



# The Pilgrim Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Providing assistance to communities, groups, and organizations with:  
Community Development  
Land Conservation & Management  
Water Conservation & Management  
Energy Conservation & Alternative Energy Development

## 2006 ANNUAL REPORT & HIGHLIGHTS

### 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.

### 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.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peggy Fantozzi  
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Coordinator  
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Secretary

### CONTACT

Bill Napolitano, V. Pres.  
Pilgrim RC&D  
15 Cranberry Highway  
West Wareham, MA  
02576

PH: 508 295 1317 x5  
FX: 508 291 2368  
www.pilgrimrcd.org

Serving southeastern Massachusetts' 70 towns and cities, completing 22 projects that received over \$800,000.00 in project contributions, and serving 1 million citizens.

The USDA-NRCS provides technical and financial assistance for the RC&D program. For every dollar invested, the Pilgrim RC&D generates more than five dollars in benefits to our communities. Pilgrim RC&D receives funding from grants and services provided by federal, state, regional, and local entities.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

#### ORGANIZING AND SUPPORTING TOWN AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS

The Pilgrim RC&D continues to provide Agricultural Commission (AgComs) organization and support assistance to farmers and municipalities within the region and throughout the Commonwealth. In the year 2001 there were six AgComs in Massachusetts, today there are nearly 100. The number of AgComs continues to grow.

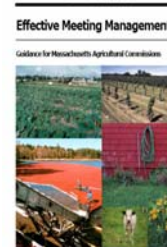
By establishing an AgCom through a Town Meeting vote, a town goes on record as supportive of retaining farming as a viable business. An AgCom is a standing committee of town government, created through a vote of Town Meeting, whose members are appointed by the governing body of the town. The AgCom represents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

Partnerships with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), The Island Foundation, the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, and local town AgCom members have resulted in the following developments:

#### AGCOM RESOURCE MATERIALS

In addition to the Handbook for Agricultural Commissions and the Guide for Working with Town Boards and staff, this year Pilgrim RC&D created, printed and distributed 500 sets of training guides to AgComs throughout the Commonwealth.

- Conflict Management Guide
- Effective Meetings Guide
- Creating Useful Work Plans Guide



#### AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS LIST SERVE GROUP

AgComs requested a way to better communicate with each other. Pilgrim RC&D established a yahoo group to serve AgComs statewide. Go to [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com), go to Groups, find a Group, search on "agricultural commissions," check Join this Group.

#### AGCOM WEBSITE

Through a generous grant provided by the Island Foundation, an AgCom Website is being designed and developed. This website will serve all of Massachusetts' AgComs and will be launched in the Spring of 2007.

#### REGIONAL AGCOM TRAINING AND GATHERING SESSIONS

March 15, 2006	Southeastern MA AgCom Gathering, Carver.
November 4, 2006	Central & Western MA AgCom Gathering, Deerfield
December 9, 2006	Berkshire's AgCom Gathering, Hancock.

#### Training Topics:

Farmland Protection  
Conflict Resolution  
Agricultural Education

#### Trainer

American Farmland Trust  
MA Office of Dispute Resolution  
Easthampton Schools Garden Program  
Sheffield Land Trust, and Ag in the Classroom  
First Pioneer Farm Credit

*Inventory of Agriculture & Economic Value of Ag.*

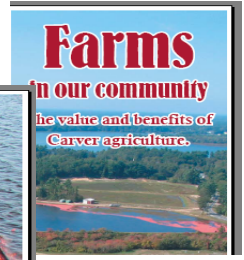
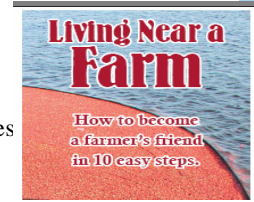


## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### ORGANIZING AND SUPPORTING TOWN AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS (CONTINUED)

#### AGRICULTURE IN THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION MATERIALS

Grant writing services were provided by the Pilgrim RC&D to the Carver AgCom. Pilgrim secured \$8,500 from the A.D. Makepeace Neighborhood Fund for the development, printing and distribution of two agricultural educational brochures. Brochures have been provided to more than 4,000 households and real estate companies doing business in the town of Carver.



