

SAVE THIS DATE!

Northern RI Conservation District will once again hold its Annual Dinner at Addieville East Farm on Friday, September 11, 2009

Addieville East Farm and its owner, Geoff Goebe, have invited us to enjoy this fabulous retreat in the woods of Mapleville. Addieville is considered the premier pheasant hunting preserve in New England and it also offers fly fishing, sporting clays shooting and 3-D archery to enthusiasts from all over the country.

We not only promise you a delicious meal but Addieville will offer interested guests the opportunity to participate in a clay shooting event. Details will be available mid-summer.

Call the District office if you would like to receive an invitation.

401-949-1480

This will be your last newsletter
if you have not renewed your dues!

P.O. Box 640, N. Scituate, RI 02857





NEWS

Summer 2009

Volume 3 Issue 2

Rhode Island Hosts Russian Visitors

by Jerry Bertrand, Director, RI Rural Development Council

Dr. Joseph Ilacqua, Professor of Economics at Bryant University was awarded a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (US-AID), Washington, DC. This grant offered ten visiting Russians from Stavropol Krai a local perspective on agricultural economic development in Rhode Island. The month long tour of the state was held in June. The grant also required that the ten Russian guests be provided homestays with Rhode Island residents during their agricultural economic development visit to the U.S.

Professor Ilacqua partnered with the RI Rural Development Council to provide guided tours of the farms in Rhode Island showcasing various direct on-farm sales programs, local cultural activities, communities supporting agriculture, and social programs to feed the hungry.

The kickoff event for host families to meet and greet their Russian guests was a cookout held on June 6th at the Urban Edge Farm, Cranston, RI hosted by Bryant University and RI Rural Development Council. Kim Ziegelmayr, Director of the RI Raised Livestock Association, was recruited by RI Rural Development to serve as a Coordinator for the month long activities and tours. Kim's first great idea for the kickoff cookout was to serve meat products from local RI Raised Livestock Association farm members. Food was cooked and catered by Providence-based Amos House's "More than a Meal" catering service. Kim agreed to work with Amos House and convinced their "More than a Meal" culinary unit to purchase the meat products from the RIRLA farms rather than through their normal wholesale



meat vendor. Kim then diligently coordinated with farms and Amos House to provide the local meats for the event. The local food selection at the cookout event received rave reviews from the host families and Russian guests. Approximately 55 people attended the event which also coincided with the wool pool collection for Rhody Warm blankets held annually at this farm site. There was much to see and learn at Southside Community Land Trust's farmland walking tour of the Urban Edge Farm property, and the RI Sheep Cooperative's wool skirting activities.

Kim Ziegelmayr and Jerry Bertrand worked together in organizing the tours of farms and other site visits during the month of June to highlight the many ways our Federal, State and local community governments support local agriculture, and how our entrepreneurial farmers do direct sales activities. Some of the farm tours showcased the programs

of our RIRLA member farms. I wish to thank Casey Farm, Watson Farm, and Windmist Farm for openly greeting and hosting the Russian guests to its farm tours and demonstrations. Blackbird Farm also held a June weekend cookout event at their farm and offered open invitations to all host families and their Russian guests.

The outcome of Kim Ziegelmayr's good works with Amos House may not end here. The Amos House's chef was very impressed with the concept of offering an alternative of quality food products from local farms. Their catering operations may soon begin offering a local farm foods option on its menu selection to prospective customers.

Many thanks to all and special thanks to Kim Ziegelmayr for her hard work and contributions to the success of the Bryant University's U.S. AID Community Connections program.

A Report from the Director of RIRLA, Kim Ziegelmayr



Greetings to all RI Raised Livestock Association members. I hope everyone has caught up on all the work delayed by six weeks of rain!

Well, here we are at the height of summer and I'm sure all of you are very busy. Not too busy, hopefully, to have attended RIRLA's second scheduled Pasture Walk at Will and Heidi Wright's Hidden Meadow Farms in West Greenwich. This Pasture Walk, which took place on July 22nd was a great success. Over 20 people attended and Will and Heidi gave a great presentation that included discussions on pasture, fencing, working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and promoting local agriculture. Please mark your calendar for the last scheduled Pasture Walk of 2009 at Watson Farm, Jamestown on September 12.

