

Grants and Incentives for Northeast Agriculture

Report by Farm Credit East Knowledge Exchange



FARM CREDIT EAST

Updated: July 2020

MESSAGE FROM FARM CREDIT EAST

Farm Credit East extends more than \$7.8 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 specialized financial services, such as tax preparation, payroll, record keeping, appraisal and consulting for farming, forest products and commercial fishing businesses. Your agricultural business is your livelihood, and Farm Credit East is here to help make your business successful.

Farm Credit East's Knowledge Exchange team gives you access to the financial and management knowledge and expertise you need to enhance and strengthen your business. For the most up to date reports, industry updates, webinars and benchmarks, please visit the [Knowledge Exchange](#) section of the Farm Credit East website.

This document contains grants and other incentives available in the Northeast states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island serviced by Farm Credit East. The listings include grant programs, tax incentives and loan programs from various funding sources available to agricultural producers and other entities involved in agriculture or related industries. Please note that as grant programs often change, this 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.

We hope you find this report to be a useful resource. As the agriculture industry deals with the short and long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Farm Credit East offers additional resources. Our Knowledge Exchange team and tax consultants continue to stay up to date on federal and state relief programs and tax law changes relevant to ag businesses. We provide this information on our dedicated COVID-19 resource page as it becomes available. [Visit FarmCreditEast.com/ResourceHub](https://www.farmcrediteast.com/ResourceHub) to stay informed.

Thank you for continuing to choose Farm Credit East,

Farm Credit East Knowledge Exchange
July 2020

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FARM CREDIT EAST RESOURCES FOR FARMERS

Farm Credit East has several programs and incentives tailored to young, beginning, small and veteran farmers, including discounts on services and paying loan guarantee fees for USDA guaranteed loans. For a full listing of Farm Credit East products and services, [click here](#).

AgEnhancement Grants

Each year, Farm Credit East, CoBank and Yankee Farm Credit award grants ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 to help organizations promote awareness and strengthen agriculture, commercial fishing and forest products in the six New England states, New York and New Jersey. For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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. For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

GenerationNext

Educational series that enhances the overall business knowledge and management ability of young producers. For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Grant Writing Services

Farm Credit East offers grant writing services to help farms and agribusinesses grow, change or expand their enterprises. For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Harvesting a Profit

A profitability guide for farmers beginning a career in agriculture. For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).



FEDERAL/REGIONAL 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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loans

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

America's next generation of farmers and ranchers are supported through FSA's "Beginning Farmer" direct and guaranteed loan programs. Farm Ownership loans can provide access to land and capital. Operating loans can assist beginning farmers in becoming prosperous and competitive by helping to pay normal operating or family living expenses; open doors to new markets and marketing opportunities; assist with diversifying operations; and so much more. Through the microloan programs, beginning farmers and ranchers have an important source of financial assistance during the startup years.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

The Carrot Project

Sponsor/Agency: The Carrot Project

For over 13 years, The Carrot Project has worked with farm and food businesses in New England and the Hudson Valley, supporting their successes by helping them build the financial management skills to help their businesses thrive.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Young Farmer Grant Program

Sponsor/Agency: National Young Farmers Coalition

The National Young Farmers Coalition (Young Farmers) has launched a new grant program to help young and beginning farmers and ranchers start up and grow their businesses. Grant recipients will receive \$5,000 and a one-year membership to the National Young Farmers Coalition. This fund can be used for anything that will further the young farmer's goals, even if that means just getting started. The goal of the fund is to provide financial assistance for any cost that currently limits the young farmer's ability to start, run or grow their operation.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Rural Business & Cooperatives

Farm Bureau Innovations Challenge

Sponsor/Agency: American Farm Bureau Federation in partnership with Farm Credit

The Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge is a national business competition that showcases U.S. startups developing innovative solutions that address challenges facing America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities. The American Farm Bureau Federation in partnership with Farm Credit, seeks to identify the top entrepreneurs who are addressing both traditional challenges farmers face on their operation, such as access to labor, optimizing yield and reducing operating costs, to entrepreneurs who are addressing new challenges facing farmers and rural communities.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The Rural Cooperative Development Grant program improves the economic condition of rural areas by helping individuals and businesses start, expand or improve rural cooperatives and other mutually owned businesses through Cooperative Development Centers. Grants are awarded through a national competition.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

The primary objective of the Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant program is to provide technical assistance to socially disadvantaged groups through cooperatives and Cooperative Development Centers.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

For more information about Farm Credit East Grant Writing Services, [click here](#).

