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

2009 Annual Report & Highlights

Providing assistance to municipal boards, civic leaders and community organizations to plan and implement projects for natural resource conservation and community development

www.pilgrimrcd.org

The Pilgrim RC&D Council serves southeastern Massachusetts' 70 towns and cities. In fiscal year 2009 14 projects were completed while 11 remained active. Projects are valued at over \$1,000,000 and 1 million citizens were served. The USDA-NRCS provides technical assistance for the RC&D program. The Pilgrim RC&D Council has successfully brought a return of more than \$6 for every dollar the federal government provides. The Pilgrim RC&D Council receives program and project contributions from grants and services provided by federal, state, regional, local, and private entities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS WWW.MASSAGCOM.ORG

The Pilgrim RC&D Council received grant funding in March 2009 to complete a study to determine if Massachusetts' municipal agricultural commissions had a need for a statewide association and if so, to define what purpose(s) such an organization would serve. Study results demonstrated significant need. At the 2nd Statewide Agricultural Commission's Conference participants voted unanimously to move forward with organizing the Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions (MAAC). The purpose of MAAC will be to promote agriculture and agricultural activities in Massachusetts primarily through guidance, encouragement, and critical support for municipal Agricultural Commissions, helping them to fulfill their potential as leaders in their communities. MAAC will provide comprehensive education and training for Commissioners, who, as local officials, have broad mandates under state and local laws. MAAC will build support for agriculture through effective relations with federal and state agencies, appointing officials, the courts, other non-profits, and the general public.



2nd ANNUAL STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS CONFERENCE

The Pilgrim RC&D Council organized the 2nd Annual Conference of Massachusetts Agricultural Commissions. The Conference, held at Worcester State College, provided AgCom members with education and training focused on working effectively with local Boards of Health and Conservation Commissions; funding for AgComs; managing conflict; planning for agricultural self-sufficiency and connecting farmers to farmland.



Support for the Conference was provided

through generous funding and technical assistance from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, Farm Family Insurance Co., Farm Credit East, Massachusetts Flower Grower's Association, Murtha Cullina LLP and American Farmland Trust.



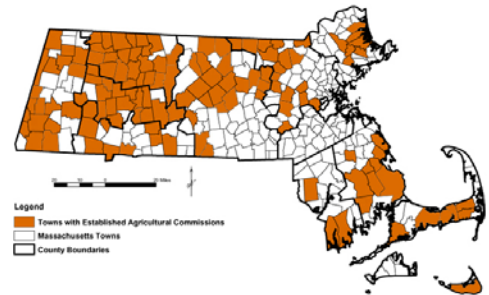
CAPE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS SPRING & FALL GATHERINGS

The Pilgrim RC&D provided organizational and funding assistance to the Barnstable and Dennis AgComs who hosted Spring and Fall gatherings of Cape AgComs. Cape AgComs meet twice a year to network and discuss issues such as regional food production and food security, securing land for food production, community farms, agriculture in regional plans, supporting Buy Local efforts, and fostering the organization of AgComs on the Cape.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ORGANIZING AND SUPPORTING TOWN AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS (AgCom)

In the year 2000 there were three municipal AgComs in Massachusetts, today there are 131. The Pilgrim RC&D continues to provide AgCom organization and support assistance to farmers and municipalities within the region and throughout the Commonwealth. This year Plymouth and Dennis organized AgComs; Orleans's Board of Selectmen appointed an Agricultural Task Force, and West Bridgewater, Seekonk and Hanover are considering organizing an AgCom. Pilgrim RC&D provided organizational and funding support for Cape Cod regional AgCom meetings in Barnstable and Dennis. Additional support to AgComs included facilitating goal setting sessions and work plan development, developing draft local Right to Farm bylaw language, grant proposal writing to support AgCom activities, and directing AgCom members to needed technical and financial resources.



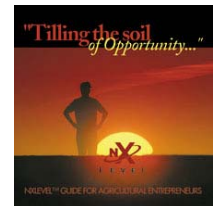
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH: SIX AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS COURSES OFFERED

EXPLORING YOUR SMALL FARM DREAM

Fifty people representing 34 farm businesses participated in three "Exploring the Small Farm Dream: *Is Starting an Agricultural Business Right for You?*" courses offered across the state. The Pilgrim RC&D partnered with the MA Department of Agricultural Resources to administer the delivery of these valuable farm education courses. Participants discuss current opportunities in small-scale agriculture, explore their objectives, assess personal and financial resources, conduct preliminary market research and develop action plans for pursuing their interests in food and farm business development.

TILLING THE SOIL OF OPPORTUNITY, NXLEVEL AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS PLANNING

Thirty individuals representing 22 farm businesses enrolled in two Tilling the Soil of Opportunity agricultural business planning courses this past year. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) offers the widely acclaimed course each year. This innovative, farmer friendly course focuses on existing agricultural businesses that will benefit from an organized look at their current operation in order to plan for growth and change. Over 266 Massachusetts agricultural enterprises have completed TTS. Pilgrim RC&D is proud to assist MDAR in the delivery of these practical and useful courses.



THE SMALL FARM PLANNER – OFFERED FOR THE FIRST TIME

Fifteen individuals representing 11 farm businesses enrolled in the new "The Small Farm Planner" course. This course required that participants be "graduates" from an Explorer course or complete a farm business workbook to qualify for enrollment. This course was designed especially for those who were ready to begin planning for their farm business and were "in between" Explorer and Tilling the Soil courses.

2009 HOWARD M. AND MARY C. HAYWARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: COREY ROBERT RHODES

Corey Robert Rhodes, a senior at Marshfield High School was the 2009 recipient of the Howard M. & Mary C. Hayward Memorial Scholarship. Corey received the scholarship for his award winning essay "Importance of Aquaculture to the Future of Massachusetts." He is attending the University of Rhode Island and pursuing a degree in Aquaculture and Marine Sciences.

The Pilgrim RC&D Council proudly provides financial scholarships to deserving, graduating high school seniors who will be pursuing further education in agriculture, aquaculture or a related science. The Council has awarded the Hayward Scholarship annually for the past 11 years. Scholarship winners are graduates of public and private high schools from throughout the RC&D area and one was a graduate of a home school program. Scholarship awardees have gone on to study aquaculture, environmental sustainability, environmental engineering, natural resources, forestry, and marine safety/environmental protection. The scholarship, though modest at \$500, has proven to lift the spirits of young minds, and encourage and motivate high school graduates to pursue their chosen area of study. Although these economic times prove challenging for the scholarship fund, students' need for financial assistance is greater than ever. The Pilgrim RC&D Council is proud of all Howard M. and Mary C. Hayward Scholarship winners and looks forward to continuing the scholarship award for many years to come.

CIRCLE OF DIAMONDS

"Circle of Diamonds" Status: Pilgrim RC&D retains Circle of Diamonds status. Pilgrim RC&D exemplifies responsibility for public accountability and demonstrates a positive impact on the quality of life within Southeastern Massachusetts through our programs and services.

FY 2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENT (January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009)

Beginning Year Balance: \$ 70,339.00

REVENUES

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Public Support | \$125,000.00 |
| Program Revenue & Contracts | \$ 20,600.00 |
| Investment Income | \$ 127.00 |
| Membership Dues | \$ 2,400.00 |
| TOTAL Revenues | \$148,127.00 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Grants & Scholarships | \$ 500.00 |
| Prof. Fees & Contracts | \$ 44,684.00 |
| Program Expenses | \$125,000.00 |
| Non-profit Admin | \$ 5,537.00 |
| TOTAL Expenses | \$175,721.00 |

End Year Balance: \$ 42,745.00