



Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

Helping People Help the Land Since 1973

Newsletter of January 2023

Happy 2023!

Wishing you and yours a peaceful and prosperous new year!

~ Your Friends at RIRC&D

Zoom Webinar

"Forest Pests & Diseases"

Tuesday 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY 17

Alana Russell, [URI Department of Plant Sciences and Entomology](#)

Cynthia Kwolek, RI DEM [Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey](#)



WOMEN OWNING WOODLANDS



Zoom Webinar Registration

Contact Paul Dolan at 401-500-0399 or email rircd2283@gmail.com

An RIRC&D presentation in collaboration with USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service





Rhode Island

Women in Agriculture Conference

March 7, 2023

Crowne Plaza Hotel
801 Greenwich Ave
Warwick, RI 02886

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Vendor set up 7:30 a.m.

Women in Agriculture

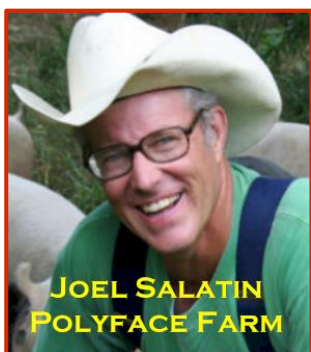


Women have been a critical part of farm and ranch operations across the country — and around the globe — for centuries. But now, as women in agriculture, we have a unique opportunity to be the change we want to see in our industry. We must build on the incredible legacy of stewardship, innovation, and productivity and help one another succeed now and moving into the future.

Whether it is a farm business that feeds the world, land that you leave better than you found it, or a relationship that empowers and supports your community, industry, and neighbors — there are many ways to build and grow your contribution to agriculture. The time is now for each of us to step up to the plate and take on these challenges.

2023 Rhode Island Women in Agriculture Conference

Keynote Speaker: Joel Salatin of Polyface Farm, Virginia



Please join us on
Tuesday, March 7, 2023!

SAVE \$10 if you register and [BUY YOUR TICKET](#)
by January 15, 2023!

Use code [EarlyBirdSave10](#) at check out.

Questions, Please Contact Kim Coulter

Phone: 401-932-6459

Email: olvr1855dsl@aol.com



If you are a Vendor, please call ASAP to reserve your space for this important event.



[Women We Love: 25 Influential Women in Food and Agriculture](#)

On average, women represent 43 percent of the world's agricultural labor force and 47 percent of the global fisheries labor force, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

These hard-working women produce more than half of the world's food, despite being less than half of the labor force. Additionally, women account for 60 to 80 percent of food production in developing countries. A crop yield gap of about 20-30 percent between male and female farmers is largely due to differential access to resources and inputs. In fact, if the world's women farmers had the same access to resources as men, 150 million people could be lifted out of poverty,

While there are countless more, here are 25 of the influential women in food and agriculture who are reshaping food systems around the world.

..



[Understanding food waste, hunger, and climate change with John Mandyck](#)

More than 1 billion metric tons of food is lost or wasted, never making it from the farm to our fork. To put that into perspective, imagine 1.3 billion healthy elephants standing on top of each other in one pile. That is what we are losing from the food supply chain each year.

Meanwhile, more than 800 million people are chronically hungry— a population equivalent to the United States (U.S.) and the European Union combined. Food waste also has a devastating impact on the environment, from its greenhouse gas emissions to the water wasted to grow the food we never eat. The embodied carbon dioxide emissions alone represent 3.3 billion metric tons...if food waste were a country, it would be the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases, behind China and the U.S.



[Carbon-Negative Construction](#)

A new generation of building materials aims to actively pull carbon out of the air by **Lucy Wang**

Imagine architects using engineered bacteria to grow buildings that self-repair and adapt to the environment. It is a plot line out of science fiction that is steadily making its way into labs around the world. Chief among them is the Living Materials Laboratory at the University of Colorado in Boulder, where an interdisciplinary team has created a type of living biocement that reproduces by capturing carbon dioxide. [READ MORE](#)

Scroll down [the Carbon Negative page](#) for more on:

[Hempcrete](#) — [Bending Concrete to Our Will](#) —

[Fungus Panels that Insulate and Fireproof Buildings](#) — [Carbon-Negative Thermoplastics](#)



Anthropocene

[A drastic revolution in the way we eat and farm could limit habitat lost to agriculture to a mere 1%](#)

Alternatively, researchers found, if we don't change our food systems, habitat losses will affect tens of thousands of species by 2050... But despite the dire outlook, the study says we could do an almost complete U-turn on this fateful scenario—if *we revolutionize the way we eat and farm*.... [READ MORE](#)

[Biodiversity Matters](#)

It turns out that both birds and bees can play important parts in ensuring a bountiful coffee harvest. And, like superheroes that team up, their combined power is greater than either one alone. In other words, biodiversity can affect your latte.

