



# Maine Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Association

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## **A Note from the President**

Dear MVSFGA member,

For many of us the season is over. (Well, there are still those piles that accumulate over the summer and need to be picked up.) Despite all of the challenges we faced this year, I hope you had a good season.

It's time now to start prepping for next season. So, throw out all those old seed catalogues, go find the new ones that are in the pile on your desk, figure out which winter meetings you want to attend and hopefully get caught up on your sleep.

I want to invite you to our annual meeting at the Augusta Ag Trades show on January 11<sup>th</sup>. We have some good speakers lined up for you. They include the usual updates from Dave and Mark, some pesticide credits, a brief presentation from several seed reps and a visit to Ford and Tom Stevenson's farm.

### **TWO ITEMS of NOTE:**

One item of business to be discussed will be a proposed dues increase that will, if passed, become effective in January of 2018. Some of this increase will be targeted towards Dave and Mark's work at Highmore. (If you cannot make the meeting and want to chime in on the conversation, feel free to email me.)

Second: Walter Goss has informed the directors that he wishes to step down from writing our newsletter. This is an important job that helps all of our members stay informed about what's going on. Walt has done this for many years. Thanks Walt, for your quiet, behind the scenes service to MVSFGA. We wish you well in your journalistic retirement.

Throw another stick of wood on the fire, stay warm and enjoy the holidays. We hope to see you January 11, 2017.

Sincerely,

**Bill Bamford**

President, MVSFGA

**Maine Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers Association Annual Meeting  
Wednesday, January 11, 2017**

Maine Agricultural Trades Show, Fort Western Room, Augusta Civic Center

**AGENDA**

- 8:00 a.m. Agriculture Marketing Loan Fund Breakfast
- 9:15 a.m. MVSFGA - Welcome and Announcements  
Bill Bamford, President MVSFGA
- 9:30 a.m. Highmoor Farm Trials: Pumpkins, Sweet Corn, High Tunnel Tomatoes, and More  
Mark Hutton, David Handley, University of Maine Cooperative Extension
- 10:30 a.m. It's Here! The Food Safety Modernization Act  
Linda Titus, AgMatters
- 11:00 a.m. Whole Farm Revenue Protection  
Erin Roche, University of Maine Cooperative Extension
- 11:15 a.m. Who's Buying Local Produce?  
Panel: Martha Putnum, Leslie Runser, Nancy Perry, Stew Smith
- 12:00 p.m. MVSFGA Business Meeting  
Bill Bamford, President, Presiding
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch on your own
- 1:30 p.m. Are You Meeting the Irrigation Needs of Your Crop?  
John Nye, Trickl-Eez Irrigation
- 2:15 p.m. New Vegetable Varieties, Focus on Disease Resistance  
Tom Lewandowski, Harris Seeds  
Lauchlin Titus, Seedway  
Luke Donahue, Johnny's Selected Seeds
- 3:15 p.m. Cover Crops for Weed and Nutrient Management  
Jason Lilley, University of Maine Cooperative Extension
- 3:45 p.m. A Visit to Stevenson's Farm  
Ford and Tom Stevenson, Wayne, Maine
- 4:15 p.m. Adjourn MVSFGA

One pesticide applicator credit will be offered for attending the afternoon program.  
There will be a \$10.00 registration fee for non-members to attend the meeting.

## MVSFGA Proposed Budget 2017

Highmoor Farm (Dave & Mark)	\$2500	increase by \$500
Guides	\$1500	same (Small Fruit in 2017)
Newsletter	\$750	(E-mail saves)
Dues (AGCOM & MFB)	\$200	
Ag. Day at Legislature	\$50	same (didn't go in 2016)
Twilight meetings	\$150	
Trades Show	\$600	same includes the breakfast
Legislative Tour (AGCOM)	\$250	combine with website
Web-site	\$250	for marketing
Miscellaneous	\$100	whatever comes up (awards)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6350</b>	<b>up from 5850</b>

### Information from 2016

Members	136
Total income 2016	\$5460.00 (+donations 585.00)
Expenses 2016	\$5000.00
Checking 11/16	\$1316.53
Savings 11/16	\$3740.07
2 CD's	\$3000.00+ in each

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## New Worker Protection Standards In Affect January 1, 2017

Are you ready for the new worker protection standards that are in affect for this year? Enclosed is a quick reference put out by the USEPA for you to see the changes in the new standard. The biggest changes is the new respiratory standards for Pesticide Handlers. They must now have medical surveillance before they can wear a respirator and be fit tested the same as all industries in the United States. This fit testing and medical testing can be done by a number of companies such as Concentra, or any of the hospitals around the state provide these services. The cost should be \$100 to \$300 per individual.

Another change affecting many farmers is the training requirements for all agricultural workers and handlers. The requirement for training every five years has been replaced with training every year with no grace period. They must be trained before they start work. Attached is a printout from the USEPA that highlights the changes. For a free copy of the USEPA's handbook [How to comply With the Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Workers](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-10/documents/htcmanual-oct16.pdf) go to

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-10/documents/htcmanual-oct16.pdf>.

A Google search for Worker Protection Standard will also bring up a great deal more information.

## MVSFGA

MVSFGA is an association of vegetable and small fruit growers dedicated to the promotion and advocacy of the vegetable and small fruit industry in Maine.

MVSFGA supports research education, and promotion and political advocacy. The association has provided important testimony at legislative hearings on such issues as pesticide regulation, labor, IPM, farmland preservation and technology transfer.

MVSFGA members receive the annual New England Vegetable Production Guide, and the New England Small Fruit Production Guide. Members also receive the association newsletter. To become a member of the MVSFGA please write to; William Jordan Jr. Treasurer, 21 Wells Road, Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107, email: [whj30@aol.com](mailto:whj30@aol.com)

Letters, comments, articles, calendars of events listings, and advertisements related to vegetable and small fruit production are welcome. Please send comments and information for the newsletter to: Walter Goss, 311 Elm Street, Mechanic Falls, Maine 04256, email: [gossfarm@roadrunner.com](mailto:gossfarm@roadrunner.com).

MVSFGA Directors are: Bill Bamford (president), Lauchlin Titus (vice-president), William Jordan (Treasurer), Ford Stevenson (secretary), Rick Belanger, Keith Harris, Jeff Spear, Jason Osborne, Tom Stevenson, and Lisa Turner