



BOGSIDE

FEBRUARY 2024

SAVE THE DATE!

CCCGA BUSINESS MEETING - MARCH 14TH

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

REGISTRATION : 7:30 - 8AM

BREAKFAST: 8 - 8:30AM

BUSINESS MEETING: 8:30 - 10AM

LOCATION

ROSEBROOK EVENT CENTER ♦ 50 ROSEBROOK PLACE ♦ WAREHAM

COST

\$20 PER PERSON

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RSVP by Friday, March 1st

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CCCGA OFFICE TEAM

BRIAN WICK

BWICK@CRANBERRIES.ORG

EMMA WICK

EWICK@CRANBERRIES.ORG

PATTI SILVIA

PSILVIA@CRANBERRIES.ORG

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KIMBERLY MIOT

KMIOT@CRANBERRIES.ORG

DAWN GATES-ALLEN

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MISSION STATEMENT:

“TO ENHANCE THE MASSACHUSETTS CRANBERRY INDUSTRY THROUGH THE VIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE CCCGA MEMBERSHIP.”

CCCGA HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY

8:30 - 4:30

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CHANGING ON THE FLY

BY: BRIAN WICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CCCGA is off to a busy start to the new year. Our committees are meeting and there is much discussion as to objectives and work plans for the year. We are working on the agenda for the business meeting and pesticide workshop being held separately in March. We hope to have strong grower attendance at both of these meetings. Although it's 6 months away, we are also planning the CCCGA annual meeting to be held at the A.D. Makepeace Company.

I'd like to focus on an important industry change to the helicopter fertilization process that is understandably generating a fair amount of questions. As has been recently announced by JBI Helicopters, they are moving to a digital work order process for the 2024 growing season and selected CCCGA's BOGS Online application to be the delivery tool. I hope to dispel some of the misunderstandings that are out there and provide some direction for how growers can move forward with this change. CCCGA's goal, as is always the case, is to help growers as best we can with the process.

Please note, this change was not something that CCCGA petitioned for or even knew about. This was a business decision that JBI made solely on their own. JBI approached us last year with the desire to have our BOGS program directly interface with JBI so that their customers could easily send their work orders to JBI. There would be efficiencies gained, etc. and we thought that made good sense and we started working with them to make that happen. In December we learned that JBI was going to make electronic work orders a mandate for all of their customers and they had selected BOGS to be the application tool to deliver the work orders. As we understand it, as JBI examined other platforms, they found that because they were not cranberry centric, they were fraught with challenges. Growers would have been faced with an interface that was not geared to how our bogs are managed, would have had little to no technical support, and likely would have cost more than what using BOGS costs. Because BOGS was built by and for cranberry growers, already had

thousands of acres in MA using it, had an established nutrient management tool within it, has technical support, a user-friendly interface for growers to manage, etc., it was an easy business decision for JBI to select. We are proud they chose our tool and now we will do our best to help deliver value to our members.

Because BOGS Online is a CCCGA created record keeping tool, it's available to our members only. The CCCGA board of directors reiterated their position that if anyone wishes to use BOGS, they must first be a member of CCCGA, no exceptions. Then there is an annual user subscription fee to use BOGS (established in 2020), which is a \$100 base fee plus \$3.50/acre for each acre that BOGS will manage per grower, with a cap of \$5,000. There again are no exceptions to this rate, all growers are treated the same. This annual subscription comes with one hour of free technical support.

JBI and CCCGA have no business relationship beyond their company electing to use our record keeping application and us creating a connection to transfer relevant data to them. JBI receives no financial compensation from CCCGA, nor does CCCGA receive anything from JBI. From JBI's decision, CCCGA may end up with some new members or some existing members using BOGS for the first time. This is an obvious ancillary benefit to JBI's decision but it in no way was ever discussed nor a reason why JBI made their choice to use BOGS. We are pleased they did but it was not premeditated.