Thank you to those members (and others) who attended the first Pasture Walk on June 24 at Beaverhead Farm in Jamestown. Patrick McNiff of Casey Farm talked about his unique arrangement with Nonie O'Farrell of Beaverhead. These two farms do multispecies grazing of sheep, broilers, layers and pigs, all on pasture. About a dozen farmers attended, despite the drizzly weather and all those who were there gave the event very positive reviews.

Upcoming RIRLA educational events for the fall and winter of this year include a tour of RI Beef & Veal, the USDA slaughter facility used by RIRLA, as well as a processing seminar at Westerly Packing. Stay tuned for more

details, dates and times.

Many, if not all RI livestock farmers, have something to say about shortage of large animal veterinarians. Dr. Scott Marshall, state veterinarian at the RI Division of Agriculture, would like to give you an opportunity to voice your concerns. Dr. Marshall has arranged for a meeting between veterinarians from the RI Veterinary Medical Association (RIVMA) and members of the RI Raised Livestock Association, as well as representatives from the Farm Bureau and 4-H. A meeting is likely to occur in the first half of November. Look for our *Save The Date* card in your mailbox.

Some great news to report on RIRLA's long journey to become a federally recognized non-profit organization – we made it! The Association received word on June



Will and Heidi gave a great presentation at Hidden Meadow Farm on July 22nd.

29th that the RI Raised Livestock Association is now an official, IRS designated non-profit organization. It took a while; but we did it.

The Processing Scheduling Service is going strong! To date in 2009 RIRLA has sent 145 animals through the system with the following breakdown: 55 beef, 56 hogs, 9 veal, 23 lambs and 2 goats. The total for 2008 was 167 animals. Here we are just a bit past halfway through the year and we have almost reached our total

for 2008.

The Processing Scheduling Service's next available processing dates are August 4, August 18 and August 25. **Check out our revised price list in this issue – almost all of the processing prices have either stayed the same or DECREASED!** Contact Kim to schedule your animals at 401-575-3348 or *director-rirla@cox.net*. Remember, you must have joined or renew your membership to participate in the Service.

Members are now able to sell fresh meat to restaurants! The system right now is set up such that restaurants that want to purchase fresh meat from RIRLA members must pick the meat up at either RI Beef & Veal or, in the case of beef - which needs to hang in the cooler for two to three weeks - Westerly Packing. Though the system is not perfect just yet, at least this option is now possible. This could also be a business opportunity for someone who has a small reefer truck and is willing to deliver to restaurants.

The website continues its forward progress. The RIRLA website www.rirla.org should be up and running within the next month or so. If you have any suggestions of features you would like to see on the website please contact Kim Ziegelmayr at *director-rirla@cox.net* or 401-575-3348 or one of the committee members. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Well, that is about it for now. I would like to extend a huge thank you, once again, to all of the dedicated volunteers who make this the great organization that it is. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 401-575-3348 or *director-rirla@cox.net* to schedule your animals, discuss an idea or voice any concerns you may have.

RIRLA's First Annual Fundraising dinner will be happening in late October/early November! Look for more details soon. The Association is very excited about this event and hopes that members and others will come out and show their support that evening. If you have any suggestions about the event or how to promote it please contact Kim at 575-3348.

Opportunities

Conservation Stewardship Program Sign Up – Through September 30th

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan has announced the first farmer sign up period for the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The CSP will make payments to farmers for maintaining existing conservation practices and for adopting additional practices on cropland, grassland, improved pasture, rangeland, non-industrial private forestland and tribal lands. Payment will also be made for adopting resource conserving crop rotations. Farmers can submit applications at their local Natural Resource Conservation District offices between August 10th and September 30th to be considered for this 12.8 million acre sign up. Enrollment for the new CSP is nationwide and the program is not limited to certain watersheds. The Center for Rural Affairs is offering a Farm Bill Helpline to answer questions and provide assistance on the CSP and other conservation programs. Call (402) 687-2100 and ask for the Helpline.

