

BOGSIDE



December
2021

The Official Newsletter of the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association ©

"THE END OF AN ERA"

A momentous occasion occurred in our office recently. On November 12, 2021, at 12:19pm, Patti Silvia officially retired as the CCCGA Frost Service Weather Observer after 32+ years of dedicated weather watching and frost notifications!

Patti began her frost tenure as was one of "the frost girls" who made the grower calls in the afternoon and evening when a frost warning was issued. Then the service was switched to a recorded message that went out automatically to growers' phones. Who remembers getting the call and hearing Patti's voice reading the message? Just about everyone who has been in cranberries long enough (as well as their kids) will tell you they remember. As Steve Ward commented, "as wonderful as Patti is and as much as we all love seeing her, in the spring and fall, we definitely did not want to hear from her!"

Patti, a part-time CCCGA employee at the time, learned the role of weather observer from Debbie Cannon.

While the basic job has not changed much in scope over these last 32 years, the way in which the report is figured has. When Patti first began, they physically had to go take the wet & dry temperature at the State Bog every afternoon & evening and get forecasted temperatures in Boylston and Gloucester by calling NOAA. All figures had to be done long hand - no calculators! At some point, they transitioned to using calculators to make their computations and, ultimately, started using an excel spreadsheet that calculates the formulas automatically using the temperature readings. Eventually, the process shifted to using the computer for temperature and weather reports and that was a faster and easier process.

Over the years, Patti enjoyed going out to the bogs for tolerance where she could chat with the growers on the frost committee—as we all know, Patti loves to chat with growers! She particularly enjoyed learning from Carolyn DeMoranville during their tolerance checks. Also, being a lover of nature, in the spring they would see baby geese and osprey building their nests. In the fall, watching the

berries turn to the dark crimson color week by week was a highlight. The tolerance checks also made for some funny times. One time Patti recalls getting poison ivy on her feet so bad that she had to go to the doctor. Another memory of the time Keith Mann's pants caught on fire from the sun through the magnifying glass he was using to check the buds still makes her laugh.

While not wanting to forget anyone, Patti said she enjoyed working with Irving "Dee" Demoranville and Bob Hammond back in the beginning. They taught her so much when they came to the State Bog daily to get the report. Once the process moved to being strictly done from the CCCGA office, Bob Conway would come in everyday to get the report and she greatly enjoyed talking with him. Over her many years of weather watching, Patti also enjoyed working with Michelle Hogan, Glenn Reid and Anne Cote to deliver the frost report.



Continued on page 4:

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Continued from the cover

Patti very much liked being involved with the weather and knowing if the bogs reached the temperatures that were predicted. This is one of the aspects she will miss the most. The focus used to be knowing what the weather is going to be like for cranberries—now she just watches the weather to see how it might affect activities she has coming up!

Something that people may not know, is that her job as weather observer required her to be available every afternoon and evening from April through June and again September through November. Her dedication to the frost service many times kept her from getting to the beginning of her grandson's football games in the evening and other family events. Now, on weekends it is nice to know she can plan day trips and excursions and not have to be at her computer daily at noon and 7pm.

Brian Wick sums up all our thoughts by saying, "Patti's commitment to the CCCGA frost service cannot be adequately expressed. She truly dedicated herself to the program and for providing the best information for the growers, every night for 32 years. Without the unbelievable support from Patti, the frost service would not be the outstanding program that it is today."



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CHANGING ON THE FLY

BY: BRIAN WICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



That was a close one! That's how I view a recent close call with proposed wetland regulations in the town of Plymouth. Unbeknownst to CCCGA or the grower community, the Plymouth Conservation Commission has been working on new wetland rules and regulations for several years. At literally the last minute, a Plymouth grower found out about the proposed changes and alerted me. The regs as written would have been a disaster for cranberries. The language for the agriculture definition appeared to be a copy and paste effort from something written 30 years ago. It was very prescriptive and narrowly defined what would be allowed by right, everything else would have required a request for determination or a notice of event. Simple practices like flooding a bog, harvesting, etc. would have required permission. I have no doubt that the commission did not anticipate this and were not intending such dire consequences. By working in a vacuum, with no stakeholder involvement or notice, they created a dangerous piece of rulemaking. Fortunately, I was notified in time and was able to attend the public hearing and point out the fundamental flaws in their proposal. The commission voted in their new rules but have not yet published the final piece. I have been told that the ag definition has been corrected to mirror the state Wetland Protection Act regulations. I'll be checking to be sure once released. This is another example of the value of CCCGA. We had the resources and experience to step in on behalf of the growers of Plymouth and fix a problem before it became a real problem.

