

2024 CCCGA Business Meeting

BY: EMMA WICK

On March 14th, the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association hosted our annual Winter Business Meeting at the Rosebrook Event Center in Wareham. This event provides an opportunity to gather together, hear from industry leaders about recent news and events, and to share insights on the upcoming work of the association.

Brian Wick and John Mason presented CCCGA-specific industry updates, providing valuable insights into the organization's ongoing initiatives and challenges. Additionally, Bill Frantz from the Cranberry Institute enlightened us on CI's recent work, and their plans for incorporating some of the important initiatives of the Cranberry Marketing Committee into their portfolio. Furthermore, JBI Helicopters provided insight on their new online work order process, answering questions about the recent change and how this decision will provide better efficiencies for all involved.

We also recognized two individuals at the meeting for their outstanding contributions to the industry. Kirby Gilmore was honored with the Henry Hall Leadership Award for his exemplary mentorship, dedication, and guidance as a cranberry grower and supporter of the industry. His visionary leadership has not only led to the success of his own endeavors but has also inspired and guided others in the industry for many years. His work will continue to resonate throughout Massachusetts and beyond for years to come.

State Representative Josh Cutler was honored with the Legislative Leadership Award for his unwavering support and advocacy for the cranberry industry throughout his tenure representing Massachusetts. Although Rep. Cutler has moved on to a position in workforce development in the Healey/Driscoll administration, his past efforts have been recognized in promoting policies and initiatives that benefit cranberry growers.

We hope that all attendees found the Winter Business Meeting to be both informative and enjoyable.

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CHANGING ON THE FLY

BY: BRIAN WICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Spring has arrived, and the flurry of preparations for the growing season is in full swing, including tasks like getting out sprinkler heads, starting pumps, and readying equipment. The Frost Committee will convene for its first meeting on April 1st, during which they will determine the timing for their annual visual examination of the buds at Rosebrook Bog in Wareham to assign tolerance. Hopefully, the recent colder weather will slow bud progression somewhat. Growing degree days (GDD) are under close monitoring at State Bog in East Wareham, and the Cranberry Station has posted the three GDD models, which serve as predictors for frost tolerance, on their website. The "Wisconsin" models do not start until 13 hours of daylight are recorded, typically around April 7 in Massachusetts. It's important to note that while these models provide guidance for forecasting bud tolerance, they work better some years than in others. The Frost Committee continues to rely on visual observance as the official standard for establishing frost tolerance. The growing degree day models aid in predicting when frost protection will be necessary. Given that the models are not yet proven, personal experience and visual clues remain crucial. As always, bud development can vary across bogs, and geographical location plays a significant role. Growers should regularly check their own bogs and compare them to the tolerance established by the Frost Committee for Rosebrook Bog in Wareham. Keep an eye out for the Frost Committee's advisory following their meeting on April 1st.

In other news, I recently attended the Cranberry Institute (CI) board meeting in chilly Minneapolis, Minnesota. With the impending dissolution of the Cranberry Marketing Committee (CMC), CI is assuming many of the tasks previously undertaken by the CMC. CI's executive director, Bill Frantz, has communicated some of these changes to the grower community, including during our recent business meeting. As part of this transition, CI is undergoing a strategic planning process, in which some growers have participated by offering feedback. The initial focus of the meetings was solely on the development of the strategic plan. The regional grower associations

are integral to this planning process, and I was happy to be able to contribute thoughts on behalf of our growers. While there is still much work to be done, CI is well-positioned in their opportunities, and the industry is poised for success in the years ahead.

