



# Grants and Incentives for Northeast Agriculture

Report by Farm Credit East Knowledge Exchange



FARM CREDIT EAST

Updated: July 2024

## Message from Farm Credit East

Farm Credit East extends more than \$10 billion in loans and has local offices throughout 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 reports, please visit the [Resources](#) 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. The eligibility requirements listed underneath each grant program may be subject to change every year. Interested parties should consult other sources, such as your state's department of agriculture, to identify all potential sources of grants and incentives.

We hope you find this report to be a useful resource. [Visit FarmCreditEast.com/Resources](#) to stay informed.

Thank you for continuing to choose Farm Credit East,

Farm Credit East Knowledge Exchange  
July 2024

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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 and CoBank award grants ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 to help organizations promote awareness and strengthen agriculture, commercial fishing and forest products industries 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 \$125,000 in beginning farmers who work with an advisor on business planning and financial management.

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

### GenerationNext

GenerationNext is an 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 and financial primer for farmers beginning a career in agriculture, or for those who would like to increase their financial knowledge.

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 National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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.

Eligible Recipients: A collaborative state, tribal, local or regionally based network or partnership of qualified public and/or private entities; universities and other organizations.

Funding Amount: \$49,000-\$750,000

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

#### **Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loans**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA Farm Service Agency

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.

Eligible Recipients: Beginning Farmers as defined by the USDA

Funding Amount: up to \$600,000 (Dependent on Type of Loan)

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

## **Cornell Small Farms Program**

Sponsor/Agency: Cornell CALS

Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences program has compiled a list of resources for small farms. These resources include information that can help with farm viability.

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

## **Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans Competitive Grants Program**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

The Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans Program provides grants to non-profits to increase the number of military veterans gaining knowledge and skills through comprehensive, hands-on and immersive model farm and ranch programs offered regionally that lead to successful careers in the food and agricultural sector. AgVets projects will offer onsite, hands-on training and classroom education leading to a comprehensive understanding of successful farm and ranch operations and management practices.

Eligible Recipients: Non-Profit Organizations

Funding Amount: \$100,000-\$250,000

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.

Eligible Recipients: Farmer Veteran Coalition Members with Agricultural Businesses

Funding Amount: \$1,000-\$5,000

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

## **New Dairy Processor Start-up Grant**

Sponsor/Agency: Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

The New Dairy Processor Start-up Grant will give money to dairy farmers looking to diversify by adding processing into their operation. Funds may be used to purchase specialized dairy processing equipment, increase food safety, marketing and branding and product development.

Eligible Recipients: Northeastern dairy farmers or non-farmers that have a business prior to applying and can demonstrate a strong experience in dairy processing

Funding Amount: between \$15,000-\$75,000 with a 25% match commitment required

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

## **The Carrot Project**

Sponsor/Agency: *The Carrot Project*

For over 15 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. The Carrot Project offers free or low-cost business technical assistance and consulting, as well as a beginning farmer loan program.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Farm, Forestry and Fishery Businesses in New England.*
- *Processing, Distribution, and Storage enterprises that use any type of local agricultural product*

Funding Amount: \$5,000-\$250,000

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

## **Conservation, Environment and Forestry**

### **Agricultural Management Assistance**

Sponsor/Agency: *USDA National Resources Conservation Service*

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.

Eligible Recipients: *Livestock or Agricultural Producers*

Funding Amount: *up to \$50,000*

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

### **Contour Lines Tree Planting Grant**

Sponsor/Agency: *Contour Lines Corporation*

Contour Lines supports tree-planting worldwide. They offer technical service, work models, direct funding for trees, training and more.

Eligible Recipients: *Must be a community of at least 5 smallholder farming families with 1 acre of land per family to plant the system.*

Funding Amount: *Dependent on the project*

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

## **Conservation Innovation Grant**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA National Resources Services

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 make competitive awards. Producers involved in CIG funded projects must be EQIP eligible.

