

Grants and Incentives for Northeast Agriculture

Report by Farm Credit East
Knowledge Exchange



FARM CREDIT EAST

Updated: January 2022

Message from Farm Credit East

Farm Credit East extends more than \$9 billion in loans and has 25 local offices in its eight-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, Rhode Island and Vermont, serviced by Farm Credit East. The listings include grant programs, tax incentives loan programs and other forms of assistance 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
January 2022

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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 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 provides grants, loan guarantees and incentives 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 the program will continue.

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 to 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](#).

Connecticut Farm Risk Management and Crop Insurance Program

The Connecticut Farm Risk Management and Crop Insurance Program is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) to develop and provide Connecticut producers with educational programming on crop insurance and risk management. The program is administered by a team comprising representatives from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and the University of Connecticut.

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

Connecticut Grown Program

The Connecticut Grown Program was developed by the state Department of Agriculture in 1986, when the now-familiar green and blue logo was created to identify agricultural products grown in the state.

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

Connecticut Women's Business Development Council Equity Match Grant

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for applicants who own 51% or more of their business, have been established for at least two years in Connecticut and are owned by a Connecticut resident with a record of sales between \$25,000 - \$2 million. Applicants are required to provide a 25% match and cannot be used for past purchases or investments.

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](#).

Export Assistance Programs

Three tracks are available. Exporter Education will help you decide if your company is ready to export. Market Entry is available if your business is ready to begin exporting, helping identify potentially successful markets. Market Promotion is available for those who have a target market and are ready to start promotion.

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](#).

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](#).

Farmland Preservation Program

Development Rights are sold to the state of Connecticut and landowner is presented with a check for the value of those rights.

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

Farm Transition Grant

Competitive matching grant program for Connecticut farmers and agricultural cooperatives to support the diversification of existing farm operations, transitioning to value-added agricultural production and sales, and other venues in which a majority of products sold are grown in the state. Be aware, this is a *reimbursement* grant.

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](#).

Property Tax Exemption for Farm Buildings and Farm Machinery

Up to \$100,000 in assessed value for farm equipment and machinery. An additional \$100,000 for machinery if the municipality votes to approve such an exemption. An exemption for each farm building used exclusively in farming to an assessed value of up to \$100,000, also if the municipality votes to approve. In order to receive any of the above exemptions, you must derive at least \$15,000 in gross sales or demonstrate \$15,000 in expenses on the farm. You also must declare to Town by November 1 (within 30 days after the assessment date). For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Public Act (PA) 490

The Connecticut General Assembly enacted Public Act 63-490, an act concerning the taxation and preservation of farm, forest or open space, commonly referred to as "PA 490." Public Act 490 is Connecticut's Current-Use Tax Law for Farmland, Forest Land and Open Space Land. It is one of the most important laws to help preserve an agricultural, forest and natural resource land base in Connecticut.

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](#).

Sales Tax Exemption for Farmers

Retail sales of tangible personal property used exclusively in agricultural production are exempt from sales and use taxes provided the purchase qualifies for an exemption and the purchaser has been issued a Farmer Tax Exemption Permit. In order to qualify for the sales tax exemption, a farmer must first apply with the Department of Revenue Service (DRS).

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](#).

Southern New England Farmers of Color Collaborative Seeding for Success Stipends

Seeding for Success Stipends are available to farmers who identify as black, indigenous, LatinX, Asian or another ethnicity or race of color and who have been operating their business for less than 10 years or plan to launch a new business. Grants of up to \$1,000 can be used to buy inputs, offset costs of conservation practices and/or land preparation and land leasing, or to make wifi connectivity more accessible.

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

UCONN Solid Ground Stipends

Solid Ground Stipends provide new and beginning farmers, with less than 10 years of experience, a \$500-\$2,000 grant to be used to mitigate costs. Funds can be used to buy inputs, offset costs of conservation practices and/or land preparation and land leasing, or to make wifi connectivity more accessible.

