



# Cranberry Station Newsletter

December 2003

UMASS CRANBERRY STATION

1 STATE BOG ROAD

P.O. BOX 569

EAST WAREHAM, MA 02538

<http://www.umass.edu/cranberry>

## GRANT MONIES AVAILABLE FOR IMPACT ON WATER RESOURCES

### Water Quality and Water Conservation

The MDAR is offering grant monies through the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) to assist farmers in areas on their farms that impact water quality in their watersheds. The program has been expanded this year to include farms that could benefit from water conservation activities. Cranberry growers might be able to use these funds to help install new flumes or update sprinkler systems.

This program encourages growers to take a voluntary, proactive approach to natural resources stewardship on their farms. Current funding comes from the 2002 Preservation and Improvement of Environment Assets Bond Bill.

**Who is Eligible in the Cranberry Industry?** Growers who have the potential to impact natural resources (water, soil) and New Entry Growers (people who have been growing cranberries 0 to 10 years on existing farmland). If you fall into one of these two groups must also meet these criteria:

- have at least 3 acres in bog production, and
- have proof of a written and updated conservation plan that is approved by MA DAR at the time of the funding award.

**Funding.** Maximum award per farm is \$15,000. This year's allocation is \$175,000. \$25,000 will be set aside for New Entry Growers. If this pool is not committed to new farmers,

the funds will be allocated to the general pool. Well construction, equipment rental and labor costs are not eligible for reimbursement. Pumps for irrigations ARE ELIGIBLE for reimbursement. Project costs incurred PRIOR TO signing a contract are not eligible for reimbursement.

#### Important dates.

Applications are due by JANUARY 16, 2004 (postal stamp). Faxed or electronic applications not accepted. Evaluation of applications is to start January 30, 2004. Contract start date is expected to be around February 15, 2004. Activities specified in the grant must be completed by June 30, 2004.

Contact Susan Phinney, Procurement Team Leader, for more information at (617) 626-1772 or email at [susan.phinney@state.ma.us](mailto:susan.phinney@state.ma.us). Applications can be obtained through Ms. Phinney's office or downloaded from <http://www.mass.gov/DFA> and search for AEEP under "Programs".

**Hilary Sandler, IPM Specialist**

UMass Extension Mailing Signoff

Dr. Carolyn DeMoranville, Director

## Registration Form for Cranberry Management Update

Tuesday, January 13, 2004 7:30 AM - 4 PM

Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor

Please register for the meeting using this form.



COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES OF ATTENDEES \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Attach additional sheets as necessary.

4 Contact hours to be given.

Return complete form with payment by:

**January 6th, 2004**

Include check made out to: **UMASS**

In the amount of: **\$15 per person.**

Return to: **UMass Cranberry Station**

**P.O. Box 569**

**East Wareham, MA 02538**

**TILLING THE SOIL OF OPPORTUNITY**  
**A NxLevel™ Business Course for Agricultural Entrepreneurs**  
**January 8 – March 18, 2004**  
**North Grafton, MA**

MDAR (formerly the MA DFA) is sponsoring an 11-session course to help you develop a business plan to guide decision-making on your farms. An experienced, nationally certified instructor will lead the course, joined periodically by guest speakers.

If you want to create a plan to improve your farm operation or grow your business, test the viability of adding a new enterprise or value-added product, investigate a new marketing approach, or plan for farm succession, this course is for you. You can be a part-time or full-time grower on land that you own or rent. At minimum, you must have access to a specific piece of land and have identified your farm's core enterprises.

The fee for the course is \$300. More than one person per farm will be welcomed at no additional charge if space allows. The class size is limited to 12 agricultural businesses. A limited number of scholarships to further reduce fees are available for farms that could not otherwise attend.

Contact Rick Chandler, MDAR at (413) 577-0459 or email [rhandler@umext.umass.edu](mailto:rhandler@umext.umass.edu) or Scott Davis, Regional Program Manager at (508) 886-6668 or email at [daisyacre@att.net](mailto:daisyacre@att.net). They will need at least 8 businesses to sign up by the end of December or they will have to cancel the course.

**Estate Planning Workshop**

How do changes in Estate Tax laws affect you?

Sponsored by: Plymouth County Farm Family Agents and Plymouth County Farm Bureau

Where: Fireside Grill, Middleboro (at the rotary)

When: Wednesday, January 21, 2004 at 6:30 pm

Free for all Plymouth County farmers. But to assure a space, you must RSVP to:

Blair Agency at 508-866-9150

or

Spencer Agency at 508-747-8181