



# MDAR

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

## 2009 Annual Report

Massachusetts  
Department of  
Agricultural  
Resources



# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

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DEVAL L. PATRICK  
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
Lieutenant Governor

IAN A. BOWLES  
Secretary

SCOTT J. SOARES  
Commissioner

Upon my appointment as Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) in April 2009, I made advocacy of agriculture one of my highest priorities. As a part of this endeavor, I identified the re-institution of an MDAR Annual Report as a critical component of this larger effort. In addition to meeting statutory reporting responsibilities, my primary reason was to establish a quantifiable point of reference from which to measure the impact of the programs and services we provide to the Commonwealth. Furthermore, this report is intended to serve as a communication tool that summarizes ongoing and new initiatives while providing a means to help identify improvements or re-adjustments within programs and throughout the organization in order to better serve the Commonwealth.

Herewith, it is my great pleasure to present to you the 2009 MDAR Annual Report. This snapshot summarizes the agency's productivity output, activities, and program initiatives as provided by MDAR's five divisions: Administration, Agricultural Development, Animal Health, Crop & Pest Services, and Technical Assistance.

As this report clearly highlights, MDAR not only provides a richly diverse palette of programs and services to the Commonwealth, it also has undergone tremendous changes as an agency. Importantly, we have broken down "silos" between divisions, to create an environment that has led to more balanced, collaborative, and ultimately realistic approaches to taking on the challenges and pursuing the opportunities with which Bay State farmers, the public, and our agency's finite resources are confronted.

Dedicating precious staff time and Department resources to a significant task such as this report was a difficult decision. Ultimately however this annual report serves as a black-and-white reminder that MDAR is accountable to the mission statement we strive to fulfill every day and which I want our agency never to forget – namely, the continued successful cultivation of a thriving and diversified agricultural industry, economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfilling agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. We are accountable to those we serve and this report gives the farmers, consumers, and taxpayers a gauge by which to measure how well we are fulfilling our mission. We have leaned heavily on staff to provide expertise and talent, and are going "electronic only", both in an effort to reduce costs as a part of this project effort.

I hope you will find this report both interesting and useful. It is also my hope that in reading it, you come away with a greater appreciation for the importance of a vibrant agricultural future in our Commonwealth as well as the great effort and dedication of the MDAR staff for whose contributions I am very grateful.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott J. Soares".

Scott J. Soares, Commissioner

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**Statutory Purpose:** This report is intended to not only inform the public generally, but to meet several statutory reporting requirements. The 2009 Annual report of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources covers the following;

- M.G.L. Chapter 20 § 25, an annual report of the Agricultural Lands Preservation Committee to the public
- M.G.L. Chapter 20 § 30, an annual report of the Massachusetts Dairy Promotion Board to the House and Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Executive Office of Administration and Finance
- M.G.L. Chapter 94 § 14, an annual report on milk coupon programs to the Joint Committee on the Environment, natural resources and Agriculture, the Secretary of energy and Environmental Affairs and the Secretary of Housing and Economic Development
- M.G.L. Chapter 128 § 5, an annual report of the entire Department
- M.G.L. Chapter 13B § 5A, a report on IPM efforts to the Clerk of the Senate and the House of Representatives and the Joint Committee on natural Resources and Agriculture
- M.G.L. Chapter 252 § 2, a report of the State Reclamation Board

*Cover Photos: Major thanks go to two MDAR staff for the cover pictures. From left to right, Piglets at The Big E and Greenhouses at Pioneer Gardens in Deerfield, MA, both taken by Jennifer Forman Orth and the Wine cellar at Turtle Creek Winery, Lincoln, Massachusetts, taken by Kip Kumler and submitted by Bonita Oehlke*

## COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES



**SCOTT J. SOARES**  
**COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

Massachusetts General Law directs that while the Department is under the supervision and control of the Board of Agriculture, the Department shall be under the administration of a Commissioner of Agricultural Resources. In April of 2009 the Department welcomed as Commissioner an employee of the Department and a longtime friend of agriculture and the environment, then Assistant Commissioner and Chief-of-Staff Scott J. Soares.

Commissioner Scott Soares' agricultural roots go back to his childhood where his family enjoyed small-scale farming including vegetables and livestock. This experience instilled not only an unusual appreciation for vegetables (his favorite are Brussels sprouts) but also served to instill a strong work ethic that has remained a constant throughout his work career. Soares' passion for agriculture came to fruition when he worked in the town of Westport, MA and for the Southeastern Regional Development and Economic Development District to further aquacultural interests in Southeastern Massachusetts. Hired in 1996 as

the Commonwealth's first Aquaculture Coordinator at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), he developed and implemented the Aquaculture Development Program which enabled continued growth, diversification, and expansion of aquatic cultivation in Massachusetts.

Recognized as someone who could effectively jump-start new programs and work across many constituencies, Soares had the opportunity to serve in a number of key positions at MDAR that gave him a unique overview of the many programs and services of the Department. In April of 2009, Scott Soares was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick as Commissioner where he continues to work with the agricultural community at large, state and federal partners, and other government officials to strengthen and enhance the long term viability of agriculture in our Commonwealth.

Scott Soares has been recognized throughout the industry as a strong advocate for agricultural interests. In 2009 he received the Government Leadership Award from the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association. After seven years of active and reserve service to the U.S. Army, Scott graduated Cum Laude from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth with a double major in Biology and Marine Biology and obtained graduate training at the University of Rhode Island.



## OVERVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT

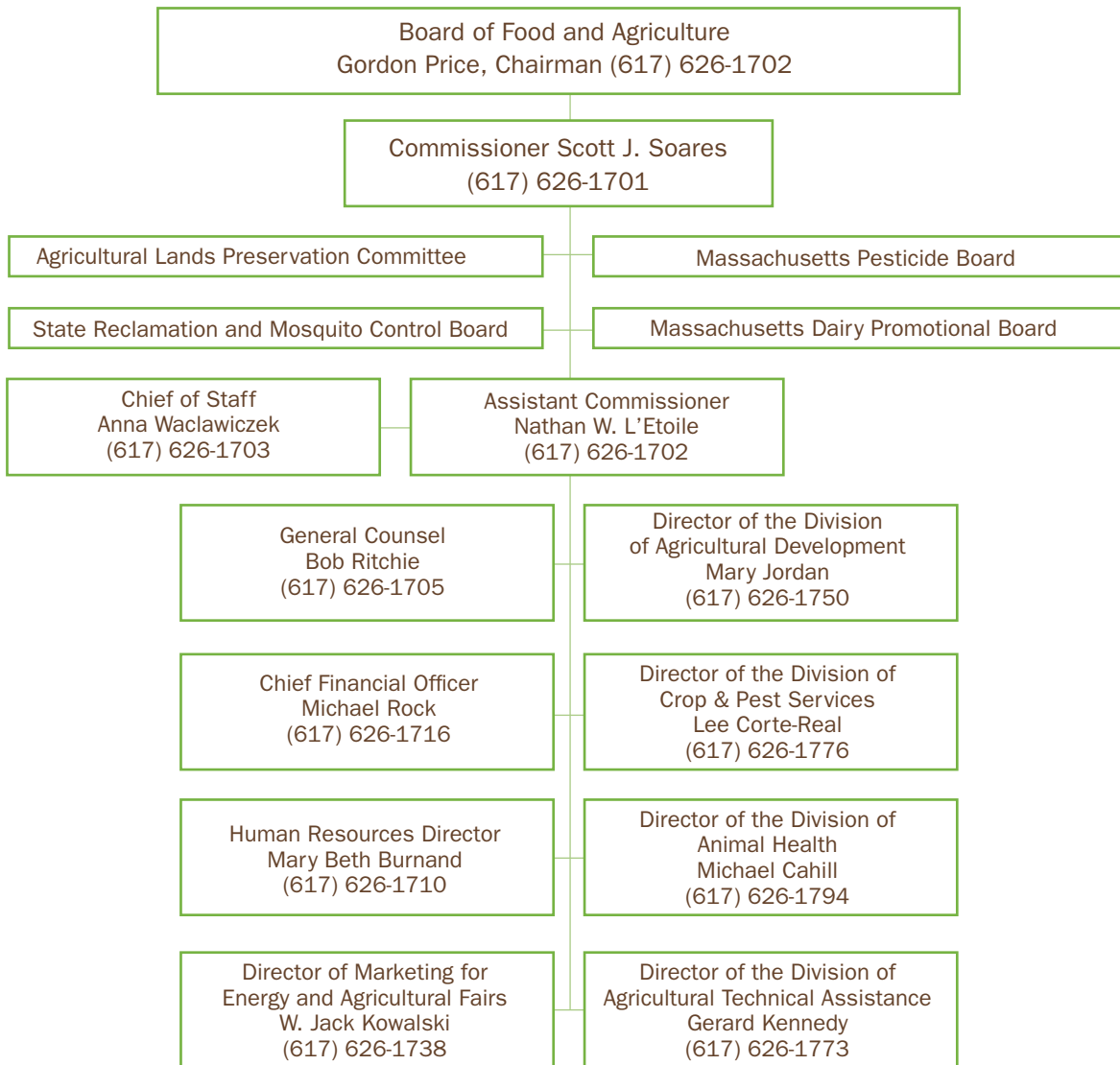
### MISSION

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources' (MDAR) mission is to ensure the long term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts.

### HISTORY

MDAR has a long and illustrious history dating back prior to the creation of the US Department of Agriculture. As early as 1852 the various

county presidents of the Agricultural Societies across Massachusetts came together to create the Board of Agriculture, a body that has, over the years, evolved into the current Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.



#### **DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION**

The Division of Administration is responsible for the day-to-day activities of the department in providing services to the other four divisions in their regulation as well as promotion and enhancement of the agricultural industry in Massachusetts. The Division also promotes cross-pollination of all divisions to optimally achieve the Department's objectives towards a vibrant and sustainable agricultural community in the Commonwealth. MDAR's legal team as well as its human resources and finance staff are a part of this division.

#### **DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Division of Agricultural Development fosters the sustainability of Massachusetts' agriculture through innovative marketing, business, educational and environmentally sound initiatives implemented through the Agricultural Fairs, Land Use, and Marketing Programs. The Division staff work closely with the Divisions of Crop and Pest Services and Agricultural Technical Assistance to coordinate improved environmental sustainability and the economic viability of the agricultural resources within the Commonwealth. The Division staff collaborate with the over 50 agricultural and commodity organizations as well as other state agencies within the Secretariat of Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs as well as numerous other agencies across the state on both regional and state wide projects.

#### **DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH**

The Division of Animal Health focuses its efforts on ensuring the health and safety of the Commonwealth's domestic animals. Animal Health staff work closely with the Department of Public Health, the Animal Rescue League of Boston, the MSPCA, local veterinarians, local health departments, municipal animal inspectors and animal control officers when responding to possible disease situations. Rapid response to potential outbreaks ensures the fewest number of animals and animal owners are

affected. Working in concert with the Divisions of Agricultural Technical Assistance, Crop and Pest Services, and Agricultural Development, through diligent inspection, examination and licensing, Animal Health promotes the health and welfare of companion and food-producing animals in Massachusetts.

#### **DIVISION OF CROP AND PEST SERVICES**

The Division of Crop and Pest Services is responsible for the regulation of many aspects of the agricultural and pesticide industries in Massachusetts through diligent inspection, examination, licensing, registration, quarantine, and enforcement of laws, regulations and orders; to improve operational efficiency and mainstreaming of programs and policies into overall EEA priorities. The division ensures the quality of farm inputs, such as fertilizer, animal feed, and seeds and inspects consumer products such as plants, fruits, and vegetables. The division prevents and minimizes the impacts of pests entering the state via imported produce and plants. The quality of farm products is monitored in conjunction with the USDA's grading program.

#### **DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Working in concert with the Divisions of Agricultural Development, Animal Health, and Crop and Pest Services, The Division of Technical Assistance provides technical assistance to promote economically viable and environmentally sound agricultural practices in Massachusetts. DATA delivers services to improve agricultural stewardship and use of natural resources; promote energy efficiency and use of renewable energy; and ensure economic competitiveness and profitability. These programs are supported by the Division's digital based information management systems and interaction with local, state and federal partners.



## BOARD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The history of the Board of Food and Agriculture rests on the agricultural societies organized in the 1790s. The county chairmen of these societies came together in 1852 to make up the first Board of Agriculture, predating the organization of the United States Department of Agriculture in 1862. The Board has served continually for 158 years to promote crop and animal husbandry in the Commonwealth. The original purpose of the Board and its staff was to represent fairly, every class of agricultural knowledge in the state.

By 1902, the Board had fine-tuned its purpose to taking an active role in the development of the Massachusetts farmer. Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, J.W. Stockwell said in his report, "This Board is on the outlook constantly for such advances in the methods of improved agriculture as shall bring comfort and beauty to the home and content and prosperity to the farmer. It has been alert and quick to protect the farmer in his productions, to investigate and urge the newer lines of safe advancement in method and product, and to stimulate to experiment and achievement in developing and demonstrating advanced agriculture for the benefit of the state."

The Secretary of the Board served the Board of Agriculture in the administration of the Board and its staff from 1852 to 1919 (the year the Department of Agriculture was formed) and took over the responsibilities of the Board.

Today the Board of Food and Agriculture represents the interests of agriculture to the Department and carries out its statutory authority to supervise and control the Department. The Board's approval is required for the appointment or dismissal of the Assistant Commissioner as well as all Division Directors. It consists of seven members, each of whom must be from a different county and four of whom shall be farmers.

**Chairman:**

Gordon Price

**Staff Liaison:**

Nathan L'Etoile, Assistant Commissioner, MDAR  
Nathan.L'Etoile@state.ma.us or (617) 626-1702

**Public Members (Appointed by the Governor):**

Gordon Price – Essex County, farmer  
Richard Canning – Barnstable County, farmer  
Fredrick Dabney – Bristol County, farmer  
Russell Davenport – Franklin County, farmer  
Judy Leab –Berkshire County, farmer  
John Lebeaux – Worcester County, town administrator  
Frank Matheson – Middlesex County, farmer



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## MDAR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

MDAR's mission to support, regulate, and promote the Commonwealth's agricultural future is enhanced by the various boards and commissions upon which the Department draws expertise and guidance. Current and statutorily authorized boards include the Agricultural Lands Preservation Committee (ALPC), Dairy Promotion Board, Farm Technology Review Commission (FTRC), Food and Agriculture Board, Pesticide Board, and State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB).

While the names of all board/commission members as well as contact information for the various MDAR staff liaisons are provided, please note that all Department Boards and Commissions may also be reached directly for official correspondence by US Post at:

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources  
251 Causeway St., Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114





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## AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (ALPC) (M.G.L. Chapter 20 & 24)

**CHAIRMAN:**

Scott J. Soares, Commissioner, MDAR

**STAFF LIAISON:**

Carol Szocik, Paralegal

Carol.Szocik@state.ma.us or

(617) 626-1718

The ALPC's function is to evaluate and accept or reject applications for Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) projects based upon the criteria outlined in the General Laws. There are four farmer members appointed by the Governor, two non-voting members, a designee of the Undersecretary of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, a designee of the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Chairman of the Board of Food and Agriculture, and the Commissioner of Agricultural Resources who serves as the chair. To learn more about the activities of this board, please see the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program on page 51.

**STATE AGENCY MEMBERS**

Scott J. Soares– Commissioner, MDAR

Robert O'Conner– designee of Secretary Bowles, EOEEA

Miryam Bobadilla– designee of Undersecretary Brooks, EOHEd

Gordon Price– Chairman, Board of Food and Agriculture

**PUBLIC MEMBERS (Appointed by the Governor):**

Stephen Verrill – farmer

Warren Shaw, Jr. – farmer

Frederick Dabney, Jr. – farmer

George Beebe – farmer

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

Barbara Miller – designee of Christine Clarke, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Stephen Herbert– designee of Dean Goodwin, College of Sciences at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst

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## FARM TECHNOLOGY REVIEW COMMISSION (FTRC) (Chapter 310&11 of the Acts of 2008)

### **CHAIRMAN:**

The Commissioner of Agricultural Resources' designee, Gerard Kennedy, Director of the Division of Agricultural Technical Assistance, MDAR

### **STAFF LIAISON:**

Gerard Kennedy  
Gerard.Kennedy@state.ma.us or  
(617) 626-1733

The role of the FTRC is to study and recommend options for updating farming technology. This is a broad mandate, which includes but is not limited to: ways to promote energy conservation; collaborative purchasing; purchasing and selling of energy; and energy saving technology. In addition, the Commission will also recommend alternative options for agricultural sustainability and growth, and analyze regulations and statutes to ensure that they are not impediments to the adoption of such farming technology. The Commission consists of representatives of the Department of Agricultural Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Public Health, Department of Revenue, and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative the Massachusetts Cooperative of Milk Producers Federation, the Massachusetts Association of Dairy Farmers, and a Dairy Farmer Licensed as a Producer Dealer.

### **STATE AGENCY MEMBERS**

Gerard Kennedy, designee of Commissioner Scott J. Soares, MDAR  
Ed Kunce, designee Commissioner Laurie Burt , MDEP  
Ellen Fitzgibbons, designee Commissioner John Auerbach, MDPH  
Dennis Buckley, designee of Commissioner Navjeet Bal, MDOR  
Carter Wall, MA Technology Collaborative

### **PUBLIC MEMBERS (Appointed by the Governor):**

James Cooper, dairy farmer licensed as a producer handler  
Mark Duffy, Massachusetts Association of Dairy Farmers  
Peter Melnik, Massachusetts Cooperative of Milk Producers Federation

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE FTRC's REPORT OF THE FARM TECHNOLOGY REVIEW COMMISSION TO GOVERNOR PATRICK AND LEGISLATURE

The Farm Technology Review Commission ("FTRC" or "Commission") was created as a result of the 2008 Dairy Farm Preservation Act (the "Act") with the recognition that existing regulations and statutes can negatively impact the agricultural industry by preventing the adoption and implementation of new technology. Although this commission was brought into existence by the Act, the scope of the commission's work is not limited to just dairy and energy related issues, but broader technological needs. The Act creating the Commission outlined several areas of focus, particularly related to energy. Specific tasks for the Commission include:

- Studying ways to promote energy conservation, collaborative purchasing, purchasing and selling of energy, energy saving technology, and alternative options for sustainability and growth; and
- Analyzing current regulations and statutes to ensure such regulations and statutes are not impediments to the adoption of farming technology.

The Commission also decided to consider a list of twelve (12) recommendations generated by the Dairy Farm Revitalization Task Force ("Dairy Task Force"). While some of the recommendations have been fully or partially implemented, several have yet to be addressed. Among these recommendations are several areas of taxation regulation for study; the preemption of municipalities from regulating agriculture; the re-establishment of a Dairy Commission; and the exemption of silage leachate from state waste regulations if disposed of using Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS") standards. A summary of the status of the recommendations is presented in Table One, page 10.

To most effectively address these recommendations and its statutory obligations the Commission decided to focus on the following areas:

- Revenue and Taxation: To review and address taxation related recommendations made by the Dairy Task Force, including the exemption of multi-purpose equipment vehicles from sales tax.
- Regulatory Models and Barriers: To explore the intersection of environmental and public health regulations with standard agricultural practices and to review and analyze regulatory barriers.
- Farm Energy: To review and promote energy conservation, collaborative purchasing, purchasing and selling of energy, energy saving technology and alternative options for sustainability and growth.