If you are wondering about the legalities of a town enacting rules and regulations like I have described above, it would have been in violation of state law and there is precedent. In talking with Frank DiLuna of Smolak and Vaughn (a CCCGA sustaining member), he explains that if a town were to enact such a regulation and were not willing to change it, the recourse would have been court. A town would almost assuredly lose in court but that legal battle would take time and money. Nobody wants that. The takeaway message is that as an industry we must remain attentive and aware of what is going on at the local level. CCCGA is addressing what we can do to be more aware of such things but most importantly, we also need growers and their workers to help be the eyes and ears. Ideally, we'd have more cranberry industry people part of local boards and committees but short of that, it's becoming more imperative than ever to have an understanding of what is going on within our town halls. As I've

said before, don't assume CCCGA knows what might be happening in your town – let us know if you hear anything of changes being proposed, by-laws, regulations, etc. that might impact how you grow cranberries.

As we've written about previously, CCCGA had a successful bog tour season, educating the public on all things MA cranberries. As such, we are looking to further expand this program. To do this efficiently, we need a home base for originating tours. We are in search of a property where CCCGA can offer tours and a larger educational experience. This would involve a classroom, small museum and a store. The property would need to be able to accommodate buses and parking. Preferably it would be centrally located between the route 3 and 495 corridors to attract charter buses traveling these main routes. We are interested in exploring options for a donation of property or the ability for a long-term lease on a piece of land where we can either build or retro-fit an existing structure. At this point, everything is on the table. If you are interested, please contact me and I can provide further details.

Be sure to read John Fernandes' article this month for some exciting news about new grant funding sources from the state that will have a dramatic impact on the future of this industry! It is much welcome news and is just the beginning of what we hope is even more good news in 2022 and beyond. For those questioning the status of the Bog Renovation Tax Credit program. The state is finalizing the regulations and they will then go out for public comment for 30 days. We expect the regulations to be released this month and then we'll go from there. It is a lengthy process but ultimately, we expect that we'll have a successful tax credit program for those growers renovating bogs. CCCGA is working hard for your farm and the future of MA cranberries. The CCCGA board is actively evaluating our programs and objectives for 2022 and we'll have more to share on that next month.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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UMASS CRANBERRY STATION NEWS

BY: HILARY SANDLER



Everyone at the Station would like to send out a huge thank you to the A.D. Makepeace Company and to the Cranberry Growers Service for the harvest of State Bog (ADM) and Rocky Pond (CGS). Special thanks to Kirby Gilmore and Cody Jones who jumped in at the last minute to knock off fruit. We, along with many other growers, had a disappointing harvest; we were down about 35%.

Due to University Covid restrictions regarding meetings in public places, we are planning to hold our Annual Update meeting virtually on Wednesday January 26 and Thursday January 27, 2022. These will be two morning sessions. The tentative agenda has the first 2 hours (8-10 am) covering topics that will generate 2 contact hours; the final hour (10-11 am) will have presentations on topics important for cranberry production but without pesticide re-certification contact hours. Agendas and registration information will be forthcoming in our December newsletter. We look forward to seeing you all then.

Construction is on-going at the Station. Footings have been poured and we hope the walls of the new building will go up soon. Renovations have started in the Lab Building. All personnel who were in the Lab Building are now either working from home and/or re-located into the Admin Building. We are hopeful that we will be able to move back in by mid-April. If you need to get hold of someone, please email them, call their cell phone or reach out to Robyn Hardy at 413-800-7470 or me at 413.800-6531.

Wishes for a Happy Holiday season and a great New Year.

