

July 2024

BOGSIDE

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

CAPE COD CRANBERRY GROWERS' ASSOCIATION



Annual Meeting & Tradeshow

Wednesday, August 21, 2024 | 10 AM - 4 PM
A.D. Makepeace Company | Canning Bogs

You need a Member Compass Account on CCCGA's new website to access important information including details/registration for this event. Instructions were emailed June 6, if you need further assistance please email bsoule@cranberries.org.



Register at www.cranberries.org by July 19

Meals and t-shirts are preordered - tickets will not be available the day of the event

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If you have any issues with the online registration, please call the office and we will assist you.

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CHANGING ON THE FLY

BY: BRIAN WICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The work to identify the UMass Cranberry Station's next director continues. Zoom interviews of candidates has happened and now the top three candidates are being brought in for in-person interviews. These interview sessions will occur in August and early September. As in the past, part of the process will be a presentation at the station by each candidate. These presentations will be open to the cranberry community. We will announce when these presentations are scheduled. We look forward to having a strong showing of growers and industry present at each session. Remember, we are not only looking to interview the candidates but the candidates will be also looking to interview us. An engaged and sizable audience will help visibly demonstrate the importance of the Cranberry Station to Massachusetts.

Sometimes it's difficult to fully appreciate some of the facets of what CCCGA does for our members. There are many things that happen behind the scenes that might not get much or any notice but none the less, can have a positive impact on your business. There are relationships with regulators to maintain, participating in meetings that don't always have an immediate impact on cranberry, conversations with municipal officials, talking with legislators at various events, and more. These are understandably not necessarily seen as high visibility activities yet they remain an important part of the work of the Association. These relationships help anticipate challenges, solve problems, and identify opportunities. A recent example is when a grower was conducting what should have been viewed as an exempt project but a local regulator with not a lot of cranberry experience saw it differently. This spawned a series of conversations that eventually led to the project being viewed as it in fact was, an exempt project under the Wetlands Protection Act. It was the positive relationships that CCCGA has maintained over the years that helped resolve this situation. The concern with this one was that if the grower filed a notice of intent or even a request for determination, that it begins the erosion of our exemptions. If a project is truly exempt, there is no reason to file. The easier path may be to file but this over time will do more damage to our agricultural rights.

Another example is legislation that might have a negative impact on farming. These sorts of bills get filed frequently, sometimes unknowingly having an impact on agriculture, but not always. We will work with the legislative community on educating them on why this piece of legislation is hurtful to our industry. This may involve testifying at hearings, writing letters, talking to legislators. It's not a unique approach; it's how our legislative process works for everyone. But it does take strategy, persistence, and relationship building, such that when we advocate for or against anything in particular, our reputation, that we have nurtured over time, provides us with respectability. That goes a long way. These are efforts that a casual observer might not notice. This work and relationship building also helps alert us to opportunities for either the Association or growers, such as grants, programs, and similar sources. All of this is part of the unseen effort that takes place at CCCGA. It's important work and all part of the benefit of being a member of the association. We take our work seriously, always looking to do a better job and for ways to make members' businesses better. We thank you for your continued support and trust that even if you don't see the day-to-day details, that over time, the work of the Association is making a difference for you. If not, we and/or the board of directors needs to hear from you!

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Traveling Bog to Appear at Carver Night Out

Carver is holding their annual Carver Night Out event on August 8 from 5-9 pm at the Carver Middle/High School. CCCGA will be there with our traveling bog to help educate and bring awareness to the public on cranberry farming but also to help strengthen relationships in our community. The night is largely a public safety focused event but it's also about building partnerships and relationships, which is why CCCGA will be attending. If you're part of the Carver community or even if not, consider stopping on by to this free event, say hello, and maybe speaking to some folks visiting the Traveling Bog display.

