarity so the agencies and the public can identify regulated federal waterways. We will further analyze this new rule in the coming days and will suggest further refinements during the comment period.”



# STRONG AT THE ROOTS



**PAYROLL SERVICES • BENCHMARKS  
APPRAISALS • RECORD-KEEPING  
ESTATE PLANNING • TAX PLANNING  
FARM BUSINESS CONSULTING  
TAX PREPARATION**

Ensure your ag operation captures every deduction and allowance the law allows. Farm Credit East specializes in agricultural tax law to help you avoid penalties and receive maximum tax credits. A Farm Credit East tax specialist will analyze your financial situation and work with you to develop a comprehensive tax strategy that keeps your business strong at the roots.

800.327.6785  
[FARMCREDITEAST.COM/TAXPREP](http://FARMCREDITEAST.COM/TAXPREP)



**FARM CREDIT EAST**





**It's not about you.  
It's about who you love.**

When others depend on you financially, you need to think differently.

That's why we offer a variety of life insurance products – coverage options to provide financial stability for your loved ones when they need it the most:

- Whole Life
- Universal Life
- Term Life
- Indexed Universal Life
- Credit Life
- Variable Universal Life

No matter what stage of life you're in, there's a policy that can help safeguard your family's future. And it may cost less than you think!



SMART THINKING, REWARDED®

[www.AmericanNational.com](http://www.AmericanNational.com)

Connect with your local agent to discuss your life insurance needs and get a free quote:

**RICHARD BROCK**

Multiple Line General Agent

426 N Main St  
Southington, CT 06489-2520

✉ [richard.brock@farm-family.com](mailto:richard.brock@farm-family.com)

☎ 860.329.0103

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.

18-025,248883.V1.07.2018

---

## President's Corner

In September, President Wright attended the 2018 Rhode Island Infrastructure Summit where government, non-profit, and private sector experts discussed Rhode Island's infrastructure opportunities and challenges. Our government is looking for ways to fund this needed infrastructure. Later that week he met with Mike DeAngelis, Vice President of Integrated Communications of the New England Dairy & Food Council, and a registered dietitian for the New England Dairy Promotion Board. They discussed bringing back fluid milk consumption in adolescents via increased whole milk choices in schools. In November, President Wright attended the VTFB Annual Meeting as well as the NJFB Annual Meeting, where he participated in a roundtable with Dale Moore, Executive Vice President of AFBF and commercial fishing industry leaders. The discussion included concerns that offshore wind has the potential to cause closures of a majority of fishing grounds from Cape May to Cape Cod. AFBF plans to make Commercial Fisheries a commodity group in order to provide additional support through its lobbying efforts. President Wright spoke to the power of AFBF and its 50 State Farm Bureaus. In December, President Wright attended the American National Advisory Board Meeting in Albany, and then traveled to Washington for the AFBF Resolutions Meeting where the hundreds of resolutions proposed to AFBF are reviewed and culled before being voted on at the Annual Convention in New Orleans in January. While in DC, the State Farm Bureau Presidents had the opportunity to witness the signing of the new **Clean Water Rule** at the EPA., which replaces the expired **2015 Waters of the U.S.** After the Resolutions meetings were over, President Wright had meetings with all of our Congressional Offices.



AFBF President Zippy Duvall presents RIFB President Henry B. Wright III with the new 2018 Growth Award at the Resolutions Meeting in December. Rhode Island was one of the first 7 states to achieve membership goal in 2018. A total of 28 states reached a membership gain in 2018.

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

You recognize that a one-size-fits-all insurance policy isn't the smart way to run a business. 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 to find out more:



### ASHLEY MCCULLOUGH

Agent

780 Victory Highway, Unit 1 W Greenwich,  
RI 02817-2193

#HART THINKING. REWARDED

ashley.mccullough@american-national.com

401.397.1050



American National is a group of companies offering 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. Property and casualty products and services may be underwritten by Farm Family Casualty Insurance Company, Glenmont, New York.

715-041.0800/24.2.2018

## Did you know that you need a conservation plan?



The RI Conservation Districts are working with NRCS, under a special program, to write Farm Conservation Plans for the Farm Forest and Open Space (FFOS) Program of Rhode Island.

A conservation plan is a tool designed to help you better manage the natural resources on your farm and in turn may help save you money.

If you are in the farm program or are thinking about applying, this is a great opportunity for you!

Funding has been secured for a limited # of plans.

ACT NOW to assure you are approved for this special offer before all slots are filled.

Get a **\$950 valued plan for only \$100**, under special project funds!