URI COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

HEALTHY LANDSCAPES – “Keeping Livestock and Horses on Small Acreages.” Protecting our drinking water, families and animals.

Do you know how to...

- store and handle manure?
- protect your drinking water well?
- recycle manure on the land, and what to do if land is limited?
- manage livestock yards to reduce mud?
- manage pastures to reduce feed costs, and how a pasture differs from a livestock yard?
- control animal access to streams and ponds?

Visit our web site for more information including a fact sheet series on manure, livestock yard and pasture management and self-assessment worksheets that help you identify and plan for improvements. The web site also provides demonstration sites and a wealth of on-line resources for various topics including composting, recycling manure on land and private well water testing. Visit our website at www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes or contact Holly Burdett at (401) 874-5398, hburdett@uri.edu for more information.

Whether you have a wealth of family experience to draw from or are new to raising animals, there are always new things to learn and new practices to adopt

and share with fellow animal owners.

Especially, when it comes to managing the lands we raise our animals on. New development continues all around us, especially in rural areas within Rhode Island. Many of these developing lands rely on private wells for drinking water supplies. Properties often consist of small lots in residential areas that are close to water resources, including private drinking water wells and storm drains. All these factors pose challenges with managing manure, livestock yards and pastures.

Education is key: Raising healthy, productive animals goes hand-in-hand with protecting our families and the environment - it is all interconnected.

The Healthy Landscapes Education Program is conducted by the University of Rhode Island (URI) Cooperative Extension Water Quality and 4H Programs, the URI Department of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science, and the URI Department of Communications Studies. It is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



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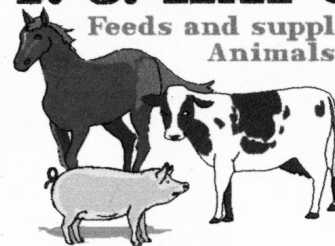
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Updated Processing Fees and Schedules

Contact Kim Ziegelmayr at 401-575-3348 or director-rirla@cox.net for complete processing forms.

FEE SCHEDULE

RI Raised Livestock Assoc.

SCHEDULING Fees (includes kill, transportation and RIRLA fees)

Beef UNDER 30 months_____	\$115
Beef OVER 30 months_____	\$175
(\$115 Scheduling fee + \$60 Over 30 months fee)	
Veal 100 - 400 lbs._____	\$55
Calves < 100 lbs._____	\$45
Hog <u>SCALDED</u> UNDER 250 lbs._____	\$85
Hog <u>SKINNED</u> (100-600 lbs.)_____	\$85
Hog <u>SCALDED</u> OVER 250 lbs._____	\$120
(\$ 85 Scheduling fee + \$35 Over 250 lbs. fee)	
Lamb/Goat_____	\$45

Westerly Packing

PROCESSING Fees

Beef \$.85/lb. hanging weight	
Beef OVER 30 months \$.78/lb. (boned out, chunked & boxed)	
Hog UNDER 200 lbs._____	\$120 flat fee
Hog OVER 200 lbs._____	\$.10/lb. additional
Lamb UNDER 40 lbs._____	\$35 flat fee
Lamb OVER 40 lbs._____	\$.80/lb. hanging weight
Sausage (Italian mild or hot)	
Cased/Loose_____	\$2.09/lb
Patties_____	\$2.59/lb
Organs that are not part of the hanging weight may incur an additional charge.	

HANGING WEIGHT: Hanging weight is the hot weight as weighed at RI Beef & Veal

- BEEF - Hot weight skinned and gutted, no feet, no head.
- HOGS – SCALDED: Hot weight gutted with head, feet and skin on.
SKINNED: Hot weight skinned and gutted, no feet, no head.
- LAMBS – Hot weight skinned and gutted with head and feet on.

SPECIALTY ITEMS/SCALDED/SKINNED FORM:

SPECIALTY ITEMS: If you want the heart, liver, tongue, or other “specialty items” from your animal please fill this form out and give it to the receiver at RI Beef & Veal when dropping off your animals.

SCALDED/SKINNED: Farmer **MUST** indicate whether hog(s) are to be scalded or skinned. Large hogs (over ~275 lb. live weight) that members request to have scalded are likely to incur the \$35 Over 250 lb. scalding fee.

