

March 25 Daily Maine Farmer ZOOM

From Donna Coffin donna.coffin@maine.edu We will NOT be recording these sessions.

Information from the Chat will be shared on -

<https://extension.umaine.edu/piscataquis/agriculture/zoom/>

From Jonathan Malacarne : Jonathan Malacarne, Agricultural Economist, University of Maine.

Jonathan.malacarne@maine.edu

From marthareed : martha.reed@mac.com

Tori Jackson : Tori Jackson, Professor of Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of Maine

Cooperative Extension. tori.jackson@maine.edu

anne.lichtenwalner@maine.edu

From kelseykobik : kelkobiksey@gmail.com

From Julia Jones, Maine Harvest FCU : Julia Jones, Community Loan Officer - Maine Harvest FCU

julia@maineharvestfcu.coop

From Maine Department of Labor : Maine Department of Labor: www.maine.gov/labor

email: division.uctax@maine.gov

From yvette.meunier : What are the names of the DOL folks on the call?

From Maine Department of Labor : Commissioner Laura Fortman

From Maine Department of Labor : and unemployment representative Jeff Braun

From Julia Jones, Maine Harvest FCU : Jeff - could you please send a link to the eligibility requirements for ag/non ag businesses?

From Julia Jones, Maine Harvest FCU : *businesses

From Maine Department of Labor : We will send the link to Donna after the call!

From kelseykobik : This is off-topic, but Laura, wondering if you have any insight on H2A visas for this year yet.

From Julia Jones, Maine Harvest FCU : Thank you!

From anne.lichtenwalner : What about trying to link farmers with temporary/part time employees should there be a need? Any special considerations?

From yvette.meunier : Here is where to stay updated on H-2A. Things are dependent on the embassy the employees. Mexico appears to be open but Jamaica and South Africa are on hold.

<https://www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a>

From kelseykobik : Dang, ok. Thank you Yvette!

From yvette.meunier : Other resources to check out for employers and employees about Covid can be found on the Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation

<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/covid19/index.shtml> and the Department's Forestry's Farm Labor

Link Network webpage.: <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ard/farmlabor/>

From JP Espinosa : Non-related to today's conversation (including business structure) , but Cornell is offering free (\$299) online farm related courses....

<https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/2020/03/offering-you-free-online-course-access/?fbclid=IwAR1JYEADwuiTzTaKMDCp9dcYkcSdiVkpBYcNjMk9tBQEijFkMxi8rEqi0eM>

From Julia Jones, Maine Harvest FCU : Thank you Yvette!

From yvette.meunier : If a farm did not meet the \$20K or 10 employee threshold could they still pay into unemployment? so their employees may get unemployment?

From yvette.meunier: yvette.meunier@maine.gov : I could see this as a risk to employees to work for someone without the safety net of unemployment.

From Maine Department of Labor : www.maine.gov/labor/covid19

From anne.lichtenwalner : Sorry to have missed the cue; Donna, would just like to let everyone know that the vet diagnostic lab is still accepting cases/samples, as long as you can let us know when/how they will be delivered.

From Jason Lilley : Correction. 40,000 views. <https://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/farm-product-and-pickup-directory/>

From Julia Jones, Maine Harvest FCU : I have to hop on another call - thank you Donna, Jeff, and Commissioner Fortman! This information is tremendously helpful!

From Jason Lilley : ME Veg&Berry Listserv

- <https://extension.umaine.edu/cumberland/2018/09/13/new-fruit-and-veg-listserv-for-farmer-to-farmer-communication/>

From richardkersbergen : Richard.kersbergen@maine.edu, 207-342-5971 looking for people with dairy experience.

From anne.lichtenwalner : Thank you Donna and participants!

BFRN – Covid 19 farmer resource Google Doc

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xcWWU7YZcWkEc8mahncJdY3NiERTfZ6SN7IaTjKT1m0/edit>

And website <https://extension.umaine.edu/beginning-farmer-resource-network/covid-19/>