Finally, there are changes coming to CCCGA, as outlined by John Mason, CCCGA board president, in his recent letter to growers. With the scaling back of the bog tour program and the hiring of Karen Cahill from the CMC as our deputy executive director (Karen starts on April 8), there will be some operational adjustments within CCCGA. We are excited for these forthcoming opportunities. We'd also like to share that Emma Wick has been offered a tremendous opportunity to expand her career goals and she will be leaving the Association on March 29 to pursue a path more aligned with her education and career aspirations. It's a great opportunity for her and we wish her all the best. We will miss her tremendously at CCCGA, and hope that someday she may return to the industry. In the meantime, this transition presents another opportunity for us to realign our office operations. The board and I are actively working to make these adjustments and will provide further updates shortly. It's a lot of change in a short period of time, but please rest assured that we are committed to navigating through these changes and will continue to deliver value to our members!



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NOTES FROM BEACON HILL

BY: John Fernandes



I start this report with well wishes to two of the people I most enjoyed serving with in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and working with as your government relations advisor. Those two people are Bill Straus and Paul Schmid.

Both Bill and Paul recently announced their intent not to seek re-election to another term in the House. It is not totally a surprise as Bill has served for 32 years and Paul for 15. It is easy for us to believe that folks like that will serve forever and when they decide the time has come, we are sad and shocked to see them leave. Trust me that the decision to do so is harder for no one more than Bill and Paul themselves. I know from my time with them that they are both dedicated to their service and love the work.

Bill and Paul have both been tireless advocates and enjoy great respect on Beacon Hill that has resulted in great success in securing major policy change that has benefited not just their districts but the state as a whole. They have also worked successfully with their South Coast legislative partners and different Governors to bring millions of dollars back to their districts and the region that has made a difference in the lives of residents and businesses alike. Importantly, they have been tremendous leaders on behalf of cranberry growers and industry.

Their presence will be sorely missed in the state house and on the South Coast as legislators. Please join me in expressing our enormous gratitude for their service and in sending well wishes for a happy future with their families.

In other news, a PFAS bill has been released in the house just as I write this. It has been sent on to the Committee in Health Care Finance for further evaluation. There is a provision in the bill for a study of the impacts on agriculture. This is a significant step in the effort to address the issue of forever chemicals. Brian and I will be reviewing that bill in detail, discussing it with CCCGA board members, and reporting further on the bill in the next report.

All legislative committees have released almost

all bills filed at the beginning of session in January 2023. Brian Wick and I are also reviewing those bills that impact agriculture generally and the cranberry industry in particular. The house is expected to release in April its version of the budget filed by the Governor a few months ago. The CCCGA board, Brian and I continue to follow up on CCCGA priority initiatives including extension of the cranberry tax credit.

We will be getting back with more info on those we consider important as the rest of the session progresses.



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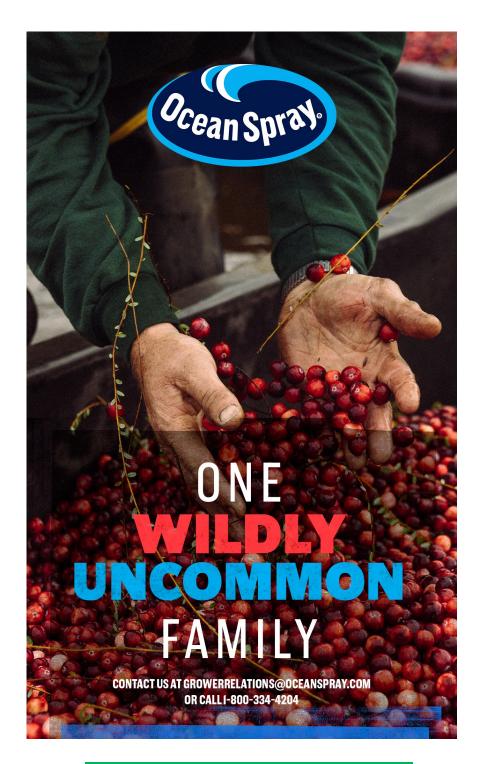
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In Memoriam

REMEMBERING OUR CCCGA MEMBERS AND FAMILIES





Yvonne A. Foote, 88, of Wareham passed on February 15th. She worked and retired from the UMASS Cranberry Station as a bookkeeper. Her late husband Cecil also worked there.

