



Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation “News & Views”

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Out on a Limb— President’s Message

If anyone has been watching there are many signs of spring in the air, and I don’t necessarily mean just down on the farm. With the election of Governor Patrick and with a bundle of new and energetic leadership working around our state house, we can see signs that it’s different. I don’t mean that our issues will go away, but I do mean that the seeds of change and the prospects to achieve our Farm Bu-

reau member’s policies continue to be received openly and with good faith. It was a great disappointment to see former Commissioner Gillespie dismissed last January. We do thank him immensely for the efforts and the structure he brought to the DAR. Acting Commissioner Scott Soares in conjunction with all the DAR staff has carried forward the important programs we have come to depend on. The new



administration and the good people working through EOEAA have provided a needed boost to support this industry and to continue to make agriculture a stable and vital industry. Our friends in the House of Representatives and the new leader-

(Continued on page 6)

Farm Bureau Farm Bill Proposal Helps Northeast Producers

The 2007 farm bill proposal unveiled by the American Farm Bureau Federation makes particular sense for agricultural producers in the Northeast. Not only does it offer a better financial safety net than current policy, but it also focuses benefits on several key areas vital to northeast agriculture, according to Massachusetts Farm Bureau President Alex Dowse.

“For starters, the Farm Bureau farm bill proposal expands key conservation programs and earmarks benefits specifically for fruit and vegetable producers. Funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program is boosted by \$250 million per year. This new EQIP funding is earmarked for fruit and vegetable producers. The proposal also calls for new research, school food programs, catastrophic assistance measures, international market development and outreach programs geared specifi-

(Continued on page 6)

DAIRY FARM OF DISTINCTION APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE

The Dairy Farm of Distinction 2007 judging is almost complete and the program is back on track for the upcoming year. The applications must be filled out every year in order for your farm to be judged. The Department of Ag. Resources will be reviewing all applications and the farm judging will take place in the fall of 2007 for the 2008 year. If you wish to have your farm judged, please contact the Massachusetts Farm Bureau and request an application to be mailed to you or visit our website:

www.massfarmbureau.com. Deadline for the application is June 15, 2007.

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It'll work ...

... but, as with most other tasks in life, there's a much better way.



Take record-keeping, for example.

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First Pioneer Farm Credit

Rebuilding Aid for Adams Farm

Athol, MA. - As many of you now know, a late-night blaze completely destroyed one of the last remaining USDA inspected processing facility/slaughterhouses in the state of Massachusetts. Also included in the loss were the Adams Farm retail and office space.

The farm has been in the family since 1919 and has been an integral part of the agricultural community by providing services so critical to the survival and livelihood of farmers throughout New England and New York State. Most have built their business models with the Adams Farm facility in mind. The farm also provided fresh local provisions to many through their retail and wholesale business. The Adams family is planning to rebuild with the help of many, although it is too soon to say when.

The North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce is assisting the Adams family compile a customer list that was lost in the fire.

Persons who were patrons of the business are asked to contact Steve Raymond at the Chamber at (978) 249-3849 or leave a message if no answer. Also, e-mail can be sent to nqcc1@verizon.net. Persons are asked to provide Name, Address, Town and Zip Code.

Further, a fund has been set up at Athol Savings Bank to benefit the farm and get them up and running as soon as possible.

Donations can be sent to:

Adams Farm Fund
c/o Athol Savings Bank
444 Main St.
Athol, MA. 01331

Farm Bureau Offers Farm Bill Recommendations

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 23, 2007 – The nation's largest general farm organization today released its recommendations for a 2007 farm bill that is fiscally responsible, benefits all sectors of agriculture and respects U.S. trade obligations, while continuing a reliable safety net for the nation's farmers.

"America's food supply is secure thanks to our productive farmers and ranchers and the support they receive from the farm bill to even out the ups and downs inherent in agriculture," said American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman. "The Farm Bureau proposal would continue that support in a balanced way, within the budget constraints we face and consistent with our international trade commitments," Stallman said.