Conservation, Environment and Forestry

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#). (Grow Grants)

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#). (Seed Grants)

Landscape Scale Restoration Grants

The purpose of the Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) competitive grant program is to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes, leverage public and private resources, and support priorities identified in State Forest Action Plans. The LSR request for applications comes out once per year.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

US Forest Service - Forest Stewardship

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) provides assistance to owners of forest land where good stewardship, including agroforestry practices, will enhance and sustain multiple forest resources and contribute to healthy and resilient landscapes.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Wood Innovations Program Request

The USDA Forest Service requests proposals to substantially expand and accelerate wood energy and wood products markets throughout the United States to support forest management needs on National Forest System and other forest lands.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Energy

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 provides grants to help farmers with energy audits and renewable energy development.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants

Sponsor/Agency: USDA

This program assists rural small businesses and agricultural producers by conducting and promoting energy audits and providing Renewable Energy Development Assistance (REDA).

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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 U.S.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Research, Education and Promotion

Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement Program

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

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 more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Northeast SARE Grants

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

Northeast SARE has several 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

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Northeast Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc. (NAEF) Grant

Sponsor/Agency: Northeast Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc. (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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Fisheries and Aquaculture

Commercial Fishing Occupational Safety Research Cooperative Agreement

This Commercial Fishing Occupational Safety Research Cooperative Agreement is intended to provide funding to individuals in academia, members of non-profit organizations and businesses involved in fishing and maritime matters, and other entities with expertise in commercial fishing safety. The funding will be used to support research on improving the occupational safety of workers in the commercial fishing industry.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Grant Program

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) awards grants that catalyze the implementation of electronic technologies (ET) for fisheries catch, effort and/or compliance monitoring, and improvements to fishery information systems in U.S. fisheries. In 2020, up to \$3.7 million was anticipated to be made a through this solicitation.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

NOAA Fisheries

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, offers grant opportunities to national and New England producers and processors. For the most current open opportunities, visit the link below.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program

The Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program funds projects that address the needs of fishing communities, optimize economic benefits by building and maintaining sustainable fisheries, and increase other opportunities to keep working waterfronts viable.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Additional Resources

Farm Aid – Farmers Resources Network

For more information about this resource, [click here](#).

USDA Rural Development Programs and Services

For more information about this resource, [click here](#).

Center for Rural Affairs – Farm and Food Funding

For more information about this resource, [click here](#).

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

Connecticut Farm Energy Program

The Connecticut Farm Energy Program (CFEP) serves as a resource and clearinghouse for information about on-farm energy opportunities, including grant opportunities, financial incentives, loans, audits, educational opportunities and events for agricultural producers and agriculturally based small businesses located in Connecticut. CFEP works closely with Federal, state and local partners and they provide technical assistance in the form of grant writing to eligible Connecticut agricultural producers and small businesses.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Energize Connecticut

Energize Connecticut provides Connecticut consumers, businesses and communities resources and information on energy conservation and clean energy resources. It is an initiative of the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund, the Connecticut Green Bank, the state, and local electric and gas utilities. The initiative has funding support from a charge on customer energy bills.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Farm Reinvestment Grant

The Farm Reinvestment Grant 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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).



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).

