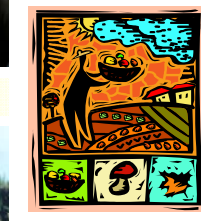


# Massachusetts Agricultural Commissions: Making a Difference in Our Communities

Massachusetts Agricultural Commissions' Conference  
January 23-24, 2009  
The Crowne Plaza, 10 Lincoln Square, Worcester, MA 01608



*Sponsored by:*  
*Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)*  
*Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture (MSPA)*  
*Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)*  
*American Farmland Trust (AFT)*  
*Pilgrim Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.*  
*(Pilgrim RC&D)*

## WELCOME

### Massachusetts Agricultural Commissions' Conference **Agricultural Commissions: Making a Difference in Our Communities**

On behalf of the Agricultural Commissions (AgCom) Conference Planning Group and Sponsors, welcome to the first statewide Agricultural Commissions Conference where you will find a diverse agenda of workshops, speakers and networking opportunities. Whatever workshop or speaking event you attend, you will find a network of people committed to the sustainability of agriculture in the Commonwealth. Thank you for attending and please share what you learn with others on your AgCom and in your community.



Irene Winkler, Coordinator, USDA, NRCS  
Pilgrim RC&D Program

During the conference you will:

- ✓ **Learn about resources that are available to assist AgComs and how to access them**
- ✓ **Network/communicate during the meeting and determine how best to communicate with each other going forward**
- ✓ **Receive training on:**
  - Public Relations, how to raise the visibility of agriculture in your community
  - Farmland protection strategies and tools
  - Farm transfer and succession
  - Laws and regulations affecting agriculture
  - Working with town boards and committees
  - Funding AgCom efforts
  - Conflict management
  - Inventories of agricultural land, farms and farmers needs
  - And much more.....
- ✓ **Develop goals and a plan for the future of AgComs in Massachusetts**

Thank you to the conference planning group and to the sponsors for making this conference possible.

#### Conference Planning Group:

Sue Guiducci, Dartmouth  
June House, Rehoboth  
Ken Nowak, Adams  
Laura Grabski, Boxford  
Cheryl Lekstrom, MFBF  
Doug Gillespie, MFBF  
Sarah Kelley, SEMAP  
Irene Winkler, Pilgrim RC&D

Heidi Walz, Falmouth  
Laura Abrams, Sudbury  
Grace Adzima, Belchertown  
Leslie Spencer, Barnstable  
Pete Westover, MDAR  
Ben Bowell, AFT  
Kelly Powers, Pilgrim RC&D

#### Conference Sponsors:

**Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)**  
[www.mass.gov/agr/](http://www.mass.gov/agr/)

**Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture (MSPA)**  
[www.promotingmassag.org/](http://www.promotingmassag.org/)

**Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)**  
[www.mfbf.org](http://www.mfbf.org)

**American Farmland Trust (AFT)**  
[www.farmland.org/](http://www.farmland.org/)

**Pilgrim Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc. (Pilgrim RC&D)**  
[www.pilgrimrcd.org](http://www.pilgrimrcd.org)

## SPONSORS

### Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)

[www.mass.gov/agr/](http://www.mass.gov/agr/)

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources' mission is to support, promote and enhance the long-term viability of Massachusetts agriculture with the aim of helping this state's agricultural businesses become as economically and environmentally sound as possible. By so doing, it is hoped that our farmers will continue to support and maintain thousands of acres of valuable open space for the benefit of the state's economy and environment.

### Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture (MSPA)

[www.promotingmassag.org/](http://www.promotingmassag.org/)

The Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture (M.S.P.A.), one of the earliest agricultural societies in the United States, was incorporated in 1792.

The Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture provides grants (and, on occasion, loans and investment funding) to enterprises which, in the judgment of the Trustees of the Society, will promote agriculture in Massachusetts.

### Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

[www.mfbf.net/](http://www.mfbf.net/)

The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots organization with policies and priorities set at the local level by individual farmer members in a democratic process that dates back to our beginning. Massachusetts Farm Bureau is the state's largest non-profit trade association of agricultural producers. More than 6500 member families in all fourteen counties have joined together to solve problems common to the agricultural community. Ninety years of experience in issues relating to agriculture in Massachusetts has made Farm Bureau widely considered the "Voice of Agriculture" in the Commonwealth.

