

BOGSIDE

May 2024

CHANGES ARE COMING!

BY: BONNIE SOULE

In the ongoing effort to increase our office efficiencies, there are several upcoming changes that you need to be aware of.

First, over the next few weeks we will be launching a new website! We are working on finalizing the branding and content now. This will have the same great public-facing content but will allow us to offer a true member portal. All the same grower-only documents will be available on the member side as well.

Which leads to our second change: a new membership database application that includes a new tool they call Member Compass™. We are very excited to offer our membership a tool to better manage invoices (including ACH and credit card payments), sign up for events and select advertising options right from your own online account. More information will be forthcoming shortly as we make the final changes to the application. The last change that we want to apprise you of will be to invoicing. With so many recent changes in our office, we are developing new processes for the office staff on invoicing. This goes hand in hand with our new membership and website system. The ability to have auto reminders of when a bill is due for payment or that you might have missed the due date will be helpful for everyone. While we are going through the transition of our record keeping and website, if you encounter any issues please don't hesitate to reach out to Bonnie or Patti in the office.

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CCCGA HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY

8:30 - 4:30



SUMMER HOURS BEGIN MAY 27TH

MONDAY - THURSDAY

8:15 - 5:00

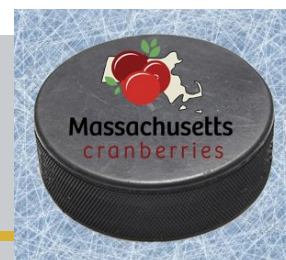
FRIDAY

8:15 - 12:15

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CHANGING ON THE FLY

BY: BRIAN WICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I've mentioned in the past the 21st Century Agriculture in the Commonwealth Commission that I'm a part of. This commission has been meeting for a year now and I thought it time for an update on the work of this group. As a refresher, this commission was created by the state legislature to investigate and evaluate the current and future needs of agriculture in Massachusetts. It's chaired by Senator Comerford and Representative Hogan and includes several legislators, state officials/agencies, including MDAR Commissioner Ashley Randle, UMass Extension, NOFA, MA Farm Bureau, and farmers, including our own Iain Ward. The commission is evaluating a suite of agricultural issues facing our farms, including climate change and natural disasters, education, technical assistance, renewable energy, food security, economics, legislation/regulations, and more.

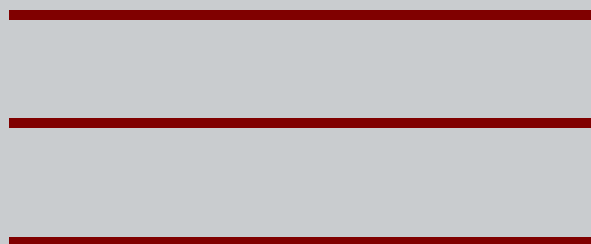
A series of public hearings have been held, with experts brought in to specifically address the various topics. There is one more hearing slated for next month. They also created three working groups, where much of the work is getting done. These working groups are Farm Energy, Continued Education and Technical Assistance, and Climate Change and Natural Disasters. Committee members were assigned to one or more of these groups. I was appointed to the Farm Energy and, Continued Education and Technical Assistance groups. The Farm Energy working group is tasked with evaluating ways to meet the energy needs of farms through renewable energy sources, while also considering the role farms can play in generating and supplying that same renewable energy. The Continued Education and Technical Assistance group is working on addressing the increased need for education resources and technical assistance for farmers. The final working group, Climate Change and Natural Disasters is looking to mitigate the impacts of climate change and related natural disasters on farms.

Each of the working groups is developing a set of issue statements and possible solutions to address each area. A draft report of the full commission's work will be created this summer

with a final report due to be presented to the legislature by the end of the year. The focus of the recommendations is on legislative fixes but I'm hopeful that other recommendations will be included. Although not all of the issues are specific to cranberry, nearly every facet of our discussions has some impact on our industry.

