

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF
RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT
AREA COUNCIL, INC.

*The RIRC&D
Area Council, Inc.*



"HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND SINCE 1973"

September 2022

In the months ahead our focus will change, but be assured that our primary purpose will remain: to keep our readers informed about opportunities and resources which may become available to them, and to keep them informed about news, events, products, opinions, and information relevant to the work of farmers and forest landowners. In short, RI RC&D will continue its mission to help YOU.

Attention, Woodlot Owners!



Please Note:
WOW workshops are for both
Women and Men who want to
become better
Woodland Stewards.

WOMEN OWNING WOODLANDS



Tree Identification Workshop

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

HELD RAIN OR SHINE ! PLEASE DRESS APPROPRIATELY !

Location: [Trott-Perry Land Preserve](#)

60 South Doctors Lane, Hope, RI 02831

To reserve your place please contact

[Paul Dolan](#) Director of RI RC&D

email: rircd2283@gmail.com or phone: 401-500-0399

Please plan to join us!



RI Coverts Workshop



RI Coverts Project is an educational program designed to help forest landowners promote the development of critical wildlife habitats using sound forest management practices that can make wildlife healthier, more diverse and abundant.

The Coverts Workshop is **IN PERSON** only.

Saturday, October 15, 2022

Canonicus Camp and Conference Center

54 Exeter Road, Exeter, RI

8:00 a.m. to Noon — Lunch — 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

MORNING SESSION WILL BE PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION.

AFTERNOON SESSION WILL BE A FIELD TRIP.

— **\$20 Registration Fee covers Materials and Lunch** —

You MUST REGISTER for this workshop prior to the event.

TO REGISTER

Please contact

Paul Dolan, RI RC&D Area Council Director

Phone: 401-500-0399 — Email: rircd2283@gmail.com

People who have previously attended one of our Coverts Workshop are encouraged to attend this workshop for an opportunity to ask questions and to get more in depth information on forest management that will benefit wildlife.

RI RC&D Area Council, 2283 Hartford Ave, Johnston, RI 02919



RIRC&D *An Equal Opportunity Employer*

THE RHODE ISLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS READY TO HELP YOU SAVE!



The cost for renewable energy systems such as photovoltaic solar panels and wind microturbines has come down significantly in recent years. And now, there are many new ways to deploy solar and wind projects on farms and rural small businesses. Today's solar is a whole lot more than some panels on your roof! But, with all these changes, you may not feel you know enough about these systems to decide whether any of them might be right for your farm or business. Fortunately, the Rhode Island Renewable Energy Technical Assistance Program can help.

This program is ready to help you evaluate the potential for solar or other types of renewable energy system on your site *at no cost to you*. And your participation in this program takes only four hours of your time spread over a 10-week period.

However, you MUST APPLY to determine your eligibility!

Only 26 to 30 Eligible farms and businesses will be chosen to participate in this program, and acceptance is on a first-come, first-served basis.

To APPLY

Contact Margaret Lee of [EnSave.com](https://www.ensave.com)

MargaretL@ensave.com

800-732-1399

**Tell Margaret you want to apply for the
Rhode Island Renewable Energy Technical Assistance Program**

This program is being funded by a USDA Rural Development grant with the goal of assisting local farmers and small rural business owners explore their operation's potential to benefit from renewable energy. RIRC&D has partnered with EnSave to offer this program to farms and businesses throughout Rhode Island. If you don't already know EnSave, they are one of the nation's leading providers of agricultural energy systems design and analysis, and they work with farms across the country to reduce energy costs for farmers and rural small businesses and technical feasibility of implementation of those systems for their farm or rural small business.



[RIWP: Your Online Resource for RI Forest Information](#)

To help conserve Rhode Island forests and woodlands for future generations, the Rhode Island Woodland Partnership was established in 2013. The stewardship and long-term protection of Rhode Island's woodlands benefits the local economy, ecological values, and community enjoyment and health. The RIWP strives to increase the impact of forest conservation measures through education and information sharing.