### SUPPORTING COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE CIVIC INVOLVEMENT



Pilgrim RC&D provided the Carver Planning Department with grant writing assistance to secure funding from Northeast SARE's Sustainable Community grant Program to implement civic outreach and education activities and events at the Carver Farmers Market; intended to encourage resident involvement in town government and in community organizations.

## LAND & WATER CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT

### SLAUGHTERING, PROCESSING AND SELLING MEAT IN SE MASS & THE COMMONWEALTH

Massachusetts's meat slaughter and processing infrastructure is in crisis due to the recent closure of a southeastern Massachusetts custom slaughterhouse and a fire that completely destroyed a USDA slaughterhouse in north-central Massachusetts. Pilgrim RC&D provided assistance in organizing the Southeastern Massachusetts Meat Producers Core Group that is working diligently to address the:

- Concerns about livestock production and
- Support needed for the livestock slaughter and processing infrastructure.



The issues are interwoven and exist throughout New England. Concerns involve small and large growers, processors, buyers, and customers.

Pilgrim RC&D secured funds through a grant from the Farm Credit's AgEnhancement Program and completed a survey of producers' needs. This survey identified that both Custom and USDA slaughter and processing facilities

are necessary parts of the infrastructure needed to sustain livestock agriculture. In southeastern Massachusetts farmers, processors, distributors, marketers, and service providers are working together to determine the best way to support Custom and USDA facilities and address the need for animal production.

### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM (ERT) SERVICES

In December of 2006 the Pilgrim RC&D Council approved a request for assistance to conduct an Environmental Review Team Study on the Cole Property in Carver, MA. The town voted to purchase the 241 acre Cole Property at the Special Town Meeting on December 11, 2006. The town needed to acquire this property for open space protection, appropriate passive outdoor recreation, rare species, habitat protection, and public drinking water supply protection. The town is interested in a study and report that focuses on wildlife, rare species, forest resources, water protection and passive recreation management recommendations. Pilgrim RC&D has organized a team of specialists from MA-DCR, MA-DEP, USDA-NRCS, Audubon and private consultants to complete the inventories, assessments and management recommendations for the following resources:

- Forest
- Early successional habitat
- Grasslands
- Rare species
- Invasive Species
- Wildlife
- Wetlands
- Vernal pools
- Soils
- Existing Trails
- Public access
- Water resources



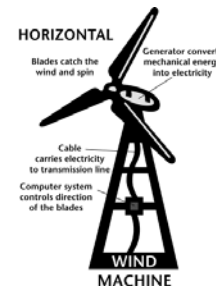
## ENERGY CONSERVATION & ALTERNATIVE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

### RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKSHOP FOR AGRICULTURE

Pilgrim RC&D is partnering with the Cape & Islands Self Reliance Corporation, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, and the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association to conduct a "Renewable Energy Workshop for Agriculture" in southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod and the Islands. The workshop will be conducted in March of 2007.

Workshop topics to be covered include:

- Biofuels Use and Production
- Solar Energy Technologies
- Reducing Operating Costs through Onsite Wind Generation
- Funding Opportunities



## OUTREACH, EDUCATION & RECOGNITION

### 2006 RC&D AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING YOUTH INVOLVEMENT – NATIONAL WINNERS!

**CORY AND ALEX WARD** of Carver, MA received the New England and the NATIONAL RC&D Award for Outstanding Youth Involvement. The fifteen-year-old twins are sophomores at Carver High School. Both straight A students, Cory and Alex participate in extra curricular activities such as softball, field hockey, cross country, track & field and dance.



Cory and Alex have been instrumental in assisting the Pilgrim RC&D Council and the Carver Agricultural Commission to develop outreach materials for educating the public about the value of agriculture in the community. Cory and Alex traveled to Washington, D.C. in February of 2007 to receive the National Award from Sharon Ruggi, National Association of RC&D's President.