If there are any questions as to why JBI made the decision to go digital or why they chose BOGS, please contact JBI directly. Any of our members that wish to start using BOGS for the first time, please contact Emma and she'll get you set up. Dawn Allen will be helping us out this season with direct support and some of you will be working with her as you learn how to use the application. To have a simple and streamlined process, Emma will be your first

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stop to get your initial setup and then depending on workload and your level of support needed, Emma or Dawn will get you settled in. We'll be announcing appointment openings shortly so that there is an orderly process to getting your BOGS account established.

I know this was wordy but this is an important change and I wanted to help explain the process and how we got here.

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NOTES FROM BEACON HILL

BY: JOHN FERNANDES



January begins the second year of the 2023/2024 legislative session, and we are already seeing significant activity.

The best news for the CCCGA members was the release in January of the 2023 ag innovation bog renovation grant funding. The past four years have seen up to one million dollars in bond money applied to the program. This year's grants total some \$1,750,000 with funds coming from a combination of the final year of a one-million-dollar bond allocation and \$750,000 in ARPA money set aside for the program as well. The ag innovation bog renovation program was the key recommendation of the 2016 Cranberry Industry Revitalization Task Force. The Ag Innovation program and funding was first included into law as part of an environmental bond bill that set aside \$5,000,000 over a five-year period dedicated to the program. This is the fifth and last year of that bond program. A few years ago, an additional \$5,000,000 of ARPA funds were set aside for use in the cranberry renovation effort, which allocation of funding should assure the program continues for a few more years. The ARPA funds may also potentially be used for other cranberry related grant programs.

Additionally, we have been notified that funding allocated toward design and planning for a cranberry education center has been approved. The funds will be available to begin that undertaking shortly.

There are not enough words of thanks to say to your legislative delegation's advocacy efforts spearheaded by Senator Rodrigues and Representative Straus working collaboratively over the years to see this and other successes to secure policy changes and funding for the Task Force recommendations. Senator Rodrigues has been particularly crucial in his role as Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The entire delegation has been in lock step behind the efforts, and all should be thanked when you

see your representative or senator. A thank you to the past Baker/ Polito administration for their support, and to the Healey/ Driscoll administration for their continued support for growers and the industry. The new Governor and Lt. Governor have been very supportive of industry and the transition of administrations has been seamless.

Speaking of senators, Susan Moran has announced that she will not be seeking reelection this November, instead seeking election to the clerk of courts for Barnstable County Superior Court position. Senator Moran has been a strong ally and advocate for the CCCGA and growers. She has sponsored and guided CCCGA legislation from the very beginning of her term. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

As tax season approaches, I would remind all growers of the Cranberry Tax Credit program that is available to growers who have invested in bog renovation as another way to offset costs. The credit allows for up to \$2,000,000 in credits to all growers with a cap of \$100,000 to any single grower. More than just a tax credit on your state filing, regardless of if you owe money or not on your taxes, this program allows you to receive a check from the Commonwealth for your qualified renovation project. We urge growers to take advantage of the program. Not surprisingly, it has been undersubscribed in the first few years. That is to be expected as growers learn how to use the program. The program is set to sunset in 2024, and CCCGA leadership is advocating for its renewal before the end of this year. We will keep you informed.

The governor recently filed her FY 2025 budget recommendations. The fiscal year starts July 1st, 2024, and ends June 30th, 2025. Of note in her budget is a proposal to set up a standing permanent disaster relief program, with funding coming from capital gains. Massachusetts is one of only a

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handful of states that does not have such a permanent disaster relief program. As we have seen these past few years with flooding and freezing causing devastating damage to agricultural operations statewide, and every reason to assume this pattern will continue, it's time for such a program and funding source. Currently, a government assistance program requires special legislative action to secure funding, which we thank the administration, house, and senate for passing into law. That action takes time though. We applaud the governor for including this in the budget and look forward to supporting it in the coming months.

