

URI Cooperative Extension Small Acreage Livestock Education Program

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Steering Committee

URI College of the Environment and Life Sciences: website www.uri.edu/cels

Cooperative Extension URI Home*A*Syst Program – One of four programs with the URI CE Water Quality Program providing research-based education and outreach on residential pollution prevention topics including animal waste management, private well protection, sustainable landscaping, woodscaping and household hazardous products. Website www.uri.edu/ce/wq/has

Cooperative Extension RI 4-H Program – Provides rural youth/family programs and activities that incorporate research-based education and technology. In Rhode Island, over 500 members and 100 adult volunteers participate with livestock and horse clubs. Website www.uri.edu/coopext/4H

URI Department of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science – Provides research and education on animal and veterinary science, health and management. URI Peckham Farm is a 14 acre livestock farm, which serves as a demonstration site and teaching tool. Website www.uri.edu/cels/favs

URI Cooperative Extension Education Center, Master Composter Program – A five week train-the-trainer education and outreach program sponsored by the RI Resource Recovery Corp. The program trains interested residents about home recycling, composting practices, and source reduction to reduce solid waste. The training program is conducted three times each year and trained volunteers are expected to volunteer 30 hours of time to promote and educate fellow residents about home recycling and composting. Website www.uri.edu/ce/ceec

URI Cooperative Extension Sustainable Ag. Specialist – Conducts field visits with RI farmers and provides research-based education and technical assistance with sustainable crop and other agricultural management and production issues.

URI College of Arts and Sciences:

Department of Communication Studies – Provides education and expertise in developing and delivering effective presentations and tailoring educational materials, outreach techniques and message content for target audiences. Website <http://www.uri.edu/artsci/com/swift>

RI Department of Environmental Management, Division of Agriculture: RI's State Agricultural Agency

The responsibilities of the RI Division of Agriculture include a broad range of agriculture-related functions and others traditionally associated with agricultural agencies nationally, including enforcement of federal and state laws. RI Division of Agriculture has six primary program areas - Animal Health Unit, Mosquito Abatement Coordination Unit, Pesticide Unit, Agriculture Marketing and Promotion Unit, Farmland Ecology Unit, and Plant Industry Unit.

Website www.dem.ri.gov/topics/agricult.htm

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):

The NRCS is a federal agency that provides conservation planning and technical assistance to individuals, groups and units of government. Through this assistance, clients develop and implement conservation plans to protect, conserve and enhance their natural resources. A variety of conservation programs also provide cost-share assistance to clients. Website www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA NRCS, RI Resource and Conservation Development Area (RI RC&D):

The purpose of the RI RC&D Program is to encourage and improve the capability of volunteer, locally elected, and civic leaders to plan and carry out projects for resource conservation and community development. The RC&D Program helps people care for natural resources and improve the quality of life in their communities. It is directed by a local Council consisting of volunteers representing public and private sector sponsors and other local organizations. Website www.rircd.org

Rhode Island Conservation Districts:

Eastern RI Conservation District (Newport and Bristol Counties)

Northern RI Conservation District (Providence County), website www.nricd.org

Southern RI Conservation District (Kent and Washington Counties), website www.sricd.org

Conservation District directors work hand-in-hand with the USDA NRCS to deliver technical assistance to the people of Rhode Island. Each district is governed by a board of directors--locally elected and appointed citizens who volunteer their time and leadership to the conservation effort. Conservation Districts provide representation from the local community and the leadership to set priorities for conservation activities and develop new programs.

RI Rural Development Council:

The RI Rural Development Council is a certified State Council and member affiliate of the USDA National Rural Development Partnership. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in rural Rhode Island areas. It facilitates the sourcing for a full range of USDA programs and linkages to statewide partnership program offerings for rural area businesses, individuals and municipalities. Its focus is on economic development, affordable housing, infrastructure improvements and value-added agriculture. Website www.ruralri.org

The Santana Center:

The Santana Center is a non-profit organization created to promote, encourage and foster healthy interactions between horses and humans through education, training and outreach activities. Website www.thesantanacenter.org

The Watson Farm:

The Watson Farm is an historic farm owned by Historic New England and located in Jamestown, RI. Don and Heather Minto manage the farm and raise pasture-fed livestock including cattle and sheep. Don and Heather are reviving a heritage breed, Red Devon cattle, which perform well on a pasture-based management system and allow for the production of a value-added product – grass-fed beef. Don and Heather give educational tours and pasture walks. Don is also the president of the RI Raised Meats Cooperative. Website www.historichomeowner.org/visit/homes/watson.htm