RECOMMENDATION	OUTCOME
1. The ability of farmers to use viability funds on farms with Article 97 restrictions	APR Improvement Program (AIP), 2009: The AIP is a pilot program aimed at providing farm viability funding to APR farms. Ten farms participating with \$550,000.00 in grant funding.
2. Establish a state tax credit allowing such credit to include all excise taxes on animals, machinery and equipment	Section 2 of the Dairy Farm Preservation Act. Voters of a city or town may approve a referendum to have the assessors stop assessing excise on farm animal and machinery. Eight towns have passed referenda to date.
3. Milk room waste or milk waste generated on a farm shall be treated in the same manner as other animal waste	MDAR executed MOA regarding MHW management with DEP and established pilot program. One year anniversary April 1, 2010.
4. Farm Wide Net Metering for agriculture	Net metering for wind, solar and agricultural energy installations, took effect on December 1, 2009.
5. Regulatory issues concerning small temporary slaughtering facilities include site assignment and regulatory requirements	DPH review of pilot program for mobile poultry processing. Extended pilot for another year. Slaughtering issues remain to be addressed for four-legged animals.
6. Preempt municipalities from regulating agricultural activities	Extent of recommendation is viewed as too strongly stated. Issue is under review to consider appropriate recommendation.
7. Grants of Low Interest Loans to farmers for capital improvement	To be reviewed but includes a need to find alternative funding mechanisms for the Linked Loan Program established and defined per the Act.
8. Exempt multi-purpose equipment vehicles from sales tax	Under review to determine criteria that could be used to expand the exemption for agriculture.
9. Allow farms to pay estimated income tax on money actually received on date estimated quarterly payments are due to be filed	Statutory requirement. Provisions do exist for farmers in the law which allow farmers to opt out of estimated payments and pay tax return instead by March 1st of the following year. Also provisions for farmers with zero income for the quarter to postpone tax payments till next quarter.
10. Amend GL c.59 Sec 8A to allow corporations the same excise tax exemptions allowed to other persons	Statutory change with expected resistance by municipalities.
11. Re-establish a Dairy Commission	To be reviewed.
12. Silo leachate exempt from state waste regs if disposed of pursuant to NRCS BMPs	Under review as part of regulatory review group.

Table One: Status of Dairy Task Force Recommendations (issues addressed by FTRC in italics)

## REVENUE AND TAXATION

The three specific taxation related issues raised by the Dairy Task Force were addressed over the course of the first few meetings of the Commission. The issues included the following:

1. The Dairy Task Force recommended exempting multi-purpose equipment vehicles from sales tax. Farm equipment that is for exclusive use on the farm is exempt from sales tax. A multi-purpose piece of equipment, such as a truck, purchased for use primarily on the farm, is subject to sales tax. The application of the modifier “primarily” is an issue which has been unsuccessfully advanced by other sectors. Exploring options to allow for a targeted credit for a specific agriculturally related activity, such as preservation of open space or waste management by anaerobic digesters, might be a more productive approach. The FTRC also identified a need for MDAR to review taxation implications for renewable energy systems on farms and other areas of diversification for farms, such as composting.
2. A recommendation by the Task Force to allow farms to pay estimated income tax on money actually received on date estimated quarterly payments are due to be filed was found to be addressed through an existing exemption.
3. The recommendation to amend MGL C.59 Sec 8A to allow corporations to enjoy the same excise tax exemptions allowed to other persons would require a statutory change because the statute defines who is entitled to the exemptions.

## REGULATORY ISSUES

With increasing demand for locally produced food, the need to address barriers to growth in local food systems, particularly as they relate to processing has grown. For example, there is a lack of access to slaughtering facilities for red meat for local sale and consumption. There is also a need to clarify uncertainties around the regulation of standard agricultural practices, such as the application of waste materials, for example liquid manure, generated by farms to the land for their resource value. Typical agricultural activities which could potentially trigger Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (“MassDEP”) regulations include the application of livestock waste; washing of vegetable produce, fruits, berries and eggs; maple sugaring; wineries; greenhouses; manure slurry management; dairy wastewater management from milking and bottling operations.

State agencies have been working together to address many of these issues and have employed a number of mechanisms such as pilot programs and memoranda of understanding. Currently there are pilot programs in place for sale of shellfish at farmers’ markets; the use of vegetated treatment areas to manage milk house wastewater; and the use of a mobile poultry processing unit to process poultry.

To address these and other issues of concern, the Commission has established a subgroup to focus specifically on regulatory streamlining issues, particularly those involving state agencies. The group includes representatives from MassDEP and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (“MDPH”). The sub-group has requested support from, and participation by, NRCS as it deals with the technical issues of conservation practices.



**REGULATORY ISSUES cont.**

The FTRC Regulatory Subgroup has interacted with a MassDEP interagency workgroup which has started work on proposed changes to the Groundwater Discharge Permit program (314 CMR 5.00). The primary changes the workgroup is focusing on are:

1. Clarifying current language in the regulations that addresses exemptions for the land application of manure; and
2. Additional agricultural land application practices, that when conducted in conformance with BMP's and other conditions should be exempt from DEP permitting processes, for example liquid manure (manure mixed with processing wastewater) that is land applied at agronomic rates according to BMP's developed by NRCS.

An official regulatory development and promulgation process would be initiated to formally adopt these changes.

**FARM ENERGY**

The energy-related topics which the Commission is directed to make inquiry under the Dairy Farm Preservation Act include: Possibilities for Group Purchasing; Energy Efficiency; and Renewable Energy and Sustainability Options

To address these issues, the Commission has reviewed current programs and regulatory structures affecting energy as related to agriculture, and is in the process of exploring further opportunities as commissioned by the legislature. Specifically, the Commission reviewed existing programs that offer technical assistance, grants, and rebates for farmers to address energy issues. The Commission reviewed Massachusetts programs as well as programs in other states. Further, the Commission reviewed various regulatory incentives for energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects

Regarding "group purchasing of energy", the Commission has concluded that a group electricity purchasing effort that delivered savings to all members in excess of the existing 10% discount would be possible from time to time, depending on market conditions, but would be difficult to achieve reliably year after year. For natural gas, where there is no agricultural discount, farmers may benefit from contracting with a competitive supplier, but there is little additional savings to be realized from group purchasing. However, farms consuming either electricity or natural gas for operations can benefit from technical assistance regarding their contracting options – advice regarding these options may be something that can be made part of technical assistance offerings such as MDAR workshops or extension service publications.

Moving forward, the Commission has identified three potential broad action areas for addressing the above mentioned energy issues: Ideas for Education and Outreach Programs; potential programmatic activities that the Commonwealth could foster to help advance some of the ideas; and enhance and further some of the existing efforts already underway.

To address these and other issues of concern, the Commission has established a subgroup to focus specifically on regulatory streamlining issues, particularly those involving state agencies. The group includes representatives from MassDEP and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health ("MDPH"). The sub-group has requested support from, and participation by, NRCS as it deals with the technical issues of conservation practices.

### FUTURE INQUIRIES OF THE FTRC

1. The FTRC identified a need for MDAR to provide guidance to the agricultural community on state taxation implications as they relate to renewable energy installations, net metering, and other forms of agricultural diversification such as agricultural composting.
2. Review options for targeted tax credits such as Open Space Preservation.
3. Review the regulatory process at the state and federal level for the demand and financial viability of slaughtering facilities for local meat processing for local sale.
4. Continue to work with MDAR, MassDEP, MDPH and agricultural stakeholders such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop a mechanism to ensure that farmers can maximize the resource potential of their operations while complying with environmental regulations.
5. Review and analyze the recommendation to preempt local regulation of agriculture.
6. Conduct a technical session at the Massachusetts Health Officers Association conference in the fall of 2010. The proposed session will focus on issues of local interest related to some of the evolving technologies and strategies for renewable energy and sustainable agricultural practices.
7. Explore funding opportunities for technical improvements on farms including a review of the effectiveness of the Agricultural Innovation Center.
8. Furthering through funding assistance, project implementation, and regulatory framework the farming technologies associated with anaerobic digesters, “green” structures, geothermal, biomass and bio-fuels.
9. Promotion of energy conservation through working with farms, trade groups, and utilities in the formation of their new energy efficiency programs as well as furthering and advancing the existing MA Farm Energy Program.
10. Promotion of collaborative purchasing through identification of potential net metering nominees, SREC aggregation, and a voluntary REC program for renewable farm projects.
11. Additional areas for future consideration include: education and outreach to local officials and Boards of Health in matters pertaining to anaerobic digesters in collaboration with sister agencies DEP and DPH; to seek alternative mechanisms to fund the Linked Loan Program established under the Dairy Preservation Act and the MA Farm Energy Program; education and outreach to farms in matters pertaining to net metering and Farm Energy Discount program.



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## MASSACHUSETTS DAIRY PROMOTION BOARD (M.G.L. Chapter 20 & 30)

### **CHAIRMAN:**

The Commissioner of Agricultural Resources' designee, Mary Jordan, Director of the Division of Agricultural Development, MDAR

### **STAFF LIAISON:**

Michael Botelho  
Michael.Botelho@state.ma.us or  
(617) 626-1721

The Massachusetts Dairy Promotion Board (MADPB) develops programs and policies with the objective of increasing the consumption of Massachusetts dairy products through promotion, research, and educational activities. The nine member board is made up of representatives of the Department of Agricultural Resources, Executive Office of Administration and Finance, the dairy farming industry, and the milk processing industry.

### **STATE AGENCY MEMBERS:**

Mary Jordan, - designee Commissioner Scott J. Soares, MDAR  
Thom Dugan - designee Secretary Jay Gonzalez, A&F

### **PUBLIC MEMBERS (appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources)**

Amy Godin, Massachusetts Food Association  
David Hanson, dairy farmer, Agri-Mark  
Kathleen Herrick, dairy farmer, MA Association of Dairy Farmers  
Krisanne Koebke, dairy farmer, MA Cooperative Milk Producers Federation Inc.  
Warren Shaw, dairy farmer, New England Producer Handler Association  
Sam Shields, dairy farmer, Agri-Mark  
Darryl Williams, dairy farmer, MA Association of Dairy Farmers

MADPB conducted its first meeting in December of 2008 and met monthly in 2009.

The Board conducted several months of investigation as to what programs and promotions had been used in the past in Massachusetts in order to evaluate what programs, policies and broad promotions had been effective and which ones had not provided a sufficient return on investment. The Board also received presentations by other state qualified programs in the northeast to understand their structure, operations and what promotions and educational programs were effective in their respective states.

Fee collection commenced in April of 2009. A letter explaining the fee collection process along with reporting forms as well as the enabling legislation, were sent to all organizations and entities that were identified and required to submit payments to the MADPB.

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## PESTICIDE BOARD (M.G.L. Chapter. 132B § 3)

### **CHAIRMAN:**

The Commissioner of Agricultural Resources' designee Lee Corte-Real, Director of the Division of Crop & Pest Services, MDAR

### **STAFF LIAISON:**

Lee Corte-Real - Lee.Corte-Real@state.ma.us or (617) 626-1776

The Board's responsibilities entail advising the Commissioner of Agricultural Resources with respect to the implementation and administration of Massachusetts general laws pertaining to pesticides. The Board also hears appeals of those aggrieved by the actions or decisions of the Department or the Subcommittee of the Pesticide Board. The thirteen member board consists of representatives of the Department of Agricultural Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Public Health, as well as farming, commercial pesticide applicators, pesticide toxicology, the environmental community, the medical community, and citizens at large.

### **STATE AGENCY MEMBERS:**

Lee Corte-Real, designee Commissioner Scott J. Soares, MDAR  
Glen Haas (Kathy Romero, alternate), designee Commissioner Laurie Burt, MDEP  
Martha Steele, designee Commissioner John Auerbach, MDPH  
Priscilla Neves, MDPH-Bureau of Environmental Health Food Protection Program  
Jack Buckley, designee Commissioner Mary Griffin, MDFG  
Ken Gooch, designee Commissioner Rick Sullivan, MDCR

### **PUBLIC MEMBERS (appointed by the Governor)**

Dr. Cheryl Barbanel, physician and professor  
Richard Berman, pesticide applicator  
Dr. Richard Bonnano, farmer  
William Clark, conservation agent and extension agent  
Laurell Farinon, conservation agent  
Dr. Jack Looney, professor  
Dr. Brian Magee, toxicologist

Over 2009, the Pesticide Board met and was provided updates of issues that might have impacts on pesticide applicators and uses in the Commonwealth. Although there were no significant issues on which the Board was required to take action on, there were two important changes of note. First, was the appointment of Dr. Cheryl Barbanel, who is a physician and who filled a vacancy on the Board that had been open for a number of years because of a lack of interested candidates. Second, was the appointment of Laurell Farinon who is the Conservation Agent for the Town of Rochester. The Department welcomes these two new Board members and looks forward to their valuable input to Board issues in the future.

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## STATE RECLAMATION AND MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD (SRMCB) (M.G.L. Chapter 252 § 2)

### **CHAIRMAN:**

The Commissioner of Agricultural Resources' designee Lee Corte-Real, Director of the Division of Crop & Pest Services, MDAR

### **STAFF LIAISON:**

Mark Buffone, Executive Director, SRMCB - Mark.Buffone@state.ma.us or (617) 626-1777

The SRMCB oversees mosquito control in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and establishes administrative and technical policy, guidelines, and best management practices to insure that mosquito control programs are effective and safe. The SRMCB also appoints all Commissioners of the various regional mosquito control projects. The three member board is comprised of representatives of the Departments of Agricultural Resources, Conservation and Recreation, and Environmental Protection.

### **STATE AGENCY MEMBERS:**

Lee Corte-Real, designee Commissioner Scott J. Soares, MDAR  
Gary Gonyea, designee Commissioner Laurie Burt, MDEP  
Anne Carroll, designee Commissioner Rick Sullivan, MDCR

### **THE BOARD AND MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECTS**

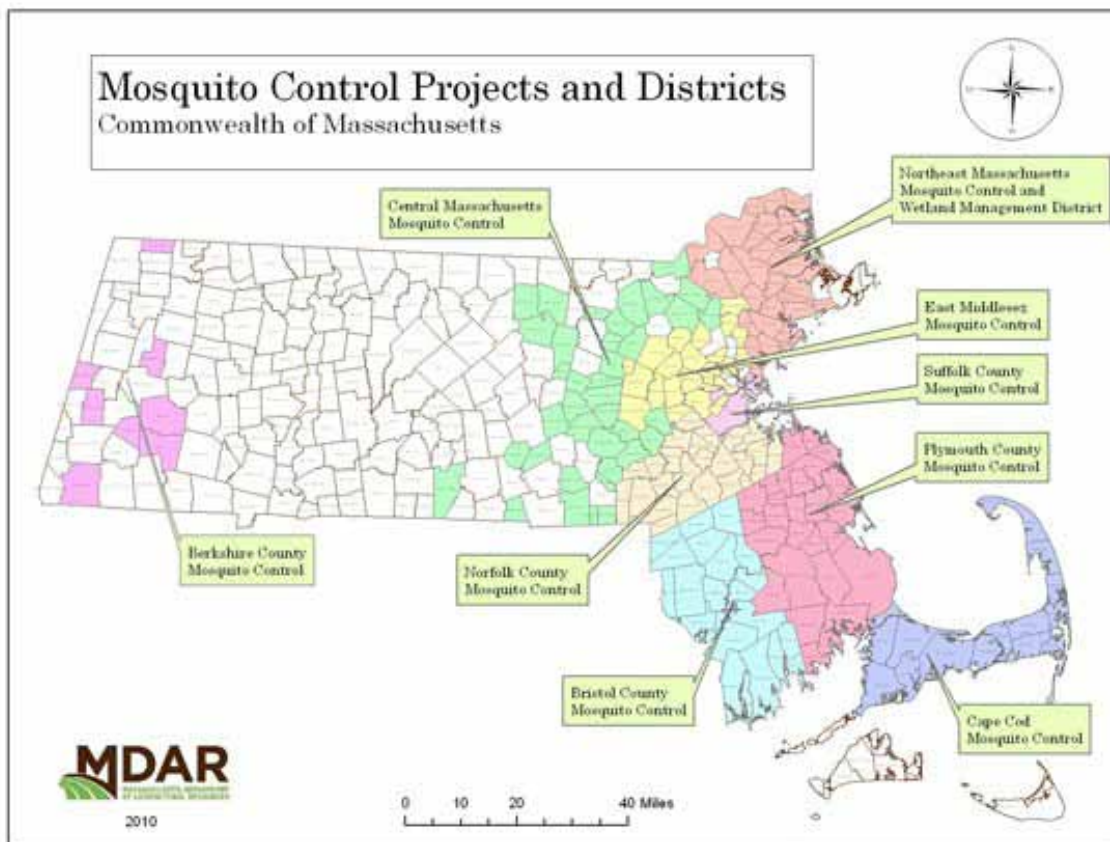
Over 2009, the Pesticide Board met and was provided updates of issues that might have impacts on pesticide applicators and uses in the Commonwealth. Although there were no significant issues that the Board was required to take action, there were two important changes of note. First, was the appointment of Dr. Cheryl Barbanel, who is a physician and who filled a vacancy on the Board that had been open for a number of years because of a lack of interested candidates. Second, was the appointment of Laurell Farinon who is the Conservation Agent for the Town of Rochester. The Department welcomes these two new Board members and looks forward to their valuable input to Board issues in the future.



**THE BOARD AND MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECTS (cont.)**

As noted on the previous page, the Board appoints Commissioners to a specific term of service to oversee the regional mosquito control project in a particular area. In the Commonwealth, there are nine (9) regional mosquito control projects/districts providing mosquito control services to 193 or approximately 55% of the state’s municipalities (see the map below). The areas covered by mosquito control coincide with major population areas, well-known tourist areas, and areas where mosquito-borne disease such as EEEV and WNV are endemic.

Each regional mosquito control project employs a director or superintendent to manage the day-to-day operations. The 9 regional mosquito control programs in the established areas have equipment, materials, and credentialed professionals who have many years of experience and expertise. The Board, through its project administrator position and a full time staff person, manages and insures that all accounting and fiscal transactions for all 9 mosquito control projects and districts are in compliance with all state requirements.



**BUDGETS**

Funding for mosquito control projects is based on formulas established in their enabling act of legislation creating the particular mosquito control project or district.

Said formulas are based on equalized valuation and/or land area. The funding amounts for each mosquito control project/district are deposited into a trust account and the Commonwealth is reimbursed by each municipality through Cherry Sheet deductions.

The total budget for the 9 regional programs is roughly \$9,500,000 which includes a pro-rata share of the administrative budget for the Board.

Each year in May, the Board approves and certifies the mosquito control budgets for the next year. At the 2009 meeting, the Board voted to level fund all mosquito control budgets recognizing that local governments were struggling with deficits and weak revenues. 2009 was a year with unprecedented economic uncertainties and reductions in local aid distributions to communities receiving mosquito control services. As a result, the Board continued to champion reforms pertaining to mosquito control budgets to insure that core services were maintained and to reduce the fiscal pains to member communities. These budget reforms included continuation of directing the 9 mosquito control programs to reduce their “balance forward” or rollover funding to no more than 10%. This policy resulted in the Board voting to reduce the Bristol County Mosquito Control Budget by \$321,433. By this vote, the 20 cities and towns of Bristol County received a benefit of significantly lower assessments charged for mosquito control services.

**2009 FUNDING LEVELS OF THE VARIOUS MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICTS AND PROJECTS**

Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project	\$154,678
Bristol County Mosquito Control Project	\$794,609
Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project	\$1,606,050
Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project	\$1,677,130
East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project	\$558,225
Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project	\$1,440,900
Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito & Wetland Management District	\$1,523,983
Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project	\$1,320,667
Suffolk County Mosquito Control Project	\$231,965
State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board	\$183,534

Total \$9,491,741

### **2009 MOSQUITO SEASON**

The 2009 Massachusetts mosquito season started off quietly and standard spring time mosquito control operations such as hand and aerial larviciding were conducted without problems. Depending on the particular region of the state, early season spring brood adult populations ranged from below normal in Berkshire County to average on Cape Cod. However, there were areas such as in Plymouth and Bristol County where increased population densities especially in *Culiseta melanura* (essentially absent in 2008), were being observed. This mosquito is the key indicator species involved in the EEEv disease cycle.