As opposed to a number of commodity-specific proposals that have been presented thus far, without acknowledging the impact they would have on the whole of American agriculture, the Farm Bureau proposal recognizes that Congress must develop a new farm bill that works for all farmers.

"Farm Bureau members produce everything from apples to wheat," said Stallman. "Our proposal reflects that agricultural diversity and balances the needs of all farmers and ranchers."

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate of the baseline funding available for agriculture spending (\$42.4 billion over the potential six-year life of the 2007 farm bill) is \$57 billion less than what Congress committed to spend (\$98.9 billion) in the 2002 farm bill. The Farm Bureau proposal addresses this reality by including funding offsets for all proposed increases within a section of the bill.

"These recommendations are offered to assist Congress with the challenge of writing the new farm bill this year, with less funding avail-

able," Stallman added. "We encourage the House and Senate Agriculture Committees to give the Farm Bureau proposal their full consideration."

Highlights of the recommendations include:

- Support for maintaining the baseline funding for the commodity title (\$7 billion per year) and conservation title (\$4.4 billion per year), rather than transferring funding from one title to another. These baselines already include sizable cuts from the 2002 farm bill funding level.
- Support for eliminating the fruit and vegetable planting prohibition and for \$250 million per year in conservation program funding for specialty crop growers.
- Support for a revenue-based counter-cyclical safety net program to protect against both low prices and low yields and provide payments to farmers when they need them most.
- Support for a standing catastrophic assistance program that is integrated with a re-rated crop insurance program. Crop insurance coverage would be reduced from the current coverage level because the new standing catastrophic assistance program would cover 50 percent of losses.
- Support for retention of non-environmentally sensitive land in the Conservation Reserve Program and allowing the production of energy crops on that land. Those contract holders would be required to produce a cellulosic ethanol feedstock cover crop.
- Opposition to any changes in farm bill payment limitations and income means-testing.

Farm Bureau estimates that its proposal would cost \$519.2 billion over 10 years (2008 through 2017), the same as the CBO baseline.

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Massachusetts Budget Progress

Every year the people that you pay to advocate for you, and those that you elect to state government go through a 4 to 5 month budget process. It begins each time with a "recommendation" developed by the Governor's office that is filed with the House of Representatives. From there the budget is reviewed by the House Committee on Ways and Means, who after that review, produces their own version of the budget. Members of the House then have an opportunity to file amendments to that budget to assure that individual priorities and areas of interest are met. All Amendments are then

Department of agriculture received a significant boost in their operating but, but at the same time many of the earmarks that we have sought to assure spending is directed to our priorities however were left out both there and in the Higher Education budget where the Extension Service derives it's funding.

The Governor however did show the agricultural community that he had in fact listened to us during his election, and his listening sessions. His budget did contain additional funding to continue the agricultural innovation center with \$1.5 Million, and included up to \$1.7 Million for Extension, within DAR's budget, to assure that the spending is consistent with the priorities of the agricultural community, as well as \$300,000 for IPM.

As I stated previously however, the Governor's budget is only a recommendation. The house had different priorities, and when faced with a budget deficit of more than one and half billion dollars in a 26 billion dollar budget, not all of the Governor's suggestions made it into their budget. Much of the additional monies had been cut, and we still had no earmarking language in the DAR or the Higher Ed. Budget. We reached out to many of our long time friends in the House in an effort to restore some of those items however.

It was a long week, with early mornings, followed by many late nights for the House members and those who advocate on your



Massachusetts Farm Bureau Dairy Committee members Darryl Williams (Hampshire County) and Richard Woodger (Hampden County) meet with Senator Stephen Brewer outside the hearing room.

behalf, as we got amendments filed and then started the debate on those amendments.

After hard work by many of our long time supporters in the House, we did restore much of the ground that had been lost. The budget now contains both earmarks and funding for the 4 regional buy local organizations, funding guarantees and oversight protections for both the Cranberry Experiment Station and Extension at UMass Amherst, \$1.5 Million for Ag Innovation, and we still have the \$300,000 for IPM.

