

# Rhode Island

Spring 2003



# Ag-Review

RI. Ag-Review is a publication of the RIDEM/Division of Agriculture, 235 Promenade St. Prov., RI 02908, 401-222-2781,

## Marketing Update

### DEM/FARMERS MARKETS 2003

The DEM/Division of Agriculture, in partnership with the DEM/Division of Parks, will be operating four Farmers Markets this year. The Goddard Park Farmers Market is in its seventh year. For the Colt State Park Farmers Market, it is our fourth year. For the Fishermen's Memorial Park Farmers Market it is our third year, and for the Haines Memorial Park Farmers Market it is our second year.

What do all these markets have in common? They have all become very successful in providing Rhode Island farmers an additional off farm location for selling their fresh fruits and vegetables to people who might not otherwise visit a roadside stand or PYO. The farmers markets truly bring farms to the people. RI farmers markets have become an integral element in the financial well being of many Rhode Island farmers. The added revenue to market vendors generated by programs like the Health Department's WIC Farmers Market coupons and other nutritional programs advocating for the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, has allowed participating growers to increase their sales volume and create a larger customer base. The DEM/Division of Agriculture Farmers Markets as well as the many other farmer run markets are now open throughout the State. If you would like to participate at any of the state run markets, please give us a call at 401-222-2781 ext. 4517.



Goddard Park Farmers Market

### Dates and times for DEM sponsored Farmers Markets are:

**Goddard Park Farmers Market**  
Warwick, RI  
open Fridays May 2 - October 31,  
Hours 9 am to 1 pm

**Colt Park Farmers Market**  
Bristol, RI  
open Fridays May 2 – October 31,  
Hours 2 pm to 6 pm

**Fisherman's Memorial Park  
Farmers Market**  
Narragansett, RI  
open Sundays May 4 – October 19,  
9 am to 1 pm

**Haines Park Farmers Market**  
East Providence, RI  
open Wednesdays May 7 – October  
29, 2 pm to 6 pm



## Crop Report

Summer has just arrived and with it comes newly planted fields. Soon we will have "Rhode Island Grown" fresh vegetables available for your grill and palate. A Rhode Island favorite is fresh grown corn, delivered fresh from the farm to your kitchen table. Farmers have been busy planting for the growing season. Rainy days and cool nights have changed to sunny days and warmer nights. This has provided red, ripe, juicy strawberries for all Rhode Islander's to enjoy. "Pick-Your-Own-Strawberries" is a favorite activity for families to enjoy. Strawberries are currently available at your local strawberry farm, roadside stand, and farmers market. This year's growing season has started off with a future forecast of a wonderful growing season filled with an abundance of fruits and vegetables.

Farmers have completed or are currently cutting their first cut of hay for the season. This means farmers will not only have a second cutting, but more than likely, a third cutting.

There are plenty of potted flowers still available at your local farm stand and greenhouse. The selection is wide and varied. Most importantly, there is still plenty of time to make your home and garden rich with colors and wonderful scents for the summer season.

Looking for that sales  
Advantage. Call 222-2781  
x 4517  
Ask for Pete Susi

# Pesticide Briefs

## EPA FINALIZES VOLUNTARY CANCELLATION OF VIRTUALLY ALL RESIDENTIAL USES OF CCA-TREATED WOOD

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, EPA granted the voluntary cancellation and use termination requests affecting virtually all residential use of chromated copper arsenate (CCA) treated wood. Under this action, affected CCA products cannot be used after December 30, 2003 to treat lumber intended for use in most residential settings. This transition affects virtually all residential uses of wood treated with CCA, including play structures, decks, picnic tables, landscaping timbers, residential fencing, patios and walkways/boardwalks. This action was proposed in February 2002 by the registrants of CCA pesticide products used to treat wood. Phase-out of the residential uses will reduce the potential exposure risks to arsenic, a known human carcinogen, thereby protecting human health, especially children's health and the environment. The current action follows up on the February 2002 publication of a notice of receipt of voluntary cancellations/use termination requests, which also provided an opportunity for public comments to be submitted to EPA. A notice of the cancellation order will be published shortly in the Federal Register, and that document will include the Agency's response to comments. Consumers may continue to buy and use treated CCA wood for as long as it is available. The transition to using the new generation treatment products is well underway. The Agency is deferring any action on two uses involved in the termination requests, therefore wood used in permanent wood foundations and fence posts for agricultural uses may continue to be treated with CCA at this time. EPA is working with the registrant community and other stakeholders to ensure that safer, comparable alternatives will be available. EPA is continuing its work on an ongoing comprehensive reevaluation of CCA-treated wood that has been underway as part of EPA's efforts to re-evaluate older pesticides to ensure that they meet current health and safety standards. More information on CCA treated wood is available at [www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/chemicals/1file.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/chemicals/1file.htm)

