

**Massachusetts Agricultural Commissions' Conference**

**Saturday, March 20, 2010**

Student Center

Blue Room (first floor)

Worcester State College

486 Chandler Street

Worcester, MA 01602

<http://www.worcester.edu/About/Shared%20Documents/campusdirections.aspx>

<http://worcester.edu/NewsnMedia/Shared%20Documents/Documents/0910CampusMap.pdf>

**Proposed Agenda**

7:30am	<b>Registration</b>	
8:15 – 8:50 am	<b>Welcome:</b> MA Assoc. of AgComs Steering Committee <b>Opening Remarks:</b> State of Massachusetts Agriculture Scott Soares, Commissioner MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)	Blue Lounge
	<b>Workshops – Round 1</b>	
9:00 – 10:30 am	<b>I. Working Effectively with Your Board of Health:</b> <b>BOH authorities, laws, regulations affecting agriculture</b> <b>Protections under the Right to Farm ByLaw</b> Bob Ritchie, MDAR, Legal Counsel Jessica Burgess, MDAR, Legal Counsel Frank DiLuna, Murtha Cullina LLP	North Auditorium
	<b>II. Working Effectively with Your Conservation Commission</b> <b>Agriculture and the Wetlands Protection Act</b> Dan Lenthall, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist Sarah Hewins, Conservation Agent, Carver, MA	South Auditorium
	<b>Workshops – Round 2</b>	
10:45 am-12:15pm	<b>I. Working Effectively with Your Board of Health:</b> <b>BOH authorities, laws, regulations affecting agriculture</b> <b>Protections under the Right to Farm ByLaw</b> Bob Ritchie, MDAR, Legal Counsel Jessica Burgess, MDAR, Legal Counsel Frank DiLuna, Murtha Cullina LLP	North Auditorium
	<b>II. Working Effectively with Your Conservation Commission</b> <b>Agriculture and the Wetlands Protection Act</b> Dan Lenthall, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist Sarah Hewins, Conservation Agent, Carver, MA	South Auditorium
12:30-1:15pm	<b>Lunch Deli Buffet</b>	Blue Lounge
1:15-1:45 pm	<b>Discuss: Proposed MA Association of Agricultural Commissions</b> MA Assoc. of AgComs Steering Committee	Blue Lounge
	<b>Workshop</b>	
2:00-4:30pm	<b>Achieving Greater Agricultural Self-Sufficiency</b> <b>“Agricultural Self Sufficiency on Martha’s Vineyard”</b> <b>Methodology &amp; Conclusions</b> Martha’s Vineyard Agricultural Alliance Jo-Ann Taylor, Martha’s Vineyard Commission Mark London, Martha’s Vineyard Commission  <b>Strategies for Connecting Farmers to Available Land</b> <b>Panel &amp; Discussion:</b> New Entry Land Matching Program, Jennifer Hashley, Director New Entry Sustainable Farming Project Farms Forever Program, Katie Cavanagh, Coordinator SEMAP Farms Forever Program Land Link, New England Small Farm Institute (proposed) Land for Good (proposed)	North & South Auditorium
	<b>Conference Wrap Up and Final Comments, Steering Committee</b>	
4:30-5:30pm	<b>Social</b>	Blue Lounge