

## Wednesday, January 13, 2016

### *Greater Portland Council of Governments/Community Energy Partners Meeting Androscoggin Room*

#### **10:00am-11:00am**

REAP Grants and Loans for Farmers and Rural Small Businesses - Opportunities for Funding Renewable Energy on Your Farm: 2016 is the year that federal incentives for renewable energy will be reduced or expire (depending on the type). It's unlikely that new incentives will pass. If there ever was "a year" to invest in your own power, 2016 is the one. USDA recognizes the unique needs and roles that farmers have in using renewable energies on the farm, and offers grants up to 25% of total project costs. Farmers and rural small businesses are offered technical assistance (free) towards completing applications, available anytime (not just at the Ag Trades Show). Speaker: Sue Jones, President, Community Energy Partners.

#### **11:00am-noon**

Biodiesel for Agriculture, What It Is and How To Use It: Curious about using biodiesel in your tractors, equipment, and trucks? This is the talk for you! Biodiesel is a renewable fuel that is a drop-in replacement for petroleum diesel or heating oil. It runs cleaner and can be made from recycled materials. We will go over biodiesel basics: what it is (and isn't), how it is made, and how to use it effectively. Speaker: Alex Pine, Director of Outreach and Technology, Maine Standard Biofuels.

#### **1:00pm-2:00pm**

Solar Farms in Maine - Leased and Owned by Farmers: Do you have an extra ½ acre of open and

sunny land that you wouldn't mind leasing? Do you want to use solar power but don't have a sunny roof? By early 2016, Maine will have over 6 new solar farms generating clean, renewable solar power for its owners. Join us in learning about how to participate in Maine's next solar farm. Speaker: Sue Jones, President, Community Energy Partners and ReVision Energy.

#### **2:00pm-3:00pm**

Organic, Non-GMO, Free-Range, Non-Toxic, 100% Natural & Renewable, Maine Made... HEAT: We buy local, eat local and shop local for all the right reasons. Did you know you can HEAT local as well? The growing use of wood pellets is creating new jobs in the regional economies of rural Maine while providing renewable, sustainable thermal energy to businesses and home owners. The price of fossil fuels and electricity is unpredictable and climate change threatens our way of life. Modern wood-pellet heating is a responsible energy option that aligns with the goals and purpose of your farm, supports local jobs and can eliminate the use of toxic fossil fuels on your farm. Speaker: Ryan Hamilton, Co-Founder, Interphase Energy.

### *MDACF Meeting, ReVision Energy Meeting & Maine Harness Racing Promotion Board Meeting Aroostook Room*

#### **9:00am-9:30am**

Food Export 101: Jeff has led several international focused trade missions within the food industry. He currently serves on the program committee and state rating committee with Food Export

U.S.A. and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. He will discuss services available for Maine producers through the Maine International Trade Center. Speaker: Jeff Bennett, Senior Trade Specialist, Maine International Trade Center.

#### **9:30am-10:30am**

Food Export 101: Representing Food Export, Kristen will discuss how export experts in international markets facilitate the connection between producers of U.S. food and agricultural products and international buyers and more. Speaker: Kristen Gowing, Food Export Liaison, Food Export - Northeast.

#### **1:00pm-2:00pm**

ReVision Energy - From the Ground Up- Building Community Solar Farms: Informational session for potential community solar farm hosts and members. Speaker: James Manzer, Solar Design Specialist.

#### **5:30pm-7pm**

Maine Harness Racing Promotion Board Meeting.

### *Maine State Florist' and Growers Association Greenhouse Growers' Program Cumberland Room*

#### **9:00am-9:30am**

Registration:  
Sign in, and relax with a cup of coffee or tea.

#### **9:30am-10:00am**

Introductions and Announcements.

#### **10:00am-11:00am**

Matching Fertilizers to Your Crops' Needs: No single fertilizer can meet the needs of all your crops, but how many products should you incorporate into your production? Learn how to decide the balance among crop quality, cost and good management. Speaker: Dr. Rosa Raudales, Greenhouse Extension Specialist, University of Connecticut.

#### **11:00am-noon**

Maintaining High Plant Quality in Retail: The retail setting is often dramatically different from the production setting. Learn how to manage your crops in the sales area without compromising quality. Speaker: Dr. Rosa Raudales, Greenhouse Extension Specialist, University of Connecticut.

#### **noon-1:00pm**

Lunch (on your own)

#### **1:00pm-2:00pm**

\*IPM: New Tools and Proven Strategies. Speaker: Dr. Kathy Murray, IPM Program Coordinator, Maine Dept of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. \*This session has been approved for one pesticide recertification credit.

#### **2:00pm-2:30pm**

Share Your Great Ideas: Every grower has good information to share. What's your favorite thing about growing crops in the greenhouse? What's the job you hate the most? Join Deb for a lively and informative exchange of ideas. Speaker: Deb Sprague, Owner, Four Duck Pond Greenhouse, Bowdoin Center ME.

#### **2:30pm-2:45pm**

Break



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