## PESTICIDE POSTING AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS

The Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a regulation issued by the US Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 and amended in 1995. It covers pesticides that are used in the production of agricultural plants on farms, including sod farms; forests; nurseries and greenhouses. The WPS requires farm manager/owners to take steps to reduce the risk of pesticide-related illness and injury if you (1) use such pesticides, or (2) employ workers or pesticide handlers who may be exposed to such pesticides. The WPS applies to the application of both General Use Pesticides and Restricted-Use Pesticides.

This article is being written to remind farm owners/manager about basic information required to be posting about pesticide applications. In addition to the Central Posting Requirements, if you employ any workers or handlers, you must comply with all the other requirements of WPS. This information only addresses specific posting requirements and in no way covers the entire WPS Regulation Requirements. These questions were submitted to EPA by people seeking clarification on this part of the regulation, and have been answered by EPA's Office of Compliance.

**Question** - *WPS requires employers to "display" specific information about pesticides for 30 days after their application on the agricultural establishment or the expiration of any Restricted Entry Interval (REI). Does this mean that the information must be displayed like posters, so that all the information is in view at once, or may the information be displayed on sheets of paper in a binder or in another convenient manner?*

**Answer** – WPS requires that the information on applications be accessible. Legible and displayed in a central location on the farm, or nursery or greenhouse (or in or near a forest, where workers or handlers are likely to congregate or pass by) "where it can be readily seen and read by workers and handlers. The information must include; (1) the location and description of the treated area; (2) the product name, EPA Registration Number and active ingredient(s) of each pesticide; (3) the time and date the pesticide is to be applied; (4) The restricted entry interval listed on the label. This information must be posted before the application is to take place and must be displayed for at least 30 days after the end of the restricted entry interval, or if there are no restricted entry interval, or if there are no restricted entry interval than 30 days after the end of the application. It also requires that workers and handlers be informed of the location

and allowed access to it. EPA used the word "display" to indicate that this access must be unrestricted in that it need not be requested. However, any manner of display that meets these criteria is acceptable, including such approaches as page on page lists stapled at the top and use of devices as clipboards or binders.

**Question** – *If a grower buys a WPS labeled product and a non-WPS-labeled product, is he/she required to list any applications of the non-WPS labeled product on the centrally located information sheet concerning applications of pesticides?*

**Answer** – No. The grower is required to list only applications of WPS labeled products. Nonetheless, EPA encourages growers to display information about all applications as a way of protecting workers. WPS requires the display of certain information (see previous question) when workers are on an establishment where pesticides have been applied.

**Question** – *Does this mean anywhere on the farm?*

**Answer**- Yes. Whenever workers or handlers employed by the farm are anywhere on that farm, certain information must be displayed.

**Question** – *Does it apply only to a contiguous property?*

**Answer** – No, it does not necessarily apply only to contiguous property. It applies anytime workers are anywhere on the farm. (Any land owned or leased by the farm)

To get more information about WPS please feel free to contact the Division of Agriculture 's Pesticide Program at 401-222-2781. Also, other available resources on WPS is the National Agricultural Compliance Assistance Center. The website is [www.epa.gov/agriculture](http://www.epa.gov/agriculture)

## F-Y-I

WASHINGTON — High natural gas prices are clobbering a number of American industries, from petrochemical makers to fertilizer producers, and could reduce the nation's overall economic growth, energy experts warned Thursday. Appearing before the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, analysts warned the jump in gas prices — up nearly 80 percent in the past year — could mean elevated prices for years to come. Edward Kelly, head of Wood Mackenzie Global Consultants' North American gas and power consulting business in Houston, predicts prices could remain at elevated levels for the rest of the decade and perhaps even longer.

