

Presenters

MA Department of Agricultural Resources

www.mass.gov/agr

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov

New Entry Sustainable, Tufts University

nesfp.nutrition.tufts.edu

Farms Forever Program, Southeastern MA Agricultural Partnership

www.umassd.edu/semap

New England Small Farms Institute

www.smallfarm.org

Martha's Vineyard Commission

www.mvcommission.org/planning

Murtha-Cullina LLP

www.murthalaw.com

Town of Carver, Conservation Commission

www.carverma.us/conservation

Town of Mattapoissett, Town Administrator

www.mattapoissett.net/Pages/MattapoissettMA_Admin

Town of Dartmouth Agricultural Commission

www.town.dartmouth.ma.us/Pages/DartmouthMA_BComm/AgriculturalComm

Exhibitors

American Farmland Trust www.farmland.org

Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D www.berkshirepioneerrcd.org

Farm Credit East (formerly First Pioneer Farm Credit) www.farmcrediteast.org

MA Agricultural Commissions www.massagcom.org

MA Department of Agricultural Resources www.mass.gov/agr

MA Farm Bureau Federation www.mfbf.net

MA Farm to School Project www.mass.gov/agr/markets/Farm_to_School

New England Farmers Union www.newenglandfarmersunion.com

New Entry Sustainable Farming Project <http://nesfp.nutrition.tufts.edu/>

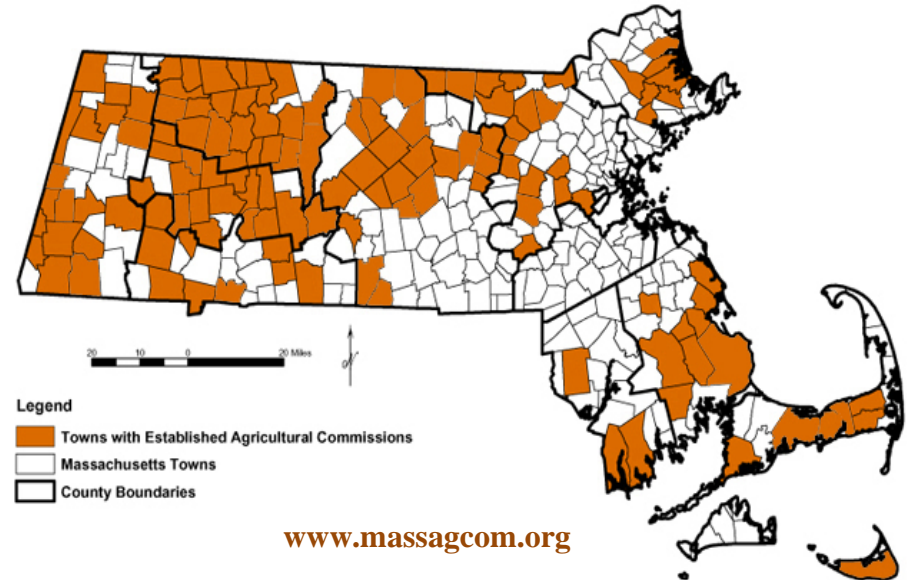
Small Business Administration www.sba.gov

Southeastern MA Agricultural Partnership www.umassd.edu/semap

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA Rural Development www.ma.rd.usda.gov

Massachusetts Agricultural Commissions Conference



www.massagcom.org

Worcester State College
486 Chandler Street
Worcester, MA 01062

March 20, 2010

Sponsored by:



American Farmland Trust



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MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS' CONFERENCE

MA Association of Agricultural Commissions Steering Committee & Conference Planning Committee

Sue Guiducci, Dartmouth AgCom
 Laura Abrams, Sudbury AgCom
 Laura Grabski, Boxford
 Mike Pineo, Sterling AgCom
 Cheryl Lekstrom, MFBF/MDAR
 Ben Bowell, AFT
 Nathan L'Etoile, MDAR

Dick Ward, Carver AgCom
 Frank DiLuna, Boxford AgCom
 Kathy Orlando, Sheffield AgCom
 Randy Johnson, Boxford AgCom
 Pete Westover, MDAR/MFBF
 Rick LeBlanc, MDAR
 Martha Plummer, Pilgrim RC&D