While the majority of the country was hot and dry, Massachusetts and other New England states were locked in an unusual weather pattern that produced rain and cool temperatures throughout June and persisting into July. July became one of the wettest months in recent memory. This kind of weather changed the entire dynamics of the season. For example, Berkshire County as well as other mosquito control programs reported extremely high population densities of species such as *Aedes vexans*, *Ochlerotatus canadensis* and *Ochlerotatus trivittatus*. These types of mosquitoes are a species of concern since they can create severe nuisance and play a role in bridging disease to humans. 2009 was quite different from the previous year when these species were primarily absent and the *Culex pipiens/restuans* complex suspected of carrying WNV predominated.

Mosquito populations exploded and the densities generated record numbers of service calls, making annoyance alleviation necessary for many areas of the state. However, the same weather pattern that increased mosquitoes densities, also challenged and limited operational responses to service requests due to the wet and cool weather pattern. All of the regional mosquito programs quickly found themselves

behind during the 2009 season. Concern became evident when mosquitoes collected during the week of July 16, 2009 from Freetown, MA, in Bristol County tested positive for EEEv. This test result was confirmed on July 20, 2009. The expected virus activity, however, for both West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis remained low for a period of time until later in August. Nonetheless, the levels of *Culiseta melanura* population numbers continued to increase far above the 5 and 10 year mean levels creating concern for the Board, mosquito control programs, and the Department of Public Health (DPH).

At this point in the 2009 season, virus activity began ramping up in other states surrounding Massachusetts such as New York, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Maine. By the end of August and into the third week of September, the DPH had elevated the mosquito-borne disease EEEv risk to "high" in a number of municipalities in Southeast Massachusetts and communities north of Boston bordering New Hampshire. Intensified evening and early morning ground Ultra-Low-Volume spray operations were conducted wherever necessary to help to respond to the elevated risks, especially in areas where children returned to school to participate in after school programs such as sports. Also, the mosquito control programs and DPH reached out to communities to encourage the use of personal protection tactics such as repellents.

In 2009, no human cases of EEEv or WNV occurred. There were however 3 EEEv positive mammals, an alpaca, cow, and horse, with only the alpaca surviving and a WNV positive horse that died. There were a total of 54 EEEv and 26 WNV positive mosquito pools that were isolated in 2009 indicating high risk in several communities and concern in several areas of the state.

### **MOSQUITO CONTROL GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT (GEIR) UPDATE**

During 2009, the Board continued to work hard to comply with a special review procedure of Massachusetts Environmental Policy Agency (MEPA) and submitted its second filing to MEPA regarding the GEIR update. The document can be found at the Board's website:

(<http://www.mass.gov/agr/mosquito/geir.htm>)

This document summarizes the history of mosquito control in Massachusetts, describes the extent of problems due to mosquitoes, reviews the scope and effectiveness of past and current control practices, discusses the potential and real environmental costs of such actions, reviews alternative strategies, and makes recommendations for future improvement. It was intended as a living document. In 2009, the Board continued to update the GEIR in order to better inform Massachusetts citizens as to what mosquito control comprises, what it is, and why it is necessary, along with providing a number of documents of selected activities from 1998 to the present. The GEIR and associated MEPA filings are resources for the public to become educated about mosquito control in Massachusetts. The Board contracted the project to Dr. Samuel Telford from Tufts University who was the principal author.



### **RETIRED GREYHOUND CARE AND ADOPTION COUNCIL**

2009 saw the statutory dissolution via voter referendum of this council through the elimination of greyhound racing in the Commonwealth.

## MDAR PUBLIC RELATIONS AND OUTREACH

One major function of the Administrative Division is to implement the Commissioner’s outreach and public relations as well as coordinate the outreach efforts of the rest of MDAR. In spite of significant budgetary constraints in 2009, the Department was able to achieve precedent setting outreach that was successful in not only highlighting the Department’s programs and services but importantly the growth and achievements of the agricultural industry as a whole.

The success of this campaign was due to a number of key factors over the 2009 calendar year:

- 1) MDAR structured a “silos free” culture within the agency that encouraged what had been historically distinct divisions to work corroboratively to better utilize in-house ideas, talent, and technology.
- 2) A concerted effort to bring the agency in step with existing technological tools that enabled the streamlining of administrative tasks and responsibilities with the result that MDAR was more quickly able to leverage new opportunities.
- 3) Clearly defining, both internally and externally, the parameters of programs and services offered by each of MDAR’s four public-facing divisions.
- 4) Leveraging cost-effective PR venues via the Department’s website, electronic list serves, Farm & Market Report, social networking media, outreach events at MDAR’s Amherst satellite office, and the strengthening of partnerships at the local, state, and federal level.

### “SILO FREE”

In 2009, the divisions of Agricultural Development, Animal Health, Crop & Pest Services, and Technical Assistance ramped up efforts to transition what had previously been a silo-structured organization into a culture strongly supportive of cross-divisional

team work. To this end, once-a-month senior management meetings were utilized to discuss initiatives, potential new opportunities, and hot-topic issues. The Commissioner’s office propagated monthly senior staff meeting updates to keep MDAR staff informed of day-to-day operations, upcoming events, and progress on identified objectives. Importantly, division directors were encouraged to look “outside-of-the-box” to identify opportunities across divisions that could enhance their own programmatic efforts. Benefits to this new approach were manifold:

- 1) Staff was able to expand their domain expertise as they learned more about other divisions’ functions.
- 2) Approaches to solving issues were more reflective of and sensitive to both the regulatory and promotional perspectives of the agency’s mandates.
- 3) Hitherto undiscovered talents and skill-sets were identified as staff employees were encouraged to get involved on various cross-divisional projects.

### Examples:

- 1) Staff from the Divisions’ of Animal Health and Crop & Pest Services lent their computer graphic skills to create informational flyers describing the programs and services of the agency’s divisions.
- 2) A collaborative effort between Agricultural Development and Technical Assistance’s aquaculture program coordinator identified an opportunity to promote farm-raised shell fish and the Massachusetts growing wine industry.
- 3) a collaborative effort between Crop & Pest Services and Animal Health resulted in a press release urging animal owners to be aware of West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis.



### STREAMLINING

The volume of information that flows through MDAR is immense. From license renewals to grant applications to pest management to farmers' markets, the agency recognized early in 2009 the need to re-organize its electronic file-keeping system that would allow employees to save and retrieve information quickly and efficiently. Protocol was instituted as it relates to file naming conventions for electronic documents that made for easier retrieval. Additionally schematic electronic directories were created that matched to division programs. The navigational structure developed on the Department's shared network drive greatly improved the ability of any one staff person to readily find and retrieve a Word, Excel, Access, or PowerPoint document. Specifically, MDAR staff could easily access stock photos, logos, stat sheets, correspondences, forms, databases, templates, and more. In 2009, staff also received level-based Microsoft Office 2007 computer training courses to improve overall computer competencies.

### DEFINING THE AGENCY

A massive project undertaken in 2009 was the updating of content as well as the organizational structure of the MDAR's website. Launched in the mid-90's before the days of Google, the website had grown into a behemoth 15,000-page medley of information not directly relevant to the Department's programs and services and much of which was outdated. With no permanently assigned web master within the agency, the site was simply no longer feasibly manageable. More critically, with many broken links and dated content, the site failed to be an optimal information resource for internal or external site visitors

The Commissioner's office identified as a high priority the complete overhaul of the MDAR website. To this end (and again leveraging in-house skills and talent), staff who were identified as having website

expertise were assigned as website coordinators to update contact and program information. Standardized templates were developed to give a consistent look across the entire site. Thousands of defunct pages were jettisoned or archived. By the end of 2009, the site had been significantly streamlined and is now regularly updated by program coordinators.

MDAR made one more significant change to its website in 2009 (and agency as a whole). With a solidified and defined agency structure in place, MDAR unveiled in November 2009 a new logo more emblematic of the comprehensive breadth of the Department's agricultural statutory mandates, programs, and services.



The Department ended 2009 with a significantly more user-friendly and relevant website. From a content perspective, the agency would now be well positioned if plans to eventually portalize all agency websites under the Secretariat come to fruition. Most importantly, the Department would now be able to utilize a cost-effective and invaluable tool in its outreach efforts moving forward.

## MDAR PRESS RELEASES 2010

LAND Grants Funding	27-Jan
USDA Census	12-Feb
Agricultural Grants- Dairy farming, biofuels and farm labor study projects funded	6-Mar
Massachusetts Maple Month Kickoff	6-Mar
Ag Day at the State House	10-Mar
Advisory: Signs of Asian Longhorned Beetle Damage	25-Mar
Rabies Vaccination Clinics	3-Apr
Scott Soares Appointed as New DAR Commissioner	6-Apr
New Amherst Office	16-Apr
New Round of Agricultural Grants	8-May
Ag Tag Promotion	19-May
Energy Grants	9-Jun
Bay State Farmers Market Season Begins	19-Jun
\$100,000 in Buy Local Grants Awarded	29-Jun
Agri-Tourism Promotion	30-Jun
DAR Advisory - Invasive Plants	1-Jul
Agricultural Fairs - media advisory and brochure	3-Jul
Town of Hadley Honored for APRs	7-Jul
MA Wine and Cheese Trail/Savor MAR Kick-off	8-Jul
Media Alert Shelburne Falls Farmers' Mkt visit (Commissioner)	8-Jul
Holyoke Farmers' Mkt visit (Commissioner)	22-Jul
Despite Rain Delay, Berry Season Bursts into the Bay State	5-Aug
Advisory West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis	5-Aug
Asian Longhorned Beetle Awareness Month	11-Aug
Massachusetts Tomato Festival Winners	18-Aug
Farm Viability Enhancement Program Investments for FY09 Nearly \$1 Million	25-Aug
Davis Square Farmer's Market (Commissioner)	1-Sep
Integrated Pest Management in Schools	1-Sep
Agritourism & Apples	11-Sep
Keep Local Farms Program - Northeast Dairy Farmers Initiative	17-Sep
Massachusetts Harvest for Students Week	18-Sep
Big E and Massachusetts Day	28-Sep
Federal Relief for Massachusetts Farmers	5-Oct
Shelfish and Wine	6-Oct
MA Specialty Crops Grants Awarded	15-Oct
Partnership to Restore Former Cranberry Bogs in Plymouth	30-Oct
Volunteers sought for ALB Tree Surveys in Springfield and Boston	5-Nov
Winter Farmers' Markets	6-Nov
Savor Local Flavors this Holiday Season	12-Nov
Participants sought for Ag Business Development Classes	17-Nov
Avoid Invasive Plants in Holiday Decorating Advisory	18-Nov
The Great Outdoors Blog	19-Nov
Holiday Season Kickoff-Christmas Tree Cutting Ceremony	25-Nov
State Encourages to Buy Locally Grown Christmas Trees and Decorations	8-Dec
Responsible Pet Adoption	16-Dec
The Great Outdoors Gets 12,500 Views	23-Dec

**LOOK IN THE MIRROR**

In April 2009, the Department began questioning many of its conventional means of outreach approaches. External feedback indicated that beyond the agricultural community, many people were unaware of the array of services and programs offered by MDAR. The effectiveness and cost of materials such as brochures were re-evaluated. The challenge at hand was to find new outreach venues that

- 1) leveraged new communication opportunities e.g. social networking, and
- 2) would not be cost prohibitive.

In addition to harnessing the MDAR website as an important outreach tool, in 2009, the Department developed an ambitious press release schedule that sought to highlight a broader spectrum of agricultural industry events and announcements as well as the agency accomplishments. MDAR posted a record forty-nine press releases in 2009, up from 19 in 2008 (see page 23).

The Department also explored opportunities to incorporate innovative outreach venues such as blogs, Flickr, and Twitter. In November 2009, MDAR signed on with the Executive Office of Environment



and Energy Affairs as regular contributor to The Great Outdoors blog (<http://environment.blog.state.ma.us>) to highlight agricultural events and issues. To this end, MDAR staff were encouraged to contribute agriculturally related news, stories,

and upcoming events. By December 2009, MDAR had already posted six blogs ranging from the Asian Longhorned Beetle to vineyard outings to Christmas tree farms. The site had received 12,500 page views within a month of its launching.

In 2009, plans were developed (projected implementation 2010) to over-haul the *MassGrown & Fresher* ([www.mass.gov/massgrown](http://www.mass.gov/massgrown)) website. A cornerstone program of the Division of Agricultural Development, *MassGrown & Fresher* is an extensive resource base for consumers looking to find out more about locally grown products, agri-tourism destinations, and culinary adventures. Leveraging the Department's extensive and deep databases,



plans were developed that will utilize a newly designed and distinctive *MassGrown & Fresher* website where consumers can readily find pick-your-own farms, farm stands, farmers' markets, and agri-tourism/culinary destinations.

In summary, 2009 was a milestone year in improving MDAR's ability to effectively promote the Commonwealth's diverse agricultural initiatives.

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## MDAR FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial portrait can be hard to give on a calendar year for an organization that operates on a fiscal year basis. What follows is a report involving both fiscal years 2009 and 2010 to give as clear a picture as possible. In 2009 the national recession resulted in sharp revenue declines for most states in the country. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts was not immune to the recession and state revenues declined dramatically over the course of two fiscal years. State agencies including MDAR have had to deal with a period of budgetary reductions and 9C cuts (mid year cuts that allow the governor to bring expenditures into balance with revenues if revenues fall below expectations). As a result of the recession the agency had to adapt to a changing economic environment of less state budgetary support. The agency has striven to provide continued uninterrupted services to the state's agricultural community during this national recession, doing much more with much less while simultaneously seeing increasing demand for programs and services provided by the agency.

In fiscal year 2009 the MDAR operating budget was \$19.3 million. Subsequent 9C cuts reduced that budget in fiscal year 2009 to \$17.9 million. By fiscal year 2010 the MDAR budget inclusive of an FY'10 Supplemental budget had been reduced to \$16.5 million. By the end of fiscal year 2010, MDAR's budget stands at \$16.1 million. This \$3.2 million dollar reduction represents a 16.6% decrease in the span of one year.

A closer look at the individual MDAR appropriations that comprise the MDAR operating budget reveals a more telling story:

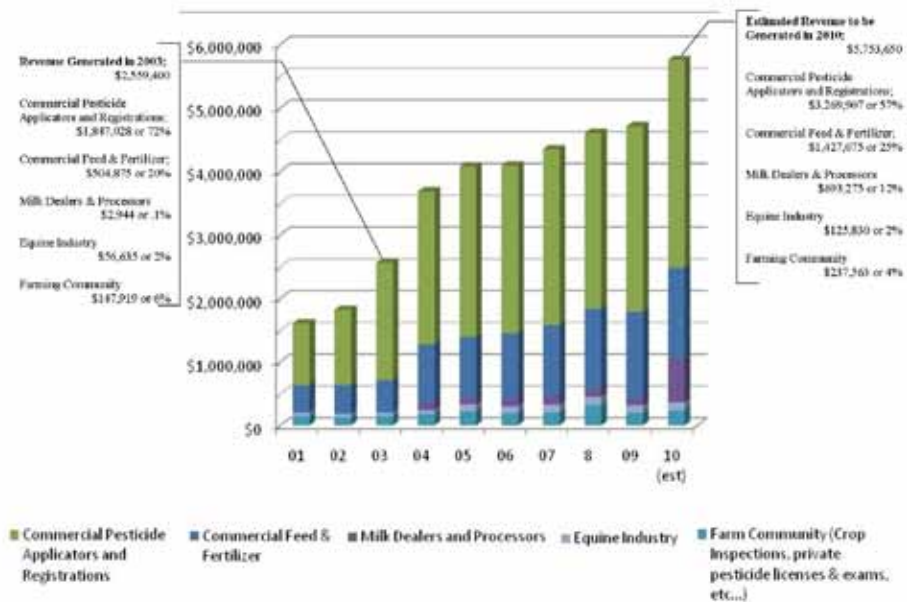
- The MDAR Agricultural Innovation Center's (AIC) (budget line item 2511-2000) mission was to provide a broad range of technical and business development services to the Commonwealth's agricultural producers in order to add value to the producers products; to develop an outreach program to identify and foster new, innovative ideas and approaches to adding value to the Commonwealth's agricultural economy; and to solicit requests from the Commonwealth's agricultural industry for funding and technical assistance in training, marketing, distribution, applied research, agri-tourism, aquaculture, forestry, processing, fiber, and agricultural resource management. The AIC program had a funding level of \$3.2 million in fiscal year 2007, but funding for this program had been totally eliminated by the end of fiscal year 2010.
- The agency's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program (budget line item 2511-3002) was decimated. Funding was reduced from a high of \$303K in fiscal year 2008 to \$48K in fiscal year 2010. This resulted in impact on the agency's ability to meet its statutory requirements under Chapter 85 of the Acts of 2000 ("Act to Protect Children and Families from Harmful Pesticides") and MGL Chapter 132B (Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act)
- A 15.5% decrease in funding for the Department's Administration Account (budget line item 2511-0100) in just two years eliminated or sharply reduced a multitude of the agency's programs and initiatives ranging from fairs, composting, Commonwealth Quality, Environmental Policy and Compliance Assistance Program (EPCAP), Buy Local, shellfish propagation, 4H, and YouthGROW while also significantly impacting day to day operational expenses.
- The MDAR Supplemental Food Appropriation (budget line item 2511-0105) provides for the purchase of supplemental foods for the Emergency Food Assistance program. MDAR contracts with the Greater Boston Food Bank, which is responsible for the distribution of a percentage of funds, earmarked for other

Massachusetts food banks under a contractual agreement. The Food Bank program saw a decrease from a \$12 million funding level in fiscal year 2009 to \$11.5 million in fiscal year 2010, a 4.2% reduction. The Supplemental Food pass through appropriation comprises roughly 70% of the agency’s budgetary funding.

Capital funded programs include the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program, Farm Viability Enhancement Program, Agricultural Business Training, Farm to School Program, Aquaculture, Agricultural Commissions Program, Accelerated Conservation Planning, Energy and the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program. Capital funding for the agency decreased from \$11.6 million in fiscal year 2008 to \$10 million in fiscal year 2010, a near 14% decrease. The decrease in funding resulted not only in a curtailment of some agricultural land protection programs, but also a reduction of the agency’s ability to leverage federal matching funds.

As a result of the reductions in state funding MDAR made it a major priority of the agency in this economic downturn to seek out all possible federal grant opportunities. The agency assigned a designated staff person to locate federal grant opportunities and to work with the agency’s divisions in pursuing those opportunities. MDAR federal grant spending nearly doubled from fiscal year 2008 to 2009, rising from \$2.83 million to \$5.56 million. MDAR federal grant expenditures are projected at \$7.3 million in fiscal year 2010, an increase of over 30% from the prior fiscal year and more than 250% increase over fiscal year 2008. As a proportion of the overall MDAR budget, federal spending rose from an 8.6% share in fiscal year 2008 to over 16.1% in 2009. Fiscal year 2010 federal funding (non-stimulus related) is projected to comprise 22% of the agency’s funding resources as compared to only 8.6% in fiscal year 2008.

**TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT BY CUSTOMER SOURCE**



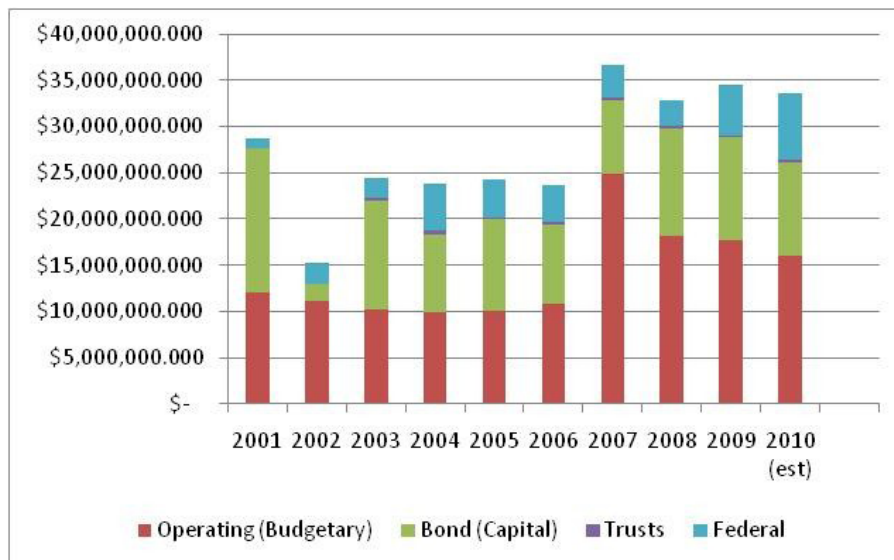
Revenues by source have diversified over the last 10 years. While revenue has grown by roughly 125% since 2003, the portion of that derived from the farming community has dropped from 6% to only 4%.