The budget process is far from over, but where we stand right now is a good place to be, and we hope to keep improving on the ground that we have made. With the new Senate leadership, we are reservedly optimistic. We will continue to keep you informed of the progress we make, and of course, will be working hard to help secure a positive outcome for agriculture!

For more information on this or other legislative activities of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, please contact one of our staff lobbyists at (508)881-4766.



grouped by topic and reviewed by Ways and Means, who then releases one "consolidated amendment" on that topic area. Those amendments are then debated on the floor, and while members have the opportunity to amend the consolidated amendment, such attempts seldom succeed.

This year started well for many of Farm Bureau's budget goals. The

(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Continued from page 1*)
 ship of the Senate all continue to involve the farming community and to expand opportunities for new endeavors and revitalization of old dreams.

So much of this only happens because members have made the effort to put the local face on agriculture, shown the effect it has on many values that are the hallmark of New England living and have proven that it is an economic activity with great potential and stability. If you had the opportunity to spend time in the State House during Ag Day, you would have seen, as I did, more people addressing agriculture and seeking ways to support many issues. You would have seen individual legislators seeking out constituents and opening offices to farming groups to discuss specific legislation and issues. A willing attitude and an air of optimism - is this the beginning of new period for agricultural support and growth? It was in my opinion one of the more successful events in recent years, and Farm Bureau, working with as many others as can support us, will continue to make inroads and find positive support for agriculture.

In other areas MFBF is working cooperatively on issues that not only exist here but in the whole of the North East. From dairy issues to what will solve the

impasse that surrounds this country's immigration concerns and develop new resources for specialty harvest and other farm labor needs. We also continue to lead in working with many other groups, from commodity to specialty support groups to find a uniform message that can be shared effectively. Farm Bureau, out of work started by Vice President Bonnanno, has participated in forums with SEMAP, CISA, NOFA and many others and continues to connect support systems that build agricultural potential. Working with AFT and others, we develop positions that farmers can support and understand better some of their priority issues as well. Working out of former Commissioner Shumacher's office in Washington, DC, we have brought the Northeast together to explore the next Farm Bill with focus on benefits to Northeast producers. Another effort that continues with all of our partners had the Northeast states jointly conducting our Washington DC legis-

lative Fly-In with AFBF on April 24-26. This was a great opportunity for members to meet and work with other states jointly on similar programs and issues. Farm Bureau continues to work to provide opportunities for members to work together, to have access to the tools the Farm Bureau systems has to offer, to receive training to be better leaders and to be better citizens, and to work more effectively for your business, your commodity and your industry. It is a very busy time for everybody in Farm Bureau, and the collective spirit makes for a successful effort. Farm Bureau, a general farm organization, working together, making agriculture grow.

By Alex Dowse, President of Massachusetts Farm Bureau and the President of C.A. Dowse & Son, Inc.—Home of “America's Best Crunchin' Apples Since 1778.”



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(FARM BILL FOR NORTHEAST *Continued from page 1*)
 cally to the fruit and vegetable sector.”

Northeast dairy producers are also going to find several provisions appealing, according to Massachusetts Farm Bureau President Alex Dowse.

“We want to continue the Milk Income Loss Contract program or another form of counter-cyclical payments to provide a safety net for dairy producers and we will oppose

reductions in the program payments. And, to put domestic dairy products on a more level playing field with imports, we support implementation of the dairy promotion assessment on imports.”

Because AFBF is a nationwide, general farm organization, the proposal is structured to benefit all sectors and regions of agricultural production.

“This is a fiscally responsible program that follows the Congressional

Budget Office baseline for ag spending,” President Dowse said. “Farm Bureau members support the general concepts of the 2002 Farm Bill because they work. Our 2007 proposal calls for the same kind of structure – one that works for farmers, rural communities, taxpayers and the environment.”

To read more about the Farm Bureau Farm Bill, see the article on page 3.



