

Grant Funding for Northeast Agriculture

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Why Do Government Agencies and Others Offer Grants?

1. Meets a Public Interest
2. Achieves a Public Good

Examples:

Environmental
Improvements



Renewable Energy
Objectives



Job Creation



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Grant or Incentive Assistance

First, there are a few simple criteria to consider:



What is the project? What do you want to achieve?



Do you have a business plan which defines achievement?



Is the project sufficiently capitalized without grant assistance?



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Criteria to Consider *cont.*

Then consider:



Size of the project



Development Challenges:
infrastructure, resources and capital



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Criteria to Consider *cont.*

Finally, consider:



Timing



Most grants do not cover work already completed



Success = start early with business plan, budget, funding



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Grant Opportunities for Farmers

USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service – **Value Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant Program (VAPG)**

Purpose: encourage producers of commodities to refine products to increase value – for feasibility studies, business and marketing plans and/or studies to establish venture

Eligibility: independent producers or producer associations of raw commodities

Application deadline: **Spring 2017**

Funding levels: up to **\$250,000** per proposal

More info: rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.html



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Value Added Producer Grant

- Criteria
- Elements
- Important Considerations

Grant Opportunities for Farmers

USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service - **Rural Energy for America Program**

Purpose: help farmers and rural businesses purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements, create new uses for ag products and waste

Eligible projects: systems that generate energy from wind, solar, biomass, geothermal sources, energy efficiency improvements-upgrade equipment or processes

Eligibility: producers and businesses in city/town with population under 50,000; 50% gross income from farm production; business with fewer than 500 employees and \$20 million in receipts

Next application deadline: **March 31, 2017**

Funding levels: up to 25% of project costs, maximum grant was **\$250,000 for energy efficiency**; up to **\$500,000 for renewable energy**

More info: rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/



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Renewable Energy for America Program

- Criteria
- Elements
- Important Considerations

Other Incentives Available

- Utility incentives and issues of interest
- National Grid
- NYSEG
- DOT funds
 - Multimodal
 - Industrial Access
- Office of Community Renewal (Community Development Block Grand Funds)
 - \$7,500-\$15,000/job created
 - Community infrastructure
- Job Creation incentives from State Economic Development Agency

Grant Opportunities for Farmers

Utility Company Energy Efficiency Programs

Purpose: Several programs offer incentives and loans for farm-waste management; improved energy efficiency; solar and wind generation; and innovative business practices for energy use.

Funding: varies with program

Last application deadline: dates vary with program

More info: nyserda.org - look at current funding opportunities for project descriptions and who to contact for details



Grant Opportunities for Farmers

NYS DEC and NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets **Water Quality Improvement Projects**

Purpose: implement management programs, plans or projects including non-point source abatement and control (ag & non-ag), aquatic habitat restoration and pollution prevention

Eligibility: Municipalities & SWCD's

More info: 518.485.7728 or contact your county SWCD for info on local funds



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Key Concepts

1. The 3 B's

- Business Plan
- Budget
- Bank

2. Is there a grant to help you?

- Activity-Value Added
- Resource-Renewable Energy
- Community Impact-Job Creation

3. How do I get it done?

- Understand the Requirements
- Pay attention to Detail
- Patience and Perseverance

Questions?

To download the full report:

FarmCreditEast.com/grants



**Grants and Incentives for
Northeast Agricultural Producers**

Thanks again for joining today's webinar!

Today's Presentation Materials:

FarmCreditEast.com/webinars

FarmCreditEast.com/grants

For more information contact:

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Upcoming Webinar:

The Food Safety Modernization Act: How to Comply

**December 20,
2016**

11AM EST

With thousands of pages of regulation, more than a dozen rulemakings and many guidance documents and reports, the FSMA can seem pretty intimidating. But it doesn't have to be scary! Join Dr. Wesley Kline of Rutgers Extension, as he presents a practical discussion of the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Dr. Kline will help navigate the complicated terrain of the FSMA regulations as they apply to growers of fresh produce along with some tips on how to comply.

To Register: FarmCreditEast.com/webinars