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Recently the Plimoth Patuxet Museums hosted its' first "Great New England Pumpkin Pie Competition". The celebrity judges included our own Brian Wick, along with Michelle McGrath, CCCGA Media Consultant and Scott Smith, Regional Director of Multimedia. With nearly 30 pies to taste, the judges had a difficult decision to make. After sampling the pies, speaking about the baking secrets, they made their decision. Congratulations to all the bakers!!



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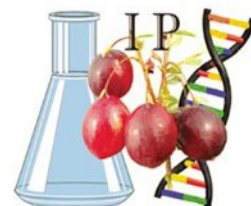
On November 9th Brandeis University hosted a Cranberry Festival in the student dining room. Various main courses, salad, salsas, desserts and drinks were created from cranberries. There was fun energy and appreciation for our local berry. The Cranberry Marketing Committee helped host this event attended by Karen Cahill, CMC and Dawn Gates-Allen, CCCGA.



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I have combined the months of November and December into one legislative report as I was waiting to see what the governor did on the funding included in the ARPA bill discussed below and I do not expect much more impacting us to happen this month. What we have are two really big months! This will not be a long report, but it will be an impactful one. It was a wrap up of this year's formal session, ARPA (federal recovery funds) legislation, and big announcements in the governor's race for next year.

November 17th marked the end of formal sessions in the legislature for the rest of 2021. That does not mean work stops by any means and significant legislation moved forward and will continue to move right through December 31st with the formal sessions resuming in January.

The most important legislation to the CCCGA and growers is the very good news that the house senate conference committee handling federal ARPA recovery funding allocation filed and released a report the first week of December that reaches agreement on a final funding bill. The house and senate adopted the report, and the Governor signed the legislation on December 13th.

The conference committee report and bill signed by the Governor does contain the senate two key provisions included by Senator Rodrigues in the senate version of the bill targeting the cranberry industry:

1. One million dollars for grants for capital improvements which shall prioritize grant applicants focused on innovative approaches to enhance environmental benefits and encourage increased economic activity in its respective sector including, but not limited to: (i) capital infrastructure improvements that promote energy efficiency; (ii) the purchase or expanded use of renewable energy technologies; (iii) tools to address barriers to economic growth, including business management technical assistance and the purchase of more efficient equipment and technology; (iv) tools, technologies and technical assistance to support practices that promote resilience against the impacts of climate change; (v)

tools and technologies to facilitate sustainability and new product development; and (v) direct marketing and branding of products to consumers. This is like the program that allocated \$500,000 for these activities last session.

2. Five million dollars for the Agricultural Innovation Fund to support the existing bog renovation and water management infrastructure improvements and system upgrades program.

These are significant investments in the industry to be implemented over the next few years it is a terrific benefit to growers. It is not final yet as we must wait for the governor to act. We cannot thank Senator Rodrigues enough for including these provisions in the senate version and insisting upon it in the final bill, and all our representatives led by Rep. Straus in the house and all our senators for their advocacy in support of inclusion in the final bill as well as to the governor for accepting the provisions. This is big for the industry, and we look forward to the role out.

The other major news coming out of the last few weeks is that both Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito have decided not to run for Governor in November 2022. It was expected that Governor Baker would seek a third term, but if he did not, that Lt. Governor Polito would likely do so if the Governor chose not to do so. It is a surprise that neither will. We should offer both our greatest appreciation for their service. Both the Governor and Lt. Governor embraced your industry these last several years and partnered with our legislators to support us in substantive legislation, administrative actions, and funding/ grant support. We wish them both well in their future endeavors. More to come on the now wide-open race for Governor and who will be joining the already announced candidates in the coming weeks.

Best to you all for a safe and happy holiday season. Catch up next year!





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CCCGA received a personal note from Attorney General Maura Healey regarding her recent educational bog tour. After the general cranberries 101, the tour sparked questions of renovation, technology, innovation and other topics. The tour was hosted by Board of Director Rob Rubini at Piney Wood Bog in Plymouth. CCCGA was well represented with Brian Wick, Scott Hannula, John Fernandes, Jim Kane and Steve Ward to answer questions. Dick Ward was also in attendance adding his cranberry knowledge and fresh berries.



MAURA HEALEY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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November 10, 2021

Brian Wick
Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association
265D South Meadow Road
Plymouth, MA 02360

Dear Brian:

Thank you for inviting me to tour a bog and meet with cranberry growers. I know how much work goes into planning these events, and I am grateful for your commitment to making it so successful.