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 Infrastructure Investment Program

The Agriculture Infrastructure Investment (AII) Program is a Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan initiative created to help Maine farmers and food processors upgrade aging infrastructure. It's backed by \$20 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds. AII funding is available for Maine farms, agricultural food producers, and food processing businesses to support a number of activities, including: Capital improvements including modifications to existing buildings and/or construction of new buildings at existing facilities; Upgrades to utilities (including water, electric, heat, refrigeration, freezing, and waste facilities); Growing, processing, and manufacturing equipment and construction; Packaging and handling equipment; and Technology that allows increased capacity or business resilience (including software and hardware related to business functions, logistics, inventory management, and plant production and monitoring controls).

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](#).

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](#).



Farmland Protection Program

- Farmland owners who plan to farm for the long-term can enroll for Maine's [Farmland Property Tax Program](#) to reduce property tax on their working farmland.
- Forest and woodland owners who plan to grow and harvest timber and wood product for the long-term can enroll for Maine's [Tree Growth Property Tax Program](#) to reduce property tax on their working forestland.
- Farmland owners can [register their farmland](#) to require the neighbors' well to be set back 50' from the edge of the registered farmland.
- Farmland owners can donate or sell a conservation easement to a land trust by contacting [Maine Farmland Trust](#), finding a land trust near you through the [Maine Land Trust Network](#), or contacting staff in the [Division of Agricultural Resource Development](#) to learn more about selling development rights in exchange for granting an agricultural conservation easement.
- Communities can create a [Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program](#) to reimburse property taxes on farmland and farm buildings in exchange for 20 year conservation easements.
- Communities can consult with [GrowSmart Maine](#) to consider how best to develop agriculture-friendly policies and programs

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 Farm Food Access Program (FFAP)

The goal of FFAP is to provide more opportunities for individuals and families to purchase local foods with their federal SNAP benefits, and to positively benefit the economy by increasing the number of farms and farmers' markets in Maine accepting SNAP benefits. FFAP helps Maine's direct-market farms and farmers' markets purchase a new wireless Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) machine and offers a reimbursement for the associated fees required to process USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) transactions.

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

Maine Farms for the Future Program

The goal is to provide grants for farm business owners to conduct research and strategic business planning on their "Ideas for Change" that might increase Farm Vitality, which is defined as, "an increase in long-term, maintainable, farm profitability and net worth."

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

Potato Marketing Improvement Fund

The Potato Marketing Improvement Fund (PMIF) provides financing to potato growers and packers to construct modern storages, modernize existing storages, and purchase packing lines as part of the industry's plan to improve the quality and marketing of Maine potatoes. The PMIF provides long-term, fixed-rate loans at low interest rates for the construction or improvements to storage and packing facilities. Funds cannot be used for working capital, refinancing, or non-project related equipment. PMIF funds may only be used for permanent financing after a project is completed.

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

Rural Rehabilitation Trust Fund

The 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](#).

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](#).

WoodsWISE Incentives to Stewardship Enhancement

Taking care of woodlands is extremely important to Maine's economy and well-being. A key element of woodland stewardship is working with a professional forester to develop a management plan. The WoodsWISE Incentives program currently offers cost-share assistance for forest management planning known as a Woodland Resource Action Plan (WRAP). A WRAP will provide a good description of the current and potential values of your woodland, and a blueprint of activities to reach your objectives to maintain and improve your woods.

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

Massachusetts

Agricultural Climate Resiliency and Efficiencies (ACRE) Program

This grant program is for the implementation of projects that help the agricultural sector adapt to climate change, mitigate climate change, improve economic resiliency, and advance general goals identified in the Massachusetts Local Action Food Plan.

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

Agricultural Composting Improvement Program (ACIP)

This grant program funds projects and equipment to facilitate composting best management practices, use of compost for agricultural purposes, and enhance overall management of agricultural composting operations. Reimbursement grants up to \$75,000 will be awarded on a competitive basis.