### American Farmland Trust (AFT)

[www.farmland.org/](http://www.farmland.org/)

American Farmland Trust is committed to protecting the nation's best farm and ranch land and improving the economic viability of agriculture. During the past 28 years, AFT helped to stimulate the creation of 27 state-level farmland protection programs, as well as countless local ordinances and programs that give landowners the tools they need to keep their land in farming. AFT has been the catalyst for unprecedented levels of funding for federal programs that protect farmland and improve the environment. AFT works with federal, state and local leaders and communities to develop legislation, implement policies and execute programs that keep farmers on their land and protect our environment.

### Pilgrim Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc. (Pilgrim RC&D)

[www.pilgrimrcd.org](http://www.pilgrimrcd.org)

The purpose of the RC&D Program is to encourage and improve the capability of volunteers, locally elected, and civic leaders to plan and carry out projects for resource conservation and community development that lead to prudent land use and the sound management and conservation of natural resources. RC&D is a program that is led by local volunteer councils. Pilgrim RC&D Directors include members from the community-at-large, Conservation Districts, County Commissioners and Regional Planning Agencies.

The RC&D program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) who provides funding for a full-time Coordinator and part-time Assistant. The Pilgrim RC&D Area serves Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket Counties.

## WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

### Farmland Protection Tools

Speakers for this workshop will provide participants with an overview of programs and planning techniques that may be used to protect working farmland in Massachusetts. In this workshop participants will learn about APR, Farm Viability, Chapter 61 and use of rights of first refusal, planning and zoning techniques and bylaws, agricultural districts and municipal agincentive agreements, tax policies, installment purchase agreements and other methods of farmland protection

**Cris Coffin**, New England Director, American Farmland Trust

[www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org)

**Ben Bowell**, New England Field Rep., American Farmland Trust

[www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org)

**Rich Hubbard**, Executive Director, Franklin Land Trust

[www.franklinlandtrust.org](http://www.franklinlandtrust.org)

### Conflict Management and Resolution

In this workshop participants will discover productive ways to handle conflicts – ways that make a difference in your work with AgComs, farmers, neighbors and town boards and staff. Often AgCom members are called upon to serve as conflict management facilitators or neutral party facilitators to help resource a conflict where agriculture is affected. In this workshop participants will learn about conflict management styles, tools and techniques for managing and resolving conflict, facilitating communication, principles of negotiation, basic mediation skills, and crafting an agreement.

**Mette Kreutzmann**, Program Manager, MA Office of Dispute Resolution and Public Collaboration

**Cary Quigley, Mediator**, MA Office of Dispute Resolution and Public Collaboration, Middlefield Farmer

**Courtney Breese**, Program Coordinator, MA Office of Dispute Resolution and Public Collaboration

[www.umb.edu/modr](http://www.umb.edu/modr)

### Facilitated Discussion: Future of AgComs, Should AgComs Organize Statewide?

This is a facilitated session that will provide the opportunity for AgCom members to discuss their future and whether they should organize statewide or in some other fashion.

The session will be kicked off by Alexandra Dawson of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions. She will explain why Conservation Commissions organized a state association, how they organized and the benefits the association provides the individual commissions.

AgCom members will then identify the needs, benefits and drawbacks to organizing beyond municipal boundaries. Participants will further discuss and weight the needs, benefits and drawbacks. If a consensus develops regarding organization, discussion will take place on how to organize and the steps toward organizing will be outlined.

**Alexandra Dawson**, Environmental Attorney, MA Association of Conservation Commissions Board member and past President.

[www.maccweb.org](http://www.maccweb.org)

**Mary Greendale**, facilitator with a focus on agriculture, former Selectwomen town of Holliston, MA

## Making a Difference in Our Communities

Friday January 23, 2009

<b>7:00 am – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Registration</b>	<b>Assembly</b>
<b>8:30 am – 9:15 am</b>	<b>Opening Remarks: Douglas W. Petersen, Commissioner MA Department of Agricultural Resources</b>  <b>Rep. Michael Rodrigues, Westport, MA Rep. Denis Guyer, Dalton, MA</b>	Worcester Springfield