I always appreciate the opportunity to get out and learn about the diverse industries that drive our Commonwealth and the people that power them. This visit was one for the books!

I deeply value your commitment to our local growers, and I look forward to continued partnership.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M Healey".

Maura Healey



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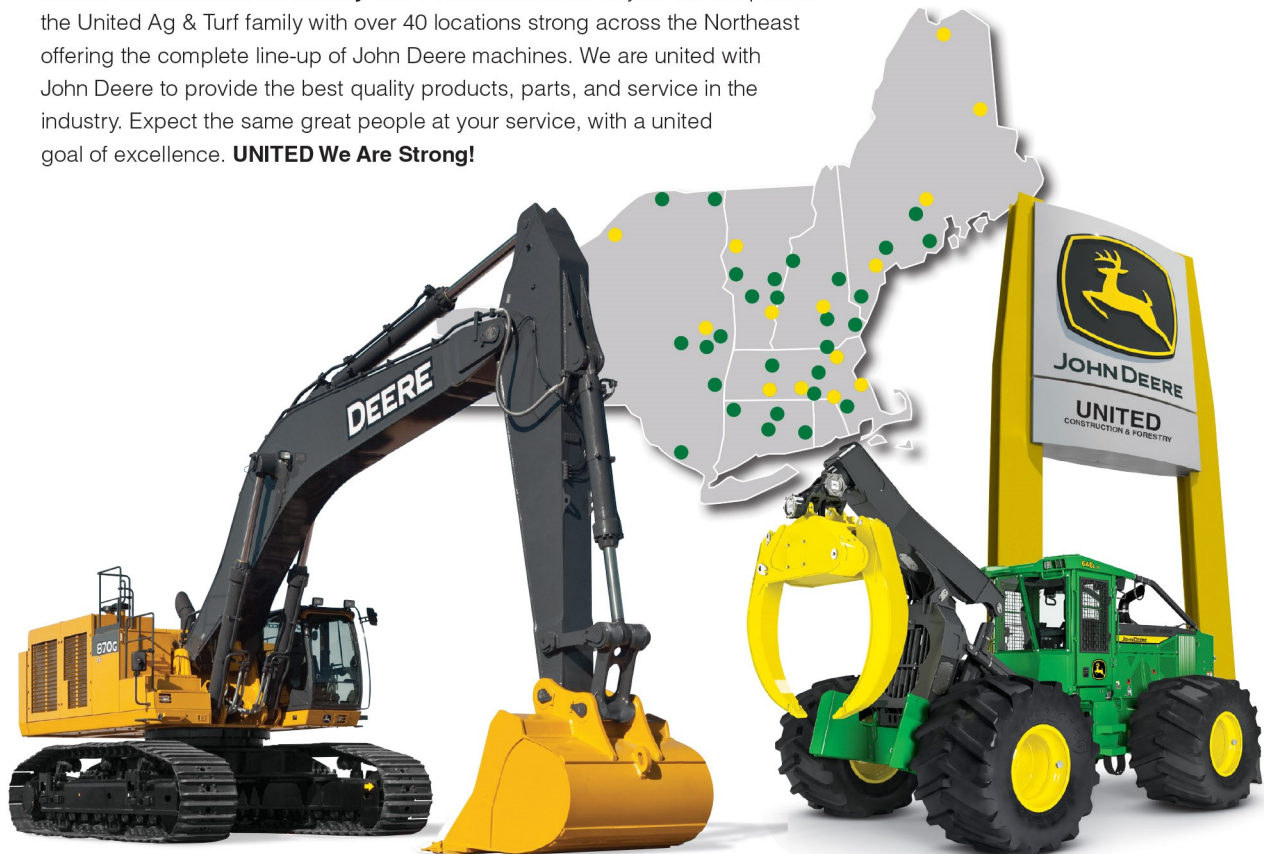
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UPDATES FROM THE CMC

BY: KAREN CAHILL



After conducting a RFP process, CMC has selected Dr. Harry M. Kaiser of Cornell University to perform its next Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act Evaluation. Dr. Kaiser is one of the most eminent agricultural economists in the world who has extensively studied the economics of commodity promotion programs. Dr. Kaiser is the Gellert Family Professor in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University where he teaches and conducts research in the areas of price analysis, marketing, and quantitative methods. He has written 150 refereed journal articles, five books, 17 book chapters, and over 150 research bulletins. Dr. Kaiser has conducted more than 130 economic evaluation studies of domestic and international checkoff programs in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Dr. Kaiser will present his findings to the full Committee at the CMC's February meeting.

