

Rhode Island

Summer 2003

Ag-Review

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Marketing Update

DEM FARMERS' MARKETS 2003 SEASON COMES TO AN END

The five farmers' markets, sponsored by the Department of Environmental Management closed at the end of October. Colt State Park in Bristol and Goddard Park in Warwick closed the last Friday in October. Fisherman's Memorial State Park Narragansett closed on the last Sunday of the month and Haines Memorial Park closed the last Wednesday in October. The farmers markets finished very strong after having some weather problems in early May. The farmers' markets were a success for area farmers and local residents. Area farmers had a great selection of produce to sell. Corn, tomatoes, apples, peaches are a short list of the items available. This was one of the best harvest seasons for peaches and apples throughout the state. Area orchards brought some the best peaches, apples and pears this State has seen in many years to farmers markets.

This year the DEM/Division of Agriculture has created a partnership with Brown University Food Services Program. This partnership has created many links between RI farmers and Brown University to supply fruits and vegetables for Browns Food Service Program. Also Brown University in partnership with the DEM/Division of Agriculture has created a farmers market at Brown University to benefit students, staff and area residents. The farmers market was held every Wednesday 10 am to 3 pm in the month of October. The farmers market was a great success and we hope to continue this farmers market next year.

The DEM/Division of Agriculture Farmers Market Program has become so successful

that it is estimated that over \$300,000.00 per year is spent at the five DEM/Farmers Markets. This figure does not take into account the added sales generated at farm stands due to customer, vendor relationships that developed at these farmers markets.

If you would like more information on the state run farmers markets call 401-222-2781 x 4517.



Brown University Farmers Market

DUTRA FARM IN JAMESTOWN NAMED RHODE ISLAND'S 2003 OUTSTANDING DAIRY FARM OF THE YEAR

Dutra Farm in Jamestown has been named Rhode Island's 2003 Outstanding Dairy Farm of the Year by the Rhode Island Green Pastures Committee. Winning dairy farmers from each New England state will be honored at an awards banquet on September 12 at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA.

The Rhode Island Green Pastures Committee chose the Dutra Farm because of its outstanding relationship with the community, its use of good management practices, and its commitment to open space preservation in Jamestown.



The Dutra Farm, owned by Joseph and Jessie Dutra, dates back to colonial times and was once owned by Joseph Wanton, Jr., Deputy Governor of Rhode Island in 1764 and 1767. Joe Dutra is a third generation dairy farmer. His grandfather, Joseph Furtado Dutra, born in the Azores, immigrated to America around the turn of the century and purchased 40 acres of the then-called Wanton Farm in 1917. He began farming with a few cows, laying hens, fruits and vegetables, and purchased the rest of the acreage in the 1930s. He passed the farm on to his son, Joseph Furtado Dutra, Jr., as primarily a dairy farm, who in turn passed it down to his son, a 1972 University of Rhode Island graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science.

The Dutras maintain a herd of over 100 Holsteins, which are milked twice a day and graze on pastureland from spring through fall. Much of the farm is self-sustaining. Corn and hay silage is raised on the farm to feed the herd during the winter months. The Dutras use cow manure from the farm for fertilizer for their extensive silage program, and maintain a machinery and repair shop on the premises. They also raise their own heifer replacements. The Dutras are involved in maintaining the future of dairy farming in Rhode Island beyond their own farm boundaries. As active members of the Rhode Island Dairy Farms Cooperative, they are working with other dairy farms in their state to market their own milk under the "Proud Cow of Rhode Island" label.

The 140-acre Dutra Farm, considered as one of the most beautiful dairy farms in the Northeast, is situated in a picturesque location, overlooking Newport, Narragansett Bay and the Newport Bridge. The farm is recognized by tourists and residents alike for its contribution to the state's charm and preservation of open space, and the Dutras are recognized in Jamestown as good neighbors.

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(Dutra Farm Cont'd)

Some are looking to Joseph Francis Dutra Jr., born in October of 2002, to continue the tradition, and become the fourth generation to farm the land.