[RI DEM Forest Stewardship Program](#)

Enrollment in the FSP requires a minimum property size of 10 acres and a Forest Stewardship Plan, prepared by a consulting forester. Rhode Island's Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) was developed for woodland owners who want to know more about their woodland and how to manage it. The Rhode Island FSP, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, supports private forest landowners' efforts to manage, enjoy, and care for their land long-term. [READ MORE](#)



[Forest Stewardship: Earning Income from Your Forestland](#)

As a forest landowner, you may wonder whether you could improve your income by putting the land to work. Perhaps you would like a business that provides a constant cash flow. You may value the rural lifestyle and desire a way to make money while working at home. This article From the Penn State Extension covers the basics of business planning, and offers case studies and examples... [READ MORE](#)



[How About Those Woodlots; Can We Make Any Money from Them?](#)

A crisis in the dairy industry has put many landowners' woodlands in economic peril. Many farmers and rural property owners have woodlands as part of their land ownership portfolio, and we oftentimes receive inquiries as to how this land might be developed in order to generate some sources of income. Most landowners own their woodlands for a variety of purposes, or maybe the woods were just there, as part of the property...



Conserving natural resources FOR OUR FUTURE



NACD's Guide to [Energy Conservation Opportunities in Agriculture \(PDF\)](#)

[NACD](#)'s mission is to promote responsible management and conservation of natural resources on all lands by representing locally-led conservation districts and their associations through grassroots advocacy, education and partnerships.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND INCENTIVES 2022

Rodale [Organic Farm Funding](#)

Get help expanding, improving, or starting your organic farm, **PLUS** Resources for New Farmers! If you're a young or beginning farmer looking for help finding and buying land, check out the [National Young Farmers Coalition](#) and our local chapter [Young Farmer Network of Southeastern New England](#)!

American Farmland Trust Grant Programs



and provides direct support to farmers across the country to strengthen farm economies, enhance farm viability, and improve access to land.

Launched in 2020, the [New England Farmer Microgrants Program](#) is a small grants program that provides direct financial support up to \$5,000 to farmers across New England.

Brighter Future Fund

The **2022 Brighter Future Fund** aims to provide **grants of up to \$5,000 directly to 150 farmers**. Thanks to the generosity of a lead partner, 100% of all funds raised will go directly to farmers and **all funds will be directed to farmers who are BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and/or women**.

If you are a farmer or service provider with questions about our **New England Programs**, please reach out to us: NewEngland@farmland.org, NE Jamie Potton, Program Manager.



**FARMLAND
INFORMATION
CENTER**


Need help finding the right information or resource to help save farmland? [Ask an AFT Expert](#) AFT information specialists provide technical assistance free of charge. Whether you are a landowner, beginning farmer, concerned citizen or policymaker, AFT is there to help. Contact AFT toll-free number (800) 370-4879 or submit a question using the [form on AFT web page](#).



American Farmland Trust Announces Nationwide Network of Service Providers to Help Transitioning Land to the Next Generation

The successful transfer of land to the next generation of farmers and ranchers will also require a transfer of knowledge and skills. More than 40 percent of American farmland is owned by seniors aged 65 and older, who are likely to retire in the next decade or so. Given the demographics, American Farmland Trust estimates that 371 million acres, or one-third of U.S. farmland, will likely transition to new ownership in the next 15 years



RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS—



Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization

Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands

Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization (RIFCO) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and wise use of Rhode Island's woodland resources.



To receive the [RIFCO](#) monthly e-newsletter

"[The Forest Conservationist](#)," visit our [Contact](#) page and submit a request online.

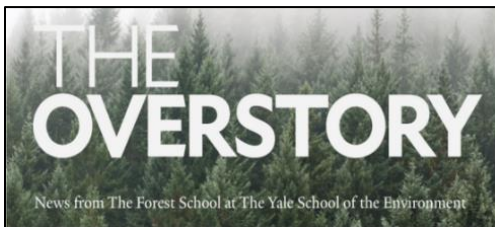
Or [Join RIFCO](#) and automatically receive a subscription as a [RIFCO](#) member.

New England New York Forestry Initiative



EQIP Forestry Initiative Information

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Applicants with forestland or in fields with 25 percent more woody cover (aerial canopy cover) of tree species and who wish to install practices that will protect or enhance fish and wildlife habitat should apply to this initiative.



[The Overstory](#) is the tri-annual publication of forest-centric news produced by [The Forest School](#) at the [Yale School of the Environment](#). "We're excited to share with you the many ways our community is advancing the field of forestry in all its many forms. This newsletter highlights some of the research, field work, activities, and initiatives our students, faculty, alums, and centers & programs have been involved in over the last months."