Yvonne is survived by her children, Marlene Jones, Jeffrey Foote and his wife, Marie and Gordon Foote and his wife Kim. She also leaves her grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She loved life, enjoying times at Onset Pier or Little Harbor, reading, playing cards and time with friends. She will be remembered with kindness and love.

Donations in her memory may be made to Turning Point, P.O. Box 486, Wareham, MA 02571

Michael E. Sherman, of Wareham, 61, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Monday, February 5, 2024. Michael loved the Patriots, Nascar and vegetable gardening. He was also the proud father of twin girls. He worked for numerous cranberry growers and was a wealth of knowledge within the industry.

He leaves his parents, Phoebe and Leo Sherman, his daughters, Brandi and Heather, and 4 grand-children. He is also survived by his former wife, Terri.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the American Heart Association, 93 Worcester Street, Wellesley, MA 02481.

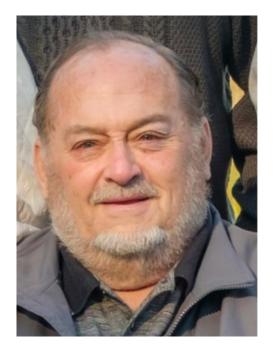




Susan Byrne, 72 of Middleboro, died suddenly on February 9th. Susan was co-owner of Byrne Sand & Gravel in Middleboro. She enjoyed riding her horses, traveling, outdoor activities and being with family and friends.

Susan is survived by her sisters, brother-in-laws, nephews and nieces. She is also survived by her step-children, grandchildren and her companion. She was the mother of the late Billy Byrne.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice in Susan's memory.



"The Cran Man", Mike Utley of Carver passed suddenly on March 20th. He was 71. Mike served in the Military Police Unit of the Army National Guard after graduating Carver/Plymouth schools. He joined his late brother-in-law Bob Alberghini at his agricultural input distribution warehouse in the early eighties. Mike grew and expanded the business over the years to what is now Nutrien Ag Solutions where he was branch manager.

Mike is survived by his wife of 48 years, Sandy. He is also survived by his son Jeff, daughter-in-law Jen and granddaughter Avery. His son Jeremy, daughter-in-law Jamie and granddaughter Jordyn.

Mike loved antiquing, traveling and racing. He loved spending time with family and friends, playing games and sharing food and laughter. Mike will truly be missed by all.

Visiting hours with be Wednesday, March 27th from 4 - 7 at Shepherd's Funeral Home, 116 Main Street in Carver. The funeral and burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to Tunnel to Towers in Mike's name.

David G. Piper Jr., 66, of Carver passed on March 14th. He was a successful business man, establishing many companies of his own. He was also a commercial ship captain and lobster fisherman.

David is survived by his wife Carolyn, son David III, and sister Cheryl and brother William. He also leaves his nephew, Harrison, three grandchildren, Garrett, Duke and Veronica, stepson Craig and Godson David.

He enjoyed horses, hockey and he was a talented mechanic. He was also a volunteer Firefighter and EMT.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in David's name to your local animal shelter.





Seth A. Kallio Jr. passed away on February 6th. He was 91. Seth began working on cranberry bogs as a child and was employed at the A.D. Makepeace Company for 47 years. After he retired he studied foreign languages, which he spoke 7. He also continued yard work and playing his accordion. He was predeceased by his wife Dorothy. He leaves a daughter, Cynthia and his brother-in-law Raymond Fava.



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CCCGA RESPIRATOR TRAINING

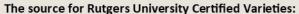
CCCGA will be hosting a hybrid respirator training at the CCCGA office (265D South Meadow Road, Plymouth) with a Zoom option on Wednesday, April 10th from 8:30 to 10am. We will be requesting 2 credits from MDAR for this workshop. A "fit test" session will be included to ensure proper respirator donning. Payment is \$20 per person, checks made payable to CCCGA or call the office at 508-866-7878 ext.15 to pay by credit card. Registrations can be made at https://tinyurl.com/yyczk4v5 or can be scanned with this QR code.



