



Grants and Incentives for Northeast Agriculture

Report by Farm Credit East Knowledge Exchange

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Federal/Regional Grants and Incentives	1
Beginning Farmers	1
Business.....	2
Community/Local Foods.....	3
Conservation/Environment.....	6
Energy	8
Organic	9
Research, Education and Promotion	10
State Grants and Incentives.....	12
Connecticut.....	12
Maine.....	13
Massachusetts.....	15
New Hampshire.....	19
New Jersey	20
New York.....	21
Rhode Island.....	26
Appendix	I

FEDERAL/REGIONAL GRANTS AND INCENTIVES

This document contains a listing of grants and other incentives available in the Northeast states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island. Most of the listings are grant programs, but some tax incentives and loan programs that are linked to grant programs are also included.

This list includes many funding sources available to agricultural producers and other entities involved in agriculture or related industries; however, as grant programs often change, the list should not be viewed as a comprehensive compilation of all grant opportunities. Interested parties should consult other sources to identify all potential sources of grants and incentives.

The first section lists programs available throughout the region, followed by a section of state specific opportunities. Please visit the links below each description for due dates, requirements and other information. In some cases, the grant application deadline has passed for this year, but it is still included in this listing if Farm Credit East has reason to believe that the program will be continued in future years.

Most of these programs are administered by federal and state agencies or other third parties, so while Farm Credit East believes these sources to be reliable, Farm Credit East does not make any representation or warranty regarding the accuracy of the program information or the linked sites.

BEGINNING FARMERS

BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (BFRDP)

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

BFRDP is targeted to land grant universities and other local, state and regional partnerships for training beginning farmers and ranchers. It supports financial and entrepreneurial training, mentoring, and apprenticeship programs; “land link” programs that connect retiring farmers and landowners with new farmers; vocational training and agricultural rehabilitation programs for veterans; and education, outreach, and curriculum development activities to assist beginning farmers and ranchers. Topics may also include production practices, conservation planning, risk management education, diversification and marketing strategies, credit management and farm safety training.

nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/beginning-farmer-and-rancher-development-program-bfrdp

FARMER VETERAN FELLOWSHIP FUND

Sponsor/Agency: Farmer Veteran Coalition

The Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund provides direct assistance to veterans in their beginning years of farming or ranching. The fund does not give money directly to the veteran, but rather to a third party vendor for resources to assist in the startup of a farm business.

farmvetco.org/about-us/our-programs/farming-fellowship/

BUSINESS

FARM BUREAU® RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE

Sponsor/Agency: American Farm Bureau Federation

The Farm Bureau® Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge is the first national business competition focused exclusively on rural entrepreneurs working on food and agriculture businesses. Rural entrepreneurs pitch innovative business ideas to a team of judges with expertise in business development and agribusiness. These entrepreneurs compete for \$145,000 of startup funds.

strongruralamerica.com/challenge/

FARM LABOR HOUSING DIRECT LOANS AND GRANTS

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

This program provides financing to develop housing for year-round and migrant or seasonal domestic farm laborers. Loans and grants are provided to buy, build, improve or repair housing for farm labor, including persons whose income is earned in aquaculture and on-farm processing. Loans to finance affordable, off farm rental housing to low-wage farm workers are used in conjunction with grant funds.

rd.usda.gov/programs-services/farm-labor-housing-direct-loans-grants

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

Sponsor Agency: USDA

Provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters

fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/noninsured-crop-disaster-assistance/index

RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) are competitive grants made to rural public entities designed to support targeted technical assistance, training and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas that have fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in gross revenues. Program activities are separated into enterprise or opportunity type grant activities.

rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The Rural Economic Development Grant (REDG) program provides funding to rural projects through local utility organizations; the USDA provides grant funds to local utility organizations which use the funding to establish revolving loan funds. Loans are made from the revolving loan funds to projects that will create or retain rural jobs. When the revolving loan fund is terminated, the grant is repaid to the agency.

rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program

VALUE ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program provides competitively awarded grants to develop value-added, producer-owned businesses. These grants may be used to fund business and marketing plans and feasibility studies or to acquire working capital to operate a value-added business venture or alliance. Nathan Rudgers, Farm Credit East Director of Business Development, has worked with many applicants applying for these incentives. More information on Farm Credit East grant writing services is included in the link below.

rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants
farmcrediteast.com/products-and-services/grant-writing

COMMUNITY/LOCAL FOODS

COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFP) awards grants to eligible nonprofits, tribal organizations and food program service providers to promote self-sufficiency



and food security, address specific needs and provide comprehensive, community-based solutions in low-income communities.

nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/community-food-projects-cfp-competitive-grants-program

ECONOMIC IMPACT INITIATIVE GRANTS

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

This program provides funding to assist in the development of essential community facilities (i.e. provides an essential service to the local community and is needed for orderly development of the community) in financially distressed rural communities with high unemployment. Examples related to agriculture include local food systems; community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs, greenhouses and more.

rd.usda.gov/programs-services/economic-impact-initiative-grants

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)

Sponsor Agency: USDA

Emergency grant funding to help farmers and ranchers repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disaster, including water conservation in the time of a drought.

fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/emergency-conservation/index

EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM (EFRP)

Sponsor Agency: USDA

Emergency grant funding for the owners of non-industrial private forests. Helps restore forest health in areas that have been affected by natural disaster, as determined by FSA County Committees.

fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-forest-restoration/index

FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The Farm to School Grant Program (F2S) provides grants on a competitive basis to increase local food procurement for school meal programs and expand educational agriculture and gardening activities. These grants can be used for training and technical assistance, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships and implementing farm to school programs.

fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-grant-program

FARMABLE WETLANDS PROGRAM (FWP)

Sponsor Agency: USDA

Program designed to restore previously farmed wetlands and wetland buffer to improve both vegetation and water flow. On a voluntary basis, participants agree to restore wetlands, establish plant cover, and not use the land for commercial purposes. In return, land owners will receive an annual rental payment for enrolled acreage.

fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/farmable-wetlands-program

FARMERS MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The purpose of the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) is to increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products. The FMPP also looks to develop new market opportunities for farm operations serving local markets.

ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp

FOOD INSECURITY NUTRITION INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives (FINI) Program provides grants on a competitive basis to projects that help low-income consumers participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) purchase more fresh fruits and vegetables through cash incentives that increase their purchasing power at locations like farmers markets.

nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/food-insecurity-nutrition-incentive-fini-grant-program

LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION PROGRAM

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The Local Food Promotion Program is a competitive grants program with a 25 percent match to support the development and expansion of local and regional food businesses to increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm operations serving local markets.

ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfp

CONSERVATION/ENVIRONMENT

AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farming operations.

Producers may construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures; plant trees for windbreaks or to improve water quality; and mitigate risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices, including soil erosion control, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming. It is available in 16 states including all seven Northeast states served by Farm Credit East.

nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/ama/

CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANT

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) is a voluntary, competitive grants program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies for conservation on agricultural lands. CIG uses Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds to award competitive grants to non-federal governmental or non-governmental organizations, American Indian Tribes or individuals. Producers involved in CIG funded projects must be EQIP eligible.

nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/iprograms/financial/cig/

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) targets high-priority conservation concerns identified by a state, providing federal funds which are supplemented with non-federal funds to address those concerns. In exchange for removing environmentally sensitive land from production and establishing permanent resource conserving plant species, farmers are paid an annual rental rate along with other federal and state incentives as applicable per each CREP agreement. Participation is voluntary, and the contract period is typically 10-15 years.

fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-enhancement/index

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a land conservation program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length.

fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority concerns.

nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/

CRP TRANSITION INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The CRP Transition Incentives Program (CRP-TIP) offers a special incentive of two years of extra CRP rental payments to owners of land that is currently enrolled in CRP but returning to production, who rent or sell their land to beginning, socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers or ranchers who will use sustainable grazing practices, resource-conserving cropping systems, or transition to organic production.

fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/transition-incentives/index

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) was established by Congress to respond to emergencies created by natural disasters. The EWP is designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, drought, windstorms and other natural occurrences.

nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/ewp/

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland regulations.

nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/

HIGH TUNNEL SYSTEM INITIATIVE

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

A part of the EQIP program, the NRCS High Tunnel System Initiative is a conservation program that helps individuals and legal entities engaged in agricultural production install high tunnel (“hoop house”) greenhouses to extend their growing season.

nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/?&cid=stelprdb1046250

NEW ENGLAND GRASSROOTS GRANTS

Sponsor/Agency: New England Grassroots Environment Fund

The Grassroots Fund interprets the word ‘environment’ broadly and will provide funding for a wide range of community-based environmental projects, including those involving agriculture and food systems. **Grow grants** are geared to established groups who are ready to expand the scope of their work. Grow groups often have 1+ year experience running community projects. **Seed grants** are geared to groups launching new projects and/or evolving the scale of an existing project. Grants are intended to support community groups that are not being reached by traditional funders.

