

Working Conference Program University of Massachusetts/ Amherst

Thursday, October 28, 2010

RC&D Coordinators Workshop
RC&D Council Training
Concurrent Energy Sessions

Reception and Dinner

Keynote Speaker: Secretary Ian Bowles,
MA Dept. of Energy and Environmental Affairs
(Invited)

Friday, October 29, 2010

NEARC&D Awards Breakfast

Opening Session: USDA Deputy Secretary
Kathleen Merrigan (Invited)

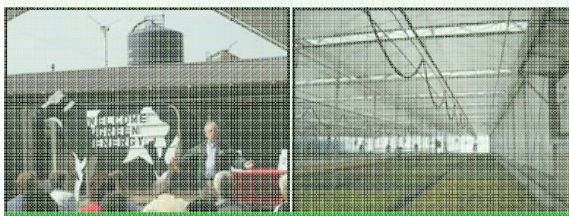
Tour of farms featuring energy efficiency &
renewable energy projects;
trainings and lunch on farm

Dinner and Auction

Saturday, October 30, 2010

Breakfast and NEARC&D Council Presentations

Concurrent Energy Sessions
Closing



Higher Energy Costs in New England

New Englanders pay up to 56% more per kWh for electricity, 40% more per therm for natural gas, and 23% more per gallon for propane than the US average. Agricultural energy costs directly impact the viability of many New England farms. RC&D projects help sustain farms and working landscapes, protecting the rural character of our region. The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program, a joint project of the MA Dept. of Ag. Resources, USDA-NRCS, Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D, and Patriot RC&D, is one of the programs that will be highlighted at the Conference.

2009 Highlights

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

Total 2009 Energy Savings & Emissions for Participating MA Farms

gallons of propane: 2,830

therms of gas: 10,386

gallons of oil: 14,547

kWh of electricity: 336,057

tons CO₂: 400

2009 Energy Efficiency Incentives Received

Public Utilities: \$50,802

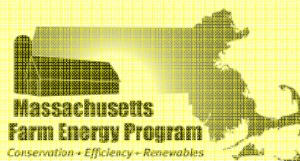
MA Farm Energy Program : \$27,910

2009 Funding Leveraged

\$397,032 Federal and \$547,362 State

2009 Jobs Created or Retained

nine



Conference Sponsorship Opportunity!

“Feeding Ourselves, Fueling Ourselves”

Regional Conference New England Association of RC&D Councils

www.berkshirepioneerrcd.org



October 28-30, 2010 University of Massachusetts / Amherst

About the New England Association

The New England Association of Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Areas consists of 15 RC&D Councils covering the six New England states. RC&D Councils are non-profit organizations, organized and directed by local people to meet local needs. RC&D is a unique program that is led by local volunteers who build partnerships to work on projects that improve economic development, enhance the environment, and improve the quality of life in their areas. RC&D Areas are designated by the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture with RC&D technical and financial assistance program funds.

About the 2010 Regional Conference

The 2010 New England RC&D Conference will be hosted by Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D Council of western Massachusetts. Last year's conference focused on food security. This year, "Feeding Ourselves, Fueling Ourselves" will continue that theme with emphasis on the relationship between energy and food security. The conference will showcase "buy local" efforts; public, private, and nonprofit partnerships; and will highlight energy projects of New England RC&D Councils, particularly those of Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D. The central event of the conference will be a tour of select farms that have implemented noteworthy energy efficiency improvements & renewable energy projects with assistance from the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program. The tour will highlight the energy, environmental, and economic benefits of each farm's project, describe the strategic partnerships that helped make the projects possible, and provide training opportunities for specific technologies.

Become a Conference Sponsor

New Englanders pay the highest energy rates than any other region of the Lower 48 states. Electricity and fossil fuel costs have increased by 30% or more in the last few years. The impact on farms has meant a dramatic increase in costs related to power, refrigeration, heating, ventilation, lighting, transportation, fertilizer and feed. **Rising energy costs reduce the profit margin for all farmers and directly threaten the viability of farms across New England.**

The 2010 Conference of the New England Association of RC&D Councils will address the critical issues of energy costs and sustainable energy and will highlight efforts taking place across the region to address these issues.

Be part of this conference!

- Celebrate the creative and innovative efforts of New England farmers, funders and advocates
- Reach more than 150 community leaders and USDA staff in all six New England states working on issues of agricultural sustainability and energy
- Join in educating conference participants about technologies that can be replicated on New England farms
- Influence community-level planning decisions and cost-share programs for farm energy programs throughout New England

Participate as a Conference Sponsor!

**Contact Ann Gibson
Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D
agibson@berkshirepioneer.org
413.256.1607**

Sponsorship Opportunities

Leader \$5,000

Signage & recognition at plenary/dining area for duration
Logo/name listing, Leader level, in pre-conference publicity
Logo/name on conference brochure cover
Logo/name on conference program cover
Logo/name on all conference signage
Full-page ad, inside or back cover of conference program
Exhibit table at conference
Logo/name included in conference follow-up materials
Logo/ link for 2010 on NEARC&D & BPRC&D websites
Conference attendance for three from your organization

Benefactor \$2,000

Signage & recognition at one plenary/meal
Logo/name listing, Benefactor level, in pre-conference publicity
Full-page ad in conference program
Logo/name on all conference signage
Exhibit table at conference
Logo/name included in conference follow-up materials
Logo/ link for 2010 on NEARC&D & BPRC&D websites
Conference attendance for two from your organization

Sustainer \$1,000

Logo/name listing, Sustainer level, in pre-conference publicity
Logo/name in conference brochure sponsor listing
Half-page ad in conference program
Logo/name included in conference follow-up materials
Acknowledgement on NEARC&D & BPRC&D websites with link
Conference attendance for one from your organization

Supporter \$500

Logo/name listing, Supporter level, in pre-conference publicity
Quarter-page ad in conference program
Logo/name included in conference follow-up materials
Acknowledgement on NEARC&D & BPRC&D websites

Contributor \$250

Name listing, Contributor level, in pre-conference publicity
Business card ad in conference program
Acknowledgement on NEARC&D & BPRC&D websites

Advertiser \$100

Name listing, Advertiser level, in pre-conference publicity
Name listing in conference program
Acknowledgement on NEARC&D & BPRC&D websites