On Thursday, November 18, the UK government published on its tariff website that it would extend its current duty suspensions on cranberry products through 2024. The CMC informed industry leaders of the opportunity to weigh in on the issue in June, and groups in the UK with relations with U.S. companies did so. CMC continues to monitor the 25% UK steel and aluminum retaliatory duty on US concentrate, which currently remains in place.

After conducting a RFP process, the CMC has retained a new company in Brussels to help monitor EU tariff issues. Vulcan Consulting impressed the CMC with their background and interest in the industry. Vulcan is staffed by Irish officials who have a strong background in EU affairs. They understand the limits the CMC has regarding lobbying, and will be watching closely in 2022 as the EU duty suspension on dried cranberries is up for its five year periodic review. Vulcan will monitor and inform the CMC of developments.

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Market Development & Food System Planning /MA Department of Agricultural Resources is pleased to announce the rollout of the updated and no-cost MA Food Processors Resource GUIDE—how to start your value-added or entrepreneurial food business in Massachusetts. Below is the short message, with the long message on the following page.

How to start your food business, newly updated and free GUIDE

Local growers and food businesses have been in the spotlight lately. Their resiliency is an integral part of the Massachusetts food system. The newly released Massachusetts Food Processors Resource Guide supports new and growing value-added agricultural and entrepreneurial food business.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and the UMASS Extension Food Safety Program is pleased to present the Massachusetts Food Processors Resource Guide (GUIDE):

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/the-massachusetts-food-processors-resource-guide>

The on-line, on-demand GUIDE has approachable information about what's needed to start a food business. The focus is on growers looking to add value to their crops and food entrepreneurs in their start-up phase.

GUIDE Chapters include 1) Getting Started, 2) Performing Market Research, 3) Scaling up, Where to Make Your Product & Licensing, 4) Calculating Costs & Setting a Price, 5) Food Safety Basics, 6) Labeling, Regulations and Design 7) Business Planning, Registering a Business, Insurance 8) Marketing, Promotions & Social Media 9) Sales, Brokers, Distributors & Trade shows, 10) Resources (from all chapters), and 11) Resources for Women, BIPOC & LGBTQ+ Entrepreneurs.

Though the GUIDE includes regulatory information specific to Massachusetts, much of the information is relevant, no matter the state.

The GUIDE was developed in collaboration with B. Savvy Creative, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, Commonwealth Kitchen, Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA), Farm Credit East, Many Forks Farm, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Massachusetts Specialty Foods Association, Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety (NECAFS), Western Massachusetts Food Processing Center, and the UMASS Extension Food Safety Program.

The GUIDE was supported by the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture through grant AM170100XXXXG054. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not represent the official views of the USDA.



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MassDEP Reminds Growers of WMA Renewals

MassDEP recently mailed the 2021 Annual Report Form for Cranberry Growers. All cranberry growers registered and/or permitted with the Water Management Act Program are required to complete and return their Annual Report Form by **February 28, 2022**. Please keep an eye out for this important information.

The Annual Report Form is prepopulated with your name, registration and/or permit numbers, and the river basin from which you make your withdrawal(s). The Annual Report Form for Cranberry Growers can also be downloaded off the MassDEP website at: [Water Management Act Reporting and Forms | Mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov/water-management-act-reporting-and-forms)

If you do not receive your Annual Report Form by January 7, 2022, or if you have any questions or concerns about the information on your form or other questions associated with the Water Management Act Program, contact Shi Chen at (617) 292-5532 or by email at shi.chen@mass.gov. It is not required but it may be beneficial that you return the form with tracking or some sort of receipt such that you have documentation of returning the required paperwork.