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

Agriculture Preservation Restriction Program (APR)

This program protects productive farmland by purchasing deed restrictions. This makes land more affordable to farmers, which revitalizes the agricultural industry. The program works to bolster the state's \$550,000,000 agricultural industry by keeping farms in active commercial use. We signal to the industry that we support our farmers and encourage a strong and viable agricultural economy.

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

Agricultural Energy Grant Program (ENER)

This grant program is for the implementation of agricultural projects that improve energy efficiency and facilitate adoption of alternative clean energy technologies.

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

Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP)

This grant program is for the implementation of agricultural conservation practices that reduce or prevent negative impacts to the Commonwealth's natural resources that may result from agricultural practices, while maintaining sustainability and productivity of the agricultural operation.

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

Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program (AFSIP)

This grant program is for the implementation of practices that prevent or reduce food safety risks for produce or aquaculture operations, meet regulatory requirements, and improve market access.

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](#).

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](#).

APR Improvement Program (AIP)

This grant program provides business and technical assistance to farms with land that has already been protected through MDAR's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. Grant funds of \$40,000 - \$120,000 may be available on a reimbursement basis with a 25% match to participants for capital infrastructure improvements on the farm identified through the planning process.

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

Buy Local Grant Program

This grant program strengthens the marketing potential of agricultural businesses and products. It is a campaign across Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

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

Climate Smart Agriculture Program

The Climate Smart Agriculture Program combines MDAR's separate water, energy and climate grants into one application. The three grant programs combined in this application are the Agricultural Climate Resiliency & Efficiencies (ACRE) Grant, the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program Grant (AEEP) and the Traditional Ag-Energy Program Grant (ENER). By bringing the three grants under one program, MDAR is seeking to simplify the application process by allowing a single application process for these grants.

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



Cranberry Bog Renovation Grant Program

Funding to implement cranberry bog renovations that promote more efficient bogs both in design and production while enhancing the business and environmental sustainability of the cranberry operation.

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 to 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](#).

Dairy Promotion Board Grant

The Board works with the MDAR to seek proposals for projects that advance Massachusetts dairy products. This includes the image, sales and demand for dairy.

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 (FVEP)

FVEP provides business planning and technical assistance to help established farms identify strategies to increase farm viability. Participants selected to participate in the program may be offered grant funds of \$50,000 - \$150,000 to implement strategies identified in the planning process in return for signing an agricultural covenant on the farm property for a 5, 10 or 15-year term.

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

Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP)

This program funds research projects that address challenges and opportunities in the sale of agricultural products. This includes marketing, transportation and distribution.

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](#).

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 Food Trust Program

This grant program funds projects that increase access to healthy, affordable food options, sourcing Massachusetts grown, caught or harvested healthy food and to improve economic opportunities for nutritionally underserved communities in urban, rural and suburban localities.

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

Massachusetts Food Ventures Program

This grant program funds projects that support food ventures in low- or moderate-income communities. This includes Gateway Cities and rural communities. Participants selected by the program will be reimbursed up to \$500,000, and the minimum award is \$100,000.

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](#).

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 (MEGA)

This grant program assists beginner farmers who are between 1 and 6 years in business by providing technical assistance and business planning. Grant funds of up to \$10,000 are available with a one-to-one match to assist farmers whose goal is to raise agricultural products and who aspire to develop their farms into commercially viable operations.

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](#).

Organic Cost Share

MDAR works with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service to reimburse certified organic farmers and food processors up to 75% (\$750 dollars maximum) of the total certification cost. Farms and food companies must be inspected and certified to receive funds. Parties receiving renewal of certification may be eligible.

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

Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) Retrofit Program

Rollover protective structures ROPS in tractors are 99% effective in preventing rollover deaths and injuries. This grant program will rebate 70% of the cost of purchasing and installing the ROPS (up to \$865 maximum rebate). Rebate funds are good towards the price of the ROPS kit, shipping charges, tax, professional installation costs and a sun canopy. You can buy and install the ROPS kit (rollbar and seatbelt) as well as any of the previous items.