A measure of the success MDAR has had in pursuing federal funding is evident in its ability to maintain overall funding for its varied program by maximizing all funding sources. In fiscal year 2010 MDAR is projecting overall spending will be equivalent to fiscal year 2008 spending through the use of federal funds.

As a result of recent and accelerating growth in the Commonwealth’s agricultural industry and the accompanying regulations and services associated with the industry that are provided by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, the agency has become a revenue generating agency for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In fiscal year 2009 the agency collected a record setting \$4.71 million in general fund revenue. MDAR has made it a priority to maximize any revenue opportunities for services it provides. This is evident in the continued revenue growth of the agency as shown on the previous page.

MDAR is projecting its revenue collection will increase by nearly 20% in fiscal year 2010 and an additional 8% in fiscal year 2011. FY’11 revenue is projected at \$6.11 million, a nearly 30% increase over FY’09. MDAR projected revenue of \$5.648 million for fiscal year 2010 will far exceed the agency’s combined post 9C operating appropriations of \$4.586 million. With the above in mind and the expected continued interest and growth in agriculture and related industries and services, the revenue generating capacity of the Department of Agricultural Resources during the current and future fiscal years will offset operating costs of the Commonwealth hereby positioning **MDAR as a cost neutral agency for the Commonwealth.**

**TOTAL DEPARTMENT SPENDING BY FUNDING SOURCE**





## MDAR's HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources (HR) Office administers and oversees all HR functions for MDAR, as well as its Boards and Commissions, including the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (including 9 mosquito control districts) including but not limited to implementation of all HR related policies and programs of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

- Position Management-including classification and posting requirements through hiring
- Coordinate training opportunities for employees through HRD's PACE system
- Family Medical Leave Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Diversity Initiatives and Equal Employment Opportunity
- Unemployment
- Worker's Compensation
- Labor relations
- Workforce planning

All employment opportunities for the Department of Agricultural Resources and the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Projects are posted on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Commonwealth Employment Opportunities (CEO) website at [www.mass.gov/hrd](http://www.mass.gov/hrd).

### SNAPSHOT OF MDAR EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS AS OF 2009:

Summary Total Workforce: 72											
Male: 39 (54.17%)											
White	%	Black	%	Hispanic	%	Asian	%	Native American	%	Unknown	%
36	50.00	2	2.78	0	0.00	1	1.39	0	0.00	0	0.00
Female: 33 (45.83%)											
White	%	Black	%	Hispanic	%	Asian	%	Native American	%	Unknown	%
28	38.89	4	5.56	1	1.39	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Minorities: 8 (11.11%)											
--	--	Black	%	Hispanic	%	Asian	%	Native American	%	--	--
		6	8								

## MDAR's LEGAL SERVICES

The Department's General Counsel and legal staff represent MDAR in various legal matters, review contracts and other legal documents, and assist Department staff in interpreting laws relating to agriculture and other topics relevant to Department programs. They also conduct trainings for staff on legal issues and process public records requests. While consisting of a relatively small team of lawyers (three), one paralegal and an economist, the duties and responsibilities are broad and cover many different legal topics. Some of the team's work throughout 2009 follows:

### **AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTION ("APR") PROGRAM**

Legal Services ("LS") collaborated with APR Staff in finalizing the new APR regulations, and assisted in the promulgation process; additionally, LS worked closely with APR Staff in reviewing and revising the forms and procedures governing the processing and approval of APR applications to eliminate redundancy, expedite the process, and achieve a more efficient use of limited staff time. With respect to the over 750 existing APRs, LS assisted the APR Director and his staff on issues relating to baseline review, stewardship, and enforcement, with the goal of dealing with known violations.

### **PUBLIC RECORDS**

Public records requests are processed by LS staff, and in 2009 LS complied with over 50 requests. In-house training was conducted on all aspects of the Public Records Law ("PRL"), including electronic messages, records retention, social media, records destruction scheduling, "personal information" security, and records management and accessibility. LS also participated in meetings with EEA General Counsels to assure compliance by all Secretariat agencies with the foregoing.

### **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

As required by the New Ethics Law (c. 28, Acts of 2009), LS designated and existing position of

Liaison to the State Ethics Commission, complied with the distribution of materials mandated by statute, and facilitated the on-line training and record keeping associated therewith. LS Staff conducted "504" training for all agency personnel and mandated contractors and boards, filling the position of Chief Information Officer. LS established a mandated training tracking database to assure compliance with mandates under the PRL, "504," and Open Meeting Law ("OML").

### **DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH**

Assisted the Director of Animal Health and his staff in establishing and implementing a procedure for appellate review of the Director's orders and decisions through the Division of Administrative Law Appeals ("DALA"). In 2009, several appeals were tried or settled using the DALA process. LS staff assisted the Division Director in enforcing state laws and regulations where livestock had been transported into Massachusetts in violation of state law licensing requirements. LS Staff generated standardized forms and procedures to obtain administrative search warrants for use by division staff in enforcement situations. Lastly, LS assisted in drafting and promulgating new regulations relating to animal health.

### **DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

LS collaborated with the Division of Agricultural Technical Assistance in reviewing and implementing the regulations (DEP) governing agricultural composting, and the preparation of guidelines. LS Staff assisted the Division Director in launching the Farm Technology Review Commission, including training in PRL, OML, and the Conflict of Interest Law ("COI").

### **DIVISION OF CROP & PEST SERVICES**

LS collaborated with Division of Crop & Pest Services in drafting and promulgating new regulations.

**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Assisted in implementing the tax credit program, collaborating with the Department of Revenue. LS Staff also provided assistance in revising and strengthening the 2010 Massachusetts Farmers' Market Coupon Program Guidelines for farmers and farmers' markets.

**CONTRACT REVIEW**

Established a process for the review of state contracts entered into by the Department.

**STATE BUILDING CODE**

Drafted and facilitated revision by Board of Building Regulations and Standards of the state building code as governing "agricultural buildings."

**STATE RECLAMATION BOARD (SRB)**

Assisted the SRB in fashioning board policy governing district budgets and budget-making transparency. LS Staff collaborated with the Attorney General in defending a lawsuit brought by Bristol County Mosquito Control Project against the SRB and State Treasurer, and assisted SRB and HRD in classifying state employees employed by the 9 mosquito control districts.

**OPEN SPACE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

LS Staff collaborated with EEA counsel and staff in fashioning a model "open space residential development" by-law.



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## MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (“DATA”)



**GERARD KENNEDY**

**Contact info:**

Gerard.Kennedy@state.ma.us

(617) 626-1773

Gerard Kennedy has worked at the Department of Agricultural Resources for over ten years in a variety of technical assistance, funding, and program management positions including programs dealing with pesticides and water quality. He is the Commissioner’s designee to the Water Resources Commission and chairs the Farm Technology Review Commission. He has been the director of DATA since 2008.

The Division of Agricultural Technical Assistance (DATA) helps to advance the mission of the Department of Agricultural Resources to keep agriculture in Massachusetts economically viable and environmentally sound. Through its technical assistance programs, the Division delivers services to improve agricultural stewardship and use of natural resources; promote energy efficiency and use of renewable energy and ensure economic competitiveness and profitability. These programs are supported by the Division’s information management systems and interaction with local, state and federal partners. The staff of 10 Environmental Analysts, Environmental Engineer and Program Coordinators deliver the following services to the agricultural community:

- Agricultural Energy Grant Program
- Agricultural Business Training Programs
- Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP)
- APR Improvement Program
- Aquaculture Program
- Composting Program
- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO’s) Information
- Energy Efficiency, Conservation, and Renewables Program
- Farm Energy Discount Program Farm Technology Review Commission
- Farm Viability Enhancement Program
- Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)
- Matching Enterprised Grants for Agriculture Program (MEGA)
- Milkhouse Wastewater Pilot Program

**FARM VIABILITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

Craig Richov, Director  
(617) 626-1725 Craig.Richov@state.ma.us

For fourteen consecutive years, the Farm Viability Enhancement Program has been an important part of MDAR’s farmland protection and agricultural economic development strategy. The program is an innovative effort that integrates technical assistance and business planning along with access to capital and farm land preservation.

During Fiscal Year 2009, the Farm Viability Enhancement Program provided technical assistance to 20 farms with 20 completed business plans. Nineteen farms received funding for modernization, capital improvements and to improve production and marketing efforts. These farms were placed under agricultural covenants protecting 1,607 acres. The Program impacted an additional 1,522 acres of leased land and protected land under participants management. FY 2009 spending was \$950,000.00 in direct grants to farms and just over \$160,000 was spent on technical assistance costs to consultants and business plan writers.

Since the Farm Viability Program was initiated in 1996, some 322 farms have been protected by five or ten year covenants ensuring that 30,618 acres contribute to our agricultural industry. In total these farms received grant awards of \$12,871,772.00 or a cost for protecting farm land for about \$420 per acre. Most impressive is the fact that over 99% of participating farms remain in agriculture today. And 73% of farmers in the Program invest additional capital beyond the grant amount to implement business improvement strategies. The average additional investment is \$31,791 per farm.

In 2009, the FVEP received 56 applications. Outreach meetings to provide information on the

Program were held in Spencer, Greenfield, and Dighton during the open application period. Of the 56 applications, 23 had been selected for participation and by year’s end had received a program orientation, met with their team leaders, and begun the technical assistance and business planning phase. Applications are accepted from April through June each year.



*A highlight of the year was the successful transition of a cow dairy to become a grain corn enterprise. With Farm Viability Enhancement Program assistance, the business plan of Jasinski Farm in Northampton demonstrated the positive net results of selling off the dairy herd and setting up a grain production, harvest, drying, and marketing enterprise creating a local source of feed and fuel for a region seeking locally grown alternatives.*



### **AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM**

Rick Chandler, Director  
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The Agricultural Business Training Program wrapped up a record year in April (2009), having offered two full business planning courses - the 10 session "Tilling the Soil of Opportunity (TTS)" format - and three startup courses - "the 4-session Exploring Your Small Farm Dream (Explorer)".

The TTS long course graduated 19 businesses of the 23 that participated (a total of 36 people regularly attended the classes in Taunton and Greenfield).

Explorer saw 36 potential new farms in the three locations (Lowell, Ashland and Amherst), with 58 individuals in regular attendance.

Individual post-course Technical Assistance is currently underway for 14 TTS graduates and 2 Explorer participants.

### **COMPOSTING PROGRAM**

Bill Blanchard, Coordinator  
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Agricultural composting is defined in 310 CMR 16.05(4) (c). A composting operation for agricultural wastes when located on a farm engaged in "agriculture" or "farming" as defined in M.G.L. c. 128,1A. Such composting operation may, in addition to agricultural wastes, utilize the following compostable materials, provided the operation is registered and complies with policies of the Department of Agricultural Resources.

- Leaf and yard waste
- Wood wastes
- Paper and cardboard
- Clean compostable (i.e. thin) shells
- Non agricultural sources of manures and animal bedding materials

- Less than 20 cubic yards or less than ten tons per day of vegetative material; and
- Less than ten cubic yards or less than five tons per day of food material.

In 2009 the Department had 84 Registered Agricultural Compost Sites. The program is responsible for registering new agricultural compost sites as well as renewing existing sites annually. During the course of the year the program coordinator works with personnel from federal, municipal and other state agencies to address concerns that arise in regard to the operation of sites registered by the Department.

### **AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

Gerard Kennedy, Director  
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The Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) provides support to agricultural operations to help implement conservation practices intended to prevent or mitigate sources of pollution on farms. Since 1999, the program has funded 288 projects statewide which improve water quality, conserve water, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve energy respectively. Growers and producers have received over \$3 million to help them address environmental concerns on their farms. In FY 2009, 47 projects were funded totaling almost \$700,000. For FY2010, another 45 farms are expected to be funded to the tune of \$700,000.

Projects are selected based upon their potential to impact the most sensitive resources including drinking water, wetlands, Department of Environmental Protection priority water bodies, and Area of Critical Environmental Concern.



A particular strength of the AEEP program is its ability to complement federal funding for environmental quality practices on farms, thus enabling the completion of, for example, a costly barnyard manure management structure that otherwise the farmer could not have afforded to complete.

Other examples of funded projects include the installation of animal manure waste systems, pesticide storage facilities, fencing to keep livestock out of wetlands, energy efficient pumps, solar pumps, photovoltaics, trickle irrigation systems, and water control structures to hold chemigation water on cranberry bogs.



*In 2009, the Department contributed \$25,000 towards the cost of a 15KW wind turbine for Red Apple Farm. At an elevation of 1,250 feet, Red Apple Farm is one of the highest commercial orchards in New England. A 15KW system is expected to produce roughly 19,100kWh of electricity on an annual basis, representing 77% of Red Apple Farm's current electricity usage.*

**AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTION ("APR") IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

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In 2009, the Department announced an open application period for the APR Improvement

Program. This is a pilot program aimed at providing Farm Viability Program funding to APR farms. Up until 2009, farms protected by an Agricultural Preservation Restriction had not been able to receive Farm Viability Program funds. The Dairy Farm Revitalization Task Force identified the need to provide these valuable and proven services as well as funding to the APR farm community. This new program was enabled by the Dairy Farm Preservation Act that passed in 2008.

The purpose of the APR Improvement Program is to help sustain active commercial farming on land protected by the APR Program. AIP will provide technical assistance and business planning to improve farm productivity with the goal of enhancing the significance of APR farm operations and their contribution to the state's agricultural industry. The program will assist with issues of economic viability, environmental sustainability, resource conservation, ownership control, modernization and other issues that may enhance the long term continued use of the agricultural resource. The AIP will use a process of providing services to participant farms including technical assistance, business planning, and access to capital similar to services provided by the Department's Farm Viability Enhancement Program. However, the land protection component of FVEP is omitted as APR farmland is already restricted to agricultural uses only.

A total of 27 APR farms applied to the new program. Ten farms were selected into the pilot effort and technical assistance and business planning elements are underway for these farms. The unique needs and program process for APR farms are becoming apparent early on in the initial effort which should allow staff to adjust and fine tune operations as it becomes another signature program in MDAR's toolbox. Grant awards will range from \$25,000 up to \$100,000 with average awards at around \$50,000. The next open application period is expected to be announced in April or May, 2010.

**AQUACULTURE PROGRAM**

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With an eye toward the future, the MDAR Aquaculture program is committed to promoting the responsible culture of aquatic and marine organisms. Recent data indicate the total value of Massachusetts aquaculture was over \$18 million. This is largely a result of the vibrant shellfish aquaculture industry, centered on Cape Cod and the South Shore. Additionally, a large finfish culture facility located in Western Massachusetts utilizes recirculating technology to raise barramundi in an environmentally sustainable manner. Numerous other smaller aquaculture facilities are operating in Massachusetts, producing some of the finest seafood in the world.

The MDAR aquaculture program was very active throughout 2009. A total of eighteen aquaculture farms, both shellfish and finfish, were assisted, many through numerous site visits and one-on-one meetings. These farms were helped with issues such as permitting, regulatory compliance, marketing, etc. Through support of the Aquaculture Centers Network, MDAR facilitated the application of technology, research, and marketing to the aquaculture industry.

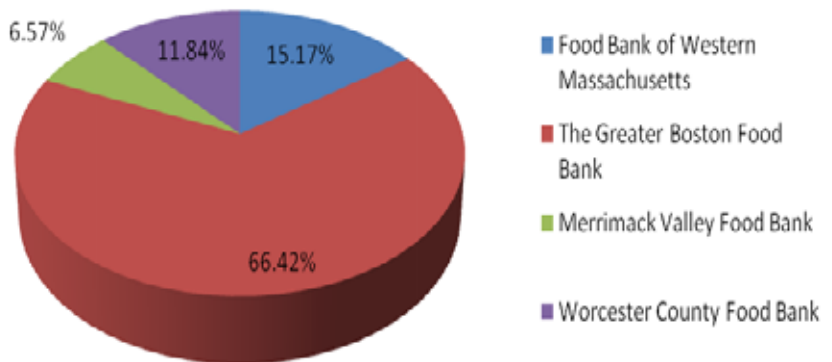
MDAR coordinates efforts between regulatory agencies – federal, state, and local, in an effort to integrate this innovative form of agriculture into a framework of regulations which are not always easily applicable to aquaculture. An interagency pilot program allowing the previously prohibited sale of shellfish at Massachusetts farmers’ markets was developed in 2009.

The Aquaculture Program at MDAR will continue to support environmentally sustainable and economically efficient aquaculture in Massachusetts, and maintain its focus on the production of safe, wholesome, profitable cultured seafood in Massachusetts.

**MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (“MEFAP”)**

Craig Richov, Contract Manager  
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MEFAP enables the four regional food banks in Massachusetts—The Greater Boston Food Bank, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, the Worcester County Food Bank, and the Merrimack Valley Food Bank—to purchase food from manufacturers, distributors, and farmers. All the food is then distributed to a network of over 800 food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. Through



the program, a consistent supply of quality, nutrient-dense foods, and locally grown fresh produce is provided to citizens in need in the Commonwealth. The Greater Boston Food Bank administers the program for all four food banks. Funding is provided from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources through a line item in the annual budget.

Due to a reduction of federal funding, the State Legislature established the MEFAP in 1994. Initial funding in 1995 was just under one million dollars for food purchases. Support has steadily increased since then. For fiscal year 2009, the MEFAP budget was \$12 million. The Massachusetts Department of Education serves as the state agency for operating funds to support distribution of emergency food.

MDAR oversees the purchase of food and in fitting with the Department's mission; it encourages spending on local foods like farm fresh produce, and locally produced and processed foods. The "Massachusetts Grown Initiative" earmarks a portion of the budget each year for the purchase of products from Massachusetts farmers, giving local growers and producers another market and helping those in need by providing nutritious, fresh produce. For 2009, \$600,000 worth of fruit, vegetables, and dairy products were purchased from Massachusetts farmers and distributed through MEFAP. Among the most popular of these fresh high quality items were milk, apples, corn, potatoes, onions, peppers, squash, and collard greens.

The Massachusetts Regional Food Bank system includes: The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, The Greater Boston Food Bank, Merrimack Valley Food Bank, and Worcester County Food Bank. Each is a private, non-profit 501(c) 3 corporation that provides surplus, salvaged, and other donated foods. Service area population and poverty statistics developed by the U.S. Census Bureau were used to determine the allocation of MEFAP funds to the four food banks.

**LIAISON ACTIVITY TO WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE OF DEP**

Rick Chandler, Director  
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Joint work continued in the western region between MDAR (Chandler) and DEP/WERO (Catherine Skiba,

key DEP contact) to resolve on-farm issues and to improve farmer communications and education. Approximately a half dozen joint site visits, 30+ phone consultations and 100 plus emails covered topics such as Public Water Supplies (for farms), composting, runoff, application of waste material and wetlands questions. Neighbor complaints continue to be the main driver, with local conservation commissions often referring tough questions to DEP for discovery and resolution.

