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TOWN CLERK

Annual Meeting and Educational Sessions

February 27, 2016

Holiday Inn 265 Lakeside Ave, Marlborough, MA 01752

9:00-9:45am **Registration check in** (complimentary coffee)

Advanced registration can be made on-line (credit card) at massagcom.org for $35 per person or by submitting the attached form and payment with a mailing date prior to 2/19/16.

On-site walk in registration or registrations made after 2/19/16 are $40 per person.

Ticket price includes a bountiful hot Italian style buffet with options for food allergies and vegetarians. Your advanced registration can help us in accommodating your needs.

Each MAAC member Ag Com has one vote per Ag Com. Voting Ag Com members please read pending Bylaw changes and other material prior to the MAAC business meeting at noon.

9:45-11:45am **Session A - Existing MA Animal Regulations, Processes and Oversight, verses Pending Bills and Ballot Questions**

Animal Inspector George Moore (Groton Ag Com), Lisa Colby of Colby Farms Newbury MA (a pork producer, former member of the National Pork Board) and Frank DiLuna of Murtha Cullina Law.

A panel discussion of existing animal regulations and inspection process with respect to MDAR, HB 713 "An Act to Promote the Care and wellbeing of livestock" and the possible outcome with the HSUS Supported Ballot Question. Also, an update on the Avian Influenza

Session B - Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and Commonwealth Quality Program (CQP) for MA Farmers

Michael Botelho, Commonwealth Quality Program Coordinator, Agricultural Markets, MDAR

There are some big changes to our food system –FSMA gives the FDA broad new powers to prevent food safety problems and has a regulatory component to it. The Commonwealth Quality Program maybe an option to some of the FSMA issues. Michael Botelho, to present the latest information on FSMA and CQP for both farmers and the understanding of Ag Coms.

12-1:30pm **Buffet Lunch, Legislative Overview of Agricultural Issues, MAAC Annual Meeting**

Note: Each MAAC member Ag Com has one vote per Ag Com. Please help us to expedite the Annual Meeting process by reading your members package prior to business session and seeking out an MAAC Board member if you need assistance.

1:45-3:45pm **Session C - Pesticide Session for Beginning to Experienced Farmers with BMP's for Neonicotinoids and a Discussion on Worker Safety Protocols for - 2 Pesticide credits**

Taryn LaScola, Pesticide Inspector, Crop & Pest Services, MDAR

Chief Pesticide Inspector Taryn LaScola to present this session for those wanting to learn about the Pesticide Program, exemptions, pre-emption, documentation and with updates in Neonicotinoid practices. Also, worker safety measures for both conventional and organic pesticides.

Session D - What are GMO's?

Kimberly O'Brien, Director of Government Affairs, Monsanto and Moderator Frank Di Luna of Murtha Cullina Law

With growing populations, increasing incomes and new health recommendations, the demand for a wider variety of high-quality vegetables will continue to increase, causing an immediate need to harvest more quality, nutritious food from each unit of land, water and energy. Kimberly O'Brien will present the process of genetic modification, updates in this technology, testing procedures, product safety and innovations.

Special Thanks to our Supporters and Sponsors

A&B Insurance – Richard Bourgault, www.abinsgroup.com

MDAR - www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/

Monsanto – Kimberly O'Brien, www.monsanto.com

Murtha Cullina Law – Frank DiLuna, www.murthalaw.com/our_people/francis-di-luna

Northeast Nursery – www.northeastnursery.com