



Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions

WESTERN MASS WINTER AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION GATHERING ***Hancock Shaker Village – Saturday, December 7, 2013*** ***(REGISTRATION FORM IS ON PAGE 2)***

AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00 Registration and Coffee

9:00 – 9:15 Welcome

9:15 - 9:30 Mass Association of Agricultural Commissions (MAAC) – Dick Ward, President: the evolving role of AgComs, what MAAC can do for local AgComs, upcoming issues, other events

9:30 – 11:00 Roundtable: how can AgComs stay active & engaged – new members, challenges and problems, work plans, accomplishments of AgComs around the state (Kathy Orlando, *moderator*)

11:00 – 11:50 Morning Panel: Land Access, Farmland Protection, Farm Profitability, and Keep Berkshires Farming - Melissa Adams, *Glynwood & MDAR*; Kathy Ruhf, *Land For Good*; Rick Chandler, *MDAR*; Amy Kacala, *Berkshire Regional Planning Commission*; Kathy Orlando, *Sheffield Land Trust & MAAC*; Barbara Zheutlin, *Berkshire Grown*.

11:50 to 12:40: Farm Business Principles and Opportunities and Farm Transfer Planning – Rick Chandler & Melissa Adams, *MDAR*; Kathy Ruhf, *Land For Good*.

12:00-12:45 Buffet Lunch, Informal Discussion (& report by Lisa Damon, Farm to School Project)

1:00 – 3:00 Afternoon Panel and Roundtable – Nuisance Complaints / Best Management Practices vs “Normal” Practices / Other Current Legal Issues – Frank DiLuna, *Murtha Cullina*; Brad Mitchell, *Mass Farm Bureau Federation*; Bob Ritchie, *former MDAR General Counsel*

3:00 Conference Adjourns

Sponsors: Mass Association of Ag Commissions, MDAR, USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), CISA, Conservation Districts, Mass Farm Bureau, American Farmland Trust, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Franklin Land Trust, Franklin Council of Governments, Keep Berkshires Farming, Berkshire Grown

**REGISTRATION FORM – 2013-14 Western MA AgCom
Gatherings**

() Dec 7 Hancock Shaker Village () Jan 11 Smith Vocational School, Northampton

Name _____ Town _____

Mailing Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

AgCom Member () Yes () No

\$15 Registration Fee Enclosed () Yes

Please make checks payable to “CISA.” We encourage all to register by Dec 2 for Hancock and by Jan 6 for Northampton so we can get an accurate lunch count.

Send to: CISA, One Sugarloaf Street, South Deerfield, MA 01373, Jennifer@buylocalfood.org