

Agriculture in Rhode Island

The face of American agriculture is changing more rapidly now than ever before. In the early 1900, a team of horses and a good memory were the norm, compared to today's farms with 40 to 300 horsepower tractors and computer spreadsheets. We have seen the conversion of potato fields to turf, and back to vegetables, and the emergence of multi-crop farming as the mainstay versus the exception. We have seen the transformation of the family farm into the family farm enterprise. We have seen our aquaculture industry make great strides toward increased size and production. We have seen our nursery and horticultural industry come to full bloom, representing over 50% percent of the agricultural 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. In all, the last 30 years have probably produced the most dramatic changes in our State's agriculture industry than any other preceding period.

Did you know:

*That the value of RI farm sales of fresh fruits and vegetables sold directly from the farm to consumers (via farmers markets, roadside stands etc.) is third in the nation at approximately \$25,269 per farm.

Or

*That there are 1,243 farms in our state, representing over 68,000 acres of land, or approximately 11% of the land area of the State.

Or

The total market value of Rhode Island Agriculture, measured in 2012 by the Rhode Island Agriculture Economic Impact Survey, is \$170.7 million dollars and contributes 1,790 jobs to the RI economy. Including indirect effects, the total economic impact of agriculture to the State is \$268.2 million dollars and contributes 2,330 jobs.

Or

*That the foundation for all horse breeding in the United States was established in Rhode Island as early as 1676 followed by the establishment of the American Poultry Industry in 1854, and the Rhode Island Greening Apple was the first named apple in America.

Or

*That 25% of all Rhode Island farmers are women, the average age of all farmers is 57, the average size of a farm is 56 acres, and 83% of all farmers in RI earn less than \$50,000 a year.

*Taken from the 2007 Census of Agriculture USDA - NASS

Rhode Island AgricultureDay

May 1, 2014



Sponsored By:

The Rhode Island Department of
Environmental Management
Division of

Exhibitors

Speaking Ceremony 2 pm State Room RI State House

Name1Name2AddressTownStateZip

Agri-Mark Black Bird Farm Carolyn's Sakonnet Vineyards Confreda Greenhouses & Farms Dave's Marketplace	Robert Wellington Ann Marie Bouthillelle Geralyn Hashway Ray Aubin Suimay MacPhee Bob Fabiano Linda Genie Trevor Ringelheim Ricard Molis DrummIII Berkowitz Blair/Eli Berkowitz Bristol Phillips Kure-Jensen Sayles Marshall Arnoux Medeiros Pezza Frank Navworny Delprete Bettencourt Quigley -Harris Heather Faulbert Shannon Brawley Quinn Paul Dolan Allard Cox Hogan Logan Pearson Nassaney Gold Schartner Bowley Cory Cook Warner Deborah Sheely Reynolds Pivarnik Hirsh Brule Keough Brown-Lavoie Dulude	P.O. Box 5800LawrenceMA01842 122 Limerock RoadSmithfieldRI02917 162 West Main Rd.Little ComptonRI02837 2150 Scituate AvenueHopeRI02831 1000 Division Street. Suite 20 E. GreenwichRI02818 P.O. BOX 106 Pascoag RI 02859 P.O. Box 9243ProvidenceRI02940 1005 Main Street, Ste 1220PawtucketRI02860 235 Promenade StreetProvidenceRI02908 50 Swan RoadSmithfieldRI02917 P.O. Box 221West KingstonRI02892 67 Cucumber Hill RoadFosterRI02825 67 Cucumber Hill RoadFosterRI02825 250 Metacom AvenueBristolRI02809 33 Dearborn St.ProvidenceRI02909 168 Fairview Ln.PortsouthRI02871 2283 Hartford AvenueJohnstonRI02919 60 Quaker Lane, Suite 40WarwickRI02886 P.O..Box 2031KingstonRI02881 184 Broadway - Route 138RaynhamMA02767 2279 Plainfield PikeJohnstonRI02919 56 Peepthead Road N.Scituate RI 02857 423 Fruithill AvenueProvidenceRI02911 1100 Tower Hill RoadN KingstownRI02852 16 B Noosneckhill Rd.W GreenwichRI02817 21 Mount Hope AveProvidenceRI02906 3 East Alumni Ave. Kingston RI 02881 P.O. Box 984West KingstonRI02892 P.O. Box 640North ScituateRI02857 2283 Hartford Ave. Johnston RI 02919 South Ferry RoadNarragansettRI02882 P.O. Box 2SlocumRI02877 26 Taber StreetWest KingstonRI02992 P.O. Box 418ExeterRI02822 23 Sunset DriveWest KingstonRI02892 377 Narragansett ParkwayWarwickRI02888 1 Arnold PlaceExeterRI02822 152 Harrison AvenueNewportRI02840 19 Third Beach RdMiddletownRI02842 P.O.Box 1326CharlestownRI02813 161 East Beach RoadCharlestownRI02813 120 Flagg Road, 413 CBLS BuildingKingstonRI02881 71 Massasoit Ave.CranstonRI02905 530 Libery LaneW. KingstonRI02882 53 North Sixth St.-Room 203New BedfordMA02740 60 Quaker Lane Ste.62WarwickRI02886 53 Pleasant St., Room 2100ConcordNH03301 56 Wood StreetProvidenceRI02909 200 Woonsocket Hill RoadN. SmithfieldRI02896
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Janet Coit
Director, DEM
Master of Ceremonies

Louis Escobar
President, RI Dairy Farms Cooperative

Bob Rheault
Ocean State Aquaculture Association

Paul Willis
Ninman Ranch Pork Company
Thornton Iowa

Representative Art Handy
Chair, House Environment and Natural
Resources Committee

Senator Susan Sosnowski
Chair, Senate Environment and
Agriculture

What is Agriculture Day?

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, along with local farmers, agricultural associations, collaboratives, colleges and universities, supermarkets, local food organizations, and government agencies believe that every Rhode Islander should understand how food and fiber products are produced, and should value the essential role agriculture contributes to our State's economy and quality of life. Rhode Island Agriculture Day, which we are celebrating on this May 1st, is a day to honor the people who work to provide us with safe, abundant and affordable agricultural products. It is a day to focus public attention on our State's agricultural industry and to educate our citizens on the many ways agriculture touches their lives each day.