grassrootsfund.org/dollars/grow-grants

grassrootsfund.org/dollars/seed-grants

ENERGY

AFRI SUSTAINABLE BIOENERGY AND BIOPRODUCTS

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

In the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Sustainable Bioenergy and Bioproducts (SBEBP) Challenge Area specific program areas are designed to achieve the long term outcome of reducing the national dependence on foreign oil through the development and production of

regionally-appropriate sustainable bioenergy systems that materially deliver advanced liquid transportation biofuels, biopower, and bioproducts.

nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-sustainable-bioenergy-and-bioproducts

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) provides grants and loans to farmers and businesses for energy efficiency improvements and purchase of wind, solar or other renewable energy systems, and also provides grants to help farmers with energy audits and renewable energy development.

rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency

ORGANIC

NATIONAL ORGANIC INITIATIVE

Sponsor Agency: USDA

Part of EQIP, this initiative provides technical and financial assistance to organic farmers/ranchers, and those looking to transition to organic. Funding can be used to improve operations, help producers transition, or to develop conservation plans.

nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcs143_008224

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE PROGRAM

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

Organic Farmers and Processors can receive payments for up to 75% of their annual organic certification costs, up to \$750. Producers must be certified by an organization that is recognized by USDA.

fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occsp/index

ORGANIC MICRO GRANT

Sponsor/Agency: Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA)

OCIA Research and Education is a charitable organization, created in 2003, by OCIA International, an organic certification organization. OCIA's research arm's mission is to support organic research; facilitate connections between farmers, researchers, consumers and decision-makers; and educate producers and communities regarding organic farming and foods.

ocia.org/research-education/micro-grants

SIMPLY ORGANIC 1% FUND GRANT

Sponsor/Agency: Simply Organic

The Simply Organic 1% Fund supports and promotes the growth of organic and sustainable agriculture through the funding of projects that research, develop, teach or promote organic agriculture.

simplyorganic.com/community/about/giving-back/grant-application

UNFI FOUNDATION GRANTS

Sponsor/Agency: UNFI Foundation

The UNFI foundation seeks to fund innovative programs with an emphasis on organic farming. Grant applications will be accepted from eligible Non-Profit organizations based in the United States.

unfifoundation.org/Pages/ApplicationProcess.aspx

RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

FARM CREDIT NORTHEAST AGENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Sponsor/Agency: Farm Credit East, CoBank and Yankee Farm Credit

The Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement Program supports programs, projects, events and other activities that promote and strengthen the agriculture, forest products or commercial fishing industries in the region. Individual producers and local or one county projects are not eligible for grants.

farmcrediteast.com/industry-support/AgEnhancement-grants/agenhancement-guidelines

NORTHEAST SARE GRANTS

Sponsor/Agency: Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)

Northeast SARE has a number of grant programs for those researching topics in sustainable agriculture that will serve the interests of farmers, agricultural service providers, extension staff, NRCS personnel and others in the agricultural community.

- Farmer Grant
- Graduate Student Grants
- Partnership Grant
- Professional Development Grant
- Research and Education Grant
- Research for Novel Approaches

nesare.org/Grants/

NORTHEAST AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC. (NAEF) GRANT

Sponsor/Agency: NAEF

NAEF grants support education and leadership training organizations dedicated to serving interests of farmers and rural communities in the Northeast. The Foundation will support organizations whose activities either promote agricultural leadership development, help foster a better understanding of agriculture and/or our food production system, or improve the quality of life for farmers.

northeastagriculture.org/apply-now/

STATE GRANTS AND INCENTIVES

The following are grants, loan guarantees and incentives listed by state. Like the regional grants listing, this is not a comprehensive list. Most of the grants listed under each state are available throughout that state; however, some may have location restrictions within the state.

Please visit the link below each description for due dates, requirements and other information. In some cases, the grant application deadline has passed for this year, but it is still included in this listing if Farm Credit East has reason to believe that the program will be continued.

CONNECTICUT

FARM TRANSITION GRANT PROGRAM

The Farm Transition Grant Program is a competitive matching grant program. The purpose of the program is to strengthen the economic viability of Connecticut farmers and agricultural cooperatives. Producers and agriculture cooperatives applying for this grant may be awarded up to \$49,999 in matching funds.

ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&q=419410

FARM REINVESTMENT GRANT

The Farm Reinvestment Grants provides matching funds to Connecticut farms to expand, diversify and improve existing working farms through projects with a lifespan of 10 years or more. This is a reimbursement grant, therefore, the entire project must be completed prior to being reimbursed/receiving grant funds.

ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&q=398988

FARMLAND RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Farmland Restoration Program (FLRP) has the objective of increasing food and fiber production agriculture in Connecticut. FLRP focuses on prime and important farmland soils, in accordance with a Farmland Restoration Program Plan (FLRP Plan).

ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&Q=498322&PM=1

FARM VIABILITY GRANT

The Farm Viability Grant (FVG) is a competitive matching grant program open to municipalities, regional planning organizations, association of municipalities, and 501 c(3) agricultural non-profits. Funds can be used to develop local land use or agricultural regulations, farmland protection strategies, provide educational workshops for farmers, fund advertising for local or regional agriculture and establish local farmers' markets, among others. The maximum grant award is \$49,999. ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&q=419408

MILK PRODUCER (DAIRY SUSTAINABILITY) GRANT

Milk Producer Grants are quarterly grant payments for Connecticut dairy producers. The payments are determined by a formula based on regional prices and cost of production.

ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=1366&q=445230

NET METERING

Connecticut's two investor-owned utilities are required to provide net metering to customers that generate electricity using "Class I" renewable-energy resources, which include solar, wind, landfill gas, fuel cells, sustainable biomass, ocean-thermal power, wave or tidal power, low-emission advanced renewable-energy conversion technologies, and hydropower facilities up to two megawatts (MW) in capacity.

ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2715&q=558644&deepNav_GID=1626

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Connecticut provides a property tax exemption for "Class I" renewable energy systems and hydropower facilities that generate electricity for private residential use. The exemption is available for systems installed on or after October 1, 2007, that serve farms, single-family homes or multi-family dwellings limited to four units. In addition, "any passive or active solar water or space heating system or geothermal energy resource" is exempt from property taxes, regardless of the type of facility the system serves.

energy.gov/savings/property-tax-exemption-renewable-energy-systems-0

SEA GRANT RESEARCH FUNDING

The Connecticut Sea Grant program supports projects, publications, conferences or similar initiatives to support healthy coastal and marine ecosystems along the Connecticut coast.

seagrant.uconn.edu/funding/grants/

MAINE

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

This program provides cost share grants to conduct market promotion, market research and development, value-added processing and new technology demonstration projects. The Agricultural Development Grant (ADG) program was created in 1996, as a companion to the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund, the interest on which funds the grant program.

maine.gov/dacf/ard/grants/agricultural_development.shtml

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE (FAME)

FAME has a number of economic development programs and services including several specific agriculture programs, such as the Linked Investment Program for Agriculture, which provides interest rate assistance for agricultural operating loans. FAME has other agricultural loan programs as well as programs to encourage private investment in Maine businesses.

famemaine.com/business/

LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE (LMF)

Multi-purpose land conservation funding available to coordinate and finance public acquisition of land. This land, which currently includes over 9,700 acres of farmland, goes into the public trust forever to ensure its permanent use.

maine.gov/dacf/lmf/index.shtml

MAINE FARMS FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAM

Phase 1 of the competitive grant program provides farms with business planning assistance and investment support. Funding can be used to hire consultants/ business counselors, attend industry/trade shows, conduct research, or obtain new skills, with the goal of writing an investment grade business plan. Phase 2 of the program, which can be applied for 1-2 years after you receive a phase 1 grant, assists farmers with implementation of the project the described and researched in phase 1. In turn, Farmers agree to protect their farmland for seven years.

maine.gov/dacf/ard/business_and_market_development/farms_for_future/index.shtml

SENIOR FARM SHARE PROGRAM

Provides low-income seniors with a \$50 FarmShare to be used to get fresh fruit and vegetables from local farmers during the growing season. Seniors must directly come to terms with participating farms on a yearly basis. Farms that participate receive the payment for the FarmShare up front, but must provide variety for their customers over the core 8 week period.

maine.gov/dacf/ard/senior_farm_share.shtml

WOODWISE INCENTIVES

Offers cost-share assistance for forest management planning in the form of a Woodland Resource Action Plan (WRAP). These plans, made working with a professional forester, provides a good description of value on your woodland, and activities you can do to maintain and improve the health of your woodland.

maine.gov/dacf/mfs/policy_management/wwi.html

MASSACHUSETTS

AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE RESILIENCY & EFFICIENCIES PROGRAM (ACRE)

Competitive grant program that funds labor and materials for the implementation of practices that address vulnerability to climate change, improve economic resiliency, or advances general goals set by the state. Seventy-five percent of project costs up to \$50,000 may be reimbursed

mass.gov/service-details/agricultural-climate-resiliency-efficiencies-acre-program

AGRICULTURAL FOOD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program (AFSIP) supports agricultural operations that are looking to upgrade their food safety measures and thereby maintain or increase their competitive market access while reducing food safety risks. Participants selected to participate in the program will be reimbursed up to \$20,000 or 75 percent of their total project costs.

mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/about/divisions/afsip.html

AGRICULTURAL ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Agricultural Energy Grant Program (Ag Energy) is a competitive grant program that funds agricultural energy projects in an effort to improve energy efficiency and to facilitate the adoption of alternative clean energy technologies by Massachusetts farms.

mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/about/divisions/ag-energy.html

AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (AEEP)

AEEP supports agricultural operations that are looking to install conservation practices that prevent direct impacts on water quality, ensure efficient use of water, as well as address impacts on air quality. Farmers selected to participate in the program are reimbursed up to \$25,000 for the cost of materials and labor necessary for the installation of the approved practice.

mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/about/divisions/aEEP.html

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTION (APR)

Program designed to protect agricultural land, particularly farmland soils, from being developed or used for non-agriculture purposes. On a voluntary basis, the program will buy your land (at its non-agricultural value) in exchange for a permanent deed restriction, securing its future use as Ag land.

mass.gov/service-details/agricultural-preservation-restriction-apr-program-details

APR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (AIP)

The purpose of the APR Improvement Program (AIP) is to help sustain active commercial farming on land that has already been protected through the Department's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. AIP provides technical assistance and business analysis to help improve the productivity and profitability of participating farms with the goal of enhancing the significance of APR farm operations and their contribution to the state's agricultural industry.

mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/about/divisions/aip.html

DAIRY FARMER TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

The department has established a Dairy Farmer Tax Credit Program under which a dairy farmer who holds a Certificate of Registration may be allowed a refundable income tax credit based on the amount of milk produced and sold. The credit shall be based on the United States Federal Milk Marketing Order for the applicable market such that if the United States Federal Milk Marketing Order price drops below a Trigger Price anytime during the taxable year such taxpayer may receive the tax credit.

mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/animal-health/dairy/dairy-farmer-tax-credit-program-generic.html

FARM ENERGY DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The Farm Energy Discount Program provides discounts on electricity and natural gas bills of 10 percent to eligible entities engaged in production agriculture. Persons or corporations determined to be engaged in the business of production agriculture or farming for an ultimate commercial purpose will, upon written application, be eligible for a 10 percent discount on rates.

mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/about/divisions/farm-energy-discount-program.html

FARM VIABILITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The Farm Viability Enhancement Program seeks to improve the economic viability and environmental integrity of participating farms through the development and implementation of farm viability plans. The Program offers farmers environmental, technical and business planning assistance to expand, upgrade and modernize their existing operations. Capital for the implementation of the improvements recommended in the viability plan is available in exchange for an agricultural covenant on the farm property for a fixed term of five or ten years.

mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/about/divisions/fvvp.html

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

This educational, non-regulatory program is designed to help landowners protect the inherent ecosystem values of their forest. Recognizing the public benefits of good stewardship on private forest land, the Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program (MFSP) supports and encourages

private forest landowners' efforts to manage, enjoy, and care for their land using a long-term approach, by connecting them with foresters to establish a forest stewardship plan.

mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/forestry-and-fire-control/forest-stewardship-program.html

GAP/ GHP REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

Any grower that schedules and successfully completes the USDA GAP/GHP or Harmonized audit is eligible to apply for reimbursement to cover the cost of the audit. Reimbursement is not given to those who fail the audit.

mass.gov/guides/agricultural-grants-and-financial-assistance-programs

MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING AGRICULTURE GRANT (MSPA)

Private grant funding that is available to: benefit agriculture in a way that is economically and environmentally sound, broaden knowledge of and support for Massachusetts farmers, stimulate research in new areas, or levy these funds to improve chances of receiving a grant from elsewhere, particularly when government or corporate funding isn't available.

promotingmassag.org/apply.php

MATCHING ENTERPRISE GRANTS FOR AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

The Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture Program (MEGA) seeks to help Massachusetts' farmers who have been in business for at least one, but no more than five years, acquire equipment and other non-land assets, or make infrastructure improvements, that can help insure the financial viability of their farm businesses. Matching funds of up to \$10,000 are available to implement improvement strategies. Business analysis assistance is an additional program benefit and the value of that service is in addition to the grant award.

mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/about/divisions/mega.html

NATIONAL GRID INCENTIVES

For businesses whose energy provider is National Grid, the company has a number of incentives for renewable energy projects or energy efficiency programs.

nationalgridus.com/MA-Business/Default

NET METERING

Massachusetts investor-owned utilities are required to offer net metering. There are three categories of net metering facilities; Class 1 is any type of generating systems up to 60 kilowatts (kW) in capacity; Class 2 are systems greater than 60 but less than one megawatt (MW) in capacity that generate electricity from agricultural products, solar energy or wind energy; Class

three are systems that generate greater than one MW and up to two MW in capacity that generate electricity from agricultural products, solar energy or wind energy.