The real work will come from executing on the recommendations from the final report. Having a report sit on a shelf does no one any good. Much like the Cranberry Industry Revitalization Task Force Report and the Dairy Task Force Report that pre-dated the cranberry work, having a document that is thoughtful, achievable, yet still aspirational, will be important. Both the cranberry and dairy task force reports were extremely beneficial to our particular sectors. Over time, I hope this report will prove equally successful to the greater agricultural community in Massachusetts.

All commission members and the invited guest speakers are giving their time and resources to this work. Of particular note are the legislative staff that do much of the lifting in keeping this commission moving, Winton Pitcoff (MDAR Deputy Commissioner) has provided significant background, insight and energy into the process, and Karen Schwalbe (Executive Director MA Farm Bureau) has also provided much needed support. It's a group effort for sure and I'm thankful that MA Cranberries has a seat at the table, with an opportunity to lend our voice and perspective to the conversation.





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FRESH OFF THE VINE - UPDATES ON EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

BY: KAREN CAHILL



My first five weeks at CCCGA have gone by in an absolute flash. I want to thank those of you that I've met in person for the warm welcome and Brian, Bonnie and Patti for getting me (and Molly) acclimated to the office quickly. I am grateful for this opportunity and excited for the array of activities and initiatives coming down the pike.

One of my top priorities is building out and executing the strategic communications plan. My main focus right now is public relations -- educating neighbors, community members, local government officials, and local businesses on cranberry growing practices and the importance of this industry, both culturally and economically, as it relates to the Commonwealth. Essentially, we want to flood the airwaves with crafted messaging in order to garner positive support and partnerships for Massachusetts cranberry growers.

Now, CCCGA can have the best content in the world, but if no one sees or hears it, it doesn't do the industry much good. So, one of the first things I've been digging into is increasing our social media presence. In the last month, CCCGA's Facebook page has 1,000 new followers and a reach (the number of unique users who see a post or page) of 58,300. If you don't already, please consider liking, following, and/or sharing content from @MassCranberries on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and/or Instagram. Tag your family, friends and neighbors and help us get our message to as broad an audience as possible. I also want to make sure we are highlighting our members, so if you have anything that you would like shared by CCCGA's account, just DM @MassCranberries or email me at kcahill@cranberries.org.

Continued on next page:



Dick Ward addresses the group about constructing farming equipment



Cory (Ward) Salmans goes over the 4 seasons of growing cranberries

Continued from previous page

Another vehicle with which to promote the industry is the bog tour program. This spring we've hosted about 240 children from Scituate via Camp Bournedale; 30 developmentally disabled adults from the Randolph area via the Grow Associates program; and a whopping 81 homeschoolers and their parents (all on the same tour) from central and western Mass. A very large thank you to Dick and Judy Ward for welcoming these tours on their property and to the CCCGA tour guides who assisted this spring. We have one more full week of tours coming up and one private tour in early June before breaking until fall. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a tour guide or working part-time behind the scenes coordinating the program, please contact me at kcahill@cranberries.org or 508-866-7878, ext. 16.



Walter Morrison explains vine growth to the Bournedale Educational group

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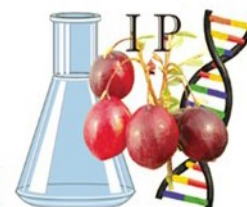
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A MULTI PART SERIES OF THE UN BEE LIEVEABLE WORLD OF THE HONEYBEE

BY: PATTI SILVIA



For the past 35 years I have had the pleasure to work with many growers as a CCCGA staff member and a previous “frost girl”. Something that has always fascinated me is nature and the often overlooked, and sometimes misunderstood critical role bees perform for agriculture.

In this multipart series, I will be taking a first-hand look at the world of bees, from the start of the colony building in the spring through the pollination and honey production process. As I start gaining first-hand experience with the bees, and become more educated about them, a fascination ensued, bee lieve me I’m buzzing about them.