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program for Connecticut

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture solicits concept proposals on an annual basis for projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined by the USDA as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, maple syrup, honey, horticulture, and nursery crops. Projects must impact and produce measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund

The Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund (AMLF) program provides financing to help Maine farms and agricultural businesses enhance and improve their products. AMLF funded projects can demonstrate new and innovative equipment and facilities to improve and enhance the manufacturing, marketability and production of Maine products. Farmers, food processors and aquaculture operators can access the fund to enhance production processes, innovate marketing techniques and/or make product improvements.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

CEI Maine – Venture Capital

By investing in innovative companies exhibiting rapid growth and dynamic transformation or emergence, CEI seeks to build partnerships with passionate entrepreneurs and quality management teams with relevant experience, visionary leadership and deep commitment. CEI portfolio companies secure competitive advantages through proprietary technology, intellectual property and distributions systems, while providing broad reaching social benefits.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

COVID-19 Pandemic Resources for Fishermen

Some fishermen and fishing businesses are able to cope or adapt for the short-term, while others need immediate assistance, and none are prepared for what might be a long-term decline in seafood value. The Maine Coast Fishermen's Association regularly updates resources to specifically aid the fisheries and aquaculture industry.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Dairy Improvement Fund

The Dairy Improvement Fund is a new revolving loan program to help Maine dairy farms and enterprises make capital improvements to maintain and enhance the viability of their farms. The program was developed by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, and is administered by the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME).

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Farm to School Program

The Division of Agriculture Resource Development collaborates with the Department of Education and Maine Farm to School Network to help coordinate activities that support education of students in agricultural programs, including gardening, greenhouse development, production technology and marketing. The Department also houses the Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Council (MAITC) which has a goal to help students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society so that they will become citizens who support wise agricultural policies and local agriculture endeavors. Maine Agriculture in the Classroom is funded by the Maine Agricultural specialty license plate, grants and private sponsors. Grants are distributed to educational programs in four different categories including: School Gardens and School Greenhouses, Agricultural Awareness and Agricultural Leadership.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Rural Rehabilitation Trust Fund

The Agricultural Resource Development Division manages this dedicated revenue fund for purposes of providing policy and loan-making decisions of this fund. Investments of fund dollars go to providing low interest loans to farmers for purchasing land or feeder cattle. The fund also provides capital improvement loans to agricultural fairs.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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 to ensure its permanent use indefinitely.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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 a phase 1 grant is received, assists farmers with implementation of the project described and researched in phase 1. In turn, farmers agree to protect their farmland for seven years. For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Municipal Planning Assistance Program

The Municipal Planning Assistance Program at the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and Maine Coastal Program at the Department of Marine Resources' Coastal Community Grants are for municipal and regional projects in Maine's Coastal Zone. Funding for this technical assistance grant comes from Maine Coastal Program's annual grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The coastal communities grants have a maximum award of \$100,000. Communities eligible to apply include towns in Maine's coastal zone, groups of towns in Maine's coastal zone; coastal regional planning commissions; and coastal councils of government. For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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. For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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, provide a good description of woodland value and activities to maintain and improve woodland health. For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).



Massachusetts

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% of their total project costs.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Agricultural Energy Grant Program (ENER)

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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 the development rights on agricultural land in exchange for a permanent deed restriction, securing its future use as agricultural land.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Agricultural Produce Safety Improvement Program (APSIP)

The Agricultural Produce Safety Improvement Program (APSIP) supports produce operations that are looking to improve their on-farm food safety practices to help minimize the risk of microbial contamination and food-borne illnesses. In addition, implementing these practices can help farms achieve one of the main goals of the program, to meet regulatory requirements under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). FSMA compliance will increase competitive market access by meeting buyer demands for demonstrated practices that work towards protecting public health and food safety.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

APR Improvement Program

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).



Climate Smart Agriculture Program

Funding includes energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that were previously funded under the Traditional Agricultural Energy Grant Program, and combines the application process for the Ag Climate Resiliency & Efficiencies (ACRE) & the Ag Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) to seek responses for practices that work towards adapting to and/or mitigating climate variability and change, and/or practices that work towards reducing or preventing impacts to natural resources that may result from agricultural practices.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Dairy Farmer Tax Credit Program

The Dairy Farmer Tax Credit Program enables a dairy farmer who holds a Certificate of Registration receive 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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Food Ventures Grant Program