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FRESH OFF THE VINE - UPDATES ON EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

BY: KAREN CAHILL



Brian and I have had a flurry of meetings with municipal leaders to explain CCCGA, the industry, and some particulars of cranberry farming, as well as to ascertain how we can be a trusted resource. Since June 14 we have met with the following individuals: Carver town administrator, conservation agent and select board chair; Middleborough town manager, conservation agent, and select board chair; Wareham conservation administrator and director of planning; Rochester environmental planning/conservation agent, planning board administrator, town planner and select board vice chair; and Plymouth town manager. All discussions have been positive and productive, and we will continue moving through our list of town contacts this summer. You can watch us on the Middleborough Town Manager's podcast, *Off the Record with Jay McGrail*, [here](#). (*photo attached)

Speaking of government officials – we have about two dozen state representatives, senators and agency members planning to attend CCCGA's annual summer meeting. If you haven't already, please RSVP at www.cranberries.org. We have to preorder the food and t-shirts, so it is imperative that we receive your RSVP no later than Friday, July 19!

Other community outreach is being conducted with the following local realtor groups: Realtor Association of Southeastern Massachusetts, South Shore Realtors, and the Cape Cod & Islands Association of Realtors. We have scheduled a handful of events this fall and winter to educate area realtors on the industry and what to expect when living near cranberry farms. With some baseline knowledge of the cranberry industry, this group will be better equipped to educate their clients who may be unfamiliar with living in more rural settings and/or right-to-farm communities.

CCCGA is hosting a succession planning event for growers Tuesday, September 3 from 4:00-7:30 p.m. at Fireside Grill at 30 Bedford St, Middleborough, MA 02346. Registration information will be forthcoming via email and in Bogside. This event is funded through Northeast Extension Risk Management Education Center's grant



program. Topics covered will include transition financing, accounting, taxes, estate planning, insurance and more. A representative from MDAR will also be present to discuss their new Farm-Pass program.

With an eye toward harvest season, CCCGA would like to know how we can best support our members who conduct tours. If you would like to participate in an Agritourism Roundtable event that we will host here in the office, please contact me at kcahill@cranberries.org or 508-866-7878, ext. 16. Additionally, if you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a tour guide and/or working part-time behind the scenes coordinating CCCGA's program, please reach out.



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GET SOCIAL WITH @MASSCRANBERRIES

BY: KAREN CAHILL



We encourage all industry members to follow Massachusetts Cranberries aka @MassCranberries on social media. We have a lot of good content on our social channels, particularly Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. You can also find us on LinkedIn and Twitter (X). Social media is an affordable way to get our message out to the masses, and with your help, we can amplify that message even further. Please like our content and share it with your friends and family, etc. The content we've been putting out for the past few months has been heavy on the ins and outs of cranberry farming specifically. We are hoping to get our messaging out to local community members in particular, so that they know what to expect when living near a cranberry farm. One goal is to proactively answer questions that neighbors may have about what they are seeing and/or hearing on the farm. Another goal is to promote the historic, cultural, environmental and economic impacts of this industry on southeastern Massachusetts. Finally, we want to highlight the hard work being done by industry members and your businesses. Most people are familiar with the iconic imagery of cranberry harvest, but we want to ensure that the public understands the 365-day process of cranberry growing and all of the different aspects that go along with it. If you have anything that you would like us to share/promote, please reach out on social media and/or contact Karen at kcahill@cranberries.org.

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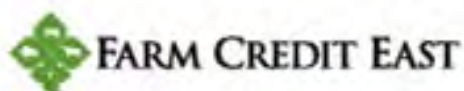
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IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING OUR CCCGA MEMBERS AND FAMILIES



Thomas A. Weston 75, of Wareham, passed away on July 1, 2024. Growing up, Tom worked for his dad's and uncles' business, Weston Bros. Inc., doing construction (both bog and highway), trucking and cranberry growing. He then worked for Federal Furnace Cranberry Co. beginning in 1980. In 1997, he and his brother, James, formed Weston Bros. Cranberries LLC, managing and eventually owning Clark Griffith's and Mary Korpinen's bogs in South Carver. They sold most of the acreage in 2019 and fully retired from farming by selling their remaining bog in 2023. Tom was a long-time member of CCCGA and frequently stopped by the office for business or a chat.



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BY: PATTI SILVIA



Pollination time is almost over!!! The rental bees have arrived and along with our local beekeepers, the honeybees have been busy at what they do best – pollinating!