Jordan and Equus of Red Meadow Farm in Carver invited me to their farm to learn about bees for the upcoming series in our newsletter. They even presented me with my own bee suit!! How cool is that? Their property is nicely laid out, complete with seven acres of cranberry bogs, sheep, chickens and a pup named Cider who runs around helping with all the chores of owning a farm. This is their third year of beekeeping, and the first year with a beautiful bee shed they built themselves.



Bees have an approximate 50% chance of survival over the winter. Hopefully they will be free of a harsh winter, disease and pests. This past year they lost their entire colony. I was chatting with Bob Bentley of Bentley Cranberries and he lost all his bees last winter as well. The start of the bee season begins with preparing the hives for introducing a colony. The frames within the hives are prepared by melting and applying wax to each frame to make a solid foundation. The honeycomb frame is a six-sided space with prismatic cells where the bees construct their hive. There the nests contain the eggs, larvae and pupae. It is also used for storage of honey and pollen.

I thought we would start off with some basic bee information. The Trundy’s chose two types of bees, which arrived on April 20th. The Italian bees were picked up at the Plymouth County Beekeepers and the Carniolan were shipped to the post office all in separate boxes, ten in all, for the ten hives to be used. When bees are delivered to the beekeeper, each queen is encased in her own separate box, within the bigger box of bees. Slowly, after 3 to 4 days, the worker bees release her by chomping on the candy like substance that keeps her separated. During the queen’s release stage, the workers are getting use to her pheromone, otherwise she would be killed because she would be considered a threat to the hive. The bees number one form of communication is through pheromones. They can also communicate through vibrations on the honeycomb. Pheromone is a chemical substance released into the environment by the bee with the purpose to change the behavior of other bees.



Carniolan
honeybee

Continued from previous page



The bee shed hives are numbered 1 through 10. The Italian bees will reside in hives 1 through 5. They are a friendly bee from the continental part of Italy, south of the Alps and north of Sicily. A great number of good features including gentleness, fertility, reluctance to swarm and enthusiasm for building combs make them the most popular bee.

Hives 6 through 10 will house the Carniolan honeybees who are native to Slovenia (southern part of Europe and neighboring areas). This is the 2nd most popular bee, although it can be rather aggressive. It can defend itself against insect pests and adjusts to worker population. They are resistant to some diseases and parasites. They are also good in winter conditions.

Next let's talk about the bee shed and the actual hives. Each hive has three chambers. The bottom chamber is where the queen stays and lays her eggs. The middle is for the honey super which is part of a managed beehive used to collect honey. The top is for extras. Before closing the door of the hive a bottle of sugar water is placed to feed the hungry bees in the early spring.

Now it gets really interesting, the actual bees that make up the hive. There are three essentials to a working hive, the queen, the drone and the worker bees.

The queen is fed and groomed by others. She has a hard time moving because of her elongated body and shorter wings, although she can fly and crawl. She eats and lays eggs and that is it! Her whole mission in life. Her average lifespan is 2 years.



The drones are the only males in the hive. Their only role is reproduction. He hangs at the hive hoping to mate with the queen up to 10 times and then quickly dies after mating for the final time.

The worker bee lives a few weeks to a few months. They cannot reproduce although they are female. They feed the queen, drones, and larvae by collecting nectar and pollen. Worker bees are also responsible for producing the wax for the hive.

That's it for now, my next article will focus on suiting up for the first bee inspection of 2024!! Meanwhile, do you know when the first honeybees arrived in North America? Find out next time!