Irene Winkler, USDA-NRCS-Pilgrim RC&D

In 1998 three agricultural commissions were organized in the Commonwealth. Today 131 municipalities have formed agricultural commissions or committees to represent the farming community and farming interests. AgComs are providing a voice and visibility for farmers and farm businesses within their communities. One hundred AgComs have worked to pass local right to farm bylaws and are actively educating their neighbors and town/city boards on rights of farmers. AgComs are engaged in resolving conflicts involving farm activities, working to protect farmland, and supporting farm businesses by creating farmers markets and locally grown farm product guides. Many organize farm fairs and special events to develop closer connections between residents and the community's farm history, neighbors and farmers, and consumers and local food. This year AgCom members from throughout the state have come together to begin organizing a statewide MA Association of Agricultural Commissions. This Association would support municipal AgComs, helping them fulfill their potential as leaders in their communities, offer needed training to AgCom members, improve communication among AgComs, and provide a stronger voice for MA agriculture.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)
www.mass.gov/agr/

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)
www.mfbf.org

Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture (MSPA)
www.promotingmassag.org/

Farm Credit East (formerly First Pioneer Farm Credit)
www.farmcrediteast.com

Farm Family Insurance
www.farmfamily.com

Massachusetts Flower Growers Association
www.massflowergrowers.com

Murtha Cullina LLP
www.murthalaw.com

Pilgrim Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc. (Pilgrim RC&D)
www.pilgrimrcd.org

American Farmland Trust (AFT)
www.farmland.org/

AGENDA

7:30am	Registration	
8:15 am - 8:50 am	Welcome: MA Association of AgComs Steering Committee Opening Remarks: State of Massachusetts Agriculture Scott Soares, Commissioner, MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)	Blue Lounge
	Morning Workshops – Round 1	
9:00 am - 10:30 am	I. Working Effectively with Your Board of Health & with Right to Farm Bylaws BOH authorities affecting agriculture & protections under the Right to Farm ByLaw Jessica Burgess, MDAR, Legal Counsel Frank DiLuna, Murtha Cullina LLP Kathleen Connolly, Murtha Cullina LLP	North Auditorium
	II. Working Effectively with Your Conservation Commission Agriculture and the Wetlands Protection Act Dan Lenthall, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist Sarah Hewins, Conservation Agent, Carver, MA	South Auditorium
	Morning Workshops – Round 2	
10:45 am - 12:15 pm	I. Working Effectively with Your Board of Health & with Right to Farm Bylaws BOH authorities affecting agriculture & protections under the Right to Farm ByLaw Jessica Burgess, MDAR, Legal Counsel Frank DiLuna, Murtha Cullina LLP Kathleen Connolly, Murtha Cullina LLP	North Auditorium
	II. Working Effectively with Your Conservation Commission Agriculture and the Wetlands Protection Act Dan Lenthall, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist Sarah Hewins, Conservation Agent, Carver, MA	South Auditorium
12:30 - 1:15 pm	Lunch Deli Buffet	Blue Lounge
1:15 - 1:45	Discuss: Proposed MA Association of Agricultural Commissions MA Assoc. of AgComs Steering Committee	Blue Lounge
	Afternoon Workshops	
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	I. Achieving Greater Agricultural Self-Sufficiency “Agricultural Self Sufficiency on Martha’s Vineyard” Methodology & Conclusions Martha’s Vineyard Agricultural Alliance Jo-Ann Taylor, Martha’s Vineyard Commission Mark London, Martha’s Vineyard Commission	Blue Lounge
3:00 pm - 4:15 pm	Strategies for Connecting Farmers to Available Land Panel & Discussion: Judy Gillan, Director, New England Small Farm Institute, Land Link Program McKenzie Boekholder, New Entry Sustainable Farming Project Land Matching Program Katie Cavanagh, Coordinator, SEMAP Farms Forever Program Pat Farrington, Middleboro AgCom, Farms Forever/Land for Good Jennifer Hashley, Director, New Entry Sustainable Farming Project	
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	II. Funding AgComs Michael Gagne, Town Administrator, Mattapoisett	North Auditorium
3:15 pm - 4:30 pm	III. Conflict Resolution: Real Situations, AgCom Involvement & Outcomes Frank DiLuna, Murtha Cullina LLP Susan Guiducci, member Dartmouth AgCom	South Auditorium
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Social	Exhibit Area