The Outstanding Dairy Farm of the Year award is sponsored by the New England Green Pastures Committee, made up of agricultural interests such as state agricultural offices and university cooperative extension agencies. Membership in Rhode Island's Green Pastures Committee is coordinated by DEM's Division of Agriculture. Other members include the Rhode Island dairy delegation, the RI Farm Bureau, the RI Farm Service Agency, and the Agri-Mark Cooperative. Recent winners of the long-standing award include Escobars' Highland Farm in Portsmouth in 2001 and Meadowburg Farm in Richmond in 2002.

Plant Industry News

CAPS End of Season Update

Following the successful completion of the Exotic Wireworm Survey in late September the CAPS program concluded a very successful season of surveying in the State of Rhode Island. Despite sampling in all five counties, distributing literature and materials on the different pests, and collecting hundreds of suspect specimens, all results came back negative. This seasons surveys included sampling for Giant Hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, Pierce's Disease, *Xylella fastidiosa*, Pine Shoot Beetle, *Tomicus pinniperda*, British Yellowhead, *Inula brittanica*, Channeled Applesnail, *Pomacea canaliculata*, Late Blight, *Phytophthora infestans*, Sudden Oak Death, *Phytophthora ramorum*, Wood Boring Bark Beetles, a complex of species, Exotic Wireworms/Click Beetles, *Agriotes obscurus* and *Agriotes lineatus*. All sampling suspects came up negative after we were able to ascertain with confidence our findings through expert entomological identification. The CAPS sampling areas included dairy farms, organic

farms, apple orchards, peach orchards, vineyards, a National Wildlife Refuge, turf farms, aquatic areas, tree farms, and industrial warehouses. Surveying methods included sweep netting, visual inspections, the use of funnel traps, sticky-paper traps, and Vernon Beetle Traps.

The CAPS program is becoming a defined and integral part of the Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing. Continuing on with the precedent set this season in regards to survey variety and applicability to local agribusiness, the CAPS program has proposed a total of nine survey-work plans for implementation during the 2004 season. Four of those nine surveys that have been proposed are continuations of this season's workplans; these are Sudden Oak Death, Giant Hogweed, Exotic Wireworms/Click Beetles, and the Wood Boring Bark Beetle Warehouse Survey. The other five surveys that await final approval include a monitoring survey of Chrysanthemum White Rust, *Puccinia horiana*, the Red Haired Pine Bark Beetle Survey, *Hylurgus ligniperda*, Japanese Pine Sawyer Survey, *Monochamus alternatus*, Fruit Tree Moth Complex of which the Tortrix Moth, *Archips podana*, and Light Brown Apple Moth, *Epiphyas postvittana*, are the target species, and the Emerald Ash Borer Survey, *Agrilus planipennis*.

The Rhode Island CAPS program extends many thanks to the local Rhode Island green industries for their cooperation and support throughout this past season.

JA Macfarlan

CAPS-SSC

Pesticide Briefs

TRIAZINE & ACETANILIDE HERBICIDES IN RHODE ISLAND WATER RESOURCES

Weeds, weeds, weeds! What to do about weeds? Usually Rhode Island farmers rely on triazine or acetanilide herbicide applications to control these production harming plant pests. You may not recognize their chemical class names, but if we said Bicep, Dual, Princep, or similar names most farmers would say they use these valuable weed control tools. Concern has been growing at EPA, in the research community, and at the Division of Agriculture over the frequency that these herbicides are being found in water resources. Late last winter the Division received information from the Department of Health regarding the detection

of three herbicides in raw water samples from various public water supplies around the state. The herbicides being found are: Atrazine, Metolachlor, and Simazine all are the chemical components of one or more of these labels mentioned above. At the levels they are being found they do not currently present a threat to public health.