For more information, contact your local Conservation District:

Northern RI Conservation District  
Serving Providence County  
(401) 934-0840

Southern RI Conservation District  
Serving Kent and Washington Counties  
(401) 500-0422

Eastern RI Conservation District  
Serving Bristol and Newport Counties  
(401) 934-0840



## BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget your membership benefits! You can easily save the cost of your dues by taking advantage of these discounts. Go to [rifb.org](http://rifb.org) for more info on:

**Farm Family Insurance**

**Avis**

**Budget**

**Case IH**

**Caterpillar**

**Choice Hotels**

**NEW! Dungarees.com**

**Grainger**

**John Deere**

**NEW! Wyndham Hotels**

Your Access Card offers discounts at over **300,000** companies throughout the United States., including:

**Disney World Tickets**

**Cruise Lines**

**Fast Food Restaurants**

## Updating Your Email Address

RIFB wants to provide you with timely updates on legislation, meetings and other important information. We have worked hard to ensure that all member emails are correctly categorized to ensure that you receive our emails. If you do not currently receive emails from **RI Farm** ([rifarm@rifb.org](mailto:rifarm@rifb.org)), please email us (**using your preferred email**) or use the Contact Form on our website to provide us with the best email to use.

## Don't Need A Printed Newsletter?

If you prefer to just read the newsletter online, please just send us an email at [rifarm@rifb.org](mailto:rifarm@rifb.org) and we will be happy to remove you from the newsletter mailing list. The newsletter is always available on our website at [rifb.org](http://rifb.org), under the **News** tab.



## Annual Meeting cont.,

The final award of the evening was to Doreen Pagliarini, who retired from RIFB this past May after 13 years with us. Doreen's enthusiasm for RIFB was unmatched in her interactions with members and prospective members alike. She will be missed in the office, and we were very pleased to have her in attendance to help us with the meeting. In a tribute to her cooking skills, she was presented with a laser-etched RIFB cutting board to display in her kitchen.

After the program ended the bag raffle winners were announced. There were a total of 43 prizes, and the following prizes were provided thanks to a generous donation from **Grainger**: Claw Hammer, Tom



Exec. Director Heidi Quinn and President Henry B. Wright III present retired Administrative Assistant Doreen Pagliarini with an award in honor of her 13 years at RIFB.

Kockzkodan; General Purpose Lantern, Holly Howard; General Purpose Flashlight, Holly Howard; Ladder, Henry Wright; Mini Screwdriver Set, Kevin Breene; Leatherman Tool, Todd Poulos; Cordless Screwdriver, Brenda Frederickson; Cooler, Ewa Michalowski; Snow Scraper, Jean Bento and an Eton AM/FM Radio, Ken Longrenn. The final prize of the night was the Henry Silver Eagle Rifle, and the lucky winner was still in attendance at the meeting. The 50/50 raffle was won by RIFB member Joe Blaeser, of Blaeser Insurance, who donated it back to our Young Farmers and Ranchers program.

### NO FARMERS NO FOOD

THANK A FARMER THREE TIMES PER DAY

#### Not a member of RIFB?

#### Know someone who *should* be a member?

Full-time farmers, part-time and hobby farmers, landowners, gardeners, foodies and anyone who enjoys local food and farms in Rhode Island– you can join RI Farm Bureau and help us to support the future of agriculture in RI and beyond.

You can stop by the office to join or renew, or join or renew online at [rifb.org](http://rifb.org).

#### Some of our RIFB Dues Levels have changed for the 2019 Membership year.

**Full-Time Farmer \$125:** Farming is Primary Source of Income or Activity (Voting Member)

**Part-Time Farmer \$75:** Farming is a Secondary Occupation (Non-voting member)

**Friend of Farmer \$35:** Non-Farmer supporting Agriculture

**4-H and FFA Members (FREE):** Students currently in a 4-H or FFA program.

(Birthdate and chapter/club required for 4-H and FFA)

# Food Fight

**By Josh Marshall**

**New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation Communications Director**

In the early 1970's the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, responding to recommendations from the 1969 White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health, implemented food labelling regulations in order to better inform consumers of the nutritional value (or lack thereof) of foods under their oversight. The evolution of food labeling regulations is another story but, in short, the discourse between lawmakers and food manufacturers about just what the latter must or mustn't include on their packaging has carried on ever since, sometimes very publicly. While the focus of labelling law deliberation has often been on making sure consumers know what a food product is (For example: Should consumers be made aware that a product they're purchasing contains genetically modified ingredients), an emerging battle looms over what a food product isn't.

You've no doubt seen almond or soy 'milks' populating the dairy case at your local grocer and while you probably haven't seen lab-cultured proteins yet, commonly referred to as 'lab-grown meat,' it's on its way to a plate near you.

