Membership 2010

College of Environmental and Life Sciences (URI)
http://cels.uri.edu/

Eastern RI Conservation District

Farm Credit East www.farmcrediteast.com

Kent County Pomona Grange

Little Rhody Poultry Fanciers www.littlerhopoultryfanciers.com

Newport County Pomona Grange

Northeast Organic Farming Association www.nofari.org

Poultry Producers Association

Providence County Pomona Grange

RI Agriculture Educators www.ri.net/rifa/agricultureeducation

RI Ayrshire Club www.usayshire.com

RI Beekeepers Association www.ribeekeeper.org

RI Christmas Tree Growers www.richristmastrees.com

RI Coastal Growers Market www.coastalmarket.org

RI Dahlia Society www.rhodeislanddahlia.org

RI Dairy Farm Co-op - Rhody Fresh www.rhodyfresh.com

RI Dairy Goat Association www.ridga.com

RI DEM – Department of Agriculture www.dem.ri.gov/programs/animals/agriculture

RI Envirothon www.rienvirothon.org

RI Farm Bureau http://www.rifb.org

RI Forest Conservators Organization www.rifco.org

RI 4-H Foundation www.uri.edu/coopext/4H

RI Fruit Growers Association www.riffgrowers.org

RI FF/A Alumni

RI FF/A Association www.ri.net/rifa

RI Nursery & Landscape www.rinla.org

RI Raised Livestock Association www.rirla.org

RI Resource Conservation & Development Council www.rircd.org

RI Rural Development Council www.ruralri.org

RI Sheep Cooperative www.risheep.org

RI State Grange www.rhodeislandgrange.org

Southern RI Conservation District www.sricd.org

South Kingston Farmers Market www.southkingstonfarmersmarket.org

South Side Community Land Trust www.southsidectl.org

South County Growers Association

Washington County Pomona Grange www.washingtoncountyfair-ri.com
About RIAC

The Rhode Island Agricultural Council (RIAC) was formed in 1924, originally as the RI Agricultural Conference (the name was changed in 1958), to discuss the needs of agriculture in Rhode Island.

The mission/objective of the RIAC

- Stimulate development of an interest in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and allied interests, and;
- Create an interest in rural life and the improvement of the rural community in Rhode Island;
- Effect a close relationship between representatives of agriculture with its allied interests and with commerce and industry;
- Develop and carry out a complete program for efficient production and economical distribution of farm products in Rhode Island, and;
- Coordinate all agencies interested in the welfare of agriculture in Rhode Island into one association from which unified efforts towards education, legislation and representation of agricultural interests of the state may emanate.

From its beginnings to date, this statement continues to hold true in describing the solid commitment of the RI Agricultural Council to the agricultural community of Rhode Island.

With a recent election of new officers, the Rhode Island Agricultural Council has reaffirmed its commitment to the agricultural community as it moves forward with new farm viability initiatives in the twenty-first century.

More than ever, it is encouraged to see a spirited momentum developing within the Rhode Island agricultural community and new growth within its membership.

The RIAC currently has 36 members, ranging from RINLA, to FFA, to state and local granges. It meets three times annually at various locations around the state. An executive committee of RIAC meets several times per year and provides direction for the council.

RIAC also appoints members to an Agricultural Advisory committee, which meets periodically with the DEM in an advisory capacity. An annual effort of the RIAC is considering and awarding grant requests. Each year, RIAC awards grants to member organizations for the promotion of agriculture in Rhode Island.

Agriculture in Rhode Island

"Agriculture in RI has changed a lot in the last 25 years. We have seen the conversion of potato fields to turf, the emergence of multi-crop farming as the mainstay vs. the exception. We have seen the transformation of the family farm to the family farm enterprise. We have seen our aquaculture industry make great strides toward increased size and production. We have seen our nursery and horticulture industry come to full bloom representing over 66% of the agriculture value in our state. We have seen the transformation of our farms from wholesalers to astute retailers, featuring Pick-Your-Own of all types of crops. We have seen our farmers utilize agri-tourism concepts along with dramatic increases in farmers markets, roadside stands and other forms of direct marketing. The last 25 years have probably produced more dramatic changes in our state's agriculture industry than any other preceding period."

(Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Division of Agriculture)