American Forest Foundation Newsletter

Sign up and receive updates from the **AFF** and/or its signature programs: the [American Tree Farm System](#) (ATFS) and [My Land Plan](#)

[Purdue University Extension](#) provides many [free publications](#) on **Stewardship for Landowners**.

Go to this link [FREE downloadable publications](#) and type "woodland" in the search box to get a list of all the free publications.

Perennial Agriculture

How a Perennial Grains Could Combat Climate Change



Scientists in Minnesota and Kansas and Canada are developing a grain called Kernza, a wheat grass, which, unlike most of our food crops, is a perennial plant with a whole host of environmental benefits. While it's still far from hitting the market widely, food producers big and small are starting to get on board. Megan Thompson reports as part of our "Future of Food" series, supported by the Pulitzer Center.



[Patagonia Provisions Kernza Beer Story 2020](#)

Patagonia Brewery makes a craft beer called Long Root®, using a new grain called Kernza®. Developed by Wes Jackson and his team at The Land Institute in Salina, Kansas, this relative of wheat does a lot more than make good beer. Watch our film to see a revolutionary new way to farm, and learn how Kernza keeps precious, disappearing topsoil in place, pulls down carbon and builds soil health. That's something to toast.



[Perennial Crops: New Hardware for Agriculture](#)

Perennial grains, legumes and oilseed varieties represent a paradigm shift in modern agriculture and hold great potential for truly sustainable production systems. In addition to identifying and developing perennial food crops, The Land Institute also conducts ecological intensification research in order to put those crop plants into diverse mixtures called polycultures that mimic the benefits found in native and natural ecosystems.

Ancient Sustainable Land Management Practices Rediscovered



[Switzerland's Gravity-Defying Solution.](#)

Tacked on to a sheer rock face, a series of weathered wooden channels led our hiking group across vertical cliffs at a dizzying 1,200m. It was only thanks to the mounted guardrails and safety nets that we could walk the 6km-long trail – known as [Torrent Neuf](#) – at all. The 15th-Century Rhône Valley farmers and vintners who dared to build these suspended irrigation channels had nothing more than a shovel, pickaxe and worn ropes. It was a perilous job that cost lives– but spared one corner of Switzerland from near drought. [READ MORE](#)



[Hawaii's Ancient Island Management System](#)

The ahupua'a system of land development, in practice for more than 1,000 years, has the potential to show the world a new path to sustainability. *"The ahupua'a system was very holistic, thinking about the ecology of the whole watershed and the agricultural land and fisheries as one place,"* said Lei Wann, director of Limahuli Garden & Preserve, who is descended from one of the original families of Hā'ena. *"This is the way we managed our resources for hundreds of years, and now we're coming around to see how well they understood and cared for their environment...."* [READ MORE](#)



[Spain's Ingenious Water Maze](#)

Invented by the region's Moorish rulers 1,200 years ago, Valencia's irrigation system is now a model for sustainable farming. Alongside the beans are spongy heads of broccoli, waxy red peppers, fat garlic bulbs and spring onions the size of truncheons. They're all part of an incredible bounty of produce that is grown in La Huerta each year, despite the fact that its fields enclose Spain's third-largest city. The secret is an ingenious maze of channels, ditches, weirs and floodgates invented by the region's Moorish rulers 1,200 years ago.... [READ MORE](#)



[The Maya's Ingenious Secret to Survival](#) With no rivers or lakes nearby, the Maya had to create a network of huge reservoirs at Tikal to collect and store enough rainwater during the region's wet season to last its sizable population– estimates range from 40,000 to as many as 240,000 people at the city's 8th Century peak– through the four-to six-month dry season. These reservoirs facilitated more than 1,000 years of Mayan presence at Tikal. Last year, archaeologists using modern scientific techniques revealed a new depth to the Maya's hydrological feats. Sediment cores taken from Tikal's reservoirs show that the Maya created the oldest known water filtration system in the western hemisphere.

[READ MORE](#)

Tired of the End of the World Doom and Gloom?



**Bill Nye,
the Science Guy,
is here to help!**

Does it seem that we are surrounded by impending catastrophes?
Super dust storms, mega volcanos, super storms, giant comets—
how about a world-wide electrical blackout from a CME hitting the earth?

