

Ag Commission Newsletter #4A / February 2012

This is an addendum to the February 2012 newsletter, as additional items have come in for the attention of AgComs around the state.

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1. Marshfield Agricultural Lecture Series.

Marshfield AgCom Chair Lorrie Gamp Dahlen reports the following: The Marshfield Agricultural Commission presents "the Backyard Farm and Garden" Free Lectures on agricultural topics scaled to the backyard enthusiast. 9 lectures run from 9:30 to 1:00 pm on Saturday March 24th at the Marshfield Senior Center at 230 Webster Street. Participants may attend up to 3 lectures. Topics include Food Preservation methods including Canning, Drying/Freezing and Root Cellars, Herb Gardening, Cooking with Fresh Herbs, Bird Gardening, Keeping Sheep, Goats, Llamas and Alpacas from a Vet's Perspective, All About Dairy Goats and Making Goat Milk Products. Printable brochure and pre-registration (recommended but not required) are available on-line at www.townofmarshfield.org/lecture.htm - or call 781-837-1433.

2. Worcester County Meetings and Events

Report from Sterling AgCom member Ann Starbard: Worcester County AgComs have conducted quarterly meetings since 2009. The meetings have been sponsored by the Worcester County Conservation District, which provides funding for the WCCD administrator to help organize the meetings and refreshments. Meeting topics have included the APR program, Farm to School, AgCom Financing, Alternative Energy, Conflict Mediation, and more. The group encourages all Worcester County Ag Coms to attend.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 14, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in Holden at the USDA conference room. The topic is Farmers Markets, and the panel will include David Webber, the Farmers Market Program Coordinator for MDAR; Jeff Cole, Executive Director of the Federation of Mass Farmers Markets, and farmers market managers. Please RSVP for the March 14 meeting to lisa.trotto@ma.usda.gov.

3. MAAC Updated Contact Information and Annual Meeting

MAAC President Dick Ward's new email address is rjward7@comcast.net. The MAAC Annual Meeting this year will take place at the Sturbridge Host on the evening of Friday, February 24. Social hour starts at 5:30 pm, the buffer dinner at 6:00, and the annual meeting at 7:30. Those interested in attending should see the attached invitation and RSVP by February 15.