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.littlerhodypoultryfanciers.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/riffa/agriculturaleducation
RI Ayrshire Club www.usayrshire.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.rhodeislanddahliasociety.org
RI Dairy Farm Co op – Rhody Fresh
www.rhodyfresh.com
RI Dairy Goat Association
www.ridga.comze.com
RI DEM – Department of Agriculture
www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/agricult
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.rifruitgrowers.org
RI FFA Alumni
RI FFA Association www.ri.net/riffa
RI Nursery and Landscape www.rinla.com
RI Raised Livestock Association www.rirla.org
RI Resource Conservation & Dvlpmt Council
www.rircd.org
RI Rural Development Council
www.ruralri.org
RI Sheep Cooperative ww.risheep.org
RI State Grange
www.rhodeislandgrange.org
Southern RI Conservation District
www.sricd.org
South Kingstown Farmers Market
www.southkingstownfarmersmarket.org
South Side Community Land Trust
www.southsideclt.org
South County Growers Association
Washington County Pomona Grange
www.washingtoncountyfair-ri.com

RI Agricultural Council
c/o 26 Taber Street
West Kingston, RI 02892-1425

RI Agricultural Council is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

RI Agricultural Council is open to all Rhode Island agricultural and nature-based organizations and welcomes membership. Contact us.

Rhode Island Agricultural Council

Promoting Rhode Island Agriculture since 1924

Objectives

To develop farming, forestry and allied interests

To improve rural life and rural home; and

To coordinate agriculture, trade and industry.

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)