Form MUST have farm and animal numbers listed.

HIDES: (\$60/beef; \$20/lamb) – Cash ONLY – are payable directly to Johnston Beef and are picked up at Johnston Beef.

CUT SHEETS: Cut sheets must be filled out completely and faxed (401-596-7350) or mailed to Bruno at Westerly Packing, P.O. Box 542, Westerly, RI 02891. **Cut sheets MUST be at Westerly Packing by the scheduled slaughter date.**

Multiple animals: If all animals are to be processed the same way only one cut sheet needs to be filled out BUT all animals must be listed on that cut sheet.

Special requests: special requests may be subject to increase in price.

PARTICIPATION: Your farm must be a member of RI Raised Livestock Association and have a “Farm Number” assigned to participate in this service.

- If you are not a member please call/email Kim at 401-575-3348 or director-rirla@cox.net to have a membership form emailed, faxed or mailed to you.
- Membership for 2008 is \$30/farm for RI residents, \$100/farm for non-residents (non-voting membership). Membership renews in April 2009.

RESERVATIONS & SCHEDULING: To reserve your place on the schedule contact Kim at 401-575-3348 Monday – Friday between the hours of 12 pm – 5 pm or email director-rirla@cox.net

- Orders are scheduled on a first come, first served basis.
- Reservations are finalized and confirmed upon receipt of completed Processing Order form check.
- You will receive a confirmation email, fax or postcard confirming the date of your scheduled appointment, the type and number of animals within 7 days of receipt of your completed order form and payment check.
- RIRLA reserves the right to reschedule processing dates if there are not enough animals scheduled to fill a shipment.

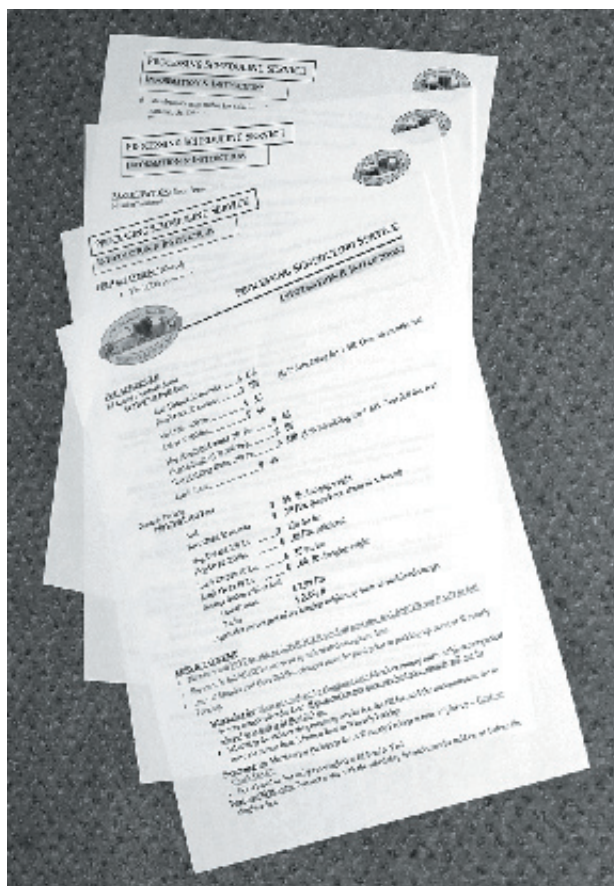
CANCELLATIONS: Cancellation of scheduled appointment by members will result in forfeiture of a portion of the scheduling fee. Kill fee and transport fee will be refunded.