## Animal Health News

### AVIAN INFLUENZA IN RHODE ISLAND POULTRY

#### Rhode Island Poultry Farmers and Dealers Reminded That Under Law They Must Report Any Signs of Illness Among Their Birds

In the spring of 2003 a positive finding of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) was reported in several poultry houses at a northeastern Connecticut poultry operation. In April 2003, a egg producer in Foster, Rhode Island also tested positive for LPAI, as well as a live bird market in Providence. This outbreak has prompted the RIDAG to remind Rhode Island poultry farmers and dealers that, in compliance with state law, they must notify DEM of any signs of illness among their birds and obtain permits whenever birds and hatching eggs are imported from other states. Existing laws and regulations require reporting of LPAI immediately to the State Veterinarians office. In order to import any live birds or hatching eggs into Rhode Island, farmers must first call the Animal Health Section and obtain an import permit, as well as provide the mandatory health certificates and disease free certification required for importation.

The Division of Agriculture has implemented a disease response plan in order to quarantine the infected premises and conduct surveillance, testing and investigation of all commercial and private poultry flocks that may be a threat for this disease. The Foster farm is under strict quarantine and biosecurity pending removal of the infected birds. The farm is allowed to ship disinfected eggs directly to markets. Private and "backyard flocks" within a two (2) mile restricted movement zone around the farm are restricted and under surveillance. No birds, hatching eggs, manure, equipment, vehicles or potentially contaminated materials are allowed to leave the quarantined farm and or the restricted area without permission from the State Veterinarian and proper biosecurity protocols. The live bird markets are required to obtain birds from non-infected facilities and to process all birds weekly, followed by a complete disinfection of the market.

A ban remains in place on all birds, hatching eggs and potentially contaminated materials (such as manure) from all Connecticut farms that are under quarantine and any premises within two (2) mile radius of those infected operations. All other Connecticut poultry must satisfy Rhode Island import requirements and be certified avian influenza free prior to shipment. Manure from affected Connecticut poultry farms must also be approved by the State Veterinarian prior to spreading on pasture.

Poultry shows and exhibitions are no longer suspended and will be allowed to continue under specific guidelines. Exhibitors and 4-H

participants must register with event officials and present healthy birds that are not from any locations under quarantine or within the restricted zones. Out of state entrants must meet the standard requirements for showing birds in Rhode Island and will require current LPAI testing if the state of origin has any infected flocks under quarantine. Regarding sales of poultry and hatching eggs at events; Animal Health reserves the right to prohibit any events should newly infected flocks be discovered or the disease become widespread. Connecticut, to date, has banned all poultry shows for the 2003 season.

The type of avian influenza isolated is classified as low pathogenic H7N2, which, according to Dr. Patricia A. Nolan, Director of the RI Department of Health, poses no threat to human health or food safety. Kenneth Ayars, Chief of DEM's Division of Agriculture stresses that eggs and poultry products from affected farms are safe to consume.

The disease can have a significant economic impact on the poultry industry. Avian influenza can strike poultry quickly without any noticeable symptoms. Sick birds will have respiratory, intestinal and neurological signs. Many birds within an infected flock will die. Once established, the disease can spread rapidly from flock to flock. It is spread primarily through direct contact between healthy birds and infected birds and through indirect contact with contaminated equipment and materials. It can also be spread by migratory wildlife such as ducks and geese.

There are an estimated 60,000 birds at six commercial poultry locations in Rhode Island, and another estimated 30,000 birds in so-called "backyard" flocks, which include farms with less than 500 birds and individual residences with poultry raised for fairs, shows and other exhibitions.

It is important for owners of local flocks to take precautionary steps now, if they are not already doing so, by implementing protective biosecurity measures. DAG has, in fact, been working with farmers for over two years on ways to minimize biosecurity risks in general. Those steps include restricted access, strict cleaning and disinfection, reporting any illness, and minimizing traffic to and from the facilities. Farmers should avoid contact with other poultry operations and provide footbaths in poultry houses for cleaning and disinfections.

DEM's Division of Agriculture has informational materials on both farm biosecurity and avian influenza that will be available shortly on DEM's website, [www.state.ri.us/dem](http://www.state.ri.us/dem) by clicking on "Agriculture" under "Programs. A link to avian influenza information from the US Department of Agriculture is already located at that site. Informational materials are also available by calling DEM's animal health section at 222-4700 ext. 4511. Poultry owners can also call DEM's animal health section for additional instructions.