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

Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs (SARA)

This grant program funds projects to restore farmland for agricultural use on agricultural preservation restriction (APR) farms. Funding of up to \$35,000, with a 15% match, may be available on a cost reimbursement basis for approved projects.

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

Southern New England Farmers of Color Collaborative Seeding for Success Stipends

Seeding for Success Stipends are available to farmers who identify as black, indigenous, LatinX, Asian or another ethnicity or race of color and who have been operating their business for less than 10 years or plan to launch a new business. Grants of up to \$1,000 can be used to buy inputs, offset costs of conservation practices and/or land preparation and land leasing, or to make wifi connectivity more accessible.

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

Urban Agriculture Program

This grant program advances agricultural goals and objectives of Massachusetts. The program funds infrastructure needs, innovative food production, zoning ordinances, technical assistance, land acquisition, and youth leadership development.

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](#).

Dairy Business Viability and Technical Assistance Grant

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) announces the availability of funds through the Dairy Business Viability and Technical Assistance Grant Program, which will provide grants for dairy processors, producer associations, supply chain businesses, and technical assistance providers to enhance dairy farmer and processor business operations and strengthen market opportunities.

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

Dairy Food Safety and Certification Grant

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) announces the availability of funds through the Dairy Food Safety & Certification Grant program, which will provide grants for dairy farmers, processors, and/or producer associations to take actionable steps to improve the safety of dairy products. Activities covered by this grant include accessing technical assistance, audits, food safety plan development, training, testing fees, and certain infrastructure upgrades.

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

Dairy Product Packaging Innovation Grant

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) announces the availability of funds through the Dairy Product Packaging Innovation Grant program. To remain competitive, Northeast dairy businesses need access to product packaging solutions that meet demands for sustainability as well as marketability. This program will provide grants to support modernized packaging initiatives that prioritize sustainability, scalability and marketability. Priority will go to projects that partner across the dairy and packaging manufacturing sector and those that can demonstrate how they will positively impact multiple dairy businesses and supply chain partners.

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

Goat and Sheep Dairy Supply Chain Grant

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) has expanded eligibility and extended the deadline for the Goat and Sheep Dairy Supply Chain Grant program, which will provide grants for Northeast region dairy farmers, processors and/or producer associations to improve the goat and/or sheep dairy supply chain.

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 (ROPS) 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 Assessment

Administered by the New Jersey Department of Treasury, this program provides for lower assessment based on productivity of farmland if it meets specific eligibility criteria. To qualify for the tax assessment reduction, a landowner must have no less than five acres of farmland actively devoted to an agricultural or horticultural use for the two years immediately preceding the tax year being applied for and meet specific minimum gross income requirements based on the productivity of the land.

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

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](#).

Garden State Dairy Alliance

The Garden State Dairy Alliance offers New Jersey dairy farmers and supporting industries the comprehensive resources and assistance from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Various programs have been implemented to aid farmers and producers with technical assistance in managing production, marketing, financial, environmental, legal and human risks associated with operating a dairy enterprise.

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

Jersey Fresh

Established in 1984 by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the Jersey Fresh logo was designed to inform consumers which fruits and vegetables were grown in the Garden State. Become licensed to use the Jersey Fresh logo by registering with the Quality Grading Program.

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](#).

Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program

This program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing.

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](#).

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture 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

Agriculture Energy Audit Program

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) offers free energy audits to identify energy efficiency measures for eligible farms and on-farm producers, including but not limited to dairies, orchards, greenhouses, vegetables, vineyards, grain dryers and poultry/egg. In addition, greenhouse facilities can receive a free benchmarking report that describes their energy use intensity and benchmarks their facility against an anonymous aggregate of peer facilities. Farms must be customers of a New York State investor-owned utility and contribute to the System Benefits Charge (SBC).

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

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](#).



Farm-to-School Program

The New York State Farm-to-School Program was created to connect schools with local farms and food producers to strengthen local agriculture, improve student health, and promote regional food systems awareness. The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets provides financial assistance to New York State schools through New York State's Farm-to-School program. It also provides technical and promotional assistance to schools, farms, distributors and other supporting organizations to bring more local, nutritious, seasonally varied meals to New York students.