Over the next several weeks, it is expected that almost all legislation still in a standing committee will be released with a recommendation for passage or further study. I will be reporting on those released favorably that impact your industry in my next report.

That's it for now.




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Grower Contact: Jonathan Ashley
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IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING OUR CCCGA MEMBERS AND FAMILIES



Eugene Dorr Cobb (Gene) of Carver passed on January 27th surrounded by family. He is survived by his wife Martha, son Tristan Cobb and partner Kelly Malone, grandson Oscar and other loving family members.

Gene owned and operated Burgess Bog Company for over 30 years. He was a long time CCCGA member.

He loved life, his family and the outdoors. He enjoyed playing music and dancing, participating in ballroom competitions with Martha. He could be found at his camp in Maine either bathing or snowmobiling, depending on the season.

A memorial and reception will be held at a later date.

Richard (Dick) Canning Jr., 81, of East Sandwich, passed away peacefully on January 22.

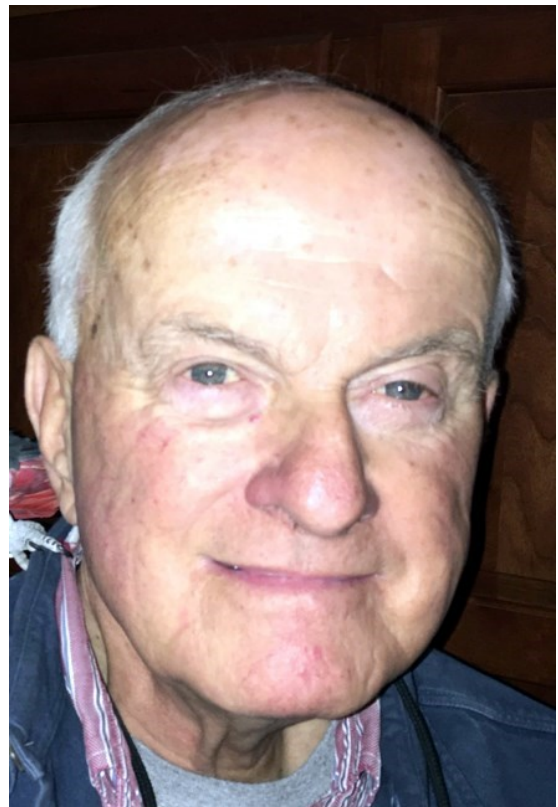
Dick built several businesses and was a motivating force in the cranberry industry. A long-time member of CCCGA and director of other agricultural boards.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife Shirley and his parents. He is survived by his children, Edward, Craig, and Cheryl, his grandchildren, great granddaughter, nieces, nephews and siblings.

Dick was known for his smile, listening ear and love for his family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Richard's honor to the Sandwich Fire Department.

A celebration of life for the family will be planned at a future date.



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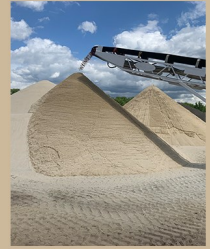
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HARVEST TOUR SEASON 2024:

BY: KIM MIOT



TOUR PROGRAM SEEKING ACTIVE HARVEST BOGS FOR FALL 2024.

Do you have a bog you would be willing to have a group tour visit? Educating the public about cranberries and local farming is vital to the growth of our industry locally and beyond. The public wants to see cranberries being harvested. Our tour program can meet those needs, BUT we need harvesting bog locations to take groups to. We have coach groups on weekdays and public tours on weekends all through harvest. We want visitors to leave knowing more about cranberry farming, eating more cranberries, and talking positively to others about cranberries!

What can you do to help? Email or call Kim Miot (kmiot@cranberries.org, 508-866-7878 X13) with your bog location. You will need "tour" insurance. It's a quick and affordable add on. Please ask your insurance agent. Kim will plan a time to meet you at your bog location this summer and you can discuss how buses can enter and exit the bog.