mass.gov/eea/grants-and-tech-assistance/guidance-technical-assistance/agencies-and-divisions/dpu/net-metering-faqs.html

MASSACHUSETTS RENEWABLE ENERGY TRUST FUND

Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (Mass CEC) administers the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust Fund which may provide grants, contracts, loans, equity investments, energy production credits, bill credits and rebates to customers.

masscec.com/get-clean-energy

ROLLOVER PROTECTIVE STRUCTURE RETROFIT PROGRAM

The ROPS Rebate Program will rebate 70 percent of the cost of purchasing and installing the ROPS (Rollover Protective Structure) for farm equipment.

ropsr4u.com/national-rebate-program.php

SOLAR RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATES (SREC-I AND II)

Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs) represent the renewable attributes of solar generation, bundled in minimum denominations of one megawatt-hour (MWh) of production. SRECs represent an incentive for the installation of solar projects as they can be sold to regulated energy suppliers to meet Massachusetts' renewable portfolio standard (RPS) which requires the electricity sold to be comprised of 15 percent qualifying renewables by December 31, 2020.

mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/renewable-energy/solar/rps-solar-carve-out/

URBAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) launched the Urban Agriculture Program in the fall of 2013, one of the nation's first state-wide programs to support and promote commercial urban farming enterprises. Funding through the program targets infrastructure needs, innovative food production, zoning ordinances, technical assistance, land acquisition and youth leadership development.

mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/urban-agriculture-program.html

NEW HAMPSHIRE

AGRICULTURAL MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

The Agricultural Promotion Mini-Grant Program offers matching grants of up to \$1,000 to organizations that wish to conduct a project focused on promoting New Hampshire agriculture.

agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/agricultural-development/grant-program.htm

NET METERING

New Hampshire requires all utilities selling electricity in the state to offer net metering to customers who own or operate systems up to one megawatt (MW) in capacity that generate electricity using solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, tidal, wave, biomass, landfill gas, bio-oil or biodiesel.

puc.state.nh.us/Sustainable%20Energy/GroupNetMetering.html

NEW SOLAR REBATE PROGRAM

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission initiated a new solar rebate program for non-residential applicants in November 2010. Funded by alternative compliance payments under the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS), this program supports solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar-thermal installations.

puc.nh.gov/Sustainable%20Energy/RenewableEnergyRebates-CI.html

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

New Hampshire allows cities and towns to offer an exemption from residential property taxes for the assessed value of a solar energy system, wind energy system, or wood-fired central heating system used on the property.

nh.gov/oep/energy/saving-energy/incentives.htm

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ropsr4u.com/national-rebate-program.php

NEW JERSEY

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Incentives designed to ensure future purpose of land is agricultural use. Farms can choose to sell development easements, or to sell their entire property outright. Sales will be made at fair-market value, while easements are sold at the difference between the lands value in agriculture, and its value to a developer.

nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmpreserve/index.html

NET METERING

New Jersey's net-metering rules require state's investor-owned utilities and energy suppliers (and certain competitive municipal utilities and electric cooperatives) to offer net metering at non-discriminatory rates to residential, commercial and industrial customers. Systems that generate electricity using solar, wind, geothermal, wave, tidal, landfill gas or sustainable biomass resources, including fuel cells (all "Class I" technologies under the state RPS), are eligible.

njcleanenergy.com/renewable-energy/programs/net-metering-and-interconnection

NEW JERSEY AUDUBON SMALL GRANTS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION ON FARMS

New Jersey Audubon has created a small grants program focusing on soil and water conservation within four areas in southern New Jersey. Farmers and producers of the Greater Hammonton area, Maurice and Upper Cohansey Rivers, Upper Salem River area and the western Cape May Peninsula are eligible to receive funding for projects addressing resource concerns on their property, such as irrigation system updates, riparian buffers, grassed waterways, cover crops and more. Funding is available through 2017, and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis to qualified applicants.

attra.ncat.org/calendar/funding.php/new-jersey-audubon-small-grants

SOIL AND WATER GRANTS

The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) provides grants to help fund up to 50 percent of the costs of approved soil and water conservation projects on farms enrolled in permanent or eight-year farmland preservation programs.

nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmpreserve/grants/

NEW YORK

NYS CONSOLIDATED FUNDING APPLICATION

The NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) has been created to streamline and expedite the grant application process for state economic development funding. The CFA process is a new approach for allocating state resources with regional economic development councils making recommendations for funding a variety of economic development projects in each region, many involving food and agriculture. Nathan Rudgers, Farm Credit East Director of Business Development, has worked with many applicants for this program. More information on Farm Credit East grant writing services is included in the link below.