**AGRICULTURAL ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM**

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MDAR's Agricultural Energy Grant Program is an annual competitive funding program with a goal to fund agricultural energy projects in an effort to improve energy efficiency and to facilitate adoption of alternative clean energy technologies by Massachusetts farms. The Agricultural Energy Grant Program is now in its third year. Reimbursement grants of up to \$30,000 - \$50,000 have been awarded in the past but program requirements are revised on an annual basis, including technology priorities. Farms with less access to federal, state, and electric and natural gas energy efficiency incentive rebate and grant programs are encouraged to apply. Total funding for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 was \$375,000.

In 2009-2010 (FY2010) over 30 proposals were received in response to MDAR's Ag Energy RFR, with requests totaling close to \$700,000. Available program funds for FY 2010 were \$250,000 and program criteria limited individual proposals to \$30,000. Program criteria prioritized selective energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, including those relevant to the dairy and nursery sectors. Ultimately, twelve (12) proposals were selected and awarded.

### **THE FARM ENERGY DISCOUNT**

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The Department is the state agency responsible for determining and certifying eligibility for the Farm Energy Discount Program ("Farm Discount"). Persons or corporations determined to be principally and substantially engaged in the business of production agriculture or farming for an ultimate commercial purpose will, upon written application, be eligible for a ten percent discount on natural gas and electric rates.

In 2009, over 1,500 farms were enrolled. With a conservative estimate of \$5,000/yr average for electric/natural gas expenditures, 10% savings = \$750,000 for 2009 alone.

### **THE MASSACHUSETTS FARM ENERGY PROGRAM (MFEP)**

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Darlene Monds, NRCS, (413) 256-1607

The MFEP was created as a pilot in 2008 to establish a statewide farm energy program. Funding came from two grants; MDAR with \$250,000 and USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service ("NRCS") with \$150,000 plus \$100,000 of in kind support from MDAR and NRCS. MFEP can be considered a clearing house for farm energy assistance while also providing energy audits and renewable energy assessments, financial incentives for implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy recommendations, leveraging other funding programs, and developing best management practices for farm energy systems.

The MFEP program mission is to increase on-farm energy conservation and efficiency, promote renewable energy strategies for on-farm energy generation, reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, and improve farm viability.

In 2009 MFEP served 84 Massachusetts farms with technical and financial assistance, and partnered with federal and state agencies, public utilities, and non-profits to benefit farm energy projects.

Installed projects will result in annual savings of over 400,000 kWh electric, 14,500 gallons of fuel oil, 10,380 therms of natural gas and 6,000 gallons of propane. This will reduce farm emissions by over 300 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

MFEP leveraged and committed MFEP incentives of over \$1.3 million dollars not including four (4) anaerobic digester projects which also will receive over \$1.7 million dollars in federal funding and over \$950,000 in loan guarantees.

MFEP also created or retained 9 jobs and helped expand one farm business. Energy savings from implementing the projects is expected to result in over \$100,000 annually that can be reinvested in the farming operation and local economy. MFEP also hosted 6 community events, 6 grant writing workshops, and assisted 13 farmers with REAP grant applications. Throughout 2009, MFEP helped improve the viability of dairy, greenhouse, cranberry, maple, fruit, horticultural, vegetable, livestock, sod, aquaculture, equine, and wood businesses.





#### **MFEP AND PIONEER GARDENS - THERMAL CURTAINS PROJECT**

*Pioneer Gardens is a producer of ornamental plants utilizing more than 60,000 sq. ft of greenhouses located in Deerfield, Massachusetts. All heating fuel is #2 fuel oil. Fuel oil is by far Pioneer Gardens' largest energy cost, and most of this energy is used in heating the large greenhouses in which their products are grown (95% of the total). Fossil fuel usage over the years has varied from 40,000 to 60,000 gallons, costing approximately \$120,000/year. As a result the focus of the energy efficiency pertained to reducing thermal energy use while not impacting product quality.*

*Greenhouse energy conservation, as well as automation, have been raised to a very high art in Holland, where the Luiten "climate screens" also known as "thermal curtains" were developed as a result of high energy prices and high labor prices. The Luiten screens are a thin semi-translucent, semi-reflective non-woven textile, carefully set into a sealing frame that minimizes air leakage. The screens are opened and closed automatically,*

*as a function of temperature, humidity, and solar radiation. This sophisticated system, well established in Holland, has proven to be an effective tool for greenhouse operators where energy costs are high. This project recommended the installation of these screens to provide BOTH thermal protection in cold weather, as well as light reflection during daytime hours when solar radiation is too high for the plants being grown.*

*MFEP provided technical assistance and grant writing assistance to the farm toward USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). Ultimately the project was approved and awarded a grant covering 25% of total project cost. As a result, the farm decided to proceed with the project. Implementing the thermal curtains is projected to save the operation almost 19,000 gals/year in fuel oil, or approximately \$57,000, with a net installation cost to the farmer of \$88,602 due to a MFEP direct incentive of \$5,000 and the MFEP leveraged incentive from USDA of \$33,538, resulting in a simple payback to the farm of 1.6 years.*

**ACCELERATED CONSERVATION PLANNING  
PARTNERSHIP (ACPP)**

Contact Gerard Kennedy  
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The Accelerated Conservation Planning Project (ACPP) is a cooperative partnership among the Department of Agricultural Resources, the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts (“MACD”) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (“NRCS”) which is intended to accelerate planning and the implementation of technical assistance to landowners and farmers.

The partnership is executed through contributions from both NRCS and MDAR, in respective agreements, to MACD. In this partnership, NRCS gains assistance at the field office level and MDAR gains technical support of specific programs. The ACPP program provides the following staff which operate out of NRCS offices:

- A Nutrient Management Planner based in Hadley, serving all of western Massachusetts and Worcester County
- A Conservation Planner based in Holden serving Worcester County
- A Conservation Planner, based in the Hadley office, but working with several western Massachusetts district conservationists
- A Conservation Planner based in Westford, serving Middlesex, Essex and Suffolk Counties
- Four administrative staff deployed at field offices in Barnstable, West Wareham, Westford, Holden and Hadley

**MOBILE POULTRY PROCESSING UNIT**

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As a local food economy is created at the grass roots level through farmers’ markets, farm stands, community supported agriculture and other methods, the need for local meat processing is growing. Many of the newly developed processing and sales methods do not fit into the categories which our existing statutes and regulations govern.

Under a pilot program, a mobile poultry processing unit (MPPU), has been developed by New England Sustainable Farm Institute and New Entry Sustainable Farming Project to travel from farm to farm where birds will be slaughtered for meat. 2009 saw the joint pilot MPPU project supported by MDAR, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Environmental Protection enter its second year. The MPPU pilot has been a resource demanding project, but the project has ensured that all aspects of the process are thoroughly studied and the extensive effort invested will allow for an efficient process for oversight and streamlined regulatory review.





## MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES’ DIVISION OF CROP AND PEST SERVICES (“CPS”)



Lee Corte-Real, Division Director  
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Lee Corte-Real has been with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources for 25 years, first as the environmental chemist and water quality specialist and subsequently for 8 years as the Pesticide Operations Coordinator. In that capacity, Lee supervised the pesticide licensing and certification program, and also the pesticide product registration program. Lee is currently the Director of the Division of Crop & Pest Services which includes the Pesticide Programs, Plant Industries, and Farm Products. Previously Lee worked for the University of Massachusetts / Cooperative Extension Service doing pesticide residue analysis and research.

### FARM PRODUCTS AND PLANTS INDUSTRY

#### STAFF CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL:

NAME	Position
Alfred Carl	Program Coordinator I
Jennifer Forman-Orth	Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Coordinator
Alexandra Lopez-Swetland	Marketing and Product Utilization Specialist I
Phyllis Michalewich	Marketing and Product Utilization Specialist III
Robert Rondeau	Marketing and Product Utilization Specialist III
Howard Vinton	Marketing and Product Utilization Specialist II

The Farm Products and Plant Industries (FPPI) Programs staff continue to support multiple programs through their cross utilization efforts. This effort has resulted in inspectional staff members providing coverage for programs outside of their primary area of responsibility which results in more effective program administration. Staff has provided coverage to the nursery inspection, Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (“CAPS”), feed, and fertilizer programs based upon the seasonal or workload needs.

The FPPI Program had a very active year in 2009, especially in the areas inspections and the registration of feed and fertilizer products. Demand for inspection of farm products, nurseries, greenhouses and apiaries continues to be very high. These quality-control programs have proven to be extremely popular and helpful with growers, farmers, shippers, sellers, buyers and consumers as demand for high quality products continues to increase.

The FPPI Program administers a number of diversified quality-control programs on farm products and nursery stock. The Program enforces the Truth-in-Labeling Laws on fruit, vegetables, commercial feed, pet food, fertilizer, lime and seeds. The Program also expanded into the certification of farms and production facilities under the USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) requirements which is turning into a significant new programmatic area moving forward in 2010.

The FPPI Program collected more than \$ 1,440,000 annually through the feed and fertilizer product registrations, nursery certification and vegetable inspection fees.

### **FEED PROGRAM**

In 2009 the feed program reviewed and registered over 9,900 products consisting of animal feed, medicated feed ingredients, and pest foods with gross receipts of \$991,800. There were 887 unregistered products found for sale, 5 Stop Sale orders issued, and 10 pet food recalls. A total of 220 feed and pet food samples were drawn for testing of protein, fat and fiber content under the Truth in Labeling law.

### **FERTILIZER PROGRAM**

There are over 3,000 labels of fertilizer and lime products that were reviewed and registered for the year. A total of 393 samples of fertilizer products being offered for sale in Massachusetts were taken and tested for Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potash. Assessment penalties in shortage of guaranteed levels were charged on 54 products that were deficient totaling \$ 5,209 in fines collected and turned back to the farmers or submitted to the state's treasury. Tonnage tax is assessed and collected on a semi-annual basis.

### **BRANDING LAW**

Inspections were made at hundreds of retail stores for conformance of the Branding Laws on potatoes and apples. Misbranded products were relabeled or removed from sale by issuing a "Stop Sale Order." Stop Sale Orders were issued on 26 apples/potatoes that did not meet grade requirements expectations. These lots were removed from the store shelves and shipped back to the packer.

### **FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INSPECTION**

In 2009, demand for inspection services continued to be primarily for exporting apples, with the majority of those being shipped to the United Kingdom and Canada. The Export Apple Inspection Program is of importance, primarily because of the demand for controlled atmosphere (CA) stored apples, including the valuable McIntosh variety. In

total, over 39,900 cartons of apples were certified as complying with the US Export Apple and Pear Act. There were receipts in excess of \$2,290 collected for fruit and vegetable inspections.

### **COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PEST SURVEY (CAPS)**

In cooperation with the USDA/CAPS (Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey) program there was a survey performed by inspectors at 63 nurseries. Pests that the 2009 CAPS were inspecting for included: Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*); Daylily Rust (*Puccinia horiana*); Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*); Japanese cedar longhorned beetle (*Callidiellum rufipenne*); Mile-A-Minute Weed (*Polygonum perfoliatum*); Perennial Pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*); Viburnum Leaf Beetle (*Pyrrhalta viburni*). No CAPS pests were found in these inspections. The following CAPS surveys were also done in 2009: Exotic Wood Boring and Bark Beetle Survey and the Exotic Moth Pest Survey.

The Asian Longhorned Beetle detection in 2008 caused the Program to conduct survey and outreach projects to provide information about this serious pest to the citizens of Massachusetts and other states. There were 47 events held during which more than 400 volunteers were trained. More than 40,000 pieces of outreach material were distributed, some of which were developed in-house, and the program collaborated with more than 28 different organizations (including the green industry, federal, state and local governments, environmental groups, and neighborhood associations). These coordinators were integral in assisting in the planning of the project, helped distribute outreach, and in many cases held their own outreach events. This does not include the dozens of teachers, students, landscapers, conservation commissions, nursery owners, and other concerned individuals who requested outreach materials to distribute.

### **NURSERY INSPECTION PROGRAM**

The Nursery Inspection Program inspects and certifies nurseries and greenhouses annually. Inspectors of FPPI conduct annual inspections of all certified nurseries in the Commonwealth to ensure that they are free of insects and diseases. All known growers and agents are required to be licensed annually. A grower's certificate is required to sell, exchange, give, deliver or ship within the Commonwealth any tree, shrub or plant commonly known as nursery stock. An agent's license is issued to those who buy and sell nursery stock from certified nurseries throughout the country.

There were 179 nurseries inspected in 2009 and the top pests/pathogens identified during inspection were: Powdery Mildew, Cedar Apple Rust, Leaf Spot, and Slugs.

### **PHYTOSANITARY INSPECTIONS**

Growers in the Commonwealth who export plant material and/or seed require inspections prior to shipping. The State and Federal Phytosanitary Certificates are issued by MDAR for shipment of plant and plant materials to other states and foreign countries certifying the shipment as being free from insects and disease.

In cooperation with the USDA - APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine, the Department conducts phytosanitary inspections and issues federal and state certificates. Staff inspected and issued 918 federal Phytosanitary Certificates for export of plant materials. In addition, staff also certified 851 shipments of plant materials for inter-state commerce including: lumber (both kiln dried and green logs), tobacco, bulbs, fruit, seeds, and other plant materials.

In addition, the Department also inspects houseplants that are being moved to other states.

### **APIARY INSPECTIONS**

Apiary inspections are made annually for monitoring of disease and insect pests throughout the state on thousands of bee hives. This inspection program aids in the safe transportation of bee hives from one state to another. There were two seasonal apiary inspectors hired to assist the state Apiary Inspector to survey for honeybee colonies for brood diseases and parasitic mites in the following counties: Middlesex, Norfolk, Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties. Spot inspections as re-requested by beekeepers were conducted in Plymouth, Bristol, and Berkshire Counties during 2009.

Apiary inspection for 2009 ran from April and through November and included the inspection of 900 migratory colonies, representing five commercial beekeepers for American Foulbrood (AFB), varroa mite populations, and strength. Two cranberry growers requested inspections for colony strength because they wanted to be assured that they were leasing populations approaching three hives/acre; in most cases these numbers were achieved.

Many of the inspected colonies had been rented for pollination on almonds in California, high bush blueberries in New Jersey, apples in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, low bush blueberries in Maine, and finally cranberries in Massachusetts. For every rental, colonies are often moved two to three times; the results are population dwindling due to drifting and due to a lack of a queen bee. Migratory colony strength for the 2009 cranberry pollination season was good and AFB was not detected in any of the 900 hives inspected due to control with tylosine. 50 samples were obtained during migratory hive inspection for alcohol washing to count varroa mite populations and to assess *Nosema* sp.(apis and ceranae) spore levels.

Most varroa mite samples approached the economic injury level of 9 to 12 varroa mites/150 bees per sample. Nosema sp. spore counts approached on average, 3,000,000 spores per bee; the economic injury level is less than 1,000,000 spores per bee.

There were 410 colonies inspected for AFB, varroa mite populations, and Nosema sp. spore counts for the lone commercial beekeeper in Massachusetts for transport to Georgia; 320 eventually made the trip. No AFB was detected and varroa populations were controlled with formic acid. Nosema sp. spore counts were well below the 1,000,000 spore count economic injury level. Because 2009 was one of the worst nectar and pollen years for the Commonwealth, winter mortality may be extreme.

MDAR also inspected local hobbyist colonies for disease and other problems. There were detections of American Foulbrood (AFB), severe chalkbrood, 5 cases of European Foulbrood (is rare in hobbyist hives and more prevalent in migratory hives). The varroa mite levels were low at the beginning of the season but reached heavy levels by August. Inspections in the fall revealed large numbers of hives ravaged by varroa mite. MDAR also responded to many emails answering bee questions for beekeepers throughout the state of Massachusetts. Hive beetle continues to come up with package bees.

MDAR also inspected 10 Norfolk County towns completely and did partial inspections in some of the other Norfolk County towns, inspecting a total of 92 beekeepers and 223 colonies in the county.

A portion of the inspection season was taken up by the development of 40 USDA colonies for a three-year experiment in conjunction with APHIS and MDAR. The program is being conducted in cooperation with the USDA – APHIS and Agricultural Research Service as part of the Asian Longhorned

Beetle Eradication Program. This is a significant effort on behalf of the Department in managing and monitoring these colonies to see if the tree injection of imidicloprid in Worcester, Holden, West Boylston, Boylston and Shrewsbury will have any effect on bee colonies within the application area. MDAR, along with the USDA, are doing this as a service to all beekeepers. Samples of bees, pollen, wax, and nectar will be collected from these colonies to see if there are any residues or potential impacts in bee populations from the tree injections. There were also hives established in Framingham to act as controls for the survey.

#### **GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP)**

There has been an increased focus on good agricultural practices (GAP) to verify that farms are producing fruits and vegetables in the safest manner possible. Working closely with the Division of Agricultural Development, MDAR has helped prepare growers and address their GAP needs. Third-party audits are being utilized by the retail and food service industry to verify that suppliers are in conformance to specific agricultural best practices. The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service in partnership with the Department of Agricultural Resources offers a voluntary audit based program that verifies adherence to the recommendations made by the Food and Drug Administration. There were 11 companies that applied for USDA GAP and GHP audits which resulted in 22 site visits, with 10 farms and/or packing facilities that passed. The program collected at total of \$5,069 in fees.

## PESTICIDE PROGRAMS

### STAFF CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Position</b>
Steven Antunes-Kenyon	Pesticide Operations Coordinator
Trevor Battle	COOL Program/School IPM Program
Mark Buffone	Entomologist/Continuing Education/SRB
Taryn LaScola	Supervisory Pesticide Inspector
Michael McClean	ROW Coordinator/Pesticide Inspector
Sandra Payne	Licensing Program Assistant
Susie Reed	Pesticide Registration Specialist
Paul Riccio	Supervisory Pesticide Inspector
Laurie Rocco	Senior Pesticide Inspector
Hoang Vo-Phuong	Information Systems Assistant
Hotze Wijnja	Environmental Chemist/Water Programs

The Massachusetts Department Agricultural Resources is the state lead agency for pesticide regulation in the Commonwealth under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) as well as the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act. The Pesticide Program carries out the day to day responsibilities of regulating pesticides in the Commonwealth and includes the licensing of pesticide applicators, the registration of pesticide products, and the enforcement of the statute and regulations. In addition the Pesticide Program carries out other pesticide related activities in support of the regulatory mandate such as education, outreach, and water monitoring. The Pesticide Program also acts as support staff for the Pesticide Board and Pesticide Board Subcommittee.





### **PESTICIDE APPLICATOR AND LICENSING PROGRAM**

The Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act requires all persons who apply pesticides in public and private places used for human occupation and habitation, with the exception of residential properties with three or less dwelling units, to be in possession of a valid license or certification issued by the Department of Agricultural Resources. There are four (4) types of pesticide licenses in Massachusetts: Commercial Applicator License, Commercial Certification License, Private Certification License, and Dealer License. These different types of certification and license documents permit individuals to legally use pesticides including, but not limited to, purchasing, selling, applying, mixing, loading, storing, disposing, and transporting.

### **CERTIFICATION AND LICENSING EXAMS**

Pesticide examinations are offered to individuals seeking pesticide licensure throughout the year with the majority of exams being offered in the February through April period prior to the use season with at minimum of one exam each month. In 2009 there were 26 pesticide exams offered for the 4 licensure types with all exam types being offered at each date. There were a total of 1,863 individuals who registered for an exam in 2009 of which 1,624 took the exam and 239 which were no-shows. There were 872 individuals out of the 1,624 who took exams who passed which represents a 56 percent pass rate. The pesticide exam receipts were \$108,050 that went to the General Fund.

### **NEW AND RENEWAL PESTICIDE LICENSES**

Once individuals have passed the appropriate exam and have demonstrated they have acquired the necessary knowledge to handle pesticides in a safe manner, they are sent an application to obtain the pesticide license. Once an individual becomes licensed, the document must be renewed on an annual basis pursuant to state pesticide law

and regulations. There were 433 new licenses issued and over 5,500 renewal licenses issued in 2009. The issuance of new and renewed pesticide certification and licenses generated total receipts of \$552,800 for 2009 for a total of \$660,850 for the licensing and certification program.