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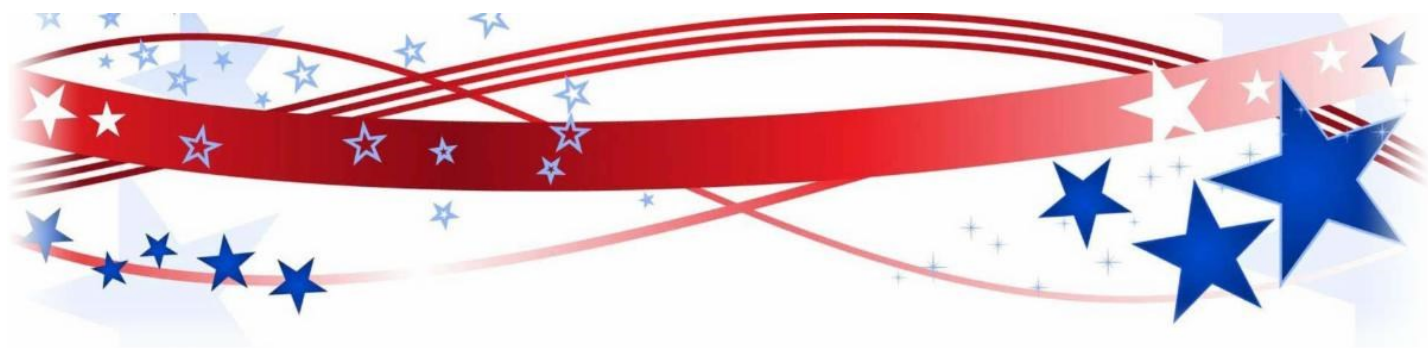
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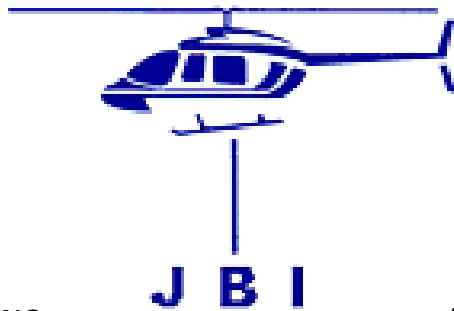
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Applications are due by 4PM on Friday, May 24th, 2024

Website: [Cranberry Bog Renovation Grant Program | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/cranberry-bog-renovation-grant-program)

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Early reminder that MA Pesticide Use Reports are due by June 30th.

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.

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 are due by 4PM on Friday, May 24th, 2024

Website: [Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/agricultural-food-safety-improvement-program)

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

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BLOGS AND BLURBS CONTINUED

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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: Environment is for environmental projects such as soil health, water use efficiency, or other projects working towards reducing or limiting greenhouse gas emissions. Section II: Energy is for Ag-Energy projects to improve energy efficiency or to facilitate 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 are due by 4PM on Friday, May 31st, 2024

Website: [Climate Smart for Agriculture Program | Mass.gov](https://climate.smartforagriculture.org/mass.gov)

Contact:

Section I: Environment - Laura Maul at Laura.Maul@mass.gov or (857) 507-5972

Section II: Energy - Gerry Palano at Gerald.Palano@mass.gov or (617) 571-4969

BOGS UPDATE FOR JBI WORK ORDERS

The season is ramping up for BOGS users. Growers needing aerial applications for fertilizer or pesticides by JBI must use the BOGS tool. The system can be used to its full potential or very simply just for your work orders. We do caution growers not to wait until the last minute to get your account setup properly. Growers wishing to have JBI fly on material need to be set up in BOGS to send a test work order sooner rather than later. JBI will be using coordinates within your BOGS account to locate your bog sections for all aerial applications.

If you have not setup a BOGS Online account yet, please contact Bonnie Soule at CCCGA via email at bsoule@cranberries.org with your name and company. You will then be issued a username and password for a BOGS account.

If you are new to BOGS or unsure how to input a Nutrient Work Order please call or text Dawn Gates-Allen at 508-726-6052.

CCCGA will invoice each BOGS user in September as follows: \$100 user fee and \$3.50/acre plus sales tax (software sales tax is mandated by the MA Department of Revenue). Technical support is offered by Dawn for up to 60 minutes at no charge, and then \$85/hour for higher level technical assistance after that. Simple calls, email or texts will not be charged.

