



# 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

The Pilgrim Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

## Serving Southeastern Massachusetts

65 towns and 5 cities located within the counties of Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket.

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

The Pilgrim RC&D is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization

### VISION

A region that achieves natural resource conservation, management, and enhancement in a way that improves the economy, the environment and the quality of life.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peggy Fantozzi	President
Bill Napolitano	Vice President
Jim Watson	Secretary-Treasurer
Lee Davis	Joe Freitas
Robert Culbert	Tim Soverino

### Associate Members

Susan Guiducci Linda Rinta

### NRCS Staff

Irene Winkler	Coordinator
Kelly Savary Powers	Secretary

### MISSION

The Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council provides the region with the means to address resource conservation and development challenges at the local level by building partnerships and capacity within and among southeastern Massachusetts communities.

## 2005 HIGHLIGHTS

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: REBUILDING AGRICULTURE'S SUPPORT & SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE

#### ORGANIZING AND SUPPORTING TOWN AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS

The Pilgrim RC&D continues to lead the movement to organize and support the efforts of town Agricultural Commissions (AgComs) in southeastern Massachusetts. There are now twelve (12) AgComs established in southeastern Massachusetts. The towns of Carver, Falmouth, Brewster and Marshfield organized their agricultural commissions in 2005. Kingston and Duxbury plan to bring the question to Spring 2006 Town Meeting. Pilgrim RC&D is partnering with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) in the AgCom organizational effort. To date, these efforts have resulted in the establishment of 50 AgComs statewide. A total of one hundred town and city AgComs are projected to be established by the end of 2006.

By establishing an AgCom through a Town Meeting vote, the town is on record as supportive of retaining farming as a viable business in town. An Ag Com is a standing committee of town government, created through a vote of Town Meeting and appointed by the governing body of the town. The Ag Com represents the farming community, provides visibility and a strong voice for agriculture, encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, works to protect, revitalize and sustain agricultural businesses and farmland.



Pilgrim RC&D has been successful in their organizational and support efforts due to strong partnerships with Communities Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA), American Farmland Trust (AFT), MDAR, local town AgCom members, and the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF). In addition to providing organizational support and technical assistance, Pilgrim RC&D supports AgComs once members have been appointed. This year, Irene Winkler, Pilgrim RC&D Coordinator, has provided AgCom Work Plan facilitation services to the towns of Carver, Falmouth, Harwich, Westport and Plympton. These facilitated sessions involve AgCom members identifying agricultural issues in town, prioritizing issues, establishing goals and planning actions to meet the goals.

This year Pilgrim RC&D received a \$13,000.00 grant from the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture (MSPA) and a \$5,000.00 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resource to develop reference materials and training documents for existing AgComs. Resources developed included:

- A Handbook for Agricultural Commissions*
- A Guide for Agricultural Commissions – Building Relationships with Town Boards and Staff*
- A Guide for Agricultural Commissions – Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution*
- A Guide for Agricultural Commissions Creating - Effective Meetings*
- A Guide for Agricultural Commissions – Creating Useful Work Plans*

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT**

### **COASTAL WINERIES OF SOUTHEASTERN NEW ENGLAND VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANT**

Through grant writing services provided by the Pilgrim RC&D and NRCS Coordinator, the Coastal Wineries of Southeastern New England was awarded a \$25,000.00 2004 Planning Grant from Rural Development's Value Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG). Dr. Nora Barnes, UMass Dartmouth Center for Business Research, completed a study of the potential for expansion of winery retail wine sales into the tourism market. Using the positive results of the market study, First Pioneer Farm Credit completed a Coastal Wineries tourism marketing business plan.



Pilgrim RC&D again provided grant writing services to the Coastal Wineries to secure a 2006 USDA Rural Development VAPG Working capital grant for \$20,500.00 to implement the Tourism Marketing Plan. Awards will be announced September 2006.

### **DARTMOUTH GRANGE: REGIONAL SHARED-USE COMMUNITY KITCHEN**

The Dartmouth Grange, established in 1888, is part of the national organization of Granges formed in 1867 originally to assist farmers devastated by the Civil War. The Dartmouth Grange has evolved into a community organization serving rural and urban residents by providing opportunities for fellowship and community service. With their roots in agriculture and their commitment to a better quality of life, the Regional Shared-Use Community Kitchen was developed to support local food processing and farm businesses and encourage consumers to buy and eat locally grown products; key ingredients to protecting our rural landscape and heritage.

After four years of grant writing and organizational assistance, provided through the Pilgrim RC&D, the Dartmouth Regional Shared Use Community Kitchen doors will open in the summer of 2006. The Grange was fortunate enough to receive funding to finish the kitchen's construction from the Town of Dartmouth through their Agricultural Trust Fund, as well as funding from Fairhaven Grange. In addition, USDA – Rural Development and the Massachusetts State Grange granted funds to purchase kitchen equipment. With all this financial support, plus the generous in-kind support from Greater New Bedford Regional Voc Tech, the Grange is able to open the kitchen facility, to the public, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, summer of 2006.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVMENT**

### **TOWN OF CARVER AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION: INVENTORY OF AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC VALUE OF AGRICULTURE**

Working in close partnership with the Town of Carver's Agricultural Commission, Board of Selectmen and Town Planner, the Pilgrim RC&D and NRCS Coordinator provided grant writing services and secured a \$10,000 grant from the Makepeace Neighborhood Fund for the Town of Carver's AgCom. Grant funds were used to survey farmers in the town about land in agriculture; land use; owners and operators; permanently protected lands, and APRs; Ch.61 land use; economic impact of agriculture in Carver; # jobs, multiplier effect - dollars returned to businesses in the community.