All commercial and private certifications and licenses, with the exception of Dealer Licenses, expire on December 31st of each year. The Dealer License expires on the last day of February of each year. As a result, individuals eligible to renew for the next year automatically receive a renewal application. These renewal applications are mailed out in October and each applicator must renew their certification and/or license by January 1st. Applications submitted after the expiration of the current license but before June 30th must pay a late fee equal to the exam to renew their license. Applicators that do not submit renewals prior to June 30 will be required to retake and pass state examination(s) to be eligible for a certification or license for the new year.

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Every three years, license holders must attend continuing education programs and obtain contact hours to maintain as well as enhance their pesticide application knowledge. Applicators who did not meet the required number of educational hours were obligated to retake the state examination to be recertified or relicensed. During 2009 there was a random audit of pesticide applicators. A total of 612 applicators were audited to verify that they had met the required number of contact hours by the end of a three year training period. There were 494 audits approved which represents nearly a 81% compliance rate. The remaining individuals either did not return their audit or did not satisfy the educational hours required; thus they were required to retake pesticide exams.



**PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CONTINUING EDUCATION  
(PACE)**

As in past years, MDAR staff continue to lecture to the pesticide-user community regarding laws and regulations. These lectures have been sponsored by the UMASS Cooperative Extension and various industry associations and companies. During 2009 the Department approved 273 continuing education programs to permit pesticide applicators to fulfill their recertification requirements.

**ENFORCEMENT**

The enforcement program is charged with enforcing the provisions of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act (MGL 132B), and the regulations promulgated there under. The enforcement program conducts routine inspections of pesticide users' establishments and the producers from which they acquire the products. Enforcement also investigates complaints regarding the misuse of pesticides in addition to providing education and outreach about Department pesticide programs.

There were a total of 321 inspections completed in 2009, which more than doubled the 2009 projected number of inspections and included agricultural and non-agricultural use observations, records and marketplace inspections, and dealer inspections.



### **RIGHTS-OF-WAY (ROW) MANAGEMENT**

The rights-of-way program is responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of ROW regulations. The ROW experienced significant challenges in 2009 related to public concern associated with proposed integrated vegetation maintenance activities by NSTAR in three Cape Cod towns.

### VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

Vegetation Management Plans (VMPs) are an overview of an entire Rights of Way System. They describe potential methods of herbicide control which include chemical, mechanical and biological methods including any Integrated Pest Management or IPM techniques. Plans must be renewed on a five (5) year cycle and must be presented at public hearings in areas affected by ROW practices. Nine plans were reviewed, brought to public hearing, and approved.

### YEARLY OPERATIONAL PLANS (YOP)

There were a total of 42 YOPs submitted for 2009 consisting of: 21 for Municipalities, 1 pipeline, 1 canal, 4 power companies, 13 Railroads, and 2 Highway.

### COMPLIANCE MONITORING

There were 16 enforcement use observations conducted by Pesticide Enforcement. There were also 3 follow-up inspections and two Letters of Warning (LOWs) issued for Rights-of Way activities

### **GROUND WATER PROGRAM**

In 2009, the Department conducted a monitoring study to obtain information on the occurrence of pesticides in surface waters located in watersheds that are dominated by suburban land use. The study areas were Spy Pond in Arlington, MA and the Aberjona River in Winchester and Woburn, MA. A total of 93 samples were collected on a biweekly schedule from June through October. Target analytes were selected based on commonly used herbicides and insecticides in residential areas and included: atrazine, 2,4-D, dicamba, mecoprop (MCP), prometon, simazine, and quinchlorac; the insecticides were carbaryl, chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and imidacloprid. There were 30 samples collected with detections of one or more pesticides. Detections were primarily in the samples collected following a significant rain event. Commonly used lawn herbicides, such as 2,4-D, and insecticides, such as imidacloprid, were detected at very low levels (< 1 ppb). The sampling will continue during the spring of 2010 to capture the early spring season.

### **PESTICIDE USE REPORTS**

The Department requires that all licensed applicators submit annual use reports for all pesticide applications. The use report identifies the active ingredients, amounts, and use site and patterns of pesticides used in the Commonwealth.

### **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PROTECTION ACT, SCHOOL IPM-PLAN**

The IPM-Plan provision of the Children's & Families Protection Act [CPA] mandates that every school and day care program must develop and submit IPM-Plans. For 2009 ninety-five percent of the approximately 2,600 public and private schools within the Commonwealth submitted IPM-plans. Additionally, close to ninety percent (89%) of the approximately 3,100 licensed day-care and school age childcare programs [covered by the CPA] have IPM-Plans on file.

### **COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING (“COOL”) INSPECTIONS**

Since 2006 MDAR has been working under a cooperative agreement with the USDA to perform audits relative to the Country Of Origin Labeling (“C.O.O.L.”) requirements of the 2002 & 2008 Farm Bills. C.O.O.L requires stores licensed under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (“PACA”) (e.g. grocery stores) to label covered commodities for country of origin (method of production is also required for seafood) for consumers at retail. Additionally, PACA agents must maintain or have access to records to verify C.O.O.L. claims for each covered commodity. In 2009, MDAR was assigned and completed 104 C.O.O.L audits in a manner consistent with the requirements of the cooperative agreement.

### **PESTICIDE PRODUCT REGISTRATION**

Any person who has obtained a pesticide product registration from the EPA must then apply for a registration with the Department of Agricultural Resources. The registrant or an agent acting on behalf of the registrant, is required to submit an “Application for New Pesticide Registration,” a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), and a product label. A fee of \$300.00 dollars is also required for each different EPA registration number.

New products are usually registered on a monthly basis. Every product label is thoroughly reviewed for compliance with state and federal laws and then brought to the Pesticide Board Subcommittee for consideration. A registration is valid from a period beginning with the initial date of approval by the Subcommittee and ending on the next June 30th. Each registration must be renewed annually no later than July 1, and the cost is \$250.00 per EPA number.

There were 7,792 pesticide products renewed in 2009 and 889 new products registered which represents receipts of \$1,906,300 and \$268,500 for renewed and new registrations respectively. Registrations of products with new active ingredients are assessed a fee of \$500 and 9 new active ingredients were registered.

### **STATE RESTRICTED USE CLASSIFICATION**

Federal General Use pesticide products registered by the Commonwealth may be classified as either general use or reclassified as State Restricted Use based upon its use pattern or the potential to become a groundwater contaminant. In 2009, 42 products were reclassified as State Restricted Use.

### **SPECIAL LOCAL NEEDS (SLN) REGISTRATION**

When a particular agricultural problem exists that can only be mitigated through the use of a pesticide that is not federally registered for that specific purpose, a Special Local Need registration may be issued by the state under section 24c of Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. One new SLN was registered in 2009.

### **EXPERIMENTAL USE PERMITS (EUP)**

State experimental use permits are required to control potential hazards of pesticide experimentation under outdoors, greenhouse, and domestic animal trial conditions. To obtain such a permit, a state application must be filed with the Pesticide Board Subcommittee along with a product label, a copy of the EPA EUP and a fee of \$300.00 dollars. One New EUP was granted in 2009.

## MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES’ DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Division of Agricultural Development fosters the sustainability of Massachusetts agriculture through innovative marketing, business, educational, and environmentally sound initiatives implemented through the Agricultural Fairs, Land Use, and Marketing Programs. The Division staff work closely with the Divisions of Animal Health, Crop and Pest Services, and Agricultural Technical Assistance to coordinate improved environmental sustainability and the economic viability of the agricultural resources within the Commonwealth. The Division staff collaborate with the over 50 agricultural and commodity organizations as well as other state agencies within the Secretariat of Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs as well as numerous other agencies across the state on both regional and state wide projects.



**MARY JORDAN, DIVISION DIRECTOR**  
(617) 626-1750, [Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us](mailto:Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us)

Mary’s first experience with the Department was a student intern in 1987. One of Mary’s favorite memories as an intern was the intern’s responsibility to plant the flowers on the State House grounds wearing *MassGrown & Fresher* shirts. Mary was hired as a Marketing Specialist in December of 1987 and became Director of the Division of Agricultural Development in 1996. As a Marketing Specialist, Mary’s duties included implementing the Department’s first Agricultural Tourism Program, coordinating the Federal State Marketing Improvement Grant Program, and implementing the Harvest New England Program in collaboration with the New England Departments of Agriculture. As Division Director, Mary has always advocated the teamwork approach with staff working collaboratively with other staff throughout the Department as well as with other state agencies, federal government partners, and the over 50 agricultural associations throughout the state. Mary is a graduate of Framingham State College with a Bachelor of Science in Consumer Studies. Mary is the past Secretary/ Treasurer of the North American Agricultural Marketing Officials (NAAMO, past President of the Massachusetts State Grange and a current member of the State Grange Executive Committee. Mary resides in Rutland with her husband Randy and their two children.

### STAFF LISTING

- Mary Jordan, Division Director
- Michael Botelho, Commonwealth Quality Program Coordinator – Marketing Specialist
- Christine Chisholm, APR Field Representative
- Lisa Damon, Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program Coordinator – Marketing Specialist
- Michael Gold, Information Systems Specialist
- Julia Grimaldi, USDA Specialty Crops Culinary Tourism Consultant
- Melissa Guerrero, Agricultural Fairs – Marketing Specialist
- Ronald Hall, APR Program Coordinator
- Ellen Hart, Agricultural Development Administrative Assistant
- Barbara Hopson, Land Use Administrator - APR Field Representative
- Richard LeBlanc, Website Coordinator – Marketing Specialist
- Bonita Oehlke, Export Development Coordinator – Marketing Specialist
- Michele Padula, APR Field Representative
- David Webber, Farmers’ Market Coordinator – Marketing Specialist

**2009 SPECIALTY CROP GRANT AWARDS**

Daniel Rhodes, Grant Manager  
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The staff within the Division of Agricultural Development is comprised of twelve full time employees, one consultant (through USDA Grant), one contract employee and one seasonal hire. Specialty Crops Block Grant Program The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources has the opportunity through the USDA Specialty Crops Block Grant Program to annually submit proposals for projects that specifically address the goals that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has for solely enhancing the competitiveness of Specialty Crops. Specialty crops are defined by the USDA as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, horticulture (including maple syrup and honey), nursery crops (including floriculture). Although, MDAR makes the initial review and award recommendations to the USDA, the USDA makes the final decision concerning grant awards. Commodity Groups, Buy Local organizations, individual operations and business are all eligible for this grant program, provided their proposals meet all the specifications of MDAR and USDA. Additionally, the Department itself obtained funding in 2009 of over \$90,000 to enhance the use of the MassGrown & Fresher marketing initiative.

ORGANIZATION	DOLLAR AWARD
Barnstable County Beekeepers	\$12,607.00
Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association	\$35,622.00
Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture	\$16,794.24
Farm Winery Growers Association	\$39,050.00
Island Grown	\$15,000.00
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources	\$90,440.00
Massachusetts Flower Growers	\$36,044.00
New England Apple Association	\$7000.00
Nuestras Raices	\$15,000.00
Southeast Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership	\$15,000.00
Sustainable Business Network of Greater Boston	\$30,000.00



### **AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTION (“APR”) PROGRAM**

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Chris Chisholm, Eastern Mass APR Regional Planner, (617) 626-1788, Chris.Chisholm@state.ma.us

Michele Padula, Central Mass APR Regional Planner, (617) 626-1758, Michele.Padula@state.ma.us

Barbara Hopson, South Western MA APR Regional Planner, (413) 548-1906, Barbara.Hopson@state.ma.us

Rick Chandler, North Western MA APR Regional Planner, (413) 548-1905, Rick.Chandler@state.ma.us

Michael Gold, APR Information Systems Administrator; (617) 626-1712, Michael.Gold@state.ma.us

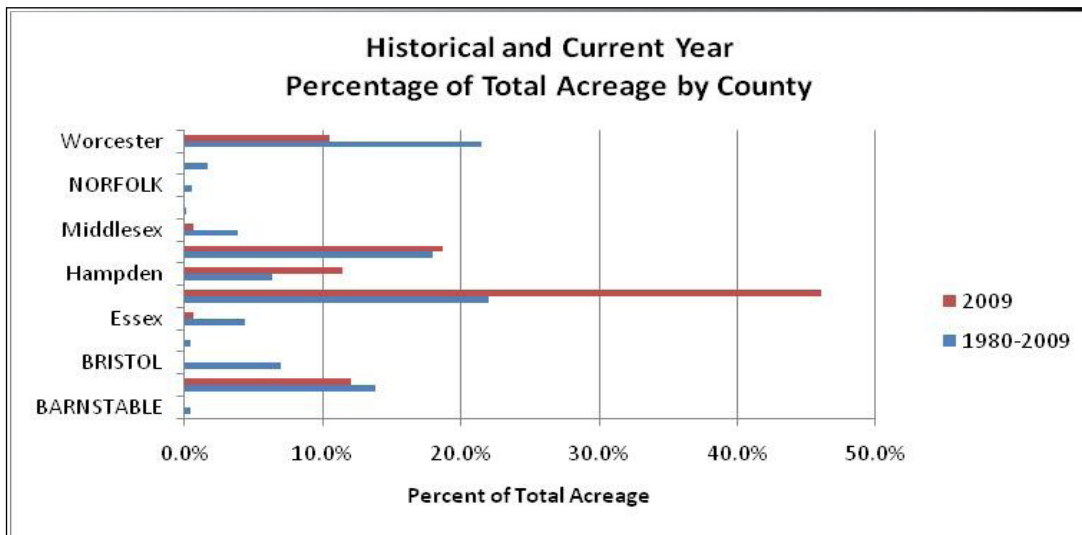
The Department of Agricultural Resources' APR Program was established in 1977 and is considered one of the first volunteer programs for farmland protection in the United States. The primary purpose of the APR program is to preserve and protect agricultural land, including soils, as a finite natural resource, from being built upon for non-agricultural purposes or used for any activity detrimental to agriculture. Further, the program was designed to keep APR land values at a level that can be supported by the land's agricultural uses and potential.

During the calendar year 2009, the APR program protected 35 farm projects covering over 2,115 acres. This raised the total farm properties enrolled to 763, protecting 64,038 acres of farmland. In 2009, the Department had accomplished a record number of closings with a combined easement value greater than \$13,244,000. The program's efforts for the year resulted in attracting \$6,300,000 of federal investment into its future preservation goals. Also, APR regulations were promulgated on December 25, 2009, culminating work of MDAR's land use staff and key input from the agricultural community that provided for the development of these regulations. The new APR regulations provide for a standardized and transparent application process as well as offering clear guidance to farmers on how their APR farms can participate in and contribute to a green energy future, made possible in part, by the Green Communities Act.



Projects often require more than a year to go from application to closing. Bringing projects into the program requires evaluating the resource, appraising the property, performing due diligence, and working with the land owner to ensure the program will enhance the fulfillment of their legacy and agricultural goals. At the close of 2009, the APR program still had 37 projects that had been worked through the first stage, resource evaluation, and 18 projects involving nearly 1500 acres that were ready to move through due diligence toward closing. Many of these projects

will continue through 2010. Also, MDAR will soon be completing its first pilot of the APR Improvement Program which expands opportunities for transitional landowners of APR parcels just providing business technical assistance, to now being eligible for grant funding to implement a business plan. In addition to purchasing preservation restriction, viability funding and stewardship efforts, DAR staff continues to review its policies as it relates to the ever changing environment of the agricultural industry.



will come to fruition in 2010, attracting an additional federal investment of \$5,865,000 through their Farm and Ranch Land Protection (FRPP) program. The program's stewardship effort is a growing segment of work for the program as baseline and monitoring reporting is a key component for all APR projects, past and future. Monitoring on regular intervals is an important aspect and a pilot program to increase our capacity to do this is through agreements with associated conservation districts was initiated between MDAR, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts in 2009 and

The chart above shows the percentage of total acres protected in each County with at least one APR. The figures represent the historical accomplishments of the program from 1980-2009 as compared to 2009 as an individual year. Many factors such as quality of the land resource; the economic viability of the farm enterprise, the long term importance of farming to the community; and the individual farmer's goals influence when a project will actually come into the program. The program does not include regionality in its decision making.



**COMMONWEALTH QUALITY PROGRAM (CQP)**

Michael Botelho, CQP Coordinator - Marketing Specialist  
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The Commonwealth Quality Programs’ mission is to enhance and promote Massachusetts’ agriculture through the establishment of a registered seal of quality. The CQP Seal will identify the organizations and products that maintain the highest quality, environmental, and safety standards, and which grow or use food grown, processed, and produced in Massachusetts. The “Commonwealth Quality Program” will provide new and exciting marketing opportunities that will increase the awareness, sustainability, and procurement of local products as well as:

- Define “local” as Massachusetts’ Grown, processed, or produced
- Use a simple, easily identifiable “seal” with a single tagline
- Ensure that positive consumer perceptions for “locally grown” continue
- Ensure that businesses and consumers are aware of the high quality and freshness of Massachusetts’ locally grown produce

Much of 2009 was spent preparing for the 2010 launch of the program, where by the Commonwealth Quality Seal will be on Massachusetts products at farm stands, farmers’ markets, specialty food stores and retail stores as well as wholesale venues throughout the Commonwealth or wherever quality Massachusetts’ products are sold.

The program received funding through the USDA Specialty Crops Block Grant Program to develop promotional material, training information, program sector requirements, as well as website and collateral material. A promotional plan for the initial launch of the program has been developed and is currently being scheduled.

**FARMERS’ MARKET PROGRAM**

David Webber, Farmers’ Market Coordinator – Marketing Specialist  
 (617) 626-1759, David.Webber@state.ma.us

Department staff provide technical assistance to individuals and groups trying to start a farmers’ market, help farmers find appropriate farmers’ markets in which to participate, and encourages consumers to patronize farmers’ markets through the publication of consumer listings, news releases, and other promotional activities.

**GROWTH OF FARMERS’ MARKETS**

YEAR	# OF MARKETS	% GROWTH
2004	101	9
2005	114	13
2006	126	11
2007	139	10
2008	167	20
2009	202	21

## NEW FARMERS' MARKETS IN 2009

### **BARNSTABLE COUNTY**

Mashpee  
Osterville

### **BRISTOL COUNTY**

North Attleboro

### **DUKES COUNTY**

Vineyard Haven

### **ESSEX COUNTY**

Georgetown  
Newburyport  
Salem

### **HAMPDEN COUNTY**

Hampden  
Palmer  
Springfield/Indian Orchard  
Wilbraham

### **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY**

South Hadley

### **MIDDLESEX COUNTY**

Acton  
Chelmsford  
Everett  
Stoneham  
Sudbury

### **NORFOLK COUNTY**

Braintree  
Wakefield  
Weymouth

### **PLYMOUTH COUNTY**

Bridgewater  
Duxbury  
East Bridgewater  
Hanover  
Hingham/The Square Market

### **SUFFOLK COUNTY**

Dorchester/Peabody Square  
Jamaica Plain/Community  
Servings  
Prudential Center  
South Station

### **WORCESTER COUNTY**

Ashburn  
Fitchburg/Burbank Hospital  
Fitchburg/Riverfront Park  
Garnder/Mt. Wachusett  
Community College  
Grafton  
Leicester  
Milford  
Petersham  
Phillipston  
Worcester/Northeast Side

Over the past several years, there has been significant growth in the number of farmers' markets in Massachusetts. In 2009, there were 40 new markets, bringing the total to 202.

For the first time, several winter farmers' markets operated on a regular basis, including markets in Attleboro, East Longmeadow, Marston's Mills, Natick, Plymouth and Wayland. With interest and demand for local products increasing, more winter markets are expected in 2010.

The Department, in cooperation with the Department of Transitional Assistance ("DTA") worked on expanding the use of EBT/SNAP at farmers' markets. DTA provided \$50,000 in grant funding to help farmers' markets purchase or lease wireless EBT terminals, outreach, and incentives for SNAP recipients.