122 State Representatives Urge The Governor To File A Supplemental Budget For The Dairy Farm Crisis

Representative Daniel E. Bosley (D-North Adams) announced April 25 that 121 members of the House have signed on to his letter to Governor Deval Patrick to request an immediate supplemental budget in the amount of \$3.6 million.

"We have been talking about this issue for years and now it is time to act," stated Bosley, "The dairy farmers around the Commonwealth are suffering tremendously and this one-time supplemental budget will allow for some reprieve while we determine a long term solution to this epidemic."

Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington) added, "This is an overwhelming show of support for dairy farmers from a large majority of House members, and I hope it will encourage Governor Patrick to act quickly by filing a supplemental budget to address the dairy crisis in Massachusetts. Dairy farmers need immediate state financial assistance in order to survive, and we look forward to the Governor's



Long time friend of Agriculture, Chairman Daniel Bosley of the First Berkshire District

support and leadership for agriculture."

The letter outlined the issue, stating the catalyst for the crisis is both the exponential rise in production costs and also the production price given to farmers. One staggering example, is that the average production price given to farmers for milk in 2006 was \$1.14 per gallon, whereas the price paid to farmers in 1981 was \$1.18 per gallon. That means that farmers received less money for milk in 2006 than they did in 1981.

On the issue of production costs, the average dairy farmer in Massachusetts lost between \$40,000 and \$60,000 last year while costs have continued to skyrocket. Last year, farmers were paying between \$1.25 and \$1.50 per bushel for feedstock. This year the price is more than \$4.00 per bushel, as ethanol production has driven up costs. Farmers have also seen the price of fuel, heat, and electricity hit record levels.

"Dairy farms are an integral part of my district and the local and regional economy. I am committed to addressing the immediate needs of our farmers and look to a long term solution for our dairies and Massachusetts farmers," said Representative John Scibak (D-South Hadley).

In 1981, there were 829 dairy farms in Massachusetts. They produced approximately the amount of milk consumed in Massachusetts. Today, there are 167 dairy farms left. This is down from 187 farms at the beginning of this year.

"Together, with the Governor, we can help preserve the few dairy farms we have left in the state and make certain that residents continue to enjoy fresh local milk," added Bosley.

Would you like to increase the visibility of your equine operation? Then this unique opportunity is for you. The Mass Farm Bureau Equine Committee is now accepting applications for its Annual Massachusetts Guide to Stables, Farm and Facilities, a brochure for the equine professional. Each time the equine brochure published by Farm Bureau is seen by over 8,000 people from both inside and outside of Massachusetts. For only \$35, that's 320 potential customers for every dollar invested, you can be included in this brochure. For the first time this year MFBF will include a small listing of all our members who let us know that they are involved with equine industry. The paid listing will give address, phone, email, website and type of operation. MFBF will distribute free copies of this publication to anyone who sees the FB booth at the numerous fairs, equine events, and trade shows at which FB displays and to anyone who requests it. Interested?

Deadline for application is June 15th, and space is limited so **CALL NOW**. After filling out your application, please mail it, with a check to: MFBF Equine Guide
466 Chestnut St.
Ashland, MA 01721.

APPLICATION FOR PLACEMENT IN THE EQUINE BROCHURE

COST IS \$35

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Thank You

TOWN FARM IS IN			
FARM NAME			
CONTACT NAME			
ADDRESS			
TELEPHONE			
WEB SITE/E-MAIL ADDRESS			
HORSE FARM OF DISTINCTION?	YES	NO	YEARS FARM HAS BEEN HFD

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L =	LICENSED INSTRUCTOR(S)		PR =	PONY RIDES	
B =	BOARDING		TR =	TRAIL RIDES	
S =	SHOWING		TRANS =	TRANSPORTATION	
IF =	INDOOR FACILITY		H/CR =	HAY/CARRIAGE RIDES	
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locations nationwide. You'll save on things like dining out, clothing, electronics, shopping, travel, everyday services, and and much more—just for being a member of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation.