[regionalcouncils.ny.gov/
farmcrediteast.com/products-and-services/grant-writing](http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/farmcrediteast.com/products-and-services/grant-writing)

AGRICULTURAL NONPOINT SOURCE ABATEMENT AND CONTROL PROGRAM

Program funds are available for nonpoint source abatement and control projects that plan or implement Agricultural Best Management Practice Systems on New York State farms. All projects must consist of activities that will reduce, abate, control or prevent nonpoint source pollution origination from agricultural sources. Grants can cost-share up to 75 percent of project costs or more if farmers contribute in the areas of planning or implementation.

nys-soilandwater.org/aem/nonpoint.html

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program

Provides cost-share funds to CAFOs for the implementation of water quality protection projects that establish manure storage capacity and/or reduce/prevent nonpoint source pollution from agricultural activities.

agriculture.ny.gov/rfps/CAFO/CAFO_RFP.pdf

CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING PROGRAM

The goal of the CRP Program is to reduce the impact of agriculture on climate change and to increase resiliency of New York State farms in the face of a changing climate. Soil and Water Conservation Districts use the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Framework to plan and assess their environmental risks. CRF allows farmers to proactively address risks due to the changing climate while also mitigating their greenhouse gas emissions.

nys-soilandwater.org/programs/crf.html

DAIRY ACCELERATION PROGRAM

The Dairy Acceleration Program is an initiative of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation designed to enhance profitability of New York dairy farms. Funding is made available for business planning/ analysis, certification management, or designing new/remodeled facilities.

prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/dairy-acceleration

FARMERS SCHOOL TAX CREDIT

The FSTC is a credit that can be claimed on school district property taxes based on the amount of the taxes paid and the number of qualified acres.

tax.ny.gov/pit/credits/farmers_school_tax.htm

FARMLAND PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

Municipalities, counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and land trusts are eligible to apply for individual grants of up to \$2 million to help offset the costs of conservation easement projects that protect viable agricultural land from being converted to non-agricultural use.

Note: For 2018, there is a specific Request for Applications (RFA) under this program specifically for New York dairy farmers transitioning their operations.

agriculture.ny.gov/RFPS.html#_blank

INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT (ITC)

Credit equals five percent of investment (up to \$350 million; four percent rate on amount over \$350 million and for personal income taxpayers) on buildings and tangible personal property, acquired by purchase, with a useful life of four years or more and used in production (manufacturing, processing, assembling, agriculture, refining, mining, extracting, farming, horticulture, viticulture and commercial fishing), qualified film production facilities, waste treatment & pollution control property or research and development property.

nyfirst.ny.gov/resourcecenter/AgencyPrograms/Tax_Finance/TaxCredits.html

JOHN MAY FARM SAFETY FUND

Cost share funding for New York farmers that need financial help improving safety on their farms. After a NYCAMH farm safety audit occurs, 50% up to \$5,000 of the cost to improve priority area concerns could become available.

nycamh.org/programs/john-may-farm-safety-fund/

NATIONAL GRID INCENTIVES

For businesses whose energy provider is National Grid, the company has a number of incentives for renewable energy projects or energy efficiency programs. Nathan Rudgers, Farm Credit East Director of Business Development, has worked with many New York applicants applying for these incentives. More information on Farm Credit East grant writing services is included in the link below.

nationalgridus.com/ServicesRebates?filters=For%20Businesses|Upstate%20New%20York|Electric
farmcrediteast.com/products-and-services/grant-writing

NEW FARMERS GRANT FUND

The New York State New Farmers Grant Fund was created to provide assistance to beginning farmers who have chosen farming as a career and who materially and substantially participate in the production of an agricultural product on their farm. Empire State Development, in consultation with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, is administering the fund. The \$1 million fund will provide grants of up to \$50,000 to assist with up to 50 percent of eligible project costs, with the remaining 50 percent being matched by the recipient.

esd.ny.gov/BusinessPrograms/NewFarmersGrantFund.html

NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

The New York State Agricultural Society Foundation (NYSAS Foundation) is a 501(c)(3) that supports the mission of the NYS Agricultural Society focusing on education, leadership development and recognition for future generations involved in the New York State food and agriculture industry.