Along with DTA and USDA, the Department held four workshops in the late fall of 2009 – in Amherst, Waltham, Holden and Wareham. Nearly 50 attendees learned about the process for getting their farmers' market authorized for EBT/SNAP, promotion, and outreach ideas. Attendees also learned about the grant opportunity from MDAR.

The Department anticipates a doubling (to over 40) of the number of farmers' markets able to accept SNAP benefits in 2010, expanding access to SNAP recipients and creating additional income for growers.

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**FARMERS' MARKETS PROGRAMS (cont.)**

The Department worked with the Department of Public Health Food Protection Program to revise food safety/ permitting guidelines for farmers' markets. With more farmers' markets than ever before, local Boards of Health continuously have questions on how to regulate the markets. The guidelines provide Boards of Health, growers, and market managers with answers to some of the common concerns and questions that arise.

A shellfish pilot program to allow local aquaculture products to be sold at farmers' markets was established in 2009 which resulted in shellfish being sold at Massachusetts farmers' markets for the first time.

MDAR maintains a comprehensive website of farmers' market resources on its MassGrown & Fresher website for consumers, growers, and market managers. A list of farmers' markets with their days, times, and locations can be found along with a crop availability guide, shopping and produce storage tips, healthy recipes, and nutrition information.

A Farmers' Market Managers Workshop was held February 24, 2009 in conjunction with Harvest New England Conference in Sturbridge, MA. The workshop was attended by nearly 100 farmers' market managers and was cosponsored by the Federation of Massachusetts Farmers' Markets and Cooperative Development Institute.

MDAR works to increase consumers' awareness of local agriculture and farmers' markets through media releases and special events. A tour of several farmers' markets by Commissioner Soares resulted in media coverage at those markets. The markets visited were: Shelburne Falls, Holyoke, Fitchburg, Boston City Hall Plaza, Winchendon, Somerville/Davis Square and Lawrence.

Massachusetts Farmers' Market Week was held the week of August 16th with a reading of the Governor's proclamation and statewide tomato contest at Boston's City Hall Plaza Farmers' Market on Monday, August 17th. Farmers from across the state entered their best tomatoes to be judged by food writers, chefs and other judges on taste, appearance and quality. The event was covered by several news outlets, including print, television and radio.

Farmers' markets continued to receive much media attention. Over 60 articles on farmers' markets were published in newspapers across the state. Additionally, farmers' markets also received coverage on local television and radio stations.

MDAR works to increase consumers' awareness of local agriculture and farmers' markets through media releases and special events. A tour of several farmers' markets by Commissioner Soares resulted in media coverage at those markets. The markets visited were: Shelburne Falls, Holyoke, Fitchburg, Boston City Hall Plaza, Winchendon, Somerville/Davis Square and Lawrence.



**FARMERS' MARKETS NUTRITION PROGRAM (FMNP)**

Lisa Damon, FMNP Coordinator – Marketing Specialist (617) 626-1731, Lisa.Damon@state.ma.us.

The Massachusetts Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides women and children in the Federal Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and elders with coupons redeemable at farmers' markets for fresh fruits and vegetables. WIC participants receive these nutrition benefits in addition to the regular WIC food package. Local farmers are reimbursed for the face value of the coupons, thereby enhancing earnings and supporting participation in farmers' markets.

Participation in the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program benefits farmers by attracting a new base of customers to farmers' markets, thereby providing additional sales opportunities to participating farmers, allows farmers to capture a greater share of the consumer food dollar through direct marketing, and promotes diversification on small farms by encouraging the production of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

Participation in the Program benefits coupon recipients as well. It provides participants with coupons redeemable for nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables, introduces families and others to farmers' markets, and supports nutrition education goals by encouraging the selection and preparation of fresh fruits and vegetables. In addition, Massachusetts also seeks to serve low-income seniors who are unable to use the coupons due to access limitations by facilitating bulk purchasing of fruits and vegetables that are distributed to home bound elders with their regularly scheduled meals deliveries, or distributed at on-site meal programs.

Funding for the Program is provided by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (USDA, FNS) with an additional required state match.

Massachusetts farmers' market coupons are distributed to women and children in the WIC Program, as well as eligible seniors and other individuals.

Any farmer participating at an approved farmers' market may request certification to participate in the Farmers' Market Coupon Program. Certification involves discussing the regulations for the program, as well as procedures for receiving payment for redeemed coupons.

The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program began in Massachusetts in 1986, and in 1989, Congress authorized a three-year demonstration project to test the concept in 10 states. The success of the demonstration projects led Congress to enact the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Act of 1992, thereby establishing it as the 14th federal food assistance program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Since that time, the number of states participating in the program has grown significantly.

A survey conducted in 2008 of 1093 WIC Farmers' Market Coupon recipients revealed that 54% of women reported never attending a farmers' market before receiving the coupons. The same women listed buying over 30 different types of produce and the majority of women reported the quality of the produce to be better than grocery store produce and the price to be less expensive or about the same. Over half of the women also reported they spent additional money at the farmers' market while using their coupons. In addition, 69% of the women stated their families consumed more fresh produce during the summer of 2008 as a result of the program.

In 2009 the USDA FNS awarded Massachusetts with \$517,716 in federal `food` dollars to distribute to low income elders along with \$57,524 to use to administer the program state-wide. The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program served approximately 20,000 seniors with coupons throughout the state in 2009. The program certified approximately 182 farmers' markets and 365 growers to serve the recipients of the program in 2009. The Senior FMNP home bound delivery program served 3,830 seniors in 2009 throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at 20 different local elder agencies. Participating elders received a benefit of \$30 per person for the 2009 growing season. An overwhelming majority (approximately 80%) of the seniors receiving the coupon benefit visited a farmers' market to redeem the fresh produce.

The Farmers' Market WIC coupon distribution program served approximately 83,747 women and children through 36 local WIC agencies throughout the state in 2009. Through the FMNP approximately \$837,500 worth of coupons were distributed to WIC participants to use at Massachusetts farmers' markets. The program certified approximately 182 farmers' markets and 365 growers to serve the recipients of the program. Participants received a benefit of \$10 per person for the 2009 growing season. These funds successfully increased the purchase of \$423,317 worth of fresh, local produce by WIC participants in 2009.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Massachusetts FMNP Program: <http://www.mass.gov/agr/markets/farmersmarkets/coupons.htm>  
USDA FMNP Information: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/>  
Massachusetts WIC Program: <http://www.mass.gov/WIC>

**MASSACHUSETTS GROWN & FRESHER MARKETING CAMPAIGN**

Richard LeBlanc, Website Coordinator - Marketing Specialist (617) 626-1759, [Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us](mailto:Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us).

Each year the MDAR promotes the "Massachusetts grown... and fresher" logo and brand. This program links consumers to locally grown farm products, specialty foods, and fun ag-tivities. In the spring of 2009, MDAR made a significant strategic shift in its outreach branding efforts of this program. Phase One consisted of promoting *MassGrown & Fresher* as a stand-alone promotional arm of the agency. The Department mapped out release plans for a new website that would be a user-friendly portal to easily find locally grown produce and locally made specialty food products. This effort is complemented through its two logos "Massachusetts grown...and fresher," and "Massachusetts Made with Pride." Using the logos, the MDAR produces stickers, price cards, and posters which are offered to farmers and the food producers online: [www.mass.gov/agr/markets/logos](http://www.mass.gov/agr/markets/logos). Additionally, *MassGrown & Fresher* supports other initiatives such as the Savor Massachusetts Program, Commonwealth Quality Program, Agri-tourism, and more.





Throughout the year, staff set up informational booths at industry and consumer shows, fairs, and festivals, to promote MassGrown, along with farm and fair publications. Our complete guide to “MassGrown” and produced products are offered on our consumer website: [www.mass.gov/Massgown](http://www.mass.gov/Massgown). In 2009 there were over 100,000 views to the website and the Department had 81 orders of marketing materials using the logo which includes usage from farms, schools.

In 2010, there are plans to fully launch a new MassGrown & Fresher Website in April. The site will include an interactive “Agri-Google” mapping feature. Promotional and branding plans are also underway.

#### **STATE OWNED FARMLAND LEASE PROGRAM**

Barbara Hopson, Land Use Administrator (413) 548-1906, [Barbara.Hopson@state.ma.us](mailto:Barbara.Hopson@state.ma.us)

Since its creation in the Department in 1974, the Division of Agricultural Development has been making “vacant public lands” available to groups and individuals for farming and community gardening. The “vacant public lands” of primary concern were the former state hospital farmlands which were left abandoned or under utilized when the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and Public Health (DPH) shut down their institutional farms in the 1960’s and 1970’s. Towns in which these institutions were located soon began requesting the “vacant” land for housing projects, town garages, etc. The Department’s goal was two-fold: to provide some level of protection for these state-owned farmlands (which have a high percentage of prime agricultural soils), and to ensure that they were used to their fullest potential.

For 2009, MDAR maintained agricultural license agreements with 17 farmers in 6 counties. State-owned farmland parcels are located in Agawam, Danvers Agricultural Reserve, former Grafton State Hospital, Lakeville, Middleborough, Northampton Agricultural Reserve, Westborough State Hospital, Western Massachusetts Hospital, former Medfield State Hospital, and land in the Wachusett Watershed.

#### Program Goals

- **Promotion of Sustainable Farming and Agricultural Markets:** The State-Owned Farmland Program makes land available to established commercial farmers as well as new entry farmers. These lands are used to augment privately owned agricultural land for a variety of agricultural enterprises such as livestock and dairy production, vegetable farms, and PYO operations.
- **Protection of Agriculturally Productive Lands:** Agricultural land legislatively transferred to the Department totaled 575 acres in 2009 and is protected under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution as conservation land. In 2009 Legislation was passed that will transfer approximately an additional 105 acres to the Department.
- **Development of a Framework for Sustainable Growth, Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection:** Land declared surplus to state agency needs generally contains viable agricultural land as well as non-agricultural land which may be suitable for limited development. The State-Owned Farmland Program works closely with other state agencies as well as private entities to develop comprehensive land use plans that incorporate agricultural land and development.

**Agricultural Tourism**

Rick Leblanc, Marketing Specialist (617) 626-1759, Richard.Leblanc@state.ma.us

Agricultural tourism (Agri-tourism) merges the world of travel with experiences of food and farming production. A visit to a farm can be an adventure for the entire family. Many farmers are becoming increasingly creative about making their farms attractive to tourists by adding farm stands, offering bus tours, corn mazes, bed and breakfasts, picnic tables, recreational activities, etc.

MDAR, in cooperation with University of Massachusetts Extension and Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT), periodically holds agri-tourism seminars to teach farmers about tourism as a means for expanding and diversifying their operations.

MDAR also publishes a directory of farms which offer “ag-tivities” to the public. The Department received funding through the USDA Rural Development Rural Enterprise Business Grant Program to produce a second edition of the agritourism map. This map will be ready for distribution in the Spring of 2010 listing over 350 farms open to the public.

MDAR is very proud of the over 350 farm attractions open to the public offering interesting and educational activities that will create memorable experiences.

This Massachusetts Agriculture Tourism map helps residents and visitors plan their trips to a farm destination as well as the opportunity to visit a state park or other state recreational facility. This map gives a brief description of each destination.

Agri-tourism encompasses a variety of activities, including farm tours, farm vacations, pick-your-own operations, farm bed & breakfast accommodations, nature study, cross country skiing, picnics, hayrides, workshops, fee hunting and fishing, to name just a few.





### **Culinary Tourism**

Julia Grimaldi, Culinary Tourism Consultant  
David Webber, Marketing Specialist  
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In May 2008 the MDAR began to develop and research the concept of Culinary Tourism in Massachusetts. Culinary Tourism is a subset of agri-tourism that focuses specifically on the search for, and enjoyment of, prepared food and drink. Culinary Tourism promotes all distinctive and memorable gastronomic experiences. It is an important marketing niche that fosters economic and community development for specialty crop growers, farm wineries, farm breweries, and hospitality and tourism professionals alike.

Culinary Tourism in Massachusetts presents an economic opportunity, to build on the current agriculture assets many growers already have in place, to assist those who may want to develop or even expand their culinary tourism opportunities and to design and develop creative and thoughtful web-based content for the culinary traveler.

- Database of approximately 150 growers, food producers & culinary tourism participants
- Hundreds of web-based resources for the culinary traveler, growers & chefs

- Monthly culinary and farm festival calendar
- Monthly featured recipe
- Savor Massachusetts collateral including rack cards, brochures, magnets and DVD
- Collaborative work with Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism (MOTT), regional tourism councils, and hospitality participants and buy-local organizations.
- Two workshops on culinary tourism at the Harvest New England Marketing Conference (2/09)
- Five regional “Tourism U” Culinary Tourism Roundtables in collaboration with MOTT.

### **Program Accomplishments:**

- The creation of the Savor Massachusetts logo to brand Massachusetts as a top “destination of flavor.”
- Outreach to specialty crop growers, buy local groups, regional tourist councils and hospitality professionals.
- Collaboration with the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism to brand the state as a top culinary destination.

The Savor Massachusetts initiative was officially launched in conjunction with a new Massachusetts Wine and Cheese Trail Guide at an invitation-only event on July 8, 2009. The kick-off event gathered over 15 Massachusetts wine and cheese makers who offered samples of their products to approximately 50 guests including food and wine journalists, local media outlets, hospitality professionals, locally minded chefs and area food buyers. As a result of the kick-off event the initiative received some significant media attention (New England Cable News attended the event and produced a business segment which ran on the evening news). Funding for the project was provided through USDA’s Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.



**EXPORT DEVELOPMENT**

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MDAR worked with growers and food producers to develop and expand export markets in collaboration with services and programs through Food Export USA Northeast [www.foodexportusa.org](http://www.foodexportusa.org) and the Cranberry Marketing Committee [www.uscranberries.com](http://www.uscranberries.com). Support ranged from identifying best markets, to working with international market specialists for importer and distributor interviews. Support at domestic and international trade shows, focused trade missions, and buyers missions were offered. Buyer Missions offer a low-cost, low risk business opportunity for product feedback and to develop sales. For example, Island Creek Oysters, Duxbury, successfully used Buyers Missions, In-Country Market representative services and Focused Trade Missions to identify customers in Hong Kong and Europe. MDAR worked to promote the “Branded Program,” based on funds from USDA and administered by Food Export USA Northeast. Massachusetts companies received over \$975,000 for activities relating to the promotion of food and agricultural products including advertising and sampling, trade show support, and point of sale material and label development for new export markets.

MDAR also collaborates with the Mass Export Center and the regional office of the US Department of Commerce.

MDAR’s export development program worked closely with the following missions:

- Northeast Buyers Mission, Boston, February 13
- Buyers Mission to the International Seafood Show, Boston, March 14.
- Buyers Mission to the Summer Fancy Food Show, New York City, June 27.
- Buyers Mission to Natural Products Expo East, Boston, September 23

**FARM TO SCHOOL PROJECT**

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Kelly Erwin, MA Farm-to-School Project (413) 253-3844, mafarntoschool@gmail.com

From kindergarten to college, interest in serving locally grown foods in cafeterias is increasing in Massachusetts and throughout the northeast U.S. Feeding locally grown foods to students can be a good way for food service directors to improve the nutritional value and taste of school meals, while supporting the local economy. Selling local products to schools can be profitable for Massachusetts growers who are looking for a new way to connect with local consumers.



MDAR, through its support of the Massachusetts Farm to School Project, provides technical assistance to Massachusetts farmers and schools as they attempt to find a good match. During the 2008 and 2009 school year, 205 districts school districts reported they preferentially purchased local foods. At least 80 of these districts purchased some or all of their local foods directly from more than 60 Massachusetts farms. During the 2008 – 2009 school year, there were about 603,000 students enrolled in the public schools participating in the Farm-to-School Project. This is 63% of the total state-wide enrollment of about 959,000 pupils.

In addition, 49 Massachusetts colleges and private schools re-ported they preferentially purchased local foods during the 2008 - 2009 school year.



#### **AGRICULTURAL FAIRS DEVELOPMENT**

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MDAR allots prize monies to agricultural fairs and supports 4-H activities in National Competitions. The staff manages the state exposition building in West Springfield, inspects fairs, conducts workshops, seminars, and training sessions, and publishes the annual Massachusetts Agricultural Fairs Directory.

There were 44 fairs held throughout the Commonwealth in 2009. MDAR printed 40,000 brochures which were distributed through Fulfillment America, a distribution center. Some went to Chambers of Commerce, turnpike authority's, information centers, handouts at department functions, bookstores, libraries etc. The State Rosette is given to fairs upon request and is used to recognize excellence for "best in show." It is fair to say that over three million visitors attended these fairs in 2009!

#### **AGRICULTURAL FAIRS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (AFIP)**

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AFIP assists agricultural fairs in the Commonwealth by improving their viability with anticipation of sustaining the fair through the development and implementation of an Agricultural Fair Improvement Plan. This plan consists of a two-phase program and plan. A comprehensive business plan is developed in Phase I by a team comprised of consultants engaged by the Department for their knowledge and expertise within the agricultural fair sector. Phase II requires a contract between the Department and the Fair. In exchange, MDAR provides the Fair with funding to implement specific portions of the plan's ability to improve the economic viability and possibly the environmental integrity of the Fair.

For 2009, six fairs participated in the AFIP program. These fairs included Cummington Fair, Marshfield Fair, Bolton Fair, Westfield Fair, Blandford Fair and Northampton's Three County Fair.





**MASSACHUSETTS BUILDING AT THE EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION (THE BIG E), WEST SPRINGFIELD**

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 Mary Jordan, Division Director (617) 626-1750, Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us

The Department manages the Massachusetts Building located on the Avenue of States at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield. Each year, the Department invites Massachusetts organizations and businesses to apply for the purpose of showcasing Massachusetts agriculture, commerce, culture, food or tourism through informational, educational, promotional, and retail exhibits. In 2009, there were 30 exhibits on the main floor of the Building and approximately a dozen outdoor exhibits in the backyard of the Building. Massachusetts Day (held the first Thursday of the fair) was a tremendous success! This day is an opportunity to showcase the finest Massachusetts has to offer including entertainment and special recognitions. MDAR was very pleased to have a visit from Governor Deval Patrick and Senator Paul Kirk. Several state legislators and officials visited the Building throughout the 17 days. The Massachusetts Building Advisory Committee is an essential group that assists with the planning of the exhibitors and events each year.

**AGRICULTURAL DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE PROGRAM**

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The Agricultural Directional Signage Program is managed by MDAR in cooperation with the Massachusetts Highway Department. The Ag Signage Program allows for the placement of agricultural directional signs along state roadways for farms located off those roadways. In 2009 there were five applications for signs across the Commonwealth. [Criteria and application are online at: www.mass.gov/agr/markets/agritourism/signs.](http://www.mass.gov/agr/markets/agritourism/signs)



**FOOD SAFETY**

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 Michael Botelho, Marketing Specialist  
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Recent produce contamination outbreaks have raised concerns about the safety of fresh produce. MDAR, UMass Extension, and the UMass Department of Nutrition collaborated to coordinate resources and training sessions for USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). The combined efforts of the Divisions of Crop and Pest Services and of Agricultural Development serve to fully prepare growers for, and guide them through the GAP processes.

MDAR worked closely with UMASS and Cornell to coordinate an online GAP training program to provide a flexible training alternative to the seminars. The first online training will be available in spring, 2010.

MDAR coordinates GAP audits as well as a GAP cost share program. In collaboration with the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, the GAP/GHP Cost Share Program has been designed to facilitate uptake and bear a portion of the expense associated with a successful audit. Any producer, individual, or business located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that schedules and successfully completes their initial USDA GAP/GHP audit will be eligible to apply for cost-share reimbursement. Qualified applicants may be eligible to receive up to a maximum of \$750.00 per calendar year to cover the costs of one successfully completed GAP/GHP audit. To qualify for this reimbursement applicants must have successfully completed their initial USDA audit on or between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010.