<b>9:45am 12:15 am</b>	<b>Workshops</b>	
	<b>1. Public Relations: Raising the Visibility of Agriculture in the Community</b> <i>Diane BaedekerPetit, USDA, NRCS Public Affairs Officer Tracy Anderson, Organizer, CLASH, Cape Land and Sea Harvest</i>	Springfield
	<b>2. Inventories of Agricultural Land, Farms &amp; Farmers at the Local Level</b> <i>Jon Jaffe and Rick Hermonot, First Pioneer Farm Credit June House, Rehoboth AgCom Clem Clay, Trust for Public Lands Katherine Beauchamp, Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod Tom Stone, Woods Hole Research Center</i>	Boston
	<b>3. Massachusetts Buy Local Programs and MA Farm-to-School Project</b> <i>Kelly Coleman, CISA, Be a Local Hero-Buy Locally Grown Campaign Sarah Cogswell, SEMAP, Buy Fresh Buy Local SE Massachusetts Barbara Zheutlin, Berkshire Grown Jim O'Brien, Essex Co. and Merrimack Valley, Buy Fresh Campaign Jessie Gunnard, Buy Fresh Buy Local Cape Cod Kelly Erwin and Anne Cody, MA Farm-to-School Project Melissa Rabbit DeFeo, Island Grown Initiative</i>	New Hampshire
	<b>4. Farmer Preservation, Farm Transfer-How to keep farmers on the land</b> <i>Kathryn Ruhf, Land for Good Katie Cavanagh, Farms Forever, SEMAP</i>	New York
	<b>5. Understanding Laws and Regulations Affecting Agriculture: Zoning, Health, RTF and Chapter 61 &amp; Working with Town Boards</b> <i>Bob Ritchie, General Counsel, MDAR Frank DiLuna, ESQ, Murtha Cullina, LLP</i>	Vermont
	<b>6. Understanding Wetlands Laws and Agriculture &amp; Working with Your Conservation Commission</b> <i>Dan Lenthall, District Conservationist, USDA NRCS Laurell Farinon, Conservation Agent, Rochester, MA</i>	Maine
	<b>7. Funding AgCom Efforts</b> <i>Paul LeBeau, Town Administrator, Holliston, MA Mary Greendale, Grant Writer specializing in agriculture</i>	Cambridge

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch &amp; Guest Speaker: Kathryn Ruhf Land for Good</b>	Ballroom
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2:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Workshops</b>	
	<b>1. Farmland Protection Tools</b> <i>Cris Coffin, New England Director, American Farmland Trust Ben Howell, New England Field Rep., American Farmland Trust</i>	Springfield
	<b>2. Inventories of Agricultural Land, Farms &amp; Farmers at the Local Level</b> <i>Jon Jaffe and Rick Hermonot, First Pioneer Farm Credit June House, Rehoboth AgCom Clem Clay, Trust for Public Lands Katherine Beauchamp, Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod Tom Stone, Woods Hole Research Center</i>	Boston
	<b>3. Massachusetts Buy Local Programs and MA Farm-to-School Project</b> <i>Kelly Coleman, CISA, Be a Local Hero-Buy Locally Grown Campaign Sarah Cogswell, SEMAP, Buy Fresh Buy Local SE Massachusetts Barbara Zheutlin, Berkshire Grown Jim O'Brien, Essex Co. and Merrimack Valley, Buy Fresh Campaign Jessie Gunnard, Buy Fresh Buy Local Cape Cod Kelly Erwin and Anne Cody, MA Farm-to-School Project Melissa Rabbit DeFeo, Island Grown Initiative</i>	New Hampshire
	<b>4. Farmer Preservation, Farm Transfer-How to keep farmers on the land</b> <i>Kathryn Ruhf, Land for Good Katie Cavanagh, Farms Forever, SEMAP</i>	New York
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	<b>7. Funding AgCom Efforts</b> <i>Paul LeBeau, Town Administrator, Holliston, MA Mary Greendale, Grant Writer specializing in agriculture</i>	Cambridge
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	<b>Social</b>	
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	<b>Dinner &amp; Guest Speaker: Daniel Ross, Executive Director, Nuestras Raices</b>	Springfield Worcester

## WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

### Farmer Preservation, Farm Transfer-How to keep farmers on the land

This conference workshop will cover methods and programs for keeping farmers on the land. The value of farm succession and transfer planning will be addressed. Programs and services available to assist landowners with transfer planning will also be presented. How to “grow new farmers” will be discussed and new and beginner farmer success stories will be showcased.