Available Processing Dates

The Processing Scheduling Service provides RI Raised Livestock Association members with USDA slaughter (RI Beef & Veal) and processing (Westerly Packing) facilities. Members bring their animals to RI Beef & Veal in Johnston. The animal is slaughtered and then transported to Westerly Packing where it is cut and packaged. All meat is cryovaced and labeled with the USDA stamp, farm name, town and state and farm phone number. The farmer is responsible to pick up their meat and pay Westerly Processing for cutting and packing. Please check out our revised price list – almost all of the processing prices have either stayed the same or DECREASED! Remember, you must have joined or renewed your membership to participate in the Service. Call Kim at 401-575-3348 or email director-rirla@cox.net

Upcoming dates for Processing

September 8	October 20
September 15	November 10
September 29	November 17
October 6	December 1



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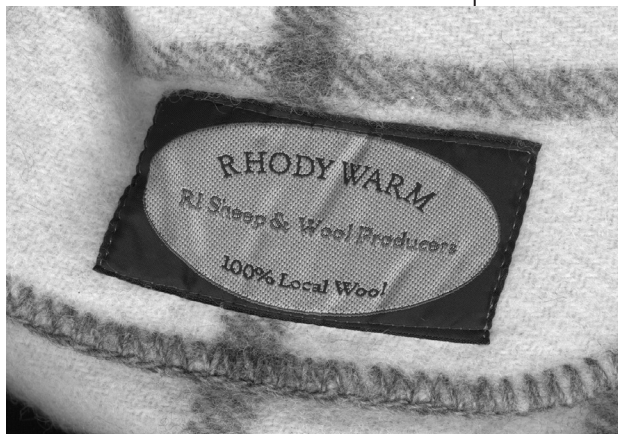
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RHODY WARM BLANKET WOOL COLLECTION DAY - A SUCCESS

The 4th Annual Wool Collection Day for the Rhody Warm Blanket Project was held on June 6th at the Urban Edge Farm in Cranston. This year's team of volunteer workers increased in numbers and there were four skirting tables running all day long along. Also there was a larger group of kids packing the wool bags in the two wool towers as well. The whole day was well organized from start to finish. The producers checked in at the door and were able to view past year's blankets and yarn made from local wool. When their name was called the producers moved with their wool to a skirting tables, learning and participating in the skirting process of their own fleeces. The wool was then weighed and sent outside to the kids who were jumping up and down in the large bags packing the wool.



The producer then took their weight slips and checked out, getting paid 60¢ per pound for their skirted wool and checks were issued. At the end of the day, the rejected portions of the fleeces that had been thrown aside was bagged up and left for the Urban Edge Farm members to use as mulch for their gardens. Nothing went to waste! The large wool bags were sewn and weighed and then loaded into a stock trailer for transportation to University of Connecticut, where the bags were loaded along with Connecticut and Massachusetts wool

for the journey to South Carolina. The wool will be cleaned and then returned to Massachusetts for processing into blankets. Again the Rhody Warm broke the record this year by collecting 2,140 pounds of wool from 37 sheep producers! In the past four years, there has been approximately 7500 pounds of wool collected and made into over 1450 blankets and throws, bringing income to the sheep producers from a product that many of them considered waste!

This year's Collection Day was visited by a group of agricultural specialists from Stavropol Krai, Russia who were in Rhode Island as part of the Community Connections Visitor Exchange Program sponsored by USAID and hosted by Bryant University. The visitors were explained the Rhody Warm Project and the wool collection process being held that day. They were impressed by the fact that all the 'workers' on the Rhody Warm Project were volunteers and not getting paid! After checking out the wool skirting production the Russian visitors toured the Urban Edge Farm, and then everyone had a delicious lunch prepared by the Amos House courtesy of the Rhode Island Rural Development Council.

For anyone interested in purchasing a long or lap throw there are still plenty available from the 2008-2009 Project (and the 2009-2010 blankets (in lap and long throw, queen and king sizes) will be available, hopefully, in late November – if all goes well for the mills involved).

For more information about the Project itself or to order blankets, you can visit www.risheep.org or call (401)578-2012.

RIRLA Calendar

Board Meetings (4th Monday of each month)

Monday, September 28, 2009
7:00 pm

Gregg's Restaurant, North Kingstown
(There may be a venue change to the September meeting. Members will be notified.)

Monday, October 26, 2009
7:00 pm

Gregg's Restaurant, North Kingstown

These meetings are open to all members. Come and participate in shaping the future of our organization!