Non-dairy beverages like soy milk have been around for centuries in China and later Europe, but were first noted in literature here in the United States in the 1899 U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmers Bulletin No. 58: Soy Beans As Food For Man (which even presents a 'comparison of the composition of soy-bean milk and cows' milk.' Over the next century, many patents were filed for various soy-milk products or processes and the last 30 years has seen an explosion of similar nut-based products branded as milk. While dictionaries have long included some form of plant juice in the definition of milk, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has different requirements for the fair and truthful labeling and marketing of these products.

The conversation surrounding how nut-based drinks and lab-cultured proteins should or shouldn't be marketed is best framed by the words of FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D., who said in a statement during the summer of 2018, "Food labels - including the name of food - inform consumers about what they're buying, and standards of identity are used to ensure that foods have the characteristics expected by consumers. The information provided through food labeling must be truthful and not misleading. The consumer choices made based on this information can have important impacts on health."

The important term to keep in mind from that statement is standards of identity. The FDA currently has 300 standards of identity in 20 categories of food. The standard of identity for milk reads, in part, "Milk is the lacteal secretion, practically free from colostrum, obtained by the complete milking of one or more healthy cows..." It goes on to detail pasteurization, milk solid and milkfat limits, and a laundry list of labeling requirements for milk fortified with vitamins or flavored. Essentially, this standard of identity sets the requirements for how to properly market milk but also provides a logical rationale for why non-dairy drinks derived from nuts shouldn't be marketed as milk.

From the farmer's perspective, the argument for defending standards of identity for dairy foods is based largely on protecting the market for a product they work so hard to provide and this is also a real concern for the FDA. "...These alternative products are not the food that has been standardized under the name "milk" and which has been known to the American public as "milk," Gottlieb wrote. However, equally important to this debate is the consideration of the nutritional difference of the two products. "...some of these products can vary widely in their nutritional content - for instance in relation to inherent protein or in added vitamin content - when compared to traditional milk."

It could be suggested that last year's announcement by FDA to review and modernize their standards of identity for dairy products has come too late to fully insulate real milk from the confusion of almond and soy drinks (along with other products marketed as milk, cheese, or yogurt), which is why some are looking to prevent that same mistake from happening as lab-cultured proteins inch closer to market.



Lab-cultured proteins begin with a tissue sample from an actual animal, then cells (typically stem cells) are collected from the sample and multiplied in order to generate a balance of muscle and fat that resembles naturally grown meat. This type of protein is very expensive to produce, but increased interest and scientific advances are cutting costs all the time.

Lab-cultured protein is known in the media by many names including ‘in vitro meat,’ ‘vat-grown meat,’ and ‘clean meat.’ Whatever you call it, the same common sense understanding Gottlieb cites in his statement for milk, namely that this product is not what Americans think of as meat, applies. The only caveat is that unlike dairy products, actual meat is not overseen by FDA. Instead, the U.S. Department of Agriculture oversees meat production, inspection, and marketing.

The Federal Meat Inspection Act, which became law in 1906, gives USDA the authority to ensure that meat products are slaughtered and processed under sanitary conditions but also to prohibit the sale of adulterated or misbranded meat products. Under U.S. Code (specifically Title 21, Chapter 12, Subchapter I, Section 607) The Secretary of Agriculture may prescribe definitions or standards of identity to meat or meat food products in order to fulfill this authority.

While the Federal Meat Inspection Act does define the term “meat food product” as, “any product capable of use as human food which is made wholly or in part from any meat or other portion of the carcass of any cattle, sheep, swine, or goats...,” there are some who want USDA to go further in protecting the definition of meat. One such group is the U.S. Cattlemen’s Association (USCA) who petitioned USDA in February of 2018 to exclude products not derived directly from animals raised and slaughtered from the definition of “Beef” and “Meat.” Missouri’s State Legislature became the first in the country to act on this issue when they defined meat as “any edible portion of livestock or poultry carcass or part thereof.”

If more states adopt similar definitions and/or USDA does indeed exclude non-traditional proteins from being defined as meat, that would then put these lab-cultured proteins back in the jurisdiction of FDA. That may be why USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue and FDA Commissioner Gottlieb announced a joint public meeting to discuss the use of cell culture technology to develop products derived from livestock and poultry to be held in October of last year.

Milk and meat are both staples of a balanced diet and have well-established identities in the eyes of the public and through oversight by government agencies. The rationale for defending these identities is not based on taste nor is it blind to circumstances that may cause someone to choose a non-dairy alternative or lab-cultured protein. The simple fact is that neither alternative is what they market themselves to be.