The overall goal of the Massachusetts Food Ventures Program (MFVP) is to increase access to healthy, affordable food options and improve economic opportunities for low to moderate income communities. The MFVP provides funding through grants to support food ventures, sited primarily in or near communities of low or moderate income, including Gateway Cities and rural communities.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Farm Energy Discount Program

The Farm Energy Discount Program provides discounts on electricity and natural gas bills of 10% 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% discount on rates.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Farm Viability Enhancement Program

The Farm Viability Enhancement Program (FVEP) seeks to improve the economic viability and environmental footprint of participating farms through the development and implementation of farm viability plans. The FVEP 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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) / Good Harvesting Practices (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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Local Farmer Awards – Harold Grinspoon Foundation

Recognizing that farming is essential to communities, the foundation provides funds to selected local farms (Western Massachusetts) for necessary farm improvements. The goal of the award is to strengthen local farmers' ability to compete in the marketplace so that the region benefits from the environmental, health and economic advantages of local farming.

For information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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 to improve chances of receiving a grant from elsewhere, particularly when government or corporate funding isn't available.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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 3 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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Rollover Protective Structure Retrofit Program

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

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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% qualifying renewables by December 31, 2020.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs (SARA)

The Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs (SARA) helps resolve stewardship issues caused by a prior owner to restore active commercial farming on land that has already been protected through the Department's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. Funds may be used for materials and contracted labor or equipment rental costs to clear or reclaim inactive fields that are out of production at no fault of the current owner.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Rollover Protective Structure Retrofit Program

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

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Solar Rebate Program

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission initiated a 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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

The NHDAMF offers eligible New Hampshire organizations the opportunity to apply for a portion of these funds under the New Hampshire Specialty Crops Grant Program to conduct projects that benefit New Hampshire Specialty Crops.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

New Jersey Wine Industry Project Grants

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture/ New Jersey Wine Industry Advisory Council (NJWIAC) awards grants for wine industry projects to address research, development and promotion of the New Jersey Wine Industry.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

New Jersey Clean Energy Program

Provides financial incentives (rebates of 30% - 70% of system costs) to owners who install qualifying clean energy generation systems such as fuel cells, photovoltaics (solar electricity), small wind and sustainable biomass equipment.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Soil and Water Grants

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

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).



Sea Grant – NJ Sea Grant Consortium

New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC) is an association of colleges, universities and other groups dedicated to advancing knowledge and stewardship of the Garden State’s marine and coastal environment. NJSGC meets its mission through innovative research, education and extension programs.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

The New Jersey Department of Ag offers eligible organizations the opportunity to apply for a portion of these funds under the New Jersey Specialty Crops Grant Program to conduct projects that benefit New Jersey Specialty Crops.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

New York

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% of project costs or more if farmers contribute in the areas of planning or implementation.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Dairy Advancement Program

The Dairy Advancement 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. In the past, this program has been utilized for Farm Credit East Consulting Services.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

For more information about Farm Credit Consulting Services, [click here](#).

Farmers School Tax Credit (FSTC)

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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 and pollution control property, or research and development property.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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 be made available.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

More information on Farm Credit East grant writing services, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

More information on Farm Credit East grant writing services, [click here](#).

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% of eligible project costs, with the remaining 50% being matched by the recipient.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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 for these professionals, as long as six meetings over 12 months are committed.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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 to quickly and directly benefit farmers through work in one of the five portfolio priority areas:

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

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

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

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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 New York State's specialty crop industry with the cost of a GAP/GHP food safety audit.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Rollover Protective Structure Retrofit Program

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

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Urban and Community Forestry Grants

This reimbursement grant program focusses on partnerships, volunteers, community groups, professionals, and outreach and education because these are components of strong and sustainable community forestry programs. Eligible project categories include tree inventories, management plans, tree planting, maintenance and education programming for those who care for community trees.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Rhode Island

Local Agriculture and Seafood Act (LASA) Grants Program

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Division of Agriculture administers 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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

The purpose of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as "fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture)." Grant applications and projects must further the competitiveness of specialty crops only as broadly as possible in Rhode Island, and not just serve to enhance individual farm viability pursuant to USDA program guidelines.

For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

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