When fall comes, Kim sends out texts asking if your location is harvesting within the next few days. Answer her and she will let you know if she needs a location that day. As you all know- harvest is a moving target and the locations are often found the day before or morning of! We are planning weekend tours on Saturdays and Sundays at 10am. Weekday coach tours vary with time and number of people. We have tours often 7 days a week for several weeks.

On the day of a tour, we do all the work. We have tour guides and helpers to keep people contained and safe. The visitors are at the harvest site for about 20-30 minutes total. On-site growers or workers who can talk to the crowd are always a big hit, but this is not required. It is very rewarding when people visit and get excited about cranberries.

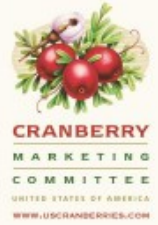
People expect to see floating berries and corralling and loading is the #1 desired activity to see. We also show people picking if we cannot find corralling. If people do NOT see these activities, they leave disappointed and do not leave knowing more about cranberry farming, eating more cranberries, or talking positively to others about cranberries!

Please consider being on our bog tour location list. We need locations to make our tour program strong!



UPDATES FROM THE CMC

BY: KAREN CAHILL

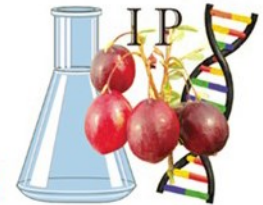


CMC ANNUAL WINTER MEETING

The next meeting for the Committee is scheduled for February 15, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. (ET), and will be virtual only. The agenda, digital meeting book and registration link are available on www.uscranberries.com.

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CRANBERRY SAUCE

1/2 cup sugar
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GALETTE

2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
2/3 cup sugar
2 eggs, whites and yolks divided
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 (14 ounce) box refrigerated pie crusts (2 crusts),
or homemade dough for 2 crusts
1 tablespoon heavy cream or water

METHOD

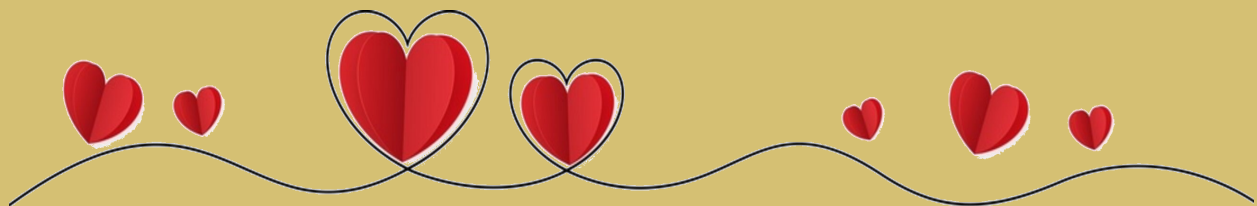
In small saucepan, combine sugar, water and salt. Bring to boil. Stir in cranberries and rosemary. Cook until cranberries have popped and broken down and the sauce has thickened, about 10 minutes. Cool at least 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Unroll both pie crusts (or roll out with a rolling pin if homemade dough) into a flat circle and lay on prepared sheets. In a stand mixer with the paddle attachment, or in a bowl with a hand mixer, whip cream cheese, sugar, egg yolks, and vanilla until smooth.

Divide cream cheese filling between each pie crust, spreading evenly in center, leaving a 1-inch border of crust visible. Drop spoonfuls of cranberry sauce over filling, using about 1/2 cup cranberry sauce per galette. Gently drag a butter knife through cranberry sauce to create a swirl pattern, using a light weaving motion.

Fold each crust towards center in 2-inch segments, creating about 8 folds on each galette. In a small bowl, whisk together egg whites and cream or water. Brush on folded galette crust. Bake until crust is golden brown and filling is set, about 15 to 20 minutes. Remove from oven and cut each tart into 6 wedges to serve.

