

SAVETHE DATE!! Spring Business Meeting

Announcing our Spring Business Meeting – Come join us at Southers Marsh Golf Club on May 13th from 3 – 6 PM for an informal business meeting. We will be recognizing industry leaders and legislative partners plus updating you on what the CCCGA staff and Board of Directors are doing on behalf of the membership. Bar service and hors d'oeuvres will be offered. Look for more information and your invitation shortly.



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MISSION STATEMENT:

"To enhance the Massachusetts cranberry industry through the Viability and sustainability of the CCCGA membership."

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BLOGS AND BLURBS

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural resources (MDAR) is accepting applications from Massachusetts farmers who wish to participate in one of these Department programs that help with farm viability in Fiscal Year 2023. The Request for Response containing program details and the application form is posted through a link on each program website below. If you would like an application mailed to you, contact the program coordinator listed. **The due date for all these three applications is Tuesday, April 26, 2022**.

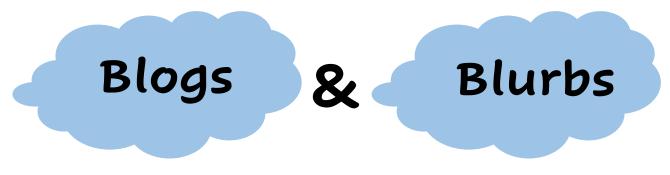
Farm Viability Enhancement Program (FVEP) – for established farms. This program provides business planning and technical assistance to develop or update a business plan for established commercial farms that own and operate unrestricted farmland. In return for a short-term covenant to keep the land in agricultural use, operators may be eligible for grants to implement capital projects on the farm that have been identified in the business plan completed through the program. Grant levels range from \$75,000 to \$150,000, depending on the size of the farm and acreage protected, in return for a 10 or 15-year term covenant. Uses of funds will vary depending on the needs of the farm – examples include new or improved livestock barns or farm stores; purchasing delivery vehicles, tractors or haying equipment; constructing food processing or storage facilities.

For more information and a FVEP application, go to: <u>Farm Viability Enhancement Program (FVEP) |</u> <u>Mass.gov</u> or contact Melissa Adams at <u>Melissa.L.Adams@mass.gov</u> or 413-726-2001

Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture (MEGA) – for beginning farmers, who have been in business at least one (1) but no more than six (6) years who aspire to develop their farms into commercially viable operations. The program provides business planning and technical assistance, and grant funds of up to \$10,000 on a one-to-one matching cash reimbursement basis. Funds may be used for equipment, infrastructure, or other capital improvements identified through the business planning process that will have a positive impact on the participating farm's viability. Common uses of MEGA grant funds include greenhouses, barn renovations, tractor implements, chicken coops, farmstands, and refrigerated delivery trucks.

For more information and a MEGA application, go to: <u>Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture (MEGA) |</u> Mass.gov or contact Jess Camp at Jessica.Camp@mass.gov or 617-823-0871.

<u>Winter Meeting Sessions</u> - Did you know you can access our grower training sessions or Winter Meeting sessions for the past 5 years? Go to our website at www.cranberries.org, sign into your portal and go to Winter Meeting presentations!



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CHANGING ON THE FLY

BY: BRIAN WICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Although March started with winter trying to hold its tentative grasp on our region with a little bit of snow flying about, I think spring has finally won out. The calendar says it's true and there is a flurry of sprinkler heads going out, suction boxes being installed, March Madness is in full swing on basketball courts throughout the country, the NCAA hockey tournament is about to start (UMass going back-to-back?), and even Major League Baseball decided to return. It seems like harvest just ended but here we go again, spring is here – game on!