## Plant Industry News

### CAPS UPDATE

The Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey (CAPS) Program performs surveillance, detection, and monitoring of invasive and exotic pests that pose serious economic or security risks to our nation's agricultural and natural resources. Throughout the season we will be working closely with farmers, nurseries, small business owners, as well as private landowners to detect early pest infestations. With the cooperation of the private sector we will be sampling RI's five counties for the presence of about ten different invasive or exotic species of plants, insects, mollusks, bacteria, and fungi. Over the next few months we will be performing fieldwork in orchards, vineyards, tree farms, retail shops, and wetland areas picked for their location, business type, or likelihood of pest introduction.

One of the major invasive plants that we will be looking for is Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) a member of the carrot or parsley family which can grow 15-20 feet, and whose watery sap is capable of causing severe photosensitive blisters. The British Yellow Head (*Innula Brittanica*), an Aster, is a small and pretty invasive flower which seems to be coming into the country on the roots of Hostas and has proven itself as an aggressive weed in the Netherlands. The Channeled Apple Snail (*Pomacea canaliculata*) is the only mollusk being surveyed this season and has been causing problems in freshwater wetland areas in other parts of the country due to its insatiable appetite for plant material in or out of the water. Pierce's Disease (*Xylella fastidiosa*) is a type of bacterium that is spread by a leaf-hopping insect known as a sharpshooter (*Cicadellidae*). Pierce's Disease can be deadly to grape production as it blocks water transfer within the grapevine and results in dried or scorched leaves and eventual death of the plant within one to five years. Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*) is a fungal disease that has the potential to do serious damage to most North American oaks and related woody species such as some maples, tanoaks, and Rhododendron species. Among the species already mentioned which will be actively surveyed for are the Brown Marmorated Stinkbug (*Halyomorpha halys*), Exotic Wireworm (*Agriotes lineatus*), and Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*); which is the original fungus responsible for the Irish Potato famine in the 1840s. All data collected will be entered into the NAPIS (National Agricultural Pest Information System) database that will then add that information to control invasive pests at the regional and national levels.

With June right around the corner and the survey work increasing the CAPS program is relying heavily on the cooperation and insight of local residents, farmers, and business owners. The marriage of state and federal agendas and the inclusion of the private sector within the CAPS umbrella will all contribute to a very productive and active survey period for 2003.

For any questions or more information on our upcoming surveys please e-mail JA Macfarlan at [JACAPS@hotmail.com](mailto:JACAPS@hotmail.com)

### ***Water Level Monitoring Report***

Stream level update-The weekly monitoring of water levels in the Queen, Chipuxet, Usquepaugh, Beaver, Pawcatuag, Wood at Hope Valley, and Wood at Arcadia is continuing throughout the growing season. Water levels have improved drastically due to the large amount of rainfall this year. Irrigation for crops should not be a problem. 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 receive an extension. Please contact Lis Peterman from the Division of Agriculture at 401-222-2781 x 7261 for further information.

## ***F-Y-I***

There was a farmland dedication ceremony for the Knight Farm located on Burlingame Road in Cranston on June 25, 2003. The Knight property is a 240 acre parcel in western Cranston and has been acquired for open space preservation and agricultural purposes through a cooperative partnership effort. DEM will hold a conservation easement on 165 acres and the Rhode Island Agriculture Land Preservation Commission will hold the development rights to 75 acres of actively farmed land. The City of Cranston will hold fee and title to the entire property and will be managed by the West Bay Land Trust. This property will be another addition to the scenic historic farm route in Cranston. Anyone wishing to apply for the Purchase of Development Rights Program can contact the Division of Agriculture for further information at 222-2781. ext. 7261

**RI Grown Price Cards & Labels  
now Available call 222-2871  
x 4517 or visit our web - site  
to order.**

## ***Coming Events***

DEM'S Project Discovery – July 11, 2003 and August 7, 2002 – 10:00A.M.- Schartner Farms – Route 2 – Exeter, RI, - 12: 00P.M.- Wanton Dairy Farm – Jamestown, RI

Washington County Fair – August 13, 2003 – August 17, 2003 – Route 112 – Richmond, RI

RI Harvest Festival – October 2, 2003 – October 5, 2003 – Warwick Mall, Warwick, RI

Senior Living Expo – October 8, 2003 – 10:00A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Warwick Mall, RI

RI Pumpkin Giant Championship – October 11, 2003 Frerich's Farm Warren, RI



*Rhode Island DEM  
Jan H. Reitsma, Director  
235 Promenade St.  
Providence, RI 02908  
Vol. 2, No. 2*



*Visit us at [www.state.ri.us/dem](http://www.state.ri.us/dem)*