Eligible Recipients:

- *State or Local Governments*
- *Federally Recognized American Indian Tribes*
- *Non-Governmental Organizations*
- *Individuals*

Funding Amount: max amount \$1,000,000-\$2,000,000

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

## **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA Farm Service Agency

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.

Eligible Recipients:

- *States*
- *Tribal Governments*
- *Non-profit and Private Entities*

Funding Amount: up to \$50,000

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

## **Conservation Reserve Program**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA Farm Service Agency

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.

Eligible Recipients: Producers who have owned and operated the land 12 months prior signing up (some exceptions may apply)

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

## **Conservation Stewardship Program**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA National Resources Conservation Service

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

Eligible Recipients: Agricultural and Forest Producers interested in conservation and environmental stewardship

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

## **CRP Transition Incentives Program**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA Farm Service Agency

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.

Eligible Recipients: Owner or operator of a farm or ranch on land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract

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

## **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**

Sponsor/Agency: Farm Service Agency

This program helps farmers and ranchers to repair damage caused by natural disasters and to help set up water conservation methods during drought.

Eligible Recipients: Land damaged by natural disaster inspected by the FSA county committee and meet eligible criteria.

Funding Amount: \$50,000-\$100,000+

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

## **Emergency Forest Restoration Program**

Sponsor/Agency: Farm Service Agency

This program helps to rebuild non-industrial forest owners restore forest health through financial assistance.

Eligible Recipients: Land damaged by natural disaster inspected by the FSA county committee and harms the natural resources on the land and affects future land use.

Funding Amount: \$50,000-\$500,000

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

## **Emergency Watershed Protection Program**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA National Resources Conservation Service

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.

Eligible Recipients: Public and Private Landowners (must be represented by a project sponsor)

Funding Amount: up to 75% of eligible construction costs

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

## **Environmental Quality Incentives Program**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA National Resources Conservation Service

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.

Eligible Recipients: Farmers, Ranchers, and Forest Landowners who own or rent agricultural land

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

## **High Tunnel System Initiative**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA National Resources Conservation Service

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.

Eligible Recipients:

- Agricultural Producers
- Owners of Non-Industrial Private Forestland
- Indian Tribes
- Individuals with an interest in Agricultural or Forestry operations
- Water Management Entities

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

## **Implementing Precision AgTech to Expand the Participation of Small Grazing Dairy Farms in Climate-Smart Commodities**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship, U.S. Department of Agriculture*

This project offers direct funding and technical assistance to small-scale dairy farmers to implement climate-smart grazing management.

*Eligible Recipients:* *Dairy farmers in the northeast*

*Funding Amount:* *Dependent on project*

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

## **Landscape Scale Restoration Grants**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *USDA Forest Service*

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.

*Eligible Recipients:*

- *State Forestry Agencies or other appropriate State Agencies*
- *Units of Local Governments*
- *Indian Tribes*
- *Non-Profit Organizations*

*Funding Amount:* *up to 50% of project costs*

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.

*Eligible Recipients:* *Groups doing work in CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT*

*Funding Amount:* *Dependent on Type of Grant*

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

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

## **Piloting Rewards for Ecosystem Service (PRES)**

Sponsor/Agency: *American Farmland Trust*

The Piloting Rewards for Ecosystem Service will compensate farmers for their contributions to carbon sequestration and emissions reductions. This improves the understanding of the impact conservation decisions have on natural resources.

Eligible Recipients: *Livestock producers implementing agroforestry practices for the first time in select northeastern counties.*

Funding Amount: *Minimum of \$1,000*

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

## **US Forest Service - Forest Stewardship**

Sponsor/Agency: *USDA Forest Service*

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.

Eligible Recipients: *Any private individual or entity that owns land with nonindustrial private forest land*

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

## Energy

### Rural Energy for America Program

Sponsor/Agency: USDA Rural Development

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.