nysagsociety.org/foundation/

NEW YORK FARM VIABILITY INSTITUTE (NYFVI) DAIRY PROFIT TEAM PROGRAM

NYFVI accepts Dairy Profit Team applications on a rolling basis. Profit Teams are groups of professionals (feed consultants, extension agents, veterinarians, accountants etc.), selected by the farmer that work together to improve the business. The NYFVI will reimburse up to \$3,000 worth of expenses on these professionals, so long as you commit to 6 meetings over 12 months.

nyfvi.org/default.aspx?PageID=2380

NYFVI FARM VIABILITY GRANTS

NYFVI proposals will be judged based on the project's potential to help NYFVI achieve its mission to help New York farms become more economically viable. NYFVI is most interested in projects that will create knowledge that will quickly and directly benefit farmers through work in one of the five portfolio priority areas:



FARM CREDIT EAST

- Improve Operational Practices
- Foster Industry-wide Innovation
- Incubate New Ideas
- Increase Routes to Market and Improve Marketing Practices
- Develop Human Capital

nyfvi.org/default.aspx?PageID=2261

NYFVI FOCUS OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

Focus Opportunity (FOC) projects typically have unique conditions related to urgent, emerging needs or high priority areas. Projects may have a broader scope, or require more coordination and multi-discipline collaboration than other efforts funded by the New York Farm Viability Institute. FOC funds have also been used as matching funds for other grants. Funding priority goes to proposals that include farmer participation across agriculture sectors, production and management systems or regions of the state.

nyfvi.org/default.aspx?PageID=2341

NYS ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NYSERDA)

NYSERDA has a number of programs to help farmers with energy conservation and renewable energy projects.

nyserdera.ny.gov/Business-and-Industry/Agriculture

NYS GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES/GOOD HANDLING PRACTICES

The Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)/Good Handling Practices (GHP) Certification Assistance Program is a cost-share/reimbursement program designed to assist the New York State's specialty crop industry with the cost of a GAP/GHP food safety audit.

agriculture.ny.gov/rfps/GAP/GAP-Application.pdf

NYS VETERAN FARMER GRANT FUND

Administered through Empire State Development this fund is intended to help improve the profitability of a farm owned by veteran farmers through one or both of the following goals:

- Expanding agricultural production, diversifying agricultural production and/or extending the agricultural season; and/or
- Advancing innovative agricultural techniques that increase sustainable practices such as organic farming, food safety, reduction of farm waste and/or water use. Individual grants shall not exceed 50% of the total project cost and will not exceed \$50,000.

esd.ny.gov/new-york-state-veterans-farmer-grant-fund

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ropsr4u.com/national-rebate-program.php

RHODE ISLAND

LOCAL AGRICULTURE AND SEAFOOD ACT GRANTS PROGRAM

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Division of Agriculture is administering a Local Agriculture and Seafood Act Grants Program. The goal of the program is to support the growth, development, and marketing of local food and seafood in Rhode Island. It is made possible by funding from the State of Rhode Island, and matching foundation funds. This unique and unprecedented public-private partnership will provide grants intended to directly benefit and strengthen the local food system in Rhode Island.

dem.ri.gov/programs/agriculture/grants.php

NATIONAL GRID INCENTIVES

The National Grid Energy Saving Program offers assistance in ways to become more energy efficient while also reducing energy expenses. National Grid offers incentives, rebates and discounts to eligible businesses and multifamily properties.

nationalgridus.com/RI-Business/Default

RHODE ISLAND AGRICULTURAL ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) has grant money available to help local farmers "green" their operations and benefit from the related energy and cost savings. The new Rhode Island Agricultural Energy Grant Program supports energy efficiency projects as well as helps farmers transition to renewable power.

dem.ri.gov/programs/agriculture/farm-energy.php

APPENDIX

A NOTE ABOUT FARM CREDIT EAST

Farm Credit East extends more than \$6.6 billion in loans and has 20 local offices in its seven-state service area. In addition to loans and leases, the organization also offers a full range of agriculturally specific financial services for businesses related to farming, horticulture, forestry and commercial fishing. Farm Credit East is governed by a 16-person board of directors. For more information, visit FarmCreditEast.com.

Farm Credit East has a number of programs and incentives tailored to young, beginning, small and veteran farmers including discounts on services and paying loan guarantee fees for USDA guaranteed loans.

farmcrediteast.com/products-and-services/new-farmer-programs

GenerationNext – Educational series that enhances the overall business knowledge and management ability of young producers.

Harvesting a Profit – A profitability guide for farmers beginning a career in agriculture.

FarmStart – FarmStart makes working capital investments of up to \$75,000 in beginning farmers who work with an advisor on business planning and financial management.

Grant writing – Farm Credit East offers grant writing services to help farms and agribusinesses grow, change or expand their enterprises.

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