

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?

Criteria to Consider *cont.*

Then consider:



Size of the project



Development Challenges:
infrastructure, resources and capital

Criteria to Consider *cont.*

Finally, consider:



Timing



Most grants do not cover work already completed



Success = start early with business plan, budget, funding

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: **TBD, upon Farm Bill Approval**

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

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



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, 2019**

Funding levels: up to 25% of project costs, maximum grant was **\$200,000 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

New Farmers Grants Program

- \$1,000,000 in funding
- \$50,000 max per farm
- Farming less than 10 years
- Due 01/25/2019

Other Incentives Available

- Utility incentives and issues of interest
- National Grid
- NYSEG
- 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
- SARE Grants-Janet Will Discuss

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: nyserdera.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



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 Agriculture**

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