**Kathryn Ruhf**, Principal, Land for Good

[www.landforgood.org](http://www.landforgood.org)

**Katie Cavanagh**, SEMAP Farms Forever Program Coordinator

[www.umassd.edu/SEMAP](http://www.umassd.edu/SEMAP)

### Laws and Regulations Affecting Agriculture: Zoning, Health, RTF, Chapter 61 & Working with Town Boards

This workshop will cover zoning and health laws and regulations that affect agriculture. Local Right to Farm bylaws will be discussed as will chapter 61 and rights of first refusal. Discussion will take place on how AgComs can work with town boards and staff to address or resolve issues related to agriculture, planning, zoning, health and chapter 61.

**Bob Ritchie**, General Counsel, MA Department of Agricultural Resources

[www.mass.gov/agr](http://www.mass.gov/agr)

**Francis Diluna, ESQ**, Murtha Cullina, LLP

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

### The Wetlands Protection Act & Agriculture; Working with Your Conservation Commission

This workshop will address the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The Act exempts “work performed for the normal maintenance or improvement of land in agricultural use.” The Wetlands Protection Act Agricultural Regulation defines this exemption and will be covered in some detail. Examples of real situations involving agricultural activities and wetlands will be provided; technical assistance farm planning services provided through the Natural Resources Conservation Service will be explained. Discussion will take place regarding how AgComs can work with Conservation Commissions and Agents to educate farmers and the community to reduce potential violations of the law and regulations.

**Laurell Farinon**, Conservation Agent, Rochester, MA

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

**Daniel Lenthall**, District Conservationist, Westford, MA

[www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/)

### Funding AgCom Efforts

Paul LeBeau will provide an overview of the rules and guidelines that govern municipal budgeting, handling money, and accepting grants and gifts. Actual finding related situations will be discussed and Paul will discuss how each situation fits in the rules and guidelines. Mary Greendale will provide instruction on “How to get Grants.” She will cover how to interpret an respond to RFPs, how to write proposals including planning actions and “deliverables,” budgets, timelines and how to manage grant funds, An overview of grant programs available to agriculture will be provided.

**Paul LeBeau**, Town Administrator, Holliston

[www.townofholliston.us/](http://www.townofholliston.us/)

**Mary Greendale**, Grant Writer specializing in agriculture

## Public Relations: Raising the Visibility of Agriculture in the Community

Speakers will cover how AgComs can plan and execute effective public relations campaigns, intended to raise the visibility of agriculture in the community. They will address how to determine objectives, develop a message, and plan so that your message not only reaches your target audience, but also inspires them to take action. You will learn hands on how to develop a communications plan by working through a series of practical exercises. This session will also provide visual examples of a successful Massachusetts community event that encourages community involvement in agriculture.

### Diane Baedeker Petit, Public Affairs Officer, USDA-NRCS

[www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/)

Diane Baedeker Petit has been the Public Affairs Officer for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Massachusetts since July of 2003. Prior to joining NRCS, Diane was the Communications Coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture for nineteen years.

### Tracy K. Anderson

Tracy has consulted for national corporations including Allmerica Financial, Reebok, and Network World Fusion, working extensively on their print and web-based corporate branding campaigns. Her professional experience also extends more than 15 years in the food and beverage industry. Tracy is also a contributing writer for Edible Cape Cod, and was the 2008 Director of the "CLASH" – the Cape Land and Sea Harvest-lovingly tagged as "A Salute to Farming, Fishing and All Things Cape Cod."

### Inventories if Agricultural Land, Farms & Farmers...at the local level

Speakers will address why inventories and assessments were conducted, how they were designed, their results, and how the information has been or will be used to support agriculture. There will be discussion on how AgComs can support these efforts as well as how these efforts can be replicated.

**Jon Jaffe, V.** President, Farm Business Consultant, and Farm Tax Specialist, First Pioneer Farm Credit, ACA, Dayville, CT

**Rick Hermonot, V.** President and Farm Business Consultant, First Pioneer Farm Credit, ACA, Dayville, CT

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

**June House,** Rehoboth AgCom member, Senior Development Planner, Newport, RI

**Clem Clay,** Director, Connecticut River Program, The Trust for Public Land

[www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)

**Katherine Beauchamp,** The Association to Preserve Cape Cod

[www.apcc.org](http://www.apcc.org)

**Tom Stone,** Senior Research Associate, Woods Hole Research Center

[www.whrc.org](http://www.whrc.org)

### Massachusetts Buy Local Campaigns and Farm-to-School Project

Speakers will address why it is important to Buy Local, how the regional programs and campaigns are raising awareness of the value and benefits of buying local and how they promote local growers and buyers. There will be discussion on how AgComs can support these regional efforts and support Massachusetts local growers and buyers.