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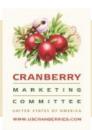
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UPDATES FROM THE CMC

BY: KAREN CAHILL



CMC Annual Winter Meeting

CMC held its Annual Winter Meeting virtually February 15, 2024. The comment period on the proposed termination rule closed February 5, 2024 and the industry is awaiting the publication of the final rule in the coming months. The Committee is moving forward with an anticipated July 31, 2024 termination date.

CMC voted to transfer its website, social media accounts and "America's Original Superfruit" trademark to the Cranberry Institute effective April 1. As such, CMC's grower portal will shut down permanently March 31, 2024 and all access to CMC's industry data will cease. Growers and handlers are encouraged to download from the portal any data that they may want prior to March 31, 2024.

International Marketing Activities

February-April Technical Seminars – Food Service + Media (South America)

February-April Retail Promotions (South America)

February-April Trade Advertisements (India)

February-April E-Commerce Promotions (India)

February-April Influencer Engagement (India)

February-April Trade Giveaways (South America)

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April 9-11 ANUGA Select Brazil (South America)



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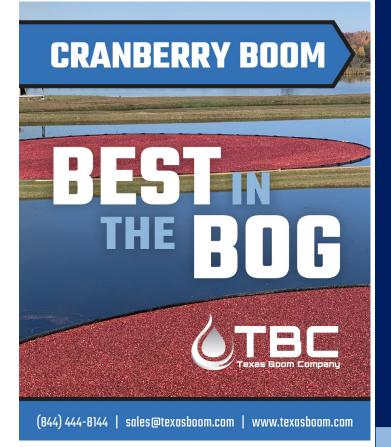
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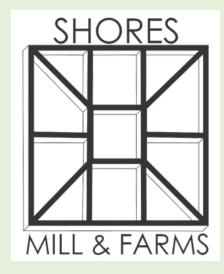


















CCCGA BUSINESS MEETING PICTURES











CCCGA BUSINESS MEETING PICTURES





- 1. John Mason, Kirby Gilmore presented with the Henry Hall Leadership Award and Brian Wick.
- 2. John Mason, State Representative Josh Cutler awarded the Legislative Leadership Award and Brian Wick.
- 3. Curt West and his team from JBI take questions from our members regarding the electronic record keeping decision and CCCGA's BOGS Online.
- 4. Emma Wick from CCCGA gives an informative update on the Bog Restoration Program.
- 5. A special guest from JBI, Curt West's mini bull terrier.
- 6. Winton Pitcoff, MDAR Deputy Commissioner gave an update of what is happening at the Department of Agriculture.
- 7. Bill Frantz informs us on the many activities going on within the Cranberry Institute with responsibilities picked up from the Cranberry Marketing Committee.





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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 season is happening now. 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.

NRCS Program Deadlines Announced

NRCS recently announced FY2024 program deadlines.

<u>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</u> and the <u>Agricultural Management Assistance</u>

<u>Program (AMA)</u> application ranking cutoff dates are **January 5**, **2024**, **March 8**, **2024**, and **May 10**, **2024**.

For complete information on these programs, visit our <u>Alerts & Industry Updates</u> page or click on the individual program links above.



BLOGS AND BLURBS CONTINUED

Continued from previous page:

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

Pursuant to Internal Revenue Code (IRC), in section 6033(e), CCCGA is hereby notifying you that $\underline{6.58\%}$ 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.

REMINDER!!

Just a reminder that 2024 memberships are now due.

In order to receive frost notifications,

your membership must be renewed asap and no later than 3/31/24. Please contact Bonnie at bsoule@cranberries.org or Patti at psilvia@cranberries.org

ATTENTION MIDDLEBORO RESIDENTS -JOIN THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION!