These migratory bees are here to gather the nectar and deposit it in the next flower. Taking the pollen from the male to the female for the best yield. The bees need to return to the same flower numerous times for good berry development. There you go – pollination!

Rental honeybees and native pollinators are essential for pollination of our cranberry blossoms. Just the honey bee pollinates 80% of all flowering fruits and vegetables.

Did you know?

- Honey bees have 170 odorant receptors (a substance giving off a smell) and have a sense of smell 50 times more powerful than a dog.
- Bees have 2 stomachs - one is for eating and the other for storing nectar and processing it into honey.
- The honey bee antennae has 300+ taste receptors.
- Bees have 5 eyes

There are many more interesting facts about our interesting bees, googling it could be fun!!

I didn't get out to check the frames to see if the honey was ready to harvest this month. I am hoping it will happen soon. Stay tuned.

Last month's trivia question was:

Do you know what makes the drone different from other bees?

And the answer is:

The primary role of the drone is to mate with the queen. They wait for her to leave the hive and begin their mating process in flight. Only 10 to 20 drones actually mate with the queen over numerous flights. And now...what makes the drones different from other bees is they do not sting. Without an ovipositor, a structure to lay eggs, drones do not have a stinger, but scores of drones have a barbed abdomen to fight off other bees. In the fall the worker bees kick the poor drones out of the hive leading to their death.