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MFBF Ag. Preservation Corporation

believes in more than just Land Preservation. We believe first and foremost in Agricultural Preservation, and feel that if land is preserved properly, it can go a long way in keeping our agricultural heritage here in Massachusetts alive and vibrant. Help keep Massachusetts a wonderful place for our future generations to live and work by supporting us in our efforts to preserve agriculture and its most valuable asset- *Farmland!*

For more information on Massachusetts Farm Bureau's Ag Preservation Corporation please visit www.massfarmbureau.agpreservation.htm

New Full Member Welcome Through April

Jacqueline Lacasse, Lanesboro, MA

Rebecca J. Bailie, North Dartmouth, MA

Dan Candeias, Rehoboth, MA

Lori Lockhart, Somerset, MA

Andrew M. Orr, Westport, MA

Dawn and Raymond Pelletier, Rehoboth, MA

Ridge Hill Cranberry, East Freetown, MA

Shy Brothers Farm, LLC, Westport, MA

Anthony Bridgewater, West Chatham, MA

Capt. R. Andrew Cummings, Chatham, MA

Irwin Ehrenreich, Barnstable, MA

Neil Flynn, West Tisbury, MA

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Max Kumin, Cummaquid, MA

Lisa and Richard Sommers, Ipswich, MA

Kimberly Morin, South Deerfield, MA

Robert Lynch, Sunderland, MA

Kristin Neal, Greenfield, MA

Gordon Sandman, Granville, MA

Michael Kalagher, Plainfield, MA

Bruce and F. Jeffrey Maurer, Concord, MA

Paula Bogue, Ashby, MA

Maxwell Hockstad, Holliston, MA

Ruth Baltopoulos, Milton, MA

Lisa M. Carreiro, Norfolk, MA

Maryellen Hurley, Norfolk, MA

Peter M. Abbott, North Marshfield, MA

Heidi Cooly, Plymouth, MA

Al Erickson, Marshfield Hills, MA

Alan Fitzpatrick, Lincoln, RI

Donna Hannigan, Hanover, MA

Terry Paul, Hanover, MA

Jerimiah Richmond, Manomet, MA

Turkey Swamp Farm, LLC, Lakeville, MA

Richard W. Green, Hubbardston, MA

Julia McCoskery, Millbury, MA

James R. Nygard, Templeton, MA

Robert L. Pearson, Millbury, MA

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FOR SALE: Farm All Super A Tractor, Excellent Condition, Newly Restored, New Paint Job. For More information call Charlie at 508-587-4229

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TANK WANTED: Open top, prefer rectangular SS 1000-5000 gal, 3-5' deep, no chemicals, leo@forestharvest.com 978-724-0208

FARM AND STAND WANTED: to provide surrounding communities and businesses with farm products, landscaping plants, flowers, trees and materials. Willing to purchase, lease or rent the farm. Please call Anthony @ 781-858-9491

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BUSY HAY, Pumpkin, and Fire Wood operation needs extra help from May to September. Potential for year round. Duties include: Physical laborer, Tractor Operating. Must have good driving record. Call Dan 978-486-4141

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TIRES: Great prices, all sizes, tire repairs, road service, calcium chloride service. Hoey Tire, Worcester, 508-755-6666, www.hoeytire.com

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TANK WANTED: Open top, prefer rectangular SS, 1000-5000 gal, 3-5' deep, no chemicals, leo@forestharvest.com 978-724-0208

FOR SALE: KIFCO irrigation reel, model B160 with 100T sprinkler gun and 5hp booster pump mounted on a 4 wheel running gear. Kept inside, excellent condition \$5,000.00 2200' fo 3' Ironside hose with cam locks \$1.75/foot. 130 pumpkin bins, 4x4x3 FT H, \$40 each, stored inside. Excalibur Farm, Groton, 978-448-2768

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**Save the date MFBF Annual meeting is Nov 30th at the Westford Regency, Westford, Ma.
Anyone interested in having a booth at the trade show or MFBF sponsorship,
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