12 Servings



BLOGS AND BLURBS



BOG RENOVATION TAX CREDIT UPDATE

Tom Anderson, program manager of the Cranberry Bog Renovation Tax Credit program, has provided an update. He said that applications are still being accepted for renovation projects from calendar years 2024 and 2023. 2022 may still be accepted but you should call him first to discuss. He is working on credits from qualified 2023 applications since tax filings will be happening soon. He's trying to work through as many of those as possible and then will be returning to any outstanding applications from previous tax years. Tom can be reached at thomas.anderson@state.ma.us or (617) 519-4587.

After 2024, the bog renovation tax credit program will expire. CCCGA is working to extend the program, which will take a legislative effort. We'll have more news on the success of this initiative in the coming months.

WATER MANAGEMENT ACT ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

This is a reminder that MassDEP Water Management Act Annual Reports are due February 29, 2024. If you haven't filed your report yet, don't delay! Failure to turn in your report could result in the loss of your registration or permit. The report from MassDEP comes pre-populated for your convenience. If you can't locate it, you can download a blank report template [here](#) or contact Branden Costa at MassDEP in Lakeville at branden.costa2@state.ma.us, or 781-719-7967 (cell) with any questions.

BOG RENOVATION GRANT PROGRAM

Growers should now have heard from MDAR if you were accepted for the most recent round of bog renovation funding. At the suggestion of CCCGA, and based on grower feedback, MDAR was able to increase the per acre allotment, as well as the overall amount for the program.

NRCS PROGRAM DEADLINES ANNOUNCED

NRCS recently announced FY2024 program deadlines.

[Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) and the [Agricultural Management Assistance Program \(AMA\)](#) application ranking cutoff dates are **January 5, 2024, March 8, 2024, and May 10, 2024.**

[Conservation Stewardship Program](#) application cutoff dates are **November 3, 2023 and March 8, 2024**

For complete information on these programs, visit our [Alerts & Industry Updates](#) page or click on the individual program links above.

BLOGS AND BLURBS CONTINUED

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IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

Pursuant to Internal Revenue Code (IRC), in section 6033(e), CCCGA is hereby notifying you that 6.58% of what you paid in membership dues for 2023 is not deductible as a business expense due to lobbying activities of the organization. If you have any questions contact your tax accountant .

FRIENDLY REMINDER!!

2024 membership dues were due January 31st. Please contact Bonnie at bsole@cranberries.org or Patti at psilvia@cranberries.org for a form if you didn't receive one.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Chair Schmid and Chair Comerford of the Joint Committee on Agriculture are pleased to share an important grant opportunity for farmers in Massachusetts. The USDA and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) have announced a cooperative agreement under the [Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program \(RFSI\)](#) to offer \$3 million in competitive grant funding for projects designed to build resilience across the middle of the supply chain

Using RFSI funding, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) will fund projects that expand or modernize capacity that have collaborative, regional impact on intermediaries within the middle-of-the-supply-chain including food hubs, aggregators, wholesalers, distributors, and shared processing facilities.

Applications for this award are due by March 29, 2024. For more information, including the application, click [here](#).

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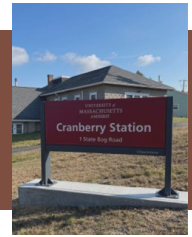
   KubotaUSA.com

*According to 2016 OEM Off-Highway Research, Kubota has the largest compact excavator market share in the world. ©Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2019.



UMASS CRANBERRY STATION NEWS

BY: HILARY SANDLER



The search for the new Director of the Station is underway. Anne Averill is the Chair with Katie Ghantous, Peter Jeranyama, Jeff Kapell, Casey Kennedy, Bill Miller and Brian Wick serving as members. We will let you know when the candidates will be in town to interview; I hope you will take the opportunity to meet the candidates.

Our next Board of Oversight meeting will be held in the Makepeace Room on Friday March 29 from 10-11ish. The primary agenda items will be the fiscal year budgets and grants awarded to the UMCS personnel. All are welcome to attend.