BLOGS AND BLURBS CONTINUED

2024 BOSTON LOCAL FOOD FESTIVAL EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS!

[Boston Local Food Festival](#)

Sunday, September 15, 2024

11 AM to 5:00 PM

At The [Rose Kennedy Greenway](#)



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 15th, 2024, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.** Grab your spot now by taking advantage of our **Early Bird Prices**, available only until **May 31st!** We want to help you showcase your fabulous food and share it with the Boston community!

☐ [2024 Boston Local Food Festival](#)

Date: Sunday, 9/15/24

Time: 11 am-5 pm

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

ENFIELD, Conn., May 7, 2024 — 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 by July 31 for a chance to win \$100.

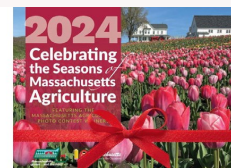
“Each year, we receive upwards of 800 images from dozens of talented photographers illustrating progressive agriculture operations,” says Kristie Matuszewski, Farm Credit East director of marketing and communications. “We look for fresh imagery that represents Northeast farming, horticulture, forestry 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. **The submission deadline is July 31, 2024.**

BLOGS AND BLURBS CONTINUED

Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar 2024 Photo Contest



Photographers who enjoy capturing images of Massachusetts agriculture; including farms, farm products, and horticultural products are invited to enter the annual Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar Photo Contest. Winning entries will be published in the **2025 Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar**. The annual contest and calendar is sponsored by Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. (MAC), The Massachusetts State Grange, and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR).

Twelve photos will be selected, one for each month, along with possible honorable mentions. We seek photos that represent “MassGrown” crops (maple, cranberries, livestock, flowers/plants, fruits and vegetables), as well as innovative farming methods such as renewable energy systems and/or urban agriculture. View last year’s winners at www.aginclassroom.org/calendar. Winning photographers will be credited in the calendar and will receive complimentary copies as well as invited to the Big E on Massachusetts Day! Winning photos will be also be featured on MDAR’s “MassGrown” website, www.Mass.gov/Massgrown as well as throughout the year on its’ social media sites.

Rules

- 1) **The contest deadline is July 1, 2024.**
- 2) All photos must depict an aspect of Massachusetts’ agriculture or horticulture. Photos must have been taken in Massachusetts within the past three years. Photos taken on farms will be given higher rankings.
- 3) Professional photographers (photography as a primary source of income) are not eligible to enter.
- 4) Entrants may only submit their own original photographs No more than five photos per entrant.
- 5) For photos showing people, entrants should have permission from the subject or the subject’s parent or guardian if the subject is under 18 years old, and be able to provide written documentation upon request.
- 6) **Submission of Photos** - Two options to submit:
 - a. **Online** - Visit and download up to 5 photos here: www.massnrc.org/calendar, or
 - b. **Print**: 5x7 or 8x10 inches. On an index card or paper, type or print the following information and attach with tape to the **back of each photo**:
 - ✓ Entrant name, address, telephone number and/or email address
 - ✓ Where the photo was taken and information relating to the subject matter
 - ✓ Month and year photo was taken
 - ✓ Fill out and send the entry form at the bottom along with the photos to: Photo-Contest 2024, MDAR, 225 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA 01772

Questions: Contact Rick LeBlanc at Richard.LeBlanc@mass.gov, 617-655-3529.

Entrant Name:	E-mail:	
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone:	Number of photos submitted:	

Photographers retain the copyright to their photographs. MDAR and MAC retain the rights to reproduce the winning photographs in publications, social media, promotions, and on website. Neither the MDAR, nor MA Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc., and MA State Grange will be held responsible for lost submissions.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**CRANBERRY RESEARCH FOUNDATION
ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
SOUTHERS MARSH GOLF CLUB
JULY 15**

**CCCGA ANNUAL MEETING & TRADE SHOW
AD MAKEPEACE COMPANY
CANNING BOGS - WAREHAM
AUGUST 21**

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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 driv-
en generator. Call Wayne: 508-941-4220

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

FOR SALE: Like new Alamo RM165 3pt
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very reasonable price. Please call Kevin @
United for details...781-706-3430

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