The Division has begun a water quality monitoring project centered on the east bay of the state to determine the levels, fluctuation, and/or prevalence of these chemicals in surface water streams feeding our drinking water reservoirs. Monitoring through the summer has shown a very preliminary correlation between periods of application, amount of precipitation, stream location, and soil type. However, more monitoring data is needed before any final conclusions can be reached. This past spring in the interest of being proactive the Division conducted farm visits to personally inform farmers about this situation and recommend Best Management Practices. As a precaution to prevent further or increased contamination the Division is asking farmers to voluntarily reduce the use, both in frequency and amounts applied, of these herbicides. Farmers are encouraged to evaluate and if necessary improve Best Management Practices for pesticides and field soil erosion prevention. Because many of our farmers are in the watersheds for public water supplies, they may be eligible for federal cost share assistance from USDA/NRCS with Best Management Practices, which can control herbicide field runoff.

The Division will continue to monitor the situation and keep you apprized of any developments. If you have questions or need technical assistance in this area contact Eugene Pepper in the Division's Pesticide Section at 222-2781 x4512.

RECIPROCITY CHANGES BETWEEN STATE OF RI AND MA.

The state of Massachusetts has recently terminated its reciprocal agreement with Rhode Island. Therefore, all applicators who received their commercial or private certification from the State of Massachusetts (taking their examinations) and obtained a reciprocal certificate with Rhode Island and wish to maintain your Rhode Island certification will be required to take the appropriate Rhode Island exams. If you received your initial commercial or private certification in Rhode Island (attending the training & taking our exams) and hold a reciprocal with Massachusetts, you will

also be required to retake their exams in order to retain your certification in Massachusetts. Our office is in the process of notifying all applicators who hold a reciprocal certification of this change. Therefore, effective with the 2004 applicator renewal period, Rhode Island will no longer issue previous holders of RI reciprocal certificates to Massachusetts applicators unless they have completed the required examinations. Our office is in the process of scheduling examination dates and will be contacting each holder of a reciprocal certification. Please note, that this policy is not applicable to new applicants (RI or MA) who are looking to obtain a license or certification for the first time. You will be required to attend our pesticide training and take the required exams, this only applies to

applicants who have held valid and current reciprocal certification between RI & MA.. Please contact Robin Mooney at 401-222-2781 x 4513 for further information or questions.

F-Y-I

During the months of November 2003 thru Januray 2004 the Division of Agriculture will be conducting it five year farm survey program. We will be mailing survey forms to all farm operators on record. We urge each of you to complete the survey and return it to our office. The information we obtain in the survey is considered confidential and not available to any other government or private agency. The data we collect is reported on a

collective basis and is used by the Division to report on the condition of the farm industry in the State. The data is also used to determine the need for new programs and the usefulness of ongoing ones. We urge all farm operators to take a minute and help us help you by participating in the survey.

Water Level Monitoring Report

Stream level update-The weekly monitoring of water levels in the Queen, Chipuxet, Usquepaugh, Beaver, and Wood River at Hope Valley has continued all summer and into the fall. Water levels have increased somewhat after a short decline during the growing season. However, levels were far above what was recorded last year during this time due to the drought. Monitoring will continue on a routine basis during the remainder of the fall season and into the winter so data can be compiled and reviewed against previous years. Anyone who applied for an emergency pond permit last year due to the drought and has not yet completed their project due to financial/ and or inclement weather conditions may be eligible to receive an extension. Please contact Lis Peterman at the Division of Agriculture at 401-222-2781 x 7261 for further information.

Remaining 2003

Health Environmental and Pesticide Safety Education Training Sessions

Private Certification: if you produce an agricultural commodity such as vegetable, fruit, turf or nursery and apply "restricted use" pesticides to control pests.

Commercial License: if you work for hire applying "general use" pesticides to control pests.

Commercial Certification: if you work for hire and apply "restricted use" pesticides to control pests.

Pesticide Dealer: if you sell "restricted use" pesticides.

Training Requirements: All applicators listed above are required to attend the core training which consists of 2 days with an exam in the afternoon of the second day. Individuals that would like to become commercially certified are required to attend category training in their specialty area.

Preregistration is required by mail. Call Margaret Siligato if you need a confirmation.