TAILS OF TWO SHEARERS

For quality sheep shearing, dependable and competent farm sitting and farm work, call on Taylor Meek, (401-626-6599, twizzlyland@gmail.com) and Brittany Sederback (401-368-3564, agiwanuku@yahoo.com). These girls have done shearing and farm sitting for several of our members, and received rave reviews. If you need help with shearing, or want to take a well-deserved vacation, give them a try!



RIRLA wishes to thank our funders, the RI Foundation and the USDA for their support.



Upcoming Events

Conferences

We Mean Business Expo

September 10, 2009

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

at the Renaissance Hotel, Providence.

Over 170 federal, state and municipal agencies and non-profits that provide solutions for small business have been invited to exhibit. Admission is FREE.

5th Annual Small Farms

Conference

September 15-17, 2009

Springfield, Illinois

The conference, held every three to four years, brings together land grant universities, community-based organizations and other stakeholders who work with small farmers and ranchers. The conference aims to strengthen collaboration and partnership among groups and provide an opportunity to share new ideas in research, extension and outreach. Go to:

www.conferences.uiuc.edu/conferences/conferenceviewer2/view.cfm?conf=20033

or contact: Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, P.O. Box 410, Greenview, IL 62642.

217-968-5512 or cvnghgrn@illinois.edu

Farmer's Market/Pasture Walk

September 12, 2009

Jamestown, RI

Farmers Market at Casey Farm, 2325 Boston Neck Rd., Saunderstown, RI 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Pasture walk at Watson Farm, 455 North Rd., Jamestown, RI 1-5 p.m. RIRLA members free, non-members \$10. Don and Heather will talk about their grass-fed lambs and Red Devon cattle, managing their pastures, as well as

marketing their meats and Rhody Warm and Conanicut Island blankets. Later, join Patrick McNiff at Casey Farm at twilight for a screening of the movie, "Fresh".

The RI 4-H Club Foundation,

Inc. will hold its first **Annual 4-H Alumni Gathering** on Saturday, October 10th, 2009 from 1pm to 5pm at Hidden Meadows Farm (120 Breakheart Hill Rd, West Greenwich, RI 02817)

The event will feature a chicken BBQ, music, hayrides, an exciting raffle, fun family activities and reconnecting with old friends.

Tickets are \$15 and include the chicken dinner. A child's hotdog meal ticket is \$3 (8 years old and under) Registration deadline is October 1.

To register visit the 4-H Foundation website at www.freewebs.com/ri4-h/foundation/

For more information call Steve DelPozzo at (401) 397-4498

RIRLA Fundraiser, mid October/early November. Watch for more details.

RI VETERINARY MEDICAL

ASSOC. Meeting, early November.

More details coming soon.

Fairs/4-H Exhibits

Brooklyn Fair

August 27-30, 2009

Rt. 169, Brooklyn, CT

www.brooklynfair.org

Woodstock Fair

September 4 -7, 2009

South Woodstock, CT

www.woodstockfair.com

Rhode Island Raised Livestock Association

P.O. Box 640, N. Scituate, RI 02857

director-rirla@cox.net

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Jane Christopher

vgese@verizon.net

RIRLA News is published quarterly by the Rhode Island Raised Livestock Association. RIRLA's mission is "to promote the preservation of our agricultural lands, our rural economy, and our agrarian way of life by creating an organization that will secure a viable infrastructure and provide for the efficient and sustainable production, processing, and marketing of quality, value added, locally produced meats in the state of Rhode Island".

Annual membership is \$30 per RI farm, \$100 per out-of-state farm and includes the newsletter. We also accept unsolicited donations. RIRLA News welcomes articles, photographs, letters and classified advertising for possible publication. Publication of articles or advertisements is not necessarily an endorsement by RIRLA. Articles from this newsletter may not be reprinted without permission. ©RIRLA 2009

RIRLA Executive Board

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Louis Vinagro, Vice President, 300-1051

Will Wright, Treasurer, 392-3469

Heather Minto, Secretary 423-0005

Don Minto, Past President Ex Officio 423-0005

RIRLA Sponsorship and Advertising Information

Sponsorship

Cost: \$250/issue

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Distribution: Over 225 RI, MA and CT farms and farm related businesses

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