CCCGA has been busy with a variety of activities. In no particular order here's some of the highlights: We held a successful 2-credit pesticide workshop with more workshops happening throughout the year, in combination with the Cranberry Station as well. Speaking of the Station, the CCCGA Research Committee recently met to discuss horticultural research projects for 2022. There is some exciting and important work proposed by our UMass researchers along with an intriguing study out of Rutgers, looking at a fungus to control blunt-nosed leafhopper. We'll have more to report once the funding process is finalized later this month. The Farmland Valuation Advisory Technical Sub-Committee met to make recommendation to the full FVAC, who will meet shortly to finalize the tax values for ag land. Although nothing is final until the FVAC votes the values, unlike seemingly everything else in the world, taxes are not expected to go up much this year. We will publish the figures once they are approved. We are making some progress in finding possible sites for our growing bog tour operation and a proposed cranberry educational center. This is all very preliminary but we are hearing from some growers that may be interested in working with us on a location. As John Fernandes indicates in his article, there is a fair amount of legislative activity swirling about, as the session looks to wrap up this year and also the start of the budget process. CCCGA will stay active in all of these matters. We have had a couple of meetings with the Plimoth Patuxet Museum about having a cranberry-themed 2-day event this November. We are actively planning out the details but it's going to be exciting and a great showcase for our native berry. You may recall that we applied for a Northeast SARE grant with Casey Kennedy and Dave Millar of USDA-ARS to study agricultural drones with the capacity to deliver fertilizers or pesticides.

We were successful in the grant application and this summer will start to work on the project, evaluating these drones on bogs. There are other grant application open that CCCGA will toss our hats into, looking for opportunities to build programs and provide value to our grower members. Lat year we received a grant to bolster the BOGS Online program. Dawn has been spearheading the project with new features coming out this growing season. Interviews for the new Bog Tour and Event Manager position at CCCGA will be conducted next week. This person will be tasked with growing our tour business, dramatically improving our awareness with the public and helping to coordinate CCCGA events and programs. We expect the chosen candidate to start this spring and hit the ground running demand for tours is constant and growing rapidly. Finally, recently there have been a few regulatory challenges thrown at some of our growers mainly looking to conduct on-farm improvement projects. CCCGA is monitoring the process and helping where possible to ensure that the right balance is struck in supporting the basic needs of agriculture. For whatever reason, there seems to be an uptick in people looking to overly regulate normal farming practices, some to the point of being ridiculous. We will continue to advocate for sensible and practical regulations, allowing our farmers to farm, with a constant eye to respecting the environment. Contrary to the beliefs of some, these are not exclusive concepts. We'll keep fighting. Please do your part by being involved in your local government, keeping your eyes and ears open and with town meeting season heating up, let me know if you hear of anything that I should be aware of involving regulations, by-laws, etc. With spring upon us, let's hope for a positive and successful season ahead.

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Notes from Beacon Hill

BY: John Fernandes



As our Commonwealth and the country continue to see a significant decline in covid related cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, governments and businesses are rapidly adjusting to what, dare I say, has the feel of return to some sense of new normal. Mandates requiring the wearing of masks in public places and private businesses as well as proof of vaccination to gain entry to restaurants and entertainment venues have been rescinded locally and statewide. In step with that movement, the state house has reopened to the public for the first time since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. Face-to-face meetings with legislators and staff are returning. This is a significant step forward for the advancement of legislative priorities as there is simply no substitute for in person advocacy. We must be aware that any new uptick in cases, or the appearance of a new variant could send us back to mandates. So, caution remains. For the time being though, we can enjoy the progress. The governor and legislature are still dealing with the fallout from the pandemic. Recent legislation has been passed to extend many of the emergency actions taken to keep businesses open and the economy moving such as the outdoor dining opportunities for restaurants and remote video conferencing for real estate and other such legal transactions. Some of those emergency measures will likely be made perma-The legislature continues to invest more resources, federal and state into those industry silos worst impacted by the pandemic through the passage of additional supplemental funding legislation.

As for the CCCGA priorities, I noted in last month's report that we have done well so far with our legislation receiving favorable release from substantive committees and moving on for further consideration by either the house or senate ways & means committees. One of the bills that was extended for further assessment in the Environmental Committee, S590 filed by Senator Moran, was favorably released with some redraft language, and sent along to the senate Ways & Means committee. The bill seeks to clarify the ability to remain in 61A when engaging in dual use of solar over agricultural land. That bill is an important priority for the CCCGA and for all growers and farmers interested in the dual use program. We will continue to advocate for its passage. Again, we thank Senator Moran for filing the bill and her advocacy on the matter.