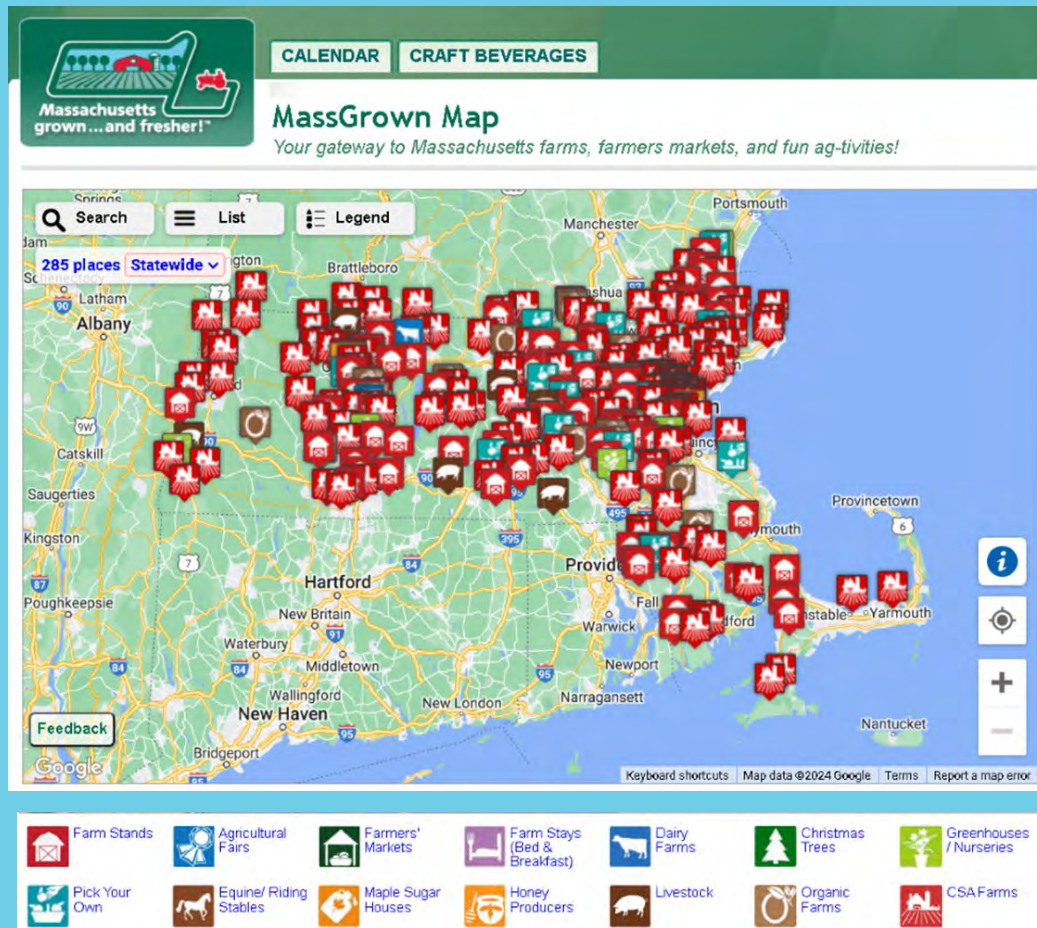
Photo courtesy of: Donna Ashley

MASS GROWN MAP

TRACK YOUR FARM



Is your farm open to the public? If you would like to be added to the [MassGrown Map](#) fill out MDAR's [survey here](#). If you have an existing listing that needs updating, contact Richard.LeBlanc@mass.gov. The [MassGrown Map](#) has more than 200,000 public searches each year and is an excellent way for you to get your business, well... on the map! You can specify if you have a farm stand, offer organic fruit and/or have a pick-your-own option. If you have special events at your farm (open houses, workshops, music, etc.) you can be added to MDAR's consumer [calendar](#) as well.



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SAVE THE DATE - CRANBERRY SUCCESSION PLANNING

BY: KAREN CAHILL



Earlier this year, CCCGA received a grant from Northeast Extension Risk Management Education to conduct a Cranberry Succession Planning program, which, as the name suggests, will educate cranberry growers on succession planning. Our overall goal is to help growers identify options and plan for their farm's future. This will be accomplished through a robust planning workshop and follow-up educational opportunities. There will also be a comprehensive grower survey conducted to gather more information after the education outreach efforts. The survey results will be designed to help identify education gaps and better focus subsequent educational programming.

With this program, CCCGA seeks to educate all Massachusetts cranberry growers on succession planning and what they can do now to help set up themselves, their family, and their farm for future success. There are many facets to succession planning from renovating (retooling a bog to make it more productive), retiring a bog, transition financing, estate/business planning, accounting and taxes, insurance coverage (including crop insurance), and legal considerations. **CCCGA is hosting a workshop Tuesday, September 3 from 4-7:30 p.m.** during which time a group of experts will go over these important succession topics. Jon Jaffe and Josh Volta from Farm Credit East, Dick Blair from Blair Insurance Agency, and attorney Sean Hagan will be presenting at this workshop (*more details will follow in next month's Bogside and via email*).

Also at this September 3 workshop, a representative will be on hand to explain MDAR's new Farm-Pass program, which provides direct assistance to help Massachusetts farm owners pass their farm on to the next generation. MDAR's service is targeted to owners who have already identified a successor – either within the family or not – who is interested in transitioning to own and manage a commercial farm business on the farm property in the near future. This is a no-cost opportunity for farm owners, family members, and the identified successor to work one-on-one with an experienced, dedicated Planner to create a customized farm transfer plan. Participants will meet regularly over the course of approximately one year to set goals for retirement and the future farm business, and create tangible next steps to transfer assets and management. The Plan-ners will NOT provide legal or tax advice but WILL help you develop a written action plan that identifies concrete next steps to work on with your attorney and/or CPA/tax advisor to make the transfer happen. You can learn more about Farm-Pass [here](#).



EEE WARNING FOR SOME LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus was discovered in mosquito samples collected in Carver on June 30th. As a result, the state has increased the EEE threat level to moderate in the towns of Carver, Kingston, Middleboro, Plympton, Plymouth, and Wareham. No human or animal cases of EEE have been detected so far this year. As a result of this testing, the state is encouraging people to be aware of this threat and take necessary precautions to prevent mosquito bites. For growers, besides yourself and family members, be sure to remind your employees to be cognizant of the elevated threat, particularly for those that are out in the evening, night, and early morning hours, when mosquitoes tend to be more active.