**Kelly Coleman,** CISA, Program Director, Be a Local Hero-Buy Locally Grown Campaign

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

**Sarah Cogswell,** SEMAP Buy Local Coordinator, Buy Fresh Buy Local SE Massachusetts

[www.umass.edu/SEMAP](http://www.umass.edu/SEMAP)

**Barbara Zheutlin,** Executive Director, Berkshire Grown

[www.berkshiregrown.org](http://www.berkshiregrown.org)

**Jim O'Brien,** Essex Co. and Merrimack Valley Buy Fresh Campaign

[www.buyfresh.org](http://www.buyfresh.org)

**Jessie Gunnard,** Program Coordinator, Buy Fresh Buy Local Cape Cod

[www.capecodextension.org](http://www.capecodextension.org)

**Kelly Erwin and Anne Cody,** MA Farm-to-School Project

[http://www.mass.gov/agr/markets/Farm\\_to\\_school/index.htm](http://www.mass.gov/agr/markets/Farm_to_school/index.htm)

**Melissa Rabbit DeFeo,** School Garden Enrichment and Curriculum Coordinator, Island Grown Initiative

[www.islandgrown.org](http://www.islandgrown.org)

## AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Saturday January 24, 2009

7:00 am - 9:00 am	<b>Breakfast</b>	Boston
9:30am – 12:00 pm	<b>Workshops</b>	
	<b>1. Future of AgComs: Should We Organize Statewide? Discussion</b> <i>Alexandra Dawson, MA Association of Conservation Commissions  Environmental Lawyer  MACC Board Member  Mary Greendale, Facilitator, Public Affairs/Communications Specialist, Facilitator</i>	Springfield
	<b>2. Farmland Protection Tools</b> <i>Cris Coffin, New England Director, American Farmland Trust  Ben Howell, New England Field Rep., American Farmland Trust</i>	Boston
12:00 Noon	<b>Adjourn</b>	
	<b>3. Conflict Management and Resolution</b> <i>Mete Kreutzmann, Program Manager, MA Office of Dispute Resolution  Cary Quigley, Agricultural Mediator, MA Office of Dispute Resolution  Courtney Breese, Program Coordinator, MA Office of Dispute Resolution</i>	Cambridge

## EXHIBITORS

American Farmland Trust

Berkshire Grown

Berkshire-Pioneer Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture

First Pioneer Farm Credit

Land for Good

MA Agricultural Commissions

MA Department of Agricultural Resources

MA Farm Bureau Federation

MA Farm to School Project

MA Northeast Organic Farming Association NOFA/Mass

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Rutland Agricultural Commission

Southeastern MA Agricultural Partnership

**Kathryn Ruhf**

Kathy Ruhf is a principal with Land for Good, a nonprofit organization focused on keeping New England's productive land cared for and in active use for the benefit of farmers, landowners, the land and the community. Land for Good helps families and organizations plan for and pass on working lands and helps farmers access land. Kathy has also been involved with the small and beginning farmer for more than twenty years. She was co-director of the New England Small Farm Institute from 1987-2004.

Kathy served on the USDA Advisory Committee for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers for six years. She was project director for the Growing New Farmers project (2000-2004) that established an ongoing Northeast-wide Consortium of over 240 organizations serving beginning farmers.

Kathy has served as coordinator of the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group since 1992. She has co-authored two books on farmland tenure and farm succession, and is a policy specialist in small and beginning farmers and food systems. Kathy holds a Masters degree in administration and natural resource management. She lives and works in Belchertown, MA.



Land for Good  
[www.landforgood.org](http://www.landforgood.org)

Northeast Sustainable  
Agriculture Working Group  
[www.nesawg.org](http://www.nesawg.org)

Farm LASTS Project  
[www.uvm.edu/farmlasts](http://www.uvm.edu/farmlasts)

Growing New Farmers  
[www.growingnewfarmers.org](http://www.growingnewfarmers.org)

**Daniel Ross**

Daniel Ross was born in New York and grew up working on a farm in Montague, MA. He has been Executive Director of Nuestras Raices for 12 years. Nuestras Raices is a grass-roots organization that promotes economic, human and community development in Holyoke, Massachusetts through projects relating to food, agriculture and the environment.