The CCCGA leadership is also actively in discussions with stakeholders and legislators regarding the issue of workforce development and will be seeking input on that issue from members soon.

There are still several bills of interest to us that have not received final action including the bills proposing to amend long established labor rules on overtime, mandatory days off during harvest, and minimum wage changes. Your leadership has been very active in its effort to educate and advocate our position on such matters. There are also several pieces of legislation that received favorable release from committees that we have concerns will negatively impact agriculture. We are continuing to advocate our concerns to leadership.

The special commission established to review the use of glyphosate met recently to review the single proposal that was received to undertake the study that is the commission's charge. We will continue to monitor that commission's progress.

Stay tuned for further updates on these programs and legislative initiatives.



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VISITORS OF THE MONTH MARCH



This month Lyon and Cynthia Carter stopped in for some grower support. We were so happy for the visit and Dawn helped them with a Water Management question!

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SAVE THE DATE!!

SUMMER MEETING REIMAGINED!

We are very excited to announce the 135th Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association's Annual Meeting will be held back on the bogs! This year's summer meeting will be hosted by Oiva Hannula & Sons on August 31, 2022 at their Rochester Road location.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our short survey last month. We are taking your input and suggestions and reimagining what this year's gathering will look like. While many details have yet to be determined, we are excited to be featuring a new grower equipment trade show where you will be able to bring equipment no longer needed to offer up to other growers. There will be much more information coming on that so stay tuned!

We hope you'll clear your calendar for the day and join the staff and your fellow growers on 8/31/22!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UMASS Cranberry Station Respirator Training (via zoom)
March 24th 5:30 - 7:30 PM ~ 2 Credits

Cranberry Institute Board of Directors Meeting
March 24th & 25th

UMass Cranberry Pesticide Safety (via zoom) April 26th 7:30 - noon ~ 4 Credits

CCCGA Spring Business Meeting Friday, May 13th 3 – 6PM Southers Marsh Golf Club, Plymouth

Annual Cranberry Research Foundation Golf Tournament
Monday, July 18th
Southers Marsh Golf Club

CCCGA Annual Meeting
August 31st
Oiva Hannula & Sons, Inc., Carver



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Why Us?

We have a long history of experience in helping cranberry growers like you to live life well, regardless of the stage of life or business you're in right now. We're dedicated to making things simple for you and being the expert in your corner so you can stop worrying about where you're headed. We serve as a trusted resource to help you make confident, well-informed decisions for your financial future.

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The cranberry bloom is upon us and this means it's pollination time. The MDAR Apiary Program Team would like to remind growers that all honey bee colonies imported for pollination are subject to pest and pathogen inspections by Apiary Inspectors. To assess bee health, a team of Apiary Inspectors will work to visit as many bogs and apiary drops as possible to inspect a subset of hives representative of each specific beekeeper imported shipment. We appreciate your help in alerting the beekeepers that you work with of this requirement. Inspectors are happy to answer questions about the inspection process and will notify you prior to arriving to your property. For more information, please contact us a bees@mass.gov or 508-281-6784.





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WINTER MEETING PRESENTATIONS

Post-Infection Pre-Symptom Deception Explained Jaime Cummings

MDAR Pesticide Program

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Gone remote for everything

- · All trainings and recertification workshops are online
- · Pesticide Licensè renewal online
- · Credit audits online
- Pesticide Exams online Pesticide subcommittee meets on zoom
- Kerb submitted as Sect 18 online
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NPDES Pesticide General Permit (PGP)

Status:

- The 2021 Pesticide General Permit (PGP) was signed and became effective on October 31, 2021.
- > The 2021 PGP has the same conditions and requirements framework as the 2016 PGP.
- ➤ Similar to the 2016 PGP, majority of the Operators are covered under the permit automatically and certain Decision-makers are required to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain coverage under the new 2021 PGP. Decision Makers that are required to report are identified in Table 1-1 of the PGP.
- The 2021 permit will expire October 31, 2026.

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM





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UMASS CRANBERRY STATION NEWS

BY: HILARY SANDLER



Naming Opportunities to support Cranberry Research. Please consider supporting the Station. Information on the next page.

