

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS CONFERENCE



Today 130 Agricultural Commissions (AgComs) have organized across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. AgComs are actively engaged in raising the visibility of agriculture in their communities, providing a voice for agriculture in town hall, passing local Right to Farm Bylaws, protecting farmland and farm businesses, promoting farming and local farm products, establishing farmers markets, managing conflicts that arise regarding farming activities, connecting farmers to technical and financial services, and educating the public about the many benefits of retaining and encouraging farming in their communities.



This second statewide Agricultural Commissions Conference has been planned by AgCom members for AgCom members and for those interested in supporting agriculture and AgComs. Workshop topics were selected from issues that AgComs identified as high priority for education and discussion. Attendees will have time for networking and visiting exhibitors.

Please take a minute to review the agenda, then complete and mail in your registration.

Also, please pass on this information to anyone who may be interested in attending.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on the 20th !

Agenda and Registration Form can also be found at: www.massagcom.org

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS CONFERENCE

Saturday March 20, 2010 Worcester State College

Student Center, Blue Room, First Floor

486 Chandler Street, Worcester, MA 01602

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

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

Conference Sponsors:

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation

Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture

Farm Credit East (formerly First Pioneer Farm Credit)

American Farmland Trust

The Pilgrim Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Area Council, Inc.

If you have any questions contact:

Irene Winkler

Coordinator, Pilgrim RC&D Program

508 295 1317 x130; 508 450 7963 (cell)

508 291 2368 (fax)

irene.winkler@ma.usda.gov

*****If you plan to attend, please apply for a College Visitor's Parking Pass:**
at least 7 days before the conference.

*****Apply at:**

<http://worcester.edu/police/Shared%20Documents/VisitorParkingRequest.aspx>

or contact: WSC Parking Clerk Jason Grant at 508-929-8887 or
jgrant@worcester.edu

Application: College contact is M.Moore; contact phone is 508 929 8652

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete a separate registration form for each person attending

Name: _____ AgCom/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Registration Fee: **\$35.00** Amount Enclosed: \$ _____
 Includes: Workshops, lunch and social

Please make checks payable to: Pilgrim RC&D Area Council, Inc.
 And mail to: 15 Cranberry Highway
 West Wareham, MA 02576 fax: 508 291 2368

Registrations must be received by Monday March 15, 2010

(Please tear off and return the form above with your registration payment *Thank You!*)

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Saturday, March 20, 2010

Worcester State College, Student Center, Blue Room (first floor)
 486 Chandler Street, Worcester, MA 01602

7:30am	REGISTRATION	
8:15 – 8:50 am	Welcome : MA AgCom Association Steering Committee Opening Remarks: State of Massachusetts Agriculture Scott Soares, Commissioner, MA Department of Agricultural Resources	Blue Lounge
	MORNING WORKSHOPS – ROUND 1	
9:00 – 10:30 am	I. Working Effectively with Your Board of Health & with Right to Farm Bylaws BOH authorities, laws, regulations affecting agriculture Protections under the Right to Farm ByLaw Jessica Burgess, MDAR, Legal Counsel Frank DiLuna, 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-12:15pm	I. Working Effectively with Your Board of Health & with Right to Farm Bylaws BOH authorities, laws, regulations affecting agriculture Protections under the Right to Farm ByLaw Jessica Burgess, MDAR, Legal Counsel Frank DiLuna, 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
12:30-1:15pm	LUNCH DELI BUFFET	Blue Lounge
1:15-1:45 pm	Proposed MA Association of Agricultural Commissions MA Assoc. of AgComs Steering Committee	Blue Lounge
	AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS	
2:00-3:00 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 – 4:15 pm	Strategies for Connecting Farmers to Available Land Panel & Discussion: New Entry Land Matching Program, Jennifer Hashley, Director New Entry Sustainable Farming Project Farms Forever Program, Katie Cavanagh, Coordinator SEMAP Farms Forever Program New England Land Link/NESFI, Judy Gillan, Director	
2:00 – 3:00 pm	II. Funding AgComs Paul LeBeau, Holliston Town Administrator	North Auditorium
3:15 – 4:30 pm	III. Conflict Management: Real Situations, AgCom Involvement & Outcomes Frank DiLuna, Murtha Cullina LLP Susan Guiducci, member Dartmouth AgCom	North Auditorium
4:30-5:30 pm	SOCIAL	