The Select Board is seeking applicants for several open seats on the Agricultural Commission. The Commission's mission is to promote farmland preservation, assist with livestock issues, encourage agricultural opportunities, and continue farming traditions in the community.

Interested candidates should send a letter of interest and any relevant experience to Colleen Lieb, Executive Assistant to the Select Board. Links can be found on the middleboroughma.gov website under Employment.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES (MDAR)

Below are grant opportunities from the MA Department of Agricultural Resources. We have included those that might be of interest to our members. Of note, at the end are two programs most relevant to growers, the AEEP and Bog Renovation grants. These two programs are not offered yet but are coming soon. We will let you know when they are available for applications.

Open Application Period for MDAR's Grant Programs

MDAR is now accepting applications for operations who wish to participate in the Department's grant programs. Grants are available to help agricultural operations with business planning and technical assistance, as well as to make farm improvements that enhance their economic viability, help prevent negative impacts to environmental resource, adapt and mitigate climate change, improve energy efficiency, and adopt renewable energy technologies. In addition, grants are available to help fund projects that support food ventures in low- or moderate-income communities, and urban agriculture projects. **New to MDAR** is the Food Security Infrastructure Grant (FSIG) Program (see below) which funds projects that ensure that farmers, fishermen, and other local food producers are better connected to a strong, resilient food system while providing greater, more equitable access to local food.

Applicants are encouraged to review the information and Request for Response (RFR) on the individual program's webpage. If interested in applying, applications must be submitted with any supporting documentation by the program's deadline.

Viability Grant Programs

MDAR is accepting applications from Massachusetts farmers who wish to participate in one of the Viability Grant Programs. This includes the Farm Viability Enhancement Program (FVEP), the APR Improvement Program (AIP), and the Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture (MEGA) programs. These programs help with project planning and overall farm viability. The RFR containing program details and the application form is posted on COMMBUYS and can be accessed through a link on each program website below. If you would like an application mailed to you, contact the program coordinator listed below.

The due date for these three applications is Thursday April 18, 2024.

<u>Viability Grants Webinar:</u> Tuesday, March 19 @4:00pm - <u>register here</u> to attend to learn more about these three programs.

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 have increased: up to \$100,000, \$150,000, or \$200,000, 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, but are not limited to, new or improved livestock barns or farm stores; purchasing delivery vehicles, tractors, or haying equipment; constructing food processing or storage facilities.

Applications Due: 4:00 PM on Thursday, April 18, 2024

Website: <u>Farm Viability Enhancement Program (FVEP) | Mass.gov</u> Contact: Laura Barley at <u>Laura.Barley@mass.gov</u> or (857) 507-5548

Matching Enterprise Grants Program (MEGA)

For beginning farmers: This program provides business planning and technical assistance, and grant funds may be available 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 farm's viability. Common uses of MEGA grant funds include, but are not limited to, greenhouses, barn renovations, tractor implements, chicken coops, farmstands, and refrigerated trucks.

Expanded eligibility and grant levels continue – MEGA now assists beginning farmers who have been in business at least one (1) and no more than ten (10) years and are developing their farms into commercially viable operations. Grant levels are up to \$10,000, \$20,000,or \$30,000, based on the number of years the farm has been in business, minimum gross income, and whether the farm has received a prior MEGA award. Prior MEGA participants may be eligible to apply for a second award - see the Request for Response (RFR) for details.

Applications Due: 4:00 PM on Thursday, April 18, 2024

Website: Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture (MEGA) | Mass.gov

Contact: Jess Camp at Jessica. Camp@mass.gov or (617) 823-0871

Food Ventures Program

MDAR seeks proposals for funding projects that will advance the <u>Massachusetts Food Ventures Program</u> ("MFVP"), help to implement the objectives of the <u>Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan</u> and provide economic opportunities that promote job creation enterprises or new businesses. MDAR is seeking to award grants statewide, primarily in communities of low or moderate income, to individuals or entities with experience developing and supporting food businesses.