For more information about this opportunity, [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 5% of investment (up to \$350 million; 4% 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](#).

Milk Security Program

The main objective of the security program is to protect producers against loss of income in the event a milk dealer defaults in paying for milk received. Pursuant to Section 258-b of Agriculture and Markets Law, licensed dealers who purchase milk directly from producers or cooperatives are required to secure their purchases by either participating in the state's Milk Producers Security Fund (MPSF) or by filing full alternate security in the form of a bond or letter of credit. Milk sales between cooperatives are exempt from this security provision.

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 York State 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 who 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 (ROPS) Retrofit Program

The ROPS Rebate Program will rebate 70% of the cost of purchasing and installing the Rollover Protective Structure 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

Farm Energy Program

As part of its continued efforts to grow Rhode Island's green economy, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) has announced \$600,000 will be available to help local farmers "green" their operations and benefit from the related energy and cost savings. The new Rhode Island Farm Energy Program supports energy efficiency projects and helps farmers transition to renewable power.

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

Farm, Forest and Open Space Act

Rhode Island law (Chapter 44-27) allows property enrolled in the Farm, Forest and Open Space Program to be assessed at its current use, not its value for development. The purpose of the law is not to reduce property taxes, but to conserve Rhode Island's productive agricultural and forest land by reducing the chance it will have to be sold for development.

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

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](#).

Organic Certification Cost Share Reimbursement

Certified organic operations in Rhode Island may apply for USDA organic certification cost share reimbursement through RIDEM Division of Agriculture annually when funds become available and after forms and information have been updated [here](#). The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Kent County office also has accepted applications for organic certification cost share reimbursement. Contact FSA for current program status.

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](#).

Rhode Island Produce Safety Improvement Grants

Rhode Island Produce Safety Improvement Grants help Rhode Island produce growers implement on-farm food safety practices, transition to compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, and meet market demands for on-farm food safety. This grant round allows for up to \$35,000 of funding in grant opportunities to assist eligible Rhode Island farmers and food businesses with projects that have goals to improve quality, efficiency and food safety.

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

Rhode Island Seafood Logo

The Rhode Island Seafood brand uniquely identifies Rhode Island seafood in the marketplace. It is your guarantee that the seafood is fresh, local and landed in the Ocean State. You'll find Rhode Island Seafood products in grocery stores and restaurants and at festivals and farmers' markets.

For more information on how to apply for the RI Seafood logo, [click here](#).

Southern New England Farmers of Color Collaborative Seeding for Success Stipends

Seeding for Success Stipends are available to farmers who identify as black, indigenous, LatinX, Asian or another ethnicity or race of color and who have been operating their business for less than 10 years or plan to launch a new business. Grants of up to \$1,000 can be used to buy inputs, offset costs of conservation practices and/or land preparation and land leasing, or to make wifi connectivity more accessible.

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](#).

Vermont

Engineering Services and Farmstead Best Management Practices Program

The Agricultural Engineering Section assists farmers with on-farm improvements designed to abate non-point source agricultural waste discharges into the waters of the state of Vermont. It is our mission to assist Vermont farmers to achieve and maintain regulatory compliance in a way that is viable for the operation of the farm and of benefit to water quality by providing technical assistance, project management and financial assistance. 1) The section administers three programs to assist farmers: The EQIP-Assist Program is an opportunity for farmers with NRCS EQIP contracts to receive additional cost share on the practices installed as part of the EQIP contract. 2) The Technical Assistance Program is available to provide water quality compliance consultations, state permitting assistance or variance assistance. 3) The Farmstead Best Management Practices (BMP) Program provides engineering services on a priority basis for the design of BMPs at no cost to the farmer and can cost share on the construction of eligible practices.

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

Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP)

Financial assistance is available for new or innovative equipment that will aid in the reduction of surface runoff of agricultural wastes to state waters, improve water quality of state waters, reduce odors from manure application, separate phosphorus from manure, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce costs to farmers when they apply manure.