### 2006 PILGRIM RC&D OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION AWARD

#### FIRST PIONEER FARM CREDIT, JON JAFFE



The Pilgrim RC&D recognized First Pioneer Farm Credit, ACA, Jon Jaffe, Farm Business Consultant, as the 2006 Outstanding Supporting Organization. First Pioneer Farm Credit (FPFC), ACA is the #1 financial services cooperative for the Northeast agricultural industry. In the Pilgrim RC&D Area, First Pioneer Farm Credit, through the dedicated efforts of Jon Jaffe, Farm Business Consultant, has been instrumental in delivering needed agricultural business technical services, conducting agricultural economic impact studies for communities, delivering business plans for existing and emerging value-added enterprises, supporting

agricultural education activities in communities, and serving in leadership positions within regional agricultural development organizations. FPFC, through Jon Jaffe has provided outstanding and devoted support for Pilgrim RC&D's agricultural economic development activities for more than eight years.

### 2006 HOWARD & MARY HAYWARD SCHOLARSHIP

Angela Possinger, a resident of Berkley and home-schooled, was the 2006 recipient of the Howard & Mary Hayward Memorial Scholarship. Angela 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHRISTINE CLARKE, NEW USDA-NRCS, STATE CONSERVATIONIST FOR MASSACHUSETTS

In December of 2006, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) selected Christine Clarke to serve as State Conservationist for Massachusetts. As State Conservationist, Clarke will oversee the federal agency's programs, operations and staff in the Bay State, including RC&D.

Previously, Clarke served as NRCS Geodata Coordinator in Beltsville, Maryland, supporting agency policy analysis and development needs, as well as business needs, related to spatial data. A Rhode Island native, Clarke began her career with the agency then known as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) – in 1981. "I'm pleased to return to New England and look forward to working with our staff and partners to serve the Commonwealth's conservation needs," said Clarke.



**JOE FREITAS RETIRES AFTER SERVING 25 YEARS ON PILGRIM RC&D BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



In December 2006, after 25 years of outstanding dedication to The Pilgrim RC&D Area Council, Inc. Joe Freitas of Middleborough announced his retirement. Joe began his tenure with Pilgrim RC&D in 1981 with a vision and mission to protect and conserve land and water resources throughout Southeastern Massachusetts. Throughout his service, Joe was respected for his candor, commitment and outstanding leadership. Joe served as a member representing the Plymouth County Conservation District; he served as the Pilgrim delegate to the New England RC&D Association for 15 years, and held the offices of Vice President and President for nearly 10 years.

Joe's knowledge and understanding of local political processes, natural and historic resources, state and federal laws and policies regarding natural resource use and protection, and his leadership skills will be greatly missed.

Thank You Joe, for your unwavering support, strong leadership, and loyal friendship.

**WHAT IS RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (RC&D)**

The Pilgrim RC&D Council is a not-for-profit organization, with a Board of Directors that represents a cross-section of interests (community and economic development, environmental planning and management, natural resource conservation, agriculture, outreach and education) and is comprised of representatives from regional planning agencies, county conservation districts, county commissioners and the community at large.

The Pilgrim RC&D Area Council, Inc. is one of three RC&D Councils serving Massachusetts, one of 15 Councils serving New England, and one of 375 Councils serving the nation.

The Council is provided a Coordinator and Secretary through the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) RC&D Program. The program was created in 1962 and is based on the assumption that local citizens can best identify their needs. With help provided through the NRCS-RC&D staff, Councils and local citizens can carry out action-oriented plans for the environmental, economic and social enrichment of their communities.

**PILGRIM RC&D AREA COUNCIL, INC. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

<b>FY 2006 FINANCIAL STATEMENT</b>	
<b>January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006</b>	
<b><u>REVENUES</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>
Public Support	\$150,000.00
Program Revenue	\$ 20,980.00
Investment Income	\$ 186.00
Membership Dues	\$ 900.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$172,066.00</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>	
Non profit Administration (Dues, Insurance)	\$ 1,950.00
Grants and Scholarships	\$ 598.00
Contractors (Grant deliverables)	\$ 16,123.00
Conferences/Meetings	\$ 2,000.00
Program Expenses	<u>\$152,000.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$172,671.00</b>
<b>Beginning Year Balance: \$35,671.00</b>	<b>End Year Balance: \$35,066.00</b>