This information will be used to implement the highest priority goal of the town of Carver's Agricultural Commission. This goal is to educate, increase the awareness and understanding of Carver residents, town officials, town board members and staff, about the valuable contributions agriculture makes to the Town of Carver.

Two color brochures will be developed using the information derived from the survey: "Agriculture in Carver's Community Values & Benefits" and "Living Near a Farm" Neighbor Relations & Right to Farm.

### **TOWN OF CARVER BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND TOWN PLANNER: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT THROUGH CIVIC EDUCATION**

Pilgrim RC&D provided grant writing services to the Carver Board of Selectmen and developed a "Community Involvement through Civic Education" grant proposal for \$17,000.00. Town residents were asked to identify issues of high priority in an effort to involve the community in planning the future of the town. The town planner will address these issues; open space, natural resources, rural character and economic development, and conduct public community forums. These public forums will be broadcast via Carver Community Access Television in an effort to educate the community and motivate residents of Carver to participate in community and municipal government.

## **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

### **HOWARD AND MARY HAYWARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: KIMBERLY TARVIS**

Kimberly Tarvis, a resident of Westport and senior at Bristol County Agricultural High School, was the 2005 recipient of the Howard & Mary Hayward Memorial Scholarship. Kim received \$500.00 for her award winning essay on "The Importance of Agriculture."

The scholarship is awarded each year to honor the memory of Howard and Mary Hayward who were outstanding agriculturalists, land stewards, and devoted community activists.



### **RC&D HOSTS LAND AND WATER MAGAZINE**



Pilgrim RC&D hosted Land and Water Magazine writer, Bob Oertel, and editor, Issy Weaver, for three days in September 2005. Irene Winkler RC&D Coordinator arranged for Bob and Issy to visit with members of the Carver, Rehoboth and Dartmouth Agricultural Commissions.

They met with the Plymouth Conservation District Supervisors and interviewed staff about the Cranberry Farm Planning Program. They then interviewed several cranberry growers who have installed new pop-up head irrigation systems for water conservation.

Bob and Issy spoke with NRCS field office staff and visited a WHIP Salt Marsh Restoration Project in Westport and ended their visit at the Gidley Farm in Dartmouth, site of a wetland restoration project and historic access road restoration.



### **OUTSTANDING SPONSOR ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR: SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SRPEDD)**

SRPEDD, Stephen Smith, Executive Director, was awarded The New England Association of RC&D Areas 2005 Outstanding RC&D Sponsor Organization Award. SRPEDD has been an active Pilgrim RC&D sponsor for 28 years. Stephen Smith, Executive Director, recognizes that to achieve SRPEDD's mission, outreach and partnering with complimentary agencies and organizations is essential. Together SRPEDD and the Pilgrim RC&D Council work to enhance the long term economic and environmental viability of the Area. Steve Smith has demonstrated support for the Pilgrim RC&D by appointing an outstanding SRPEDD employee, Bill Napolitano, Senior Environmental Planner, as their representative to the Pilgrim RC&D Council. Bill has been a member of the RC&D Council since 1986 and served tirelessly as President from 1995 through 2002.

SRPEDD has hosted and participated in RC&D project that include:

- "Visioning" sessions to develop local agricultural policy statements for the region. Subject areas included farmland protection, agricultural economic development, and access to capital,
- Region-wide leadership meetings, involving city mayors, town selectmen and economic development staff that showcased the importance and values of retaining healthy agricultural businesses in southeastern Massachusetts,
- Active support and involvement in organizing municipal agricultural commissions in southeastern Massachusetts,
- Providing organizational and technical assistance in developing guidance for organizing multi-town agricultural commissions,
- Researching economic incentive policies that encourage and support agricultural businesses,
- Researching policies, planning and zoning mechanism for farmland protection and agricultural economic development, and
- Researching processes by which the economic value of agriculture can be evaluated and articulated at the town level.

As a result of their active involvement in RC&D initiatives SRPEDD has promoted and supported the work of the Pilgrim RC&D, and all Massachusetts RC&Ds.



**FY 2005 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005**

**REVENUES****Actual**

Public Support	\$150,000.00
Program Revenue	\$ 21,920.00
Investment Income	\$ 160.00
Membership Dues	\$ <u>1,500.00</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$173,580.00</b>

**EXPENSES**

Non profit Administration (Dues, Insurance)	\$ 2,070.00
Grants and Scholarships	\$ 500.00
Contractors (Grant deliverables)	\$ 7,995.00
Publications	\$ 277.00
Conferences/Meetings	\$ 1,897.00
Program Expenses	\$ <u>150,000.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$162,738.00</b>

**Beginning Year Balance: \$26,879.00**

**End Year Balance: \$35,671.00**



The Pilgrim RC&D Area Council, Inc. prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Pilgrim RC&D is an equal opportunity provider and employer.