We have received approval from EPA to use Kerb for dodder control via an Emergency Exemption. The application window is from April 15 though June 30, 2024. Labels are available on our website and from points of purchase. If you use Kerb, you must submit a Grower Reporting Form to MDAR by November 30, 2024. This will be available on our website when we receive it from MDAR.

Our Pesticide Update meeting will be VIRTUAL on Wednesday April 24, 8-Noon; 4 contact hours will be offered. The Chart Book will be REPRINTED this year. We anticipate receiving the new Chart Book by late March. Growers can pick them up free-of-charge at the Station or pay to have them mailed to you. More information will be coming in our next newsletters.

We are in the process of scanning, digitizing and archiving our library of historical cranberry documents on ScholarWorks. This is the digital repository managed by UMass. Many of you may be familiar with downloading our PowerPoint presentations from ScholarWorks. The digitized archival documents will be searchable and downloadable for your convenience. We are very much looking forward to having our documents more accessible. We will keep you posted on the progress.

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EVENTS***

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Contact Emma Wick at ewick@cranberries.org to learn more.

BOG PETS

MEET JACKPOT!

"Jack Pot" is a 2-year-old Australian Shepard John Mason has had since he was a puppy. His favorite thing is to be at work with John around the bogs. In the mornings after he eats breakfast, he goes and sits out by his truck, so he doesn't get left behind. One time, John drove off and didn't realize he had jumped in the bed of the truck until he got part way down the street and saw him in the rear view. He really wants nothing more than to be with John at the bogs. As all good bog dogs know, he isn't allowed in the bogs themselves but will scour ditches and canals for mice and muskrats. His favorite part of the day is coffee break where he gets to play with the staff as they sneak him snacks.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**CRANBERRY MARKETING COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 15**

**CCCGA BUSINESS MEETING
ROSEBROOK EVENT CENTER - WAREHAM
MARCH 14**

**CCCGA WINTER PESTICIDE TRAINING VIRTUAL WORKSHOP
MARCH 28**

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

**AG DAY AT THE STATE HOUSE
APRIL 3**

**UMASS CRANBERRY STATION
VIRTUAL PESTICIDE UPDATE MEETING
APRIL 24**



FOR SALE

WANTED

FOR LEASE

FOR SALE: 43' Berry trailer. Tractor driven 4" Pacific berry pump and 13000 watt tractor driven generator. Call Wayne: 508-941-4220

FOR SALE: 13- 100 Ft Lengths of Used Cranbarrier \$4.00 per foot Please contact Oiva Hannula & Sons at 508-866-1075

BOG FOR SALE OR LEASE: Interested purchasing or leasing bogs located in Bourne or Falmouth. Number of acres to be purchased/leased is negotiable depending on current condition and location. Please contact Dan Ward: dan@wardaquafarms.com

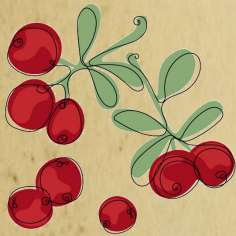
FOR SALE: Like new Alamo RM165 3pt Boom Mower in Raynham, MA for sale at a very reasonable price. Please call Kevin @ United for details...781-706-3430

HELP WANTED: Full time employment offered for work on cranberry bogs in Bourne and Falmouth, MA. Employment includes benefits. Contact Brian Handy at 508-958-4586.

WANTED TO RENT: Inside storage area. Call Wayne: 508-941-4220

WANTED: Furford picking machine call Ben at 508-237-9252 or Alan 774-313-6560

WANTED: Pickup Trucks Needed. UMass Cranberry Station is looking for used pickup trucks (small and large) for purchase or donation. Please contact Rick at 413.230.1865 if you have something that might work for us.



PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD

HERE!!

FREE TO OUR MEMBERS!

