

The Commonwealth of Massachus::tts House of Representatives State House, Boston 02133.1054

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Representative Smola Announces Grants for Local Farms

BOSTON – **Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means)** is pleased to announce that two Brimfield farms have been awarded funding through the Massachusetts Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program. As part of the program, River Rock Farm will receive \$55,000. These funds will go towards the purchase of a refrigerated van in order to expand meat delivery service and to store meat at farmer's markets. Cook's Farm Orchard will receive \$14,980 for the purchase of an apple cider processor with UV light to increase production capacity and food safety.

"Local farms are integral to life and commerce in central Massachusetts," said Representative Smola. "River Rock Farm and Cook's Farm Orchard are both exceptional businesses which provide our community with healthy locally grown food and produce."

The goal of the Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program is to ensure that individuals and families throughout the Commonwealth have access to food, with a special focus on food that is produced locally and equitable access to food. The program also seeks to ensure that farmers, fisherman and other local food producers are better connected to a strong, resilient food system to help mitigate future food supply and distribution disruption.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at <u>Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov</u> or (617)722-2100.

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