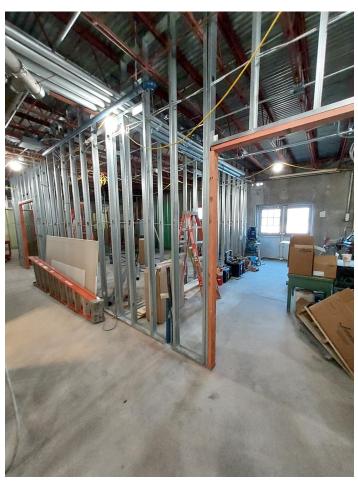
Construction Update. The Admin Building is open during construction with a core group present every day. If you do visit, please park outside of the fenced area. There could be active machinery driving around, so please be careful.

The framing is up for the basement labs and for the corridor and new autoclave room upstairs (see photo). Electrical and plumbing upgrades are proceeding in the lab building. Since work is progressing more slowly than planned, we will have temporary work space for the scientists in a trailer on-site (between the tin building and the bog) starting April 1 and continuing until we can move back into the lab building.

Our phone system is no longer available!! The best way to reach us is through email or by cell phones. You can reach Hilary at 413-800-6531 or Robyn at 413-800-7274.

2022 UMass Cranberry Station Pesticide Safety Meeting will be on zoom on April 26, 2022

4 contact hours, \$50 per person. 7:30 AM - 12 noon. Please see our March newsletter (https://ag.umass.edu/cranberry/newsletters) for sign-up information. Email or call Robyn at rmhardy@umass.edu or 413.800.7274 if you need additional assistance.











Central Advancement at the University has approved a pathway to provide financial support the Station. A gift to name a bench, tree, room or building floor will directly support our research efforts to meet the current and future needs of the cranberry industry. There are many levels of giving and gifts can be a one-time gift, or a pledge made over a 5-year period. Please click here to see the Naming Opportunities Document and/or contact Hilary for more information at 413-800-6531.

https://ag.umass.edu/cranberry/news/naming-opportunities-to-support-cranberry-research



Out and About By: Dawn Gates Allen



135th Annual Meeting Hosts Grower Equipment Swap & Display

In an effort to bring our growers together with our industry stakeholders this summer, CCCGA is encouraging our grower membership to bring their personal bog equipment to display, or perhaps you have some equipment you might like to sell or trade with another grower? One of our goals for 2022 is to rejuvenate our industry's sense of community and synergy that has been restrained over the past couple years. We look forward to giving our growers and stakeholders the opportunity to grab a beer or soft drink, gather and chat and about future farm projects that will help sustain your farm. As you would expect, we will still host our formal meeting and vendor tradeshow. The Association would love to see your sanding equipment, harvest and loading equipment, ground rigs, plus any other intriguing equipment that would be of interest to our industry! As a reminder, through CCCGA's advocacy efforts, we were able to secure grant dollars through the ARPA program to help fund capital improvement projects. Details are still forthcoming but we are expecting a \$1M capital improvement grant program and a \$5M bog renovation grant program that may include water management improvements and upgrades to your bog systems. These programs will help stimulate grower's interest in equipment and although it is expected that the grant programs will only cover new equipment, participation at the Grower Swap may be high as a result. The equipment swap/sell is your opportunity to make something old, new for someone else.

If you're interested in a grower swap/trade or sell space, please contact **Dawn Gates-Allen at 508-726-6052** or fill out this short form below. Please note that set up will be the day of the meeting (August 31st) due to security concerns.

Name:	Farm Name:
Phone:	Space Needed (example 10x20)
Describe your items to display:	Set-up time 7:30am Completion by 9:00 am No equipment allowed to be displayed the night before.
Notes: Bring your own Canopy, Table & Chairs	

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- Bumblebees can use "buzz pollination" or sonication to release pollen from flower anthers, honeybees do not sonicate to collect pollen.
- Bumblebees can deposit larger quantities of pollen to the stigma as compared to honeybees, requiring less visits for pollination.
- Bumblebees tend to have a more erratic flight pattern than honeybees which facilitates the movement of pollen across rows.
- Bumblebees will forage in lower light conditions than honeybees.