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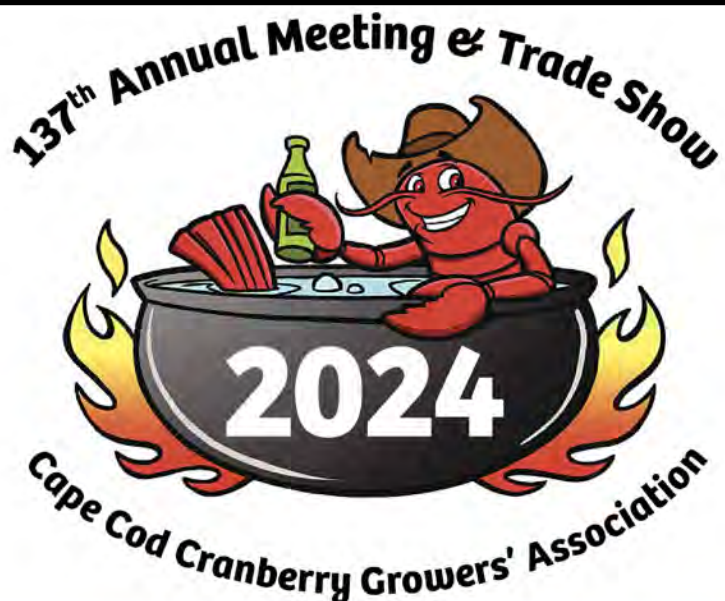
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INDIVIDUAL TICKETS - \$75

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GROWER SPONSORSHIPS - \$125

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Meals and t-shirts are preordered - tickets will not be available the day of the event

BLOGS AND BLURBS



REMINDER TO BOGS USERS

Please remember to select “**Market Type**” under your Bog Information. Selecting Market Type creates cautions in the event you use a pesticide that has a handler restriction. To edit this in BOGS, select **Growers > Bog Information** then click on **Edit** located in the far right column for each bog section and verify your market type. With the first season well underway of JBI Helicopters utilizing CCCGA’s BOGS program for fertilizer applications, we thought it was a good time to have growers double-check on their applications. After submitting your nutrient work order to JBI and a subsequent successful application of the fertilizer, you will receive an email from JBI with the bogs/sections/rates/ etc. applied. With a new system and process for everyone, please take a look at the confirmation emails to be sure that your bogs have received the applications that you have intended. If you have any questions on the BOGS application, please contact Dawn Gates-Allen at dgatesallen@cranberries.org and for JBI specific questions, call 603-225-3134 (NH office).

BOG RENOVATION TAX CREDIT UPDATE

Tom Anderson, program manager of the Cranberry Bog Renovation Tax Credit program, has 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. Tom can be reached at thomas.anderson@state.ma.us or (617) 519-4587.

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION TIME!

July 19th is the deadline to register to attend and/or be a sponsor for the Annual Meeting & Trade Show. Registration can be done online through your [Member Compass](#). See our email from 6/24 for more information.

WEBSITE & MEMBER COMPASS

Have you checked out our new website yet? We are continuing to add to content so check back often! Also, if you haven't signed in to your [Member Compass](#) yet, please take a moment and do so. This is where all your bills will be accessible to you to be paid online, you can register for events (like [Annual Meeting!](#)), and update your company info and contacts. *If you require access to any of the grower advisories or other locked down member-only content before you have your account activated, please contact Bonnie at bsoule@cranberries.org*

BLOGS AND BLURBS CONTINUED

Continued from previous page:

MDAR's FARM-PASS: FARM TRANSFER PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

MDAR's new Farm-Pass program will provide direct assistance to help Massachusetts farm owners pass their farm on to the next generation. This service is targeted to owners who have already identified a successor – either within the family or not – who is interested in transitioning to own and manage a commercial farm business on the farm property in the near future. This is a no-cost opportunity for farm owners, family members, and the identified successor to work one-on-one with an experienced, dedicated Planner to create a customized farm transfer plan.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, [Click here for more information.](#)



REMEMBER TO VOTE: CCCGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

All grower members have been mailed their ballot for the CCCGA Board of Directors election. This year there are 8 candidates running for 4 seats. It's great to have such strong interest in the board. Remember that original ballots only are accepted and are due back to CCCGA by 4:00 PM on Wednesday, August 7.

BLOGS AND BLURBS CONTINUED



Southeastern MA FSA County Office
8 Thatcher Lane
Wareham, MA 02571

The Southeastern County Farm Service Agency is conducting their County Committee Elections. We are currently searching for 2 Committee Members. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA nominates and elects one producer to serve a three-year term of the Farm Service Agency County Committee. Each year, an election is hosted when a committee member's 3-year term is up. The 2024 election will include the following LAAs:

Local Administrative Area 2: Middleboro, Lakeville, Rochester, Marion, and Mattapoisett.