According to results [published 4-4-22](#) in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the combination of birds and bees were, in several ways more beneficial than each type of organism on its own....“These positive interactions mean ecosystem services are more valuable together than separately,” said Taylor Ricketts, an ecologist at the University of Vermont's Gund Institute for Environment... [READ MORE](#)



[Fleather: The Vegan Leather Made from India's Waste Flowers...](#)

19 December 2022 by Sushmita Pathak

An Indian start-up has found an unusual use for the tonnes of flowers which clog the Ganges... Inside a dusty compound in the northern Indian city of Kanpur lies a sterilized lab with an incubator full of flasks. Each of these flasks contains a small mound of what looks like a sourdough starter... It's new material that could sustainably replace leather— and help make India's rivers a bit cleaner... [READ MORE](#)



Future Planet

[Czech Timber Rafting Tradition Makes Prestigious UNESCO List](#)

Timber rafting, or vorašství, has had a long tradition in the Czech lands, ranking among the most highly respected and recognized, but also dangerous professions...the first historical mention of timber rafting on the Vltava River dates back to medieval times. In those days, the biggest source of timber, needed for the construction of houses, was in South and Southwest Bohemia, and the fastest way to deliver the logs where they were needed was the river... [READ MORE](#)





[Modern study of the ancient practice of mixing rice and fish farming](#)

After four years peering beneath the surface of rice paddies in China, researchers quantify increases in rice yields and decreases in fertilizer use. Inviting fish, crabs, and turtles into rice paddies reduces the need for fertilizers and pesticides, and even increases rice yields, a new study proves. This discovery could be a major boon, since half the world now regularly consumes rice, which is driving the spread of monocrop fields that require heavy applications of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides to amp up yields and deliver on this global demand. [READ MORE](#)



[Leaving Crop Residues to Rot Could Be an Unexpected Boon for Climate Mitigation](#)

If farmers left crop residues on the ground instead of clearing them away or composting them, they could sequester larger amounts of carbon in the soil—one of the most promising pathways to bringing down global greenhouse gas emissions, the authors on the new *Nature Communications* study say. *“Plant residues are oftentimes disregarded as ‘fast food’ for microorganisms that are instantly decomposed, but our results show that these plant residues are more than that. They are functional components with an important role for soil carbon storage.”* [READ MORE](#)



[How to Plant the Forests of the Future](#)

Over 8 billion trees have been planted in British Columbia since 1950. Now, there's the need to plant in harvest areas and also the need to restore recently burned areas.

In the past, forest restoration could be informed by what once was. Now we have to make hard decisions about what we're working toward. How far foresters will need to go when procuring seed? Seed zones will no longer be restricted to a particular geography by stagnant boundaries on the landscape; they will shift with the changing climate... [READ MORE](#)




Future Planet

[Can Gravity Batteries Solve Our Energy Storage Problems?](#)

There is a riddle at the heart of the renewable energy revolution. When the wind blows, the sun shines, and the waves roll, there is abundant green power to be generated. But when skies darken and conditions are calm, what do we do?

Some energy experts say a cleaner future will mean focusing on ever-larger lithium-ion batteries. Others argue that green hydrogen is the world's best hope. And then there are those placing their bets not on chemistry, but the limitless force that surrounds us all: **gravity**... [READ MORE](#).



RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS—



Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization
Helping to Safeguard Rhode Island's Woodlands

Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization (RIFCO) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and wise use of Rhode Island's woodland resources.

To receive the [RIFCO](#) monthly e-newsletter



"[The Forest Conservationist](#)," visit our [Contact](#) page and submit a request online.
Or [Join RIFCO](#) and automatically receive a subscription as a [RIFCO](#) member.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of Environmental
Management

About Agriculture & Forest Environment

The health and vitality of our lands, waters, and communities support our way of life and economy in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment works to sustain, promote, and enhance Rhode Island's agricultural viability and preserve, manage, and promote healthy forests and community trees for today and for generations to come.