Koppert's Quad is especially designed for outdoor pollination with four hives inside; it is buzzing with bumblebees ready to pollinate.

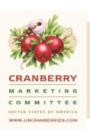






UPDATES FROM THE CMC

BY: KAREN CAHILL



The Cranberry Marketing Committee is pleased to announce the appointment Danny Raulerson as its Executive Director effective March 23, 2022. His hiring is the culmination of an extensive search process by the Committee to replace Michelle Hogan who retired at the end of February. Raulerson offers more than 20 years of experience in agriculture and has held positions including the director of the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, director of field services for the Florida Farm Bureau Federation and chief of the Bureau of State Farmers' Markets for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He is a 1996 graduate of the University of Florida and holds bachelor's degrees in agricultural operations management and animal science. He also has an extensive list of professional affiliations, which represents his dedication and devotion to agriculture. A sixth-generation Florida native, Raulerson will be relocating to Massachusetts and will be the primary contact for the organization. He will be responsible for working with USDA, CMC's board of directors and other cranberry industry leaders. He will also provide management and oversight for all of CMC's international, domestic and trade policy programs.

At its annual winter meeting, the Committee welcomed two new members: Celina Li, at-large member and Dan Hamilton, at-large alternate. Celina is Chief Commercial Officer and General Manager, International & Ingredients at Ocean Spray. She drives the ongoing growth of Ocean Spray branded products outside of the U.S., as well as leads the cooperative's business-to-business global ingredient division. Dan is the Head of Marketing Center of Excellence for the U.S. business at Ocean Spray. He had 16 years of Brand Management experience at Procter & Gamble and 6 years of Marketing Center of Excellence experience at Danone.

Outgoing Massachusetts members Parker Mauck and George Rogers were recognized for their many years of service and contributions to the Committee. George Rogers, who represents Ocean Spray in Massachusetts, started in 2010 and served as chair from 2018-2020. He was lauded for his active participation. "Over the years I learned so much about CMC that I didn't know just as a grower," George said. "The best part was that I got to meet a lot of awesome people. It's been a great experience." Parker Mauck, who represents independents in Massachusetts, also started in 2010 and served as Chair from 2020-2022. "It's been an absolute privilege to work with you and I'll miss you all terribly," Parker said.

February meeting materials and presentations can be downloaded from the CMC's homepage at www.uscranberries.com > Web Resources > Annual Meeting Materials.

This is an election year for the CMC's 7 voting and 5 alternate members representing major cooperative growers; and 6 voting and 4 alternate members representing independents.

Nomination forms will be mailed to all independent growers in April and voting ballots will follow in May. The major cooperative will work with its members directly to fill any vacancies. All appointees will be submitted to the USDA Secretary for approval in June. New board members will serve a term that runs from August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2024.

Continued on next page:

Continued from previous page:

It is USDA's policy that membership on industry-governed boards and committees accurately reflects the diversity of individuals served by the programs by including eligible women, minorities, and people with disabilities. Definition of Minority: Black Americans; Hispanic Americans; Native Americans (American Indians or Eskimos); and Asian Pacific Americans. USDA has declared that multiple family members cannot serve as voting members on the same board, however a special circumstance may be submitted to USDA for further consideration if the need arises.





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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: 13.38 acres of Ben Lears & Early Blacks. The property consists of a 10 acre reservoir & 45 acres of upland a section of upland has 3 possible house lots with right-a-ways. Two irrigation pumps & a lift pump to retrieve water for reservoir. A 54X16X60 insulated & heated Morton Building. Property located in Carver. Call 508-866-4916.

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!

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 (Scarafer"), York Rake RW Serial #2323 Eight (8) foot water side arm picker, reel in reel. front. "Vintage" cranberry boxes, excellent condition, stored inside, \$15.00 each. Call 508-746-0916 for more information.

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: 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



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WANTED: looking for a 6 wheeler dump truck or a trash box for a 6 wheeler dump call Call Alan at 774-313-6560 or Ben at 508-237-9252

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: 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: 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: 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



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