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

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Vermont's CREP is a voluntary program designed to reduce sediment runoff and improve water quality by removing land from agricultural production and establishing vegetative buffers. State and federal funds are used to compensate landowners for the loss of productive agricultural land through upfront incentive payments and annual rental payments based on the total acreage dedicated to vegetated filter strips, forested buffers or grassed waterways. Federal cost-share and incentive payments are available to cover 90% of the implementation costs associated with fencing, alternative water systems, stream crossings and vegetative buffer establishment. In most instances the costs may be 100% covered with help from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

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



Dairy Business Viability and Technical Assistance Grant

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) announces the availability of funds through the Dairy Business Viability and Technical Assistance Grant Program, which will provide grants for dairy processors, producer associations, supply chain businesses, and technical assistance providers to enhance dairy farmer and processor business operations and strengthen market opportunities.

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

Dairy Food Safety and Certification Grant

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) announces the availability of funds through the Dairy Food Safety & Certification Grant program, which will provide grants for dairy farmers, processors and/or producer associations to take actionable steps to improve the safety of dairy products. Activities covered by this grant include accessing technical assistance, audits, food safety plan development, training, testing fees, and certain infrastructure upgrades.

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

Dairy Product Packaging Innovation Grant

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) announces the availability of funds through the Dairy Product Packaging Innovation Grant program. To remain competitive, Northeast dairy businesses need access to product packaging solutions that meet demands for sustainability as well as marketability. This program will provide grants to support modernized packaging initiatives that prioritize sustainability, scalability and marketability. Priority will go to projects that partner across the dairy and packaging manufacturing sector and those that can demonstrate how they will positively impact multiple dairy businesses and supply chain partners.

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

Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) Program

The Farm Agronomic Practices program utilizes state funding to help Vermont farms implement soil-based agronomic practices that improve soil quality, increase crop production, and reduce erosion and agricultural waste discharges. The FAP program also provides education and instructional activity grants to support outreach regarding the impacts of agricultural practices on water quality and current state agricultural water quality regulations.

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

Goat and Sheep Dairy Supply Chain Grant

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) has expanded eligibility and extended the deadline for the Goat and Sheep Dairy Supply Chain Grant program, which will provide grants for Northeast region dairy farmers, processors and/or producer associations to improve the goat and/or sheep dairy supply chain.

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

Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip (GWFS) Program

The Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip (GWFS) program provides technical and financial assistance to Vermont farmers for in-field agronomic best practices to address critical source areas, erosion and surface runoff. The program’s goal is to reduce soil erosion and improve soil and water quality on cropland that contributes a disproportionately high level of nutrients in runoff. Such areas of cropland are considered “Critical Source Areas” (CSAs), representing a small proportion of the landscape yet a high proportion of nonpoint source pollution loads. For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Multi-Business Dairy Agritourism Grant

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) announces the availability of funds through the Multi-Business Dairy Agritourism Grant Program, which will serve to elevate dairy businesses through agritourism across the Northeast region of the US. Projects funded through this program should benefit multiple dairy businesses by promoting the access and sale of regionally produced milk and related products. For more information about this opportunity, [click here](#).

Organic Certification Cost Share Program

The Organic Certification Cost Share program provides funding assistance through the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to organic producers and handlers of agricultural products who have received organic certification through a USDA-accredited certifying agent. Certified organic operations may receive reimbursement of up to 50% of their direct certification costs paid between October 1 and September 30 annually, not to exceed \$500 per certification scope. There are up to four eligible certification scopes (crops, livestock, wild crops and handling), which must be individually inspected for organic certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

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

Pasture and Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program

The Pasture and Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program provides pasture management technical assistance and financial assistance to Vermont farmers to improve water quality and on-farm livestock exclusion from surface waters statewide.

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

Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grants

Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grants help Vermont produce growers implement on-farm food safety practices, transition to compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, and meet market demands for on-farm food safety.

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

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