**Bill Nye is here with a new series that can point us towards
ways we can SAVE the world and ourselves— *with science!***

Watch [THE END IS NYE Trailer](#) (2022) for Bill Nye's Series and then, and
then watch the series on [SYFY](#) or your favorite streaming source.



Researchers find a food crisis solution — and it's in your martini glass

A peer-reviewed study published Thursday in the journal *Plant and Cell Physiology* suggests that ethanol -- or alcohol -- can help plants survive in times of drought, even for as long as two weeks without water. When plants are deprived of water, they naturally produce ethanol. Although the reasons for its production are unknown, it led researchers from the RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science in Japan to theorize that giving alcohol to plants may protect them from dying in a drought. [READ MORE](#)



What does recycling wind turbine blades have to do with Gummy Bears?

The answer came this week from the [American Chemical Society's](#) fall conference in Chicago. Blades of wind turbines have a shorter lifespan than the rotors, generators, and other parts. This year in the US, 8,000 blades will need replacement, and only a few landfills can accept them. But new blades made with a new material that combines glass fibers with both synthetic polymers and polymers derived from plant materials can be recycled into all sorts of things: kitchen countertops, automobile taillights, even food-grade potassium lactate, an ingredient in some candies— [gummy bears](#), for instance...

Stressed out? Need some help resolving **Agricultural Issues?**



Farm Ranch Stress Assistance Network RI
FRSAN RI
Help Is On the Way!

RI DEM- Division of Agriculture and the Center for Mediation and Collaboration are partnering to launch a mental health and wellness program for farmers, commercial fishers, and workers in forestry-related industries.

Workers in the farm, fisheries, and forestry (FFF) communities work in isolating, dangerous, and economically uncertain occupations where depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts are not uncommon.

We are bringing together stakeholders across the state to address the root causes of stress, and provide foundational supports to our farm, fishery and forestry communities.

What Support Could Look Like

- Financial Planning
- Succession Planning
- Tax Assistance
- Employee Training and Retention Programs
- Land Access
- Child Care
- Substance Use Disorder Support
- Counseling

Steering Committee Members

RI-DEM Division of Agriculture, Center for Mediation and Collaboration RI, Commerce RI, Commercial Fisheries Center of RI, Farm Fresh RI, East Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Hope & Main, Northeast Organic Farmers Association-RI, RI Conservation Districts, RI Farm Bureau, RI Food Policy Council, RI Land Trust Council, RI Nursery and Landscape Association, Southside Community Land Trust, Tomaquag Museum, URI Cooperative Extension, Young Farmer Network of Southeastern New England

Need Help Now?

401.414.LINK(5465) BH Link
800-273-8255 National Suicide Prevention Hotline
1-800-327-6243 Farm Aid Hotline

For information/support please reach contact Laurel Witri laurel@cmcri.org.

For information/support **1-800-327-6243** or email Laurel Witri laurel@cmcri.org

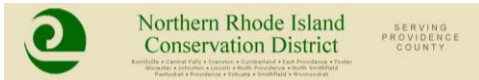


Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts

Helping Rhode Island Conservation Districts Help Rhode Island

conserving
natural resources
for our future

2283 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919
401-934-0840



The [Northern Rhode Island Conservation District \(NRICD\)](#) serves Providence County. The [Southern RI Conservation District \(SRICD\)](#) serves Kent and Washington Counties, and the [Eastern RI Conservation District \(ERICD\)](#) serves Newport and Bristol Counties.

The Newsletter of RIRC&D, The Rhode Island Resource & Development Area Council, Inc.

Disclaimer: Please Note

This newsletter's purpose is threefold. Our primary purpose is to keep our readers informed about opportunities and resources which may be available to our readership. Our second purpose is to keep our readership informed about news, events, products, opinions, and information which may directly affect our readership, either adversely or beneficially. Our third purpose is to present our readers with information that they may find enlightening or entertaining.

The opinions and political positions represented in the newsletter do not reflect the opinions or political positions of either the Rhode Island Resource and Development Area Council, Inc., or the Rhode Island Farm Energy Program; nor does either RIRC&D or RIFEP advocate or endorse any of the opinions, positions, or products mentioned in the newsletter *except where specifically stated*.

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