

RI Ag Facts

(according to 2012 Census of Agriculture and 2012 Economic Impact Study of Rhode Island Plant-Based Industries and Agriculture)

Rhode Island Agriculture is:

- 1,243 farms on 69,589 acres
- 31% beginning farmers
- 25% women as principal operators
- Average age of farmers is 56.7
- An industry that provides an annual economic impact of over \$268 million dollars



2016 Membership

- College of Environmental and Life Sciences (URI)
- Eastern RI Conservation District
- Farm Credit East
- Little Rhody Poultry Fanciers
- New England Farm and Food Fund
- Northeast Organic Farming Association
- Poultry Producers Association
- Providence County Pomona Grange
- RI Agriculture Educators
- RI Ayrshire Club
- RI Beekeepers Association
- RI Christmas Tree Growers
- RI Dahlia Society
- RI Dairy Farm Co-op — Rhody Fresh
- RI Dairy Goat Association
- RI DEM — Department of Agriculture
- RI Envirothon
- RI Farm Bureau
- RI Forest Conservators Organization
- RI 4-H Foundation
- RI Fruit Growers Association
- RI FFA Alumni
- RI FFA Association
- RI Maple Syrup Producers Association
- RI Nursery and Landscape Association
- RI Raised Livestock Association
- RI Resource Conservation & Development Council
- RI Sheep Cooperative
- RI State Grange
- Southern RI Conservation District
- South Kingstown Farmers Market
- South Side Community Land Trust
- South County Growers Association
- Washington County Pomona Grange



Rhode Island Agricultural Council

Promoting Rhode Island Agriculture since 1924

OBJECTIVES

- To develop farming, forestry and allied interests
- To improve rural life and rural home; and
- To coordinate agriculture, trade and industry.

The RI Agricultural Council remains solidly committed to the agricultural community of Rhode Island.

The RIAC represents over 30 members, ranging from RINLA to FFA to state and local granges.

With a recent election of new officers, the Rhode Island Agricultural Council has reaffirmed its intention to support and institute new farm viability initiatives in the twenty-first century.

More than ever, the RIAC is encouraged to see a spirited momentum within the Rhode Island agricultural community and new growth in its membership.



RI AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL

c/o 26 Taber Street
West Kingston, RI 02892-1425
www.riagcouncil.org

RI Agricultural Council is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

RI Agricultural Council is open to all Rhode Island agricultural and nature-based organizations and welcomes membership. Contact us.

Rhode Island Agricultural Council

The Rhode Island Agricultural Council (RIAC) was formed in 1924, originally as the RI Agricultural Conference (the name was changed in 1958), to discuss the needs of agriculture in Rhode Island.

Our Mission

- Stimulate development of an interest in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and allied interests and;
- Create an interest in rural life and the improvement of the rural community in Rhode Island;
- Effect a close relationship between representatives of agriculture with its allied interests and with commerce and industry;
- Develop and carry out a complete program for efficient production and economical distribution of farm products in Rhode Island, and;
- Coordinate all agencies interested in the welfare of agriculture in Rhode Island into one association from which unified efforts towards education, legislation and representation of agricultural interests of the state may emanate.

Specialty Crop Initiative

The RIAC has been awarded a Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) to enhance the visibility and viability of specialty crops in the marketplace. The USDA defines “specialty crops” as: *“fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.”*

Any plants grown “for food, for medicinal purposes, and for aesthetic gratification” fall under this category. Also included in this definition are “wild” crops that have been brought under management or cultivation. Maple sugar/syrup, cranberries, blueberries, and mushrooms are examples.

Excluded from this definition are commodity crops, field crops, grains, livestock feed, bio-fuels, and federally-controlled substances.



RIAC

Activities

- RIAC appoints members to the Agricultural Advisory Committee, which meets periodically with the DEM in an advisory capacity.
- RIAC considers and awards grants to member organizations for the promotion of agriculture in RI.
- RIAC meets three times a year at various locations to discuss member activities and agricultural issues.
- RIAC executive committee meets separately several times per year and provides direction for the council.
- RIAC advocates for RI agriculture through its presence at local and regional events.