Fall Training Schedule 2003

	Day 2	Oct 29	Wed/	URI Kingston-East Farm	8am-4pm
Core III	Day 1	Nov 19	Wed	/URI Kingston-East Farm	8am-4pm
	Day 2	Dec 3	Wed	/ URI Kingston-East Farm	8am-4pm
Category 7A	Household	Thurs Nov 6	/URI Kingston-East Farm	8am-4pm	
Category 7D	Vertebrate	Thurs Nov 6	/URI Kingston-East Farm	8am-4pm	
Category 7B	Termite	Thurs Dec 11	/URI Kingston-East Farm	8am-4pm	

URI's East Farm Location for all Classes

Also see 2095 Kingstown Rd. Wakefield, RI 02879 MAP QUEST for Map Directions Building 75 East Farm. We are located 1 mile south of the Rt 108 and Rt 138 Intersection

Recertification Reminder: Every 5 years you need to recertify by attending an *Approved Course*. Our category classes offer credit in your category area. Use the registration form and indicate you are recertifying. Private applicators can attend day 2 of core sessions for recertification credit.

**For More Information: Margaret Siligato at URI (401) 874-5997
Robin Mooney at DEM (401) 222-2781 x4513**

Important Notice For All Farmers

The Rhode Island Agriculture Land Preservation Commission is once again accepting applications for the purchase of development rights for farmland in Rhode Island. The program has been met with overwhelming response and all the funds were allocated for the fiscal year. New money will be available shortly with an increase in the amount requested from the General Assembly. Anyone wishing to apply for the Purchase of Development Rights Program can contact the Division of Agriculture for an application or further information at 222-2781.

The Rhode Island Great Pumpkin Contest Results

OK Charlie Brown, you have nothing to compare to Rhode Island's giant pumpkin. On October 11, 2003, the State held its 10th annual giant pumpkin championship at Frerich's Farm in Warren, RI. While rumors were being heard there might be a pumpkin grown right here in the Ocean State weighing over a half a ton, it was difficult to believe. Who could imagine a pumpkin weighing a 1000 pounds. When pumpkins were being unloaded for the weigh in, everyone in attendance was mesmerized by orange color and behemiths of pumpkins.

Frerichs Farm provide a setting and aura for a spectacular fall day. The Farm provided hayrides, small pumpkin painting, and face painting for the children. Adults had the opportunity to purchase fall mums, sugar pumpkins, fresh vegetables, and visit the Christmas Shop. There was something for both young and older a like to enjoy.

Nothing can compare in watching a young child or adult viewing their first site of a giant pumpkin. But the site of viewing a new Rhode Island record for a giant pumpkin is impossible to describe. In fact, has the Frerich's tractor was ready to unload its new record pumpkin from a truck; it appeared this would be one

unusual and difficult task. Finally, the tractor lifted the pumpkin out of the truck and suddenly appeared a beautiful huge bright orange pumpkin. Sometimes pumpkins may be large, but lack that bright orange color. It is important to note, a giant pumpkin must be a minimum of eighty percent orange. If a pumpkin is less than eighty percent orange, it is considered a squash.

Rhode Island's Giant Pumpkin Championship had over 40 entries. From large to larger, it was evident; Rhode Island was about to break a State record. A 1222.5 pound pumpkin grown by Joe Jutra of Scituate, RI took the new State record and this year's Castellucci Cup.

John Castellucci started the Rhode Island State Championship just ten years ago. The State named the Cup after him. Mr. Castellucci won the cup last year with a 951 pound pumpkin. Each year, the Castellucci Cup is forwarded and presented to the individual who grew the largest pumpkin in the State.

No one ever dreamed, just ten years ago, Rhode Island would ever grow a pumpkin weighing over 1222 pounds. Now, the real question is, when will the Ocean State grow a giant pumpkin weighing more than 1500 pounds? Attend and watch next years Rhode Island Giant Pumpkin Championship at Frerich's Farm on October 9, 2004. A new State record is more than likely to occur. Congratulations go out to all Rhode Island giant pumpkin growers for a great year.



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