---

## Passages

We are saddened to pass along the loss of two long-time RI Farm Bureau members. Ed Wright, third-generation dairy farmer, owner and operator of Wright’s Dairy Farm & Bakery in North Smithfield, passed away peacefully at home on December 21. His passion was his business but he believed that family always came first. He was awarded and recognized for many achievements in herd management, agriculture, and diverse farming practices including the New England Green Pastures Award multiple times.

John “Big John” Leyden of Coventry passed away on December 23 surrounded by loving family. John taught agriculture at Scituate High School and was an adviser to the Future Farmers of America. In the 1940’s, after suffering a serious injury at work, John’s father suggested John start selling Christmas trees outside the family home. The seed his father planted grew into Big John Leyden’s Christmas Tree Farm, which expanded from a two-acre patch of trees to what is now a massive farm with 100,000 Christmas trees, 10 acres of solar panels and a Halloween spectacular complete with zombie paintball. Both of these gentlemen will be missed, and we are honored to have had these two farmers as RIFB members.

## The Zipline : A Message from AFBF President Zippy Duvall

---



Happy New Year to you all! I love the optimism and hope the start of a year brings. It's a chance to press forward with renewed resolve. And who knows the importance of renewed optimism better than farmers and ranchers? One new beginning in particular that agriculture is looking forward to this year is [a new clean water rule](#)—one that promises to be rooted in common sense. Thanks to the resolve of the Trump Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers, America's farmers and ranchers can expect a new clean water rule that both protects our nation's water and provides clear rules for everyone to follow.

This new rule is a long time in coming, from five years ago when we rallied our grassroots members to call on EPA to ditch the flawed, and unlawful, 2015 Waters of the U.S. rule. We have come a long way in those five years, and we have much to be thankful for with this new proposed rule. Of course, we're not across the finish line just yet. Now is our time to ensure we have a clean water rule that gives each of us the clarity we need on our farms and ranches. Farm Bureau is calling on all you again to [submit your comments](#) to EPA and the Corps, but this time is far different than the last. This time EPA and the Corps want to hear from you too.

What a breath of fresh air it was to hear from EPA Acting Administrator Wheeler and U.S. Army, Civil Works Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Ryan Fisher at Tennessee Farm Bureau's event in December on the new rule. We all heard loud and clear from the EPA and the Corps that they want to hear directly from farmers and ranchers during the comment period to be sure the definitions are clear and work for agriculture. "If the definitions aren't clear tell us—and tell us how to fix the rule and make it better," Administrator Wheeler said as he asked farmers and ranchers in the audience and across the country for our feedback.

EPA and the Corps are also focused on tearing down barriers, partnering across agencies and empowering state and local authorities. They recognize the key role USDA also will play in implementing this rule and are working with Secretary Perdue to be sure everyone is on the same page when it comes to interpreting and enforcing the rule. But first and foremost, the rule must be clear enough for any farmer or rancher to look out on his or her land and know what is regulated and what is not.

At Farm Bureau, we will be reading the rule carefully with that guiding principle in mind. We believe this proposal is already a huge step forward in that direction, and we are confident that EPA and the Corps are committed to getting this rule right. I encourage each of you to [read the rule carefully](#), and then tell EPA what you like in the rule and what you don't. If something isn't clear or doesn't work for your farm or ranch, now is the time to speak up. Let's send the EPA our suggestions and work together to provide solutions—just like Acting Administrator Wheeler has invited us to do. This new clean water rule is a great opportunity for a fresh start in how regulations are shaped. Let's resolve to do all we can to be sure we have the clear rules we need to protect our water and our farms.



### **Business Services:**

- Managed IT Services • Onsite Support
- VOIP Solutions • Networking
- Remote Support • 24 \* 7 \* 365 Support
- Offsite Backup Solutions

### **Residential Services:**

- Computer Repair Desktop/Laptop - Windows/MAC
- Iphone, Ipad, Android & Laptop Screen Repair
- Virus Removal • Data Recovery
- In-Home Support

**\* Walk Ins Welcome \* Same Day Service**



# **(401) 681-4911**

**982 West Shore RD • Warwick RI 02889**

**[www.tech911inc.com](http://www.tech911inc.com)**

**Official IT Company of Rhode Island 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@rifb.org](mailto:rifarm@rifb.org)  
Web: [www.rifb.org](http://www.rifb.org)



*Thank a farmer 3 times a day!*

## CALLING ALL FFA AND 4-H 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 including discounts at thousands of businesses nationwide.



### SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

RI Farm Bureau offers \$500 scholarships to qualifying Farm Bureau Members. Applicants must be enrolled or enrolling in an agricultural related course of study. Scholarship monies will be awarded upon presentation of the first semester's transcript, showing success in their ag-related major. For more information, and to apply, contact us at 401-385-3339 or follow the **Scholarship** link on our website. Look for an updated Scholarship Application in the summer.