FOR SALE

WANTED

FOR LEASE

For Sale: Home and bogs. 3500 sq ft home with garage. Two barns of approx 3,000 sq ft. 12.5 acres of bog, mostly hybrids. Over 18 acres total. Two pumps with automation. Located in South Middleborough. Call 508-333-0355

FOR SALE: One Kubota four cylinder motor with clutch and Berkley pump. Runs fine. \$5000. Two four wheel drive bog sanders with Wisconsin motors and International drive trains - \$4000. or best offer. Over 100 Rainbird #30 H sprinklers or risers 12" -14" \$10. each. Four Wisconsin motors for use or parts - make an offer. Please call John at 508-509-3584 with any questions.

FOR SALE: 13.38 acres of cranberry bogs in Carver. Property consists of Ben Lears & Early Blacks and have been good producing bogs over the years. Property consists 10 acre reservoir & 45 acres of upland. A section of upland has 3 possible house lots with right-aways leading to them. If someone is just interested in the bogs and reservoir, willing to just sell that portion. Asking \$280,000. or best offer. House lots \$100,000. each or best offer. Please call Virginia Weston at 508-866-4916 or PO Box 164, South Carver 02366.

BOG FOR LEASE: Ocean Spray Cranberry A-pool bog for lease, will negotiate 8 acres. 4.5 acres of Early Black, 2 irrigation pumps, 1 lift pump 4 1/2 acres of pop-up, 3 1/2 acres of traditional sprinklers Spring fed reservoir. Bog located in West Wareham. Please call 508-748-1137

FOR SALE: Three "vintage" Wisconsin engines. York Rake, 8' 4", good condition, with a grading blade (Scarfer"), York Rake RW Serial #2323 Eight (8) foot water reel, side arm picker, reel in front. "Vintage" cranberry boxes, excellent condition, stored inside, \$15.00 each. Call 508-746-0916 for more information.

FOR SALE: Cranberry Water Harvester, in excellent condition, can be seen locally, asking \$3,800 or B. O. Call 508-802-1067 and ask for Doug.

FOR SALE: Beautiful, secluded 100 acre property in Carver, MA. 35 acres of ocean spray dry picked cranberries, 4 acres of Christmas trees, cranberry museum and gift shop that caters to Argo tourists. Please call 339-933-0207 for more information or to make an offer!

FOR SALE: Pruning head for St. Jacques Machine X4 sander with heated body 4X4 wheeler off Hydraulic sander Contact Scott 508.942.4511

FOR SALE: New-Unused Furford Cranberry Picker and Pruner Selling at Cost Harvester - \$13,900. Shipping From Washington state - \$685. 20 Burlap bags - \$77. Expenses - \$38. Total Cost \$14,700. Call John 207-985-1288

WANTED: Dry cranberry harvester. New or used in any condition. Also plans to build a working harvester. Contact: Wojciech Zuber at zuber.wojciech@gmail.com or 1-403-894-0865

WANTED: looking for a propane powered irrigation pump for at least 8-10 acres call Alan at 774-313-6560 or Ben at 508-237-9252

WANTED: Cranberry picking machine or plans /project to build new one. Machines need to be "Furford" type, can be complete or without engine. contact only via email adamtomczuk4@gmail.com

WANTED: to buy 10-30 acres of flowthrough bog/wetland complex (retired or near-retired ok). Must be suitable for research and ecological restoration. Call Dr. Rich Blundell at 617 380-8745 or email omniscopic@gmail.com

FOR SALE

WANTED

FOR LEASE

WANTED: Diesel Ford or Massey Ferguson tractor 30-40 hp. Contact: call or text Ben at 508-237-9252 or Alan 774-313-6560.

WANTED: Pruner Walk-behind or ride-on pruner. Attached rake or similar a plus. Please contact Rick Leibe at UMass Cranberry Station. 413-230-1865.

WANTED: Local cranberry grower wanting to update picking machines. Looking for hydraulic, oscillating, new or used machine. Gephart style with rotating head or harrow. Call Bruce at 508-728-7631

WANTED: Up to 100 feet of used Cranbarrier boom to coral pond weeds, I am a local Carver resident from Beaver Dam Road. Contact: Bonnie at 508-333-6708

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD HERE!!

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

Brian

Dawn

Patti

Bonnie