[Animal Health Program](#)
[RI Grown: Eat Fresh, Buy Local](#)
[Produce Safety Program](#)
[Agriculture Grant Opportunities](#)
[LASA Grant Program](#)
[Pesticides Program](#)

[Urban Forestry Program](#)
[Forest Health Program](#)
[Wild Fire Program](#)
[Pest Alerts](#)
[Spotted Lanternfly](#)
[Forest Stewardship](#)

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Plant Sciences and Entomology
College of the Environment and Life Sciences

Rhode Islanders have a unique relationship to the environment—and for our communities, ornamental plants, turf, agritourism, and conservation lands are as important as food crops. Our programs in ornamental horticulture, turfgrass management, food crop production, and control of invasive species, and insect-vectored diseases support all these aspects of the local economy. You'll be fully prepared for a job in agricultural industries, or to conduct your own research.

RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS—

[RIWP: Your Online Resource for RI Forest Information](#)



The Rhode Island Woodland Partnership (RIWP) advances the stewardship and long-term protection of Rhode Island's woodlands to benefit the local economy, ecological values, and community enjoyment and health. The RIWP strives to increase the impact of forest conservation measures through education and information sharing.

RI DEM

[Forest Stewardship Program](#)

This program was developed for woodland owners who want to know more about their woodland and how to manage it. The Rhode Island FSP, in cooperation with the [USDA Forest Service](#), supports private forest landowners' efforts to manage, enjoy, and care for their land long-term. This program is designed to both recognize the public benefits of privately-owned working lands and good land management, and to help private landowners protect the ecosystem benefits and value of their forest.



[New England New York Forestry Initiative](#)

EQIP Forestry Initiative Information

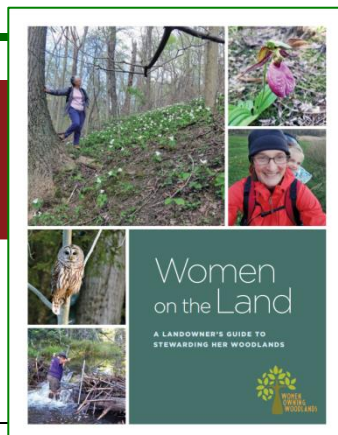
The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Applicants with forestland or in fields with 25 percent more woody cover (aerial canopy cover) of tree species and who wish to install practices that will protect or enhance fish and wildlife habitat should apply to this initiative.

[American Forest Foundation Newsletter](#)

Sign up and receive updates from the **AFF** and/or its signature programs: the [American Tree Farm System](#) (ATFS) and [My Land Plan](#)

UMassAmherst

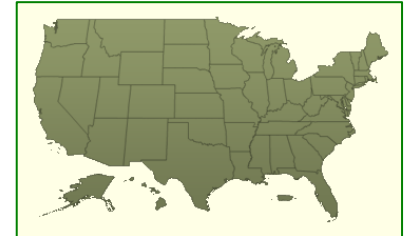
[Women on the Land](#) aims to build a network of female landowners and stewards in Massachusetts and provide opportunities for education and connection. We host events throughout the year and encourage women to foster relationships with each other and their land.



RESOURCES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS—



It is a misconception that a healthy forest is always an untouched forest. The health of your forest may depend on active forest management. A forest management plan is the road map to successful long-term management of your forest. With your forester, you need to evaluate your property's physical attributes and your management activities and the steps you can take to safeguard the environment. This lets you find out where your starting point is. [Forest*A*Syst](#) can assist you in making the choices in balancing your desires for managing your forest.



[PROFILE YOUR LAND](#)



CENTER for
RURAL AFFAIRS

[WOMEN NON-OPERATOR LANDOWNERS](#)

More than 50 percent of farmland in the U.S. is owned or co-owned by women. Center for Rural Affairs has designed workshops and learning circles specifically for women non-operator farmland owners. The peer-based model of learning circles assist women landowners with connecting to resources that aren't reaching them, and women prefer the intimate women-only setting. Whether the farmland was recently inherited, owned for years in a trust, or the land is going through a transition, learning circles provide opportunities for women to connect with programs, resources, and one another.