Applications Due: 4:00 PM on Monday, May 6, 2024

Website: Food Ventures Grant | Mass.gov

Contact: Rose Arruda at Rose.Arrruda@mass.gov or (617) 851-3644

Food Security Infrastructure Grant (FSIG)

The FSIG Program seeks to ensure that farmers, commercial fishermen, and other local food producers are better engaged with a strong, resilient food system to help mitigate food supply and distribution disruptions, as well as to ensure that individuals and families throughout the Commonwealth have equitable access to food, with a focus on food that is produced locally. Participants selected for funding are provided with reimbursement grants up to \$500,000.

Applications Due: 4:00 PM on Thursday, May 2, 2024

Website: Food Security Infrastructure Grant | Mass.gov

Contact: Laura Maul at Laura.Maul@mass.gov or (857) 507-5972

***COMING SOON ***

Climate Smart Agriculture Program (CSAP)

The Climate Smart Agriculture Program links MDAR's water, energy and climate grants together into one application. This includes the Agricultural Climate Resiliency & Efficiencies (ACRE) Program, the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP), and the Agricultural Energy Grant Program (ENER). This program continues the goals of the three individual grants by implementing projects that help the agricultural sector adapt to climate change, mitigate climate change, reducing or preventing impacts to natural resources that may result from agricultural practices, and that improve energy efficiency and facilitate adoption of alternative clean energy technologies.

The CSAP grant is broken into two sections. Section I: Environmentis for environmental projects such as soil health, water use efficiency, orother projects working towards reducing or limiting greenhouse gas emissions. Section II: Energy is Ag-Energy projects to improve energy efficiency or tofacilitate clean energy adoption.

Applicants can apply to either or both sections.

Participants selected for funding under either section are provided with reimbursement grants for 80% of total project costs up to\$50,000.

Applications Due: TBD

Website: Climate Smart for Agriculture Program | Mass.gov

Contact:

Section I: Environment - Laura Maul at <u>Laura.Maul@mass.gov</u> or (857) 507-5972 Section II: Energy - Gerry Palano at Gerald.Palano@mass.gov or (617) 571-4969

Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program (AFSIP)

The Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program (AFSIP) is a reimbursement grant program that supports produce and aquaculture operations that are looking to improve their food safety practices that work towards minimizing the risks of microbial contamination and food-borne illnesses while increasing market access.

Participants selected for funding are provided with reimbursement grants for 80% of total project costs up to\$50,000.

Applications Due: TBD

Website: Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program | Mass.gov

Contact: Laura Maul at Laura.Maul@mass.gov or (857) 507-5972

Cranberry Bog Renovation Grant Program

The Cranberry Bog Renovation Grant Program is a reimbursement grant program for the implementation of bog renovations that promote more efficient bogs both in design and production while enhancing the business and environmental sustainability of the cranberry operation.

Awards are limited to \$25,000 per acre up to a maximum of \$125,000.

Applications Due: TBD

Website: <u>Cranberry Bog Renovation Grant Program | Mass.gov</u> Contact: Laura Maul at Laura.Maul@mass.gov or (857) 507-5972

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AG DAY AT THE STATE HOUSE APRIL 3

CCCGA RESPIRATOR TRAINING APRIL 10

UMASS CRANBERRY STATION
VIRTUAL PESTICIDE UPDATE MEETING
APRIL 24

CCCGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 25





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

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.

HELP WANTED: Full time hourly worker wanted. Cranberry farm worker, equipment operator and various other responsibilities. Opportunities for growth. Good pay, health insurance, housing opportunity for ideal candidate. E-mail: thegreenecompany@aol.com for full job description.

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

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD HERE!! FREE TO OUR MEMBERS!