Daniel has been recognized for his leadership and innovation with a Brick Award by "Do Something" in 1997 and an Ashoka Fellowship for social entrepreneurship in 2007. He has a BA from Oberlin College and has three children.

**Nuestras Raices "Our Roots"**

Nuestras Raices was founded in 1992, to manage a community garden and build a greenhouse. Today it manages 7 community gardens, 2 youth gardens, a stand at the Farmers' Market, an organic bread bakery, a youth leadership program, a new farmer training project, a testing program with UMASS Extension services for herbs and vegetables in Latino cuisine, and a Centro Agricola – a center for small businesses and community education, with a small greenhouse, restaurant, commercial kitchen, resource library, meeting and cultural event space, and a landscaped plaza. Such enterprising business activity, grounded in farming, in which 95 families in the Puerto Rican community of Holyoke have deep cultural roots, is an extremely successful "private initiative for public good," undertaken by members of that community for the whole community's benefit.

Nuestras Raices  
[www.nuestras-raices.org](http://www.nuestras-raices.org)

Ashoka Fellow  
<http://www.ashoka.org/>

**Douglas W. Petersen, Commissioner, MA Department of Agricultural Resources**

[www.mass.gov/agr](http://www.mass.gov/agr)

Commissioner Doug Petersen serves the MA Department of Agricultural Resources and the Commonwealth through his strong background in environmental and agricultural issues. Prior to serving as Commissioner of Agricultural Resources, Mr. Petersen served as a State Representative representing Marblehead, Swampscott, and a portion of Lynn for sixteen years. Mr. Petersen served on the Joint Committee of the Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture for his entire legislative career. He served as House vice chairman in 1996 and 1997 and then as House chairman until 2001. He was also a member of the Council of State Governments' Agricultural Subcommittee.

Among his legislative accomplishments, Petersen spearheaded the effort to defeat an initiative by milk processors to repeal the New England Dairy Compact, which would have dramatically lowered prices paid to Massachusetts dairy farmers. He also led efforts to increase technical assistance to farmers in the application of integrated pest management techniques, saving farmers money and providing for safer and healthier farm management. He authored legislation to extend those pesticide management techniques employed by MA farmers to schools, playgrounds, and day care facilities in the Children and Family Protection Act.

Born in New York, Doug received his Bachelors degree with honors from Wagner College on Staten Island. He holds two Master's Degrees: one in Science from Simmons College and another in Public Administration from Harvard.

**Representative Michael Rodrigues**

[Rep.MichaelRodrigues@hou.state.ma.us](mailto:Rep.MichaelRodrigues@hou.state.ma.us)

State Representative Michael Rodrigues has spent a lifetime serving the communities of Westport and Fall River through his family business and legislative position. Michael was first elected in April of 1996 in a special election. He is a strong supporter of agriculture and agriculture economic development. Michael has received numerous awards over the past years for his dedication and service to the Commonwealth. A few of them include:

- Appreciation Award from MASS Skills USA-VICA for 2000, 1999 and 1998.
- NAIOP Massachusetts Legislator of the Year in 2006.
- Environmental Leadership Award by the MA Nursery & Landscape Association.
- In 2005, he was named a Toll Fellow by the Council of State Governments.
- In 2007, he was named BIO Legislator of the Year
- Most recently, Michael was presented with a special award from the Massachusetts Bio-Education Foundation.

**Representative Denis E. Guyer**

[Rep.DenisGuyer@hou.state.ma.us](mailto:Rep.DenisGuyer@hou.state.ma.us)

State Representative Denis Guyer serves the geographically largest district in the Massachusetts House, the Second Berkshire District.

First elected to serve as a Dalton Selectman in 2001, Representative Guyer won election as State Representative in 2004. In his first four years on Beacon Hill, Representative Guyer has championed some of the major issues facing his mostly rural constituents, such as dairy farm relief, rural broadband access, responsible forestry and most importantly; state wide health care reform.

Representative Guyer's efforts on behalf of farmers, and particularly his efforts to support locally grown organizations and anti-hunger programs were recognized in 2008 when he received the "Legislator of the Year Award" by the agricultural community.