MDAR works closely with the Massachusetts Partnership for Food Safety Education to promote safe produce handling techniques and other food

safety messages to consumers and food workers. Materials are available in several languages. MDAR worked with the MPFSE to promote food safety messages and material at the Topsfield Fair, the Massachusetts Tomato Festival, and the Eastern States Exposition.

Five sessions were presented In 2009 with participation from regulators, agency and university staff, and growers mainly from Massachusetts but also other New England states.

- January 30, Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown: 31 participants
- March 4, UMass Collaborative Services Facility, Shrewsbury: 132 participants
- May 6, UMass Research Farm, South Deerfield: 52 participants
- December 3, MA Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Hyannis: 23 participants
- December 12, NEVBGA annual meeting Manchester NH: 68 participants







#### **HARVEST NEW ENGLAND (HNE)**

Mary Jordan, Division Director  
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HNE is a cooperative marketing program created by New England's state departments of agriculture in 1992 from a USDA Federal State Marketing Improvement Grant. The initial purpose of the program was to support the sale of New England-grown produce through supermarket channels. The program was subsequently opened to all New England food and agricultural products.

The Harvest New England Association, Inc. is a non-profit corporation registered with the states of Vermont and New Hampshire. HNE is registered with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and is recognized as a 501 (c)(5) organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

The Harvest New England Association has developed programs and activities in the past 18 years to further enhance the economic viability of New England products. In 2009, the Association sponsored the 2nd Harvest New England Marketing Conference in February at the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center, Sturbridge. Approximately 900 were in attendance from all over New England and the mid-Atlantic states. The

three-day conference focused on all aspects of marketing including a well attended trade show. The Association also promoted the program to consumers at the Eastern States Exposition (Big E) through the Harvest New England Culinary Kitchen Theatre. During the 2010 Big E Fair Season, Harvest New England will be promoted on the "Avenue" through promotional banners.

#### **MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) REVIEW**

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Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution guarantees the right of residents of the Commonwealth to the conservation, development, and utilization of agricultural land. Protection of this right is declared to be a public purpose by Article 97. Pursuant to this mandate, it is the mission of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs ("EOEEA") and MDAR to protect and enhance agricultural land and its capacity to benefit and sustain the citizens of the Commonwealth, as a finite resource.

Agricultural land has become a ready target for non-agricultural development as a result of its adaptability and physical resources. Such development is subject to review and certification under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). In addition, EOEEA has designated agricultural land as a critical natural resource. As with other critical natural resources in the Commonwealth (e.g. wetlands, floodplains), a concerted effort has been and shall continue to be made by the Commonwealth to avoid loss of agricultural land as a result of non-agricultural development. Where avoidance is not possible, MDAR policy requires mitigation for the loss of agricultural land.



MDAR developed the Agricultural Mitigation Policy in 2001 and it was subsequently reaffirmed in 2008. The keystone principle of the Agricultural Mitigation Policy is to provide three mitigation options where non-agricultural development of farmland is unavoidable. They are:

- (1) on-site mitigation
- (2) off-site mitigation
- (3) financial contribution

In addition, Executive Order 193 provides a protective tool where state agencies are directed to avoid and to mitigate against the conversion of state-owned agricultural land. The Order further provides, as a separate policy not restricted to state-owned agricultural land, that State funds and federal grants administered by the state shall not be used to encourage the conversion of agricultural land to other uses when feasible alternatives are available.

#### **AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY GROUP ASSISTANCE**

MDAR works closely with more than forty agricultural commodity groups and provides assistance to them in their marketing efforts. Staff members regularly attend commodity group meetings, speak at industry conferences, and generally serve in an outreach role to farmers.

The Department also offers assistance to the Massachusetts Agriculture Promotion Board (MAPB) and other commodity groups as they prepare for, and attend Agriculture Day at the Massachusetts State House.

#### **ORGANIC COST SHARE CERTIFICATION**

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There are some 105 farms and close to 100 processors that are certified to the USDA National

Organic Program (NOP) standards in Massachusetts. Each year the numbers have been increasing. The growth in the category continues because, if given a choice, many consumers choose locally grown, organic produce.

The Department works in conjunction with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service to reimburse certified organic farmers up to 75% (\$750 dollars maximum) of the total certification cost. Funds are available to farms that are inspected and certified and/or inspected and receiving renewal of certification.

#### **VALUE-ADDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

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More than 1000 Massachusetts companies produce specialty food products. The Department offers consumer information and resources to those looking to start their own company, improve marketing plans, or attend shows to showcase products.

The Department, in partnership with the New England Extension Food Safety Consortium, had completed a new gateway website featuring information and resources for the specialty food business. Information includes starting a food business, business and marketing, product development, federal and state regulations, and training and education.



**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS**

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MDAR supports the local creation of Agricultural Commissions (AgComs) through the staff support of several contractors working regionally across Massachusetts.

In January of 2009 there were approximately 118 AgComs and 82 Right to Farm Bylaws (RTFs). By December of 2009 there were 130 AgComs and 100 RTFs, an increase of 12 AgComs and 18 RTFs.

The first State Wide Gathering of AgComs was held January 23 & 24, 2009 at The Crowne Plaza, 10 Lincoln Square, Worcester, MA and was sponsored by MDAR, Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, American Farmland Trust and the Pilgrim Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc. There were over 120 attendees and twelve exhibitors. Of significance was the result of the “Future of AgComs” discussion, resulting in a steering committee and polling of all existing AgComs with regard to need for a state wide association of AgComs. Opening remarks were presented by Commissioner Douglas W.

Petersen with Rep. Michael Rodrigues and Rep. Denis Guyer. The evening guest speaker was Daniel Ross, Executive Director of Nuestras Raices on Fostering Economic, Human & Community Development in Holyoke through Projects Relating to Food, Agriculture and the Environment. The annual gathering of AgComs to discuss state wide issues of importance continues to be a catalyst for regional gatherings of AgComs.

Western Mass continued its annual AgComs gatherings in 2009 with a conference on March 28 and another on December 12. Both events were hosted by the Deerfield AgCom at Deerfield Town Hall and were well attended, each with some 75 attendees representing roughly 30 AgComs and other organizations.



## MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES’ DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH

**MICHAEL CAHILL, DIRECTOR**  
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Michael Cahill has served with the Department of Agricultural Resources since 1994. His employment began as the Rabies Program Coordinator, and expanded to include the supervisory role for the 500 plus Municipal Animal Inspectors who form the Division’s first responders to detected animal disease events in the field. In 2002, he received a Merit Award from the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association in honor of his assistance to the veterinary community. He has served as the Director of the Division of Animal Health since 2008.

The Division of Animal Health oversees a vast array of programs that focus on appropriate handling, care and control of livestock, poultry, and companion animals. Developing protocols for rapid response to any emerging disease problem and enforcing the rules and regulations designed to mitigate the risk of introducing such disease are essential roles the Division fills to protect the health of the Commonwealth’s domestic animal population. Proactively establishing and promoting management practices that reduce unnecessary stresses on animals served to increase yield in production animals and further enhance the life and longevity of those animals that are a part of our lives, whether for business or pleasure.

The Division of Animal Health completes work within several programs with funding provided by the United States Department of Agriculture through cooperative agreements. This financial support allows the Division to continue important disease surveillance and response efforts by maintaining or even increasing staff levels even when the Commonwealth’s budgetary constraints threaten to hinder these necessary activities. For 2009:

Avian Influenza	\$65,534
Foreign Animal Disease	\$8,645
National Animal Identification System	\$14,359
National Poultry Improvement Program	\$25,756
Scrapie	\$5,461
Swine Garbage Feeding Surveillance	\$43,777

**ANIMAL IMPORTS AND LIVESTOCK MARKETS**

Esther Wegman  
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All livestock, horses, poultry, waterfowl, and other animals, including cats, dogs and other pets entering Massachusetts from other states must comply with Commonwealth regulations that require a veterinarian's certificate stating the animal is healthy prior to travel. Additionally, some species may require certain testing to ensure negative status for diseases of concern depending on their state of origin. These measures significantly reduce the possibility of introducing contagious disease to the Commonwealth's domestic animal population. To further enhance these efforts, livestock dealers and transporters are licensed and their equipment and facilities are inspected.

Enforcement Actions: In 2009, a single unlicensed livestock dealer was reported. The Division issued a cease and desist order which required the individual come into compliance before continuing operations.

**BIOSECURITY PROGRAM**

Patricia Cabral  
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Biosecurity is a set of protocols or precautions used to minimize the risk of introducing an infectious disease into an animal population, and to prevent the spread of disease within that population. The protocols and precautions include proper cleaning, disinfection, and precautionary methods of ensuring that diseases are not carried from one premises to another. Good biosecurity practices should be used any place where animals are kept and especially at farms, shelters/rescues, kennels, animal foster homes and pet stores. Diseases can be spread through the air, direct contact (animal to animal), or indirect contact through contaminated equipment, accessory items, vehicles, and clothing.



**DAIRY PROGRAM**

John Nunes  
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The Dairy Program ensures a healthy environment for livestock and a safe, high quality supply of milk at fair prices for consumers, processors, and dairy farmers. This requires careful inspection and monitoring to enforce the relevant laws and regulations. The Program monitors milk production, hauling, distribution, pricing, marketing, and inspection of dairy farms to assure a safe and healthy supply of milk to processors, and ultimately consumers. Many factors influence the quality and quantity of milk produced by a dairy farm. Bacteriological counts measured through testing of milk samples helps determine the quality of milk. When the counts exceed regulatory standards, a dairy farmer is required to return to compliance within a timely fashion.



Enforcement Actions: In 2009 there were 169 bovine farms and 17 caprine farms certified as dairies. The Division utilizes a progressive enforcement protocol consisting of a letter of warning for violations required to be corrected within the following 10 days, a letter of warning for test results indicating two of the last four samples were out of compliance with standards, a shut-off order for test results indicating three of the last five samples were out of compliance with the standards, and an immediate cease and desist order for any test results that were excessively beyond the range of accepted standards.

10-day warning letters	2 out of 4 warning letters	3 out of 5 Shut-off Orders	Cease and Desist
7	63	17	16



In 2009, the Division was responsible for implementing provisions of the 2008 Dairy Farm Preservation Act. This included both the Dairy Farm Tax Credit and the couponing program for fluid milk sold in retail outlets.

**COUPON PROGRAM**

68 notifications  
 13 requests denied  
 55 requests approved

23 cross-promotions (where company covers entire cost of milk when so many units of their product is sold)

27 “cents off” promotions ranging from \$0.35-\$1.00 off of normal sale price

Free-milk for a year promotion covered by MilkPep good for any milk, at any retailer

Buy 10, get 1 orange juice

\$1.00 off next purchase when you purchase a gallon of milk - \$1.00 can not be used on milk

\$0.50 off next purchase when you purchase a gallon of milk - \$0.50 can not be used on milk

\$2.00 off next purchase when you purchase 2 or more manufacturer products

Denials were issued due to either a lack of information, free milk terminology before it was allowed, not enough time given for review (30 day requirement), or the final sale price appeared to be below cost.

**BREAKDOWN FOR 2009 DAIRY FARMER TAX CREDIT PROGRAM**

Average per Farm	\$23,952.10
Average per Individual	\$16,362.53
Highest Farm	\$174,185.56
Highest Individual	\$102,418.37
Lowest Farm	\$1,111.17
Lowest Individual	\$47.41
Total Production for State	234,145,546 lbs.
Total Tax Credit	\$4,000,000.00
Tax Credit Rate	\$1.70833913705965 or \$1.71 per hundredweight



### EQUINE PROGRAMS

Sandy Pepe  
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The Division of Animal Health administers a number of programs involving horses and other equine species. Licenses are issued to horse riding instructors and the riding schools/stables where they operate. Riding stable licenses are also issued to any business where hay rides, sleigh rides, carriage rides, pony rides, and trail rides are offered to the public for a fee. The Division also requires a license for anyone engaged in the business of dealing, auctioning, or transporting equine animals. This licensing includes record keeping requirements that seek to bolster other programmatic disease control efforts. The Division also organizes the registration program for the Massachusetts State Racing Commission which promotes the breeding and racing of thoroughbred and standardbred horses in the Commonwealth. For 2009 MDAR issued 2,408 licenses for riding instructors and licensed 560 riding stables.

Enforcement Actions: In 2009, four individuals were found to be offering horseback riding instruction without a license. During the same period three stables were operating without licenses. All those found to be in violation were issued cease and desist orders from the Division of Animal Health. All were required to obtain the necessary licenses before resuming operations.

### MUNICIPAL ANIMAL INSPECTOR PROGRAM

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The Division of Animal Health is responsible for appointing municipal animal inspectors for each and every city and town in the Commonwealth. These inspectors act as agents of the Division of Animal Health in the communities they serve. The primary duty of the municipal inspector involves issuing quarantines to owners of animals that have been exposed to, or are potentially spreading the rabies virus. The other major role the inspectors fulfill for the Division is conducting the annual inspections of all domestic livestock and poultry housed on properties in their respective cities and towns. These inspections are a part of MDAR's disease surveillance system and assist in ensuring animal owners provide basic necessities for the animals in their care. Municipal Animal Inspectors may also be called upon to serve as first responders to assist in implementing disease response plans in the event of an outbreak.

**PET SHOP PROGRAM**

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The Division of Animal Health has the statutory responsibility to license all pet shops. For 2009 there were 158 duly licensed. Pet shop inspections are required for licensure and annual relicensure of all Massachusetts pet shops. Each establishment must meet facilities requirements in order to receive a license. These requirements are in place to protect the health of the animals, as well as that of the visiting public and the employees who work in these shops.

In 2009, there were 8 pet shops found to be operating without the required license. Each of these operations were issued a cease and desist order and required to come into compliance before continuing operation.

**POULTRY PROGRAM**

Ed Hageman  
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The Division of Animal Health's Poultry Program strives to educate producers and consumers about the benefits of local poultry and poultry products. Massachusetts law requires that all live poultry



or hatching eggs moving within the Commonwealth to originate from current certified Salmonella pullorum clean flocks. The testing to achieve this status is provided for free. Other testing available to Massachusetts poultry producers include screening for avian influenza, Mycoplasma gallisepticum, Mycoplasma synoviae,

Mycoplasma meleagridis, and Salmonella enteritidis. The poultry program provides producers and consumers with educational materials, production support, egg safety, egg handling, and inspections. The local food movement and consumers' increased interest in knowing how their food is made have both led to a significant increase in backyard poultry and expansion of commercial activity (see MPPU, page 39) that in turn increased staff inspectional responsibilities during 2009.

**RABIES PROGRAM**

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Rabies is a viral disease that can affect all mammals, including humans. The virus attacks the central nervous system and can be secreted in saliva. Because rabies affects people as well as animals, control of this disease has become a top priority for the Division of Animal Health. With the cooperation of the Department of Public Health, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and Municipal Animal Inspectors every aspect of potential rabies exposures are addressed in order to prevent further spread of the virus. In 2009 there were:

- 2,621 domestic animal bites to humans or other domestic animals
- 2,566 possible domestic animal exposures to rabies during the same period; 81 exposures were to animals confirmed to be rabid by the State Lab

2009 represented the 9th annual outreach effort by the Division to increase awareness of the disease and to gain compliance with the rabies vaccination laws in domestic animals. A part of this effort was to coordinate with municipalities to hold low-cost vaccination clinics for residents of the community. 220 rabies vaccination clinics were held around the state between March and May.

### REPORTABLE DISEASE PROGRAM

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Reportable diseases may be foreign animal diseases which are not currently affecting the state, diseases which have serious public health consequences, or diseases that MDAR has either previously eradicated from Massachusetts or are very close to eradicating. Veterinary practitioners are required to report suspected or positive cases of these diseases to the Division of Animal Health promptly. The Division seeks early detection in order to mount a rapid response in an effort to reduce the number of animals and animal owners affected by an outbreak.

### ANIMAL SHELTER/RESCUE PROGRAM

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The Division of Animal Health's Shelter/Rescue Program ensures the health and safety of animals being offered to the public for adoption. Through registration of individual shelters and rescue groups who operate adoption programs within Massachusetts and those that adopt animals into Massachusetts from other states, the Division enhances the overall health of the companion animal population. Since many of the animals that wind up in these channels have no, or very limited routine veterinary care, this disadvantaged portion of the domestic animal population requires more



attention. The rules in place serve to protect the animals and those who make an effort to help them. During 2009 there were 203 registered shelters and rescues operating in Massachusetts.

During 2009, the Division issued 40 cease and desist orders to shelters and rescues that had failed to register with the Department and operate within the prescribed rules (1-AHO-05).

### SWINE PROGRAM

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The Massachusetts swine program includes permitted garbage feeders, licensed swine dealers, and Classical Swine Fever, Brucellosis and Psuedorabies testing. The word "garbage" is defined as any meat waste, or meat waste combined with any other food waste, resulting from handling, preparation, cooking, and consumption of foods, including animal carcasses or parts thereof. Anyone raising swine to be sold for public consumption and feeding garbage must obtain a permit from the MDAR's Resources Division of Animal Health and USDA/APHIS Veterinary Services. The issuance of this permit requires a facility inspection and garbage cooker temperature check. All garbage, regardless of previous processing, must be heated to 212 degrees for 30 minutes prior to being fed to swine. These strict regulations were implemented to mitigate the risks associated with feeding meat scraps to swine herds. For the same reason pork products must be cooked thoroughly to destroy harmful pathogens that could be in the meat, the meat fed to swine must also be cooked to reduce the risk of introducing those pathogens in the first place.

During 2009, an individual was found to be operating a swine garbage feeding operation without the required permit. The person was issued a cease and desist order and was required to discontinue the practice until achieving compliance.

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## MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES' THE YEAR AHEAD

Looking forward into 2010 and on to 2011 the economy will continue to have a huge impact on MDAR and our constituents. Serving primarily small businesses around the Commonwealth we know that they face many challenges — rising costs, more challenging revenue environments, and at the same time a public that is growing more and more interested in agricultural services and products.

Here at the Department of Agricultural Resources it means doing more with less. This translates to the continuation of streamlining our agency staff through increased online interaction, E-Licensing for some of our largest permitting programs, and cross training and educating our staff to fill gaps, leveraging opportunities when they arise, and maintaining a high level of customer support.

Despite the challenging budget situation there are still opportunities. Interest in local, high quality products grows. Retailers and a growing segment of the public are aggressively seeking assurances that their food is safe and grown using sustainable practices. This administration has made assuring that public confidence in its local food supply a focal point of many MDAR programs.

Alternative energy will continue to be a strong focus of what we do. Energy is agriculture's largest input. Recent events and economic conditions have shown us that the more independent we can become, and the more our farms can contribute to the solution, the more independent they and the communities they call home become.

We will continue to aggressively pursue federal resources—money that has proven to be a challenging but effective source for new opportunities. We will continue to build strong partnerships with not for profits and public interest groups that leverage money to serve both our traditional and non traditional constituents. As we look to serve a broader base of both urban and rural populations, these partnerships are proving crucial to those efforts. We will continue to rely upon our incredible staff to maintain existing programs at the level the public has grown to know while also seeking out new opportunities.

It will be an exciting next few years at MDAR and in the agricultural community. It will see the rollout of the "Commonwealth Quality Program", methane digesters that combine manure and food wastes and turn them from environmental liabilities into environmental solutions, and revenue diversification for our farms. Internally, MDAR's E-Licensing program should allow our talented staff to focus less on shuffling paper and more on solving problems, assuring responsible and sustainable practices and promoting agriculture across the Commonwealth.

For the industry we expect the growing demand for their products and a slowly recovering economy will drive increased sales. The ever growing public curiosity in how the nation's food and fiber is produced presents some challenges to the established way farmers do business, but more importantly presents exciting new opportunities that will serve to redefine and promote a vibrant agricultural identity for our Commonwealth.





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