Local Administrative Area 4: Bourne, Sandwich, Falmouth, Mashpee, Gosnold, Aquinnah, Chilmark, West Tisbury, Tisbury, Oak Bluffs, and Edgartown.

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate. Farmers and ranchers may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minorities and woman also may nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign an FSA-669A nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at County Committee Elections (usda.gov) The county committee nomination period begins on June 17th, 2024. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the Plymouth/Barnstable/Dukes/Nantucket County FSA office by close of business on August 1st, 2024.

Nationwide, there are approximately 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. These individuals make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support, loan programs, and other agricultural issues. Committees consist of three to eleven members who are elected by eligible producers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francine Kealey".

Francine Kealey
County Executive Director
Phone: (508) 295-5151

BLOGS AND BLURBS CONTINUED

2024 BOSTON LOCAL FOOD FESTIVAL!

[Boston Local Food Festival](#)

Sunday, September 15, 2024

11 AM to 5:00 PM

At The [Rose Kennedy Greenway](#)

Register by August 16, 2024



The [Boston Local Food Program \(SBN MA\)](#) wants to personally invite your farm or food business to vend at the **2024 Boston Local Food Festival** on **Sunday, September 15, 2024, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.** Grab your spot now! We want to help you showcase your fabulous food and share it with the Boston community!

To register as a vendor for the 2024 Boston Local Food Festival, simply click on the link below:

[Vendor Registration Boston Local Food Festival](#)

FARM CREDIT EAST SEEKS MODERN AGRICULTURE PHOTOS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN \$100

Farm Credit East is currently seeking creative images of modern Northeast agriculture, commercial fishing and forest products to fill the pages of its 2025 Agricultural Views calendar. Upload picturesque images from the farm, woods or dock at [FarmCreditEast.com/Calendar](https://www.farmcrediteast.com/Calendar) by July 31 for a chance to win \$100.

“Each year, we receive upwards of 800 images from dozens of talented photographers illustrating progressive agriculture operations,” says Kristie Matuszewski, Farm Credit East director of marketing and communications. “We look for fresh imagery that represents Northeast farming, horticulture, forestry and commercial fishing during every season, as well as shots that celebrate rural life in New England, New York or New Jersey.”

Photos are selected based on technical quality, clarity and composition, as well as photos that capture unique views of modern agriculture and life in the country. From all entries, 14 photos will be selected for a \$100 prize each. Additional photos will be selected to fill the calendar pages, each earning a \$25 prize. Winning photographs will be featured in Farm Credit East's 2025 calendar.

Only digital photos are accepted. Contest rules and an entry form, as well as inspiration from previous calendars, can be found at [FarmCreditEast.com/Calendar](https://www.farmcrediteast.com/Calendar). **The submission deadline is July 31, 2024.** <https://www.farmcrediteast.com/about/NewsRoom/press-releases/240515FarmCreditEastSeeksModernAgriculturePhotos>



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**CCCGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
CCCGA OFFICE
JULY 25 8AM**

**CCCGA ANNUAL MEETING & TRADE SHOW
AD MAKEPEACE COMPANY
CANNING BOGS
124 CRANBERRY ROAD - CARVER
AUGUST 21 10AM**

<https://www.cranberries.org/events/cccga-annual-meeting-2024>

**THE BIG E - MASSACHUSETTS DAY
SEPTEMBER 19**

FOR SALE

WANTED

FOR LEASE

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

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.

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

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

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

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD HERE!!

FREE TO OUR MEMBERS!



Find out what so many growers already know

- The Original and the Best for automation and monitoring
- Proudly made in Massachusetts
- The 1st choice for cranberry growers everywhere
- Reduce overhead, energy costs, water usage and monthly fees
- Own your system and avoid ever increasing lease payments
- Ask us about the ISM100 Soil Moisture Meter

**Call us at 800-549-4551 or email: info@iassys.com
to learn about our quantity discounts!**