As the first forestry consulting business to focus on women landowners, [Land and Ladies](#) offers three different ways for women to be engaged, and start taking their ownership by the reins OR to the next level. They equip women with the resources to tackle their landowner and forest management needs through their programs, membership and online resources.



They also offer a **FREE Online Beginner Landowner Course**, short course modules offering insight on hot topics like land objectives, planning, record keeping, and ways to make your land profitable.

Words to Remember 2023

"Don't ever make decisions based on fear. Make decisions based on hope and possibility. Make decisions based on what should happen, not what shouldn't."

— Michelle Obama

"The real power behind whatever success I have now was something I found within myself— something that's in all of us."

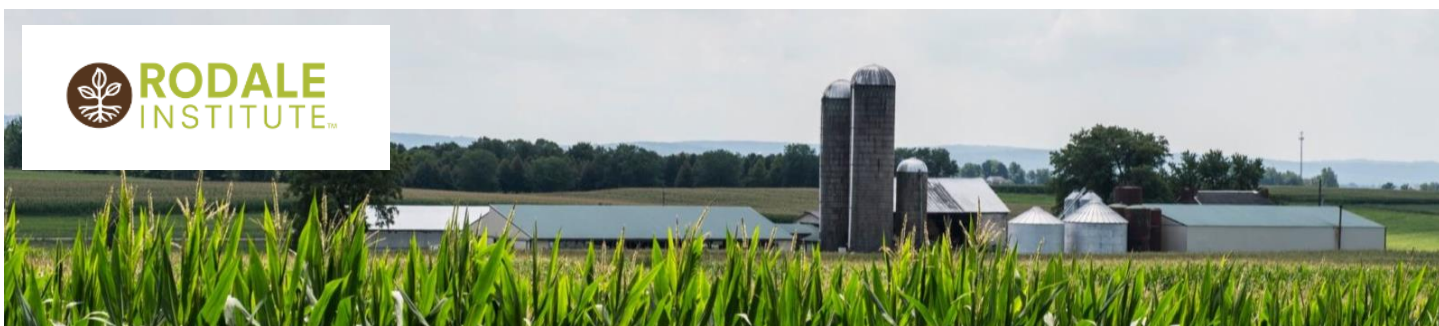
— Tina Turner





American Farmland Trust Announces Nationwide Network of Service Providers to Help Transitioning Land to the Next Generation

The successful transfer of land to the next generation of farmers and ranchers will also require a transfer of knowledge and skills. More than 40 percent of American farmland is owned by seniors aged 65 and older, who are likely to retire in the next decade or so. Given the demographics, American Farmland Trust estimates that 371 million acres, or one-third of U.S. farmland, will likely transition to new ownership in the next 15 years.



ORGANIC FARM FUNDING RESOURCES

Get Help Expanding, Improving, or Starting Your Organic Farm.

Are you a beginning farmer? Are you an established farmer? Do you need assistance with certification costs or creating value-added products on your farm? Are you looking to transition your farm from conventional to organic practices? The following resources provide funding and other assistance. One of the biggest hurdles to transitioning land to organic or enhancing conservation on the farm is securing the funds to make it possible. Rodale's resources can help



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Conserving natural resources FOR OUR FUTURE



NACD's Guide to [Energy Conservation Opportunities in Agriculture \(PDF\)](#)

[NACD](#)'s mission is to promote responsible management and conservation of natural resources on all lands by representing locally-led conservation districts and their associations through grassroots advocacy, education and partnerships.



New Degree at CCRI is the Region's First to Offer Courses in Blue, Green Economy Trades

A new associate's degree in environment, sustainability and management at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) is the region's first interdisciplinary program at the intersection of environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

The degree, which covers agriculture, food and ecological systems; entrepreneurial thinking and processes; land and resource management; and the impacts of climate change on ecologies, businesses and industries, targets the \$2.5 billion industries that are in demand across the state yet struggle to fill their workforce pipelines.

This approach to workforce development unifies education and industry, said Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA) executive director Shannon Brawley. RINLA partnered with CCRI, as well as the Rhode Island Food Policy Council (RIFPC) to curate the program with input from local businesses.



An Ancient Moorish Invention Has Been Providing Water to Spain's Sierra Nevada Mountains for More Than 1,000 Years

For over a millennium, this acequia – from the Arabic *as-saqiya*, meaning "water conduit" or "water bearer" – has provided irrigation and drinking water to Mecina-Bombarón, enabling survival and agricultural prosperity in the semi-arid environment. The channel is part of a 3,000km (1,800 mile) irrigation network built by the Moors between the 8th and 10th centuries. [READ MORE](#)

Future Planet



How Tucson, Arizona is facing up to a megadrought

In front of Val Little's one-story, adobe home near downtown Tucson, in southern Arizona, a small but proud sign stands in the lawn. It reads: "This house harvests the rain." Every couple of months, 68-year-old Little climbs up a short ladder to clear the leaves from her home's gutters. The downspout funnels the rainwater that falls on her rooftop into a 1,300-gallon (4,900-litre) plastic cistern in her backyard. She has two of them, and in late September both were almost full....[READ MORE](#)

Stressed out? Need some help resolving **Agricultural Issues?**



Farm Ranch Stress Assistance Network RI
FRSAN RI

Help Is On the Way!

RI DEM- Division of Agriculture and the Center for Mediation and Collaboration are partnering to launch a mental health and wellness program for farmers, commercial fishers, and workers in forestry-related industries.

Workers in the farm, fisheries, and forestry (FFF) communities work in isolating, dangerous, and economically uncertain occupations where depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts are not uncommon.

We are bringing together stakeholders across the state to address the root causes of stress, and provide foundational supports to our farm, fishery and forestry communities.

What Support Could Look Like

- Financial Planning
- Succession Planning
- Tax Assistance
- Employee Training and Retention Programs
- Land Access
- Child Care
- Substance Use Disorder Support
- Counseling

Steering Committee Members

RI-DEM Division of Agriculture, Center for Mediation and Collaboration RI, Commerce RI, Commercial Fisheries Center of RI, Farm Fresh RI, East Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Hope & Main, Northeast Organic Farmers Association-RI, RI Conservation Districts, RI Farm Bureau, RI Food Policy Council, RI Land Trust Council, RI Nursery and Landscape Association, Southside Community Land Trust, Tomaquag Museum, URI Cooperative Extension, Young Farmer Network of Southeastern New England

Need Help Now?

401.414.LINK(5465) BH Link

800-273-8255 National Suicide Prevention Hotline

1-800-327-6243 Farm Aid Hotline

For information/support please reach contact Laurel Witri laurel@cmcri.org.

For information/support **1-800-327-6243** or email Laurel Witri laurel@cmcri.org

Newsletter of January 2023



Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts

Helping Rhode Island Conservation Districts Help Rhode Island

conserving
natural resources
for our future

2283 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919
401-934-0840



Northern Rhode Island
Conservation District

Assistance • Land Use • Conservation • Compliance • Risk Assessment • Water Quality • Wetlands • Forest Management • Invasive Species • Wildlife • Parks • Recreation • Planning • Education • Outreach

SERVING
PROVIDENCE
COUNTY



Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

— Serving Bristol & Newport Counties —

Barrington • Bristol • Jamestown • Little Compton • Middletown • Newport • Portsmouth • Tiverton • Warren



Southern Rhode Island Conservation District

The [Northern Rhode Island Conservation District \(NRICD\)](#) serves Providence County. The [Southern RI Conservation District \(SRICD\)](#) serves Kent and Washington Counties, and the [Eastern RI Conservation District \(ERICD\)](#) serves Newport and Bristol Counties.

The Newsletter of RIRC&D, The Rhode Island Resource & Development Area Council, Inc.

Disclaimer: Please Note

This newsletter's purpose is threefold. Our primary purpose is to keep our readers informed about opportunities and resources which may be available to our readership. Our second purpose is to keep our readership informed about news, events, products, opinions, and information which may directly affect our readership, either adversely or beneficially. Our third purpose is to present our readers with information that they may find enlightening or entertaining.

The opinions and political positions represented in the newsletter do not reflect the opinions or political positions of either the Rhode Island Resource and Development Area Council, Inc., or the Rhode Island Farm Energy Program; nor does either RIRC&D or RIFEP advocate or endorse any of the opinions, positions, or products mentioned in the newsletter *except where specifically stated*.

CONTACT RIFEP

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RI RC&D is an