Eligible Recipients: Agricultural Producers and Small Businesses

Funding Amount: up to 75% of total eligible project costs

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

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

Sponsor/Agency: USDA Rural Development

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

Eligible Recipients:

- *State and Local Governments*
- *Federally Recognized Tribes*
- *Land-Grant Universities or other Institutions of Higher Education*
- *Rural Electric Cooperatives*
- *Public Power Entities*
- *Instrumentalities of State, Tribal, or Local Government*
- *Resource Conservation & Development Councils*

Funding Amount: up to \$100,000

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

## **Fisheries and Aquaculture**

### **Commercial Fishing Occupational Safety Research Cooperative Agreement**

Sponsor/Agency: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-ERA

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.

Eligible Recipients: Entities involved in fishing and maritime matters, and those with expertise in commercial fishing safety

Funding Amount: \$150,000-\$975,000

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

### **Commercial Fishing Occupational Safety Training Grants**

Sponsor/Agency: Centers for Disease Control-ERA

The goal of the training grant program is to enhance the quality and availability of safety training for United States commercial fisherman. Availability includes the frequency, geographic considerations, channels or partners of dissemination, culturally and/or educationally appropriate training material, and other characteristics of a successful training program.

Eligible Recipients:

- County Governments
- Native American Tribal Governments
- Private Institutions of Higher Education
- City or Township Governments
- Public and State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education
- For-Profit Organizations
- Small Businesses, State Governments
- Non-Profits, Special District Governments
- Public Housing Authorities
- Indian Housing Authorities
- Independent School Districts

Funding Amount: \$250,000-\$975,000

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

### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Fisheries Innovation Fund**

Sponsor/Agency: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

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.

*Eligible Recipients:*

- *Non-Profit 501© organizations*
- *State Government Agencies*
- *Local Governments*
- *Municipal Governments*
- *Tribal Governments and Organizations*
- *Educational Institutions*
- *Commercial Organizations*
- *International Organizations*

*Funding Amount:* \$200,000-\$500,000

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

**NOAA Fisheries Grant Opportunities**

*Sponsor/Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

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.

*Eligible Recipients:* Depends on Grant

*Funding Amount:* Depends on Grant

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

**Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program**

*Sponsor/Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 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.

*Eligible Recipients:*

- *US Citizens*
- *Citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, or Federated States of Micronesia*
- *Individuals representing Corporations, Partnerships, Associations, Non-Federal Entities, and Non-Profits, etc. that are citizens of the US*

*Funding Amount:* up to \$500,000

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

## Organic

### **Farmers Advocating For Organic Grant**

Sponsor/Agency: *Organic Valley*

Funded completely by voluntary contributions from Organic Valley Farmers, this program gives Organic Valley farmers the opportunity to address the long term needs of the organic community.

Eligible Recipients: *Non-profits and academic/ research institutions*

Funding Amount: *\$5,000-\$50,000*

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

### **National Organic Initiative**

Sponsor Agency: *USDA National Resources Conservation Service*

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.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Certified Organic Producers*
- *Producers exempt from certification of the NOP*
- *Producers transitioning to Organic*

Funding Amount: *up to \$140,000 over 4 years*

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

### **Organic Certification Cost Share Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *USDA Farm Service Agency*

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.

Eligible Requirements: *Certified Organic Producers and Handlers who have paid certification fees during the 2023 program years*

Funding Amount: *up to \$750*

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

### **Organic Market Development Grant**

Sponsor/Agency: *USDA Agricultural Marketing Service*

The Organic Market Development Grant (OMDG) program supports the development of new and expanded organic markets to help increase the consumption of domestic organic agricultural commodities. OMDG aims to increase availability and demand for domestically produced organic agricultural products and address the critical need for additional market paths. OMDG

offers three project types: Simplified Equipment-Only, Market Development and Promotion, and Processing Capacity Expansion projects.

**Eligible Recipients:**

- *Business Entities who produce or handle organic foods*
- *Non-Profit Organizations*
- *Trade Associations*
- *Tribal/State/Territory/Local Government Entities*

**Funding Amount:** *\$10,000-\$3,000,000 (Dependent on Type of Project)*

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

### **Organic Micro Grants**

**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.

**Funding Amount:** *Dependent on Type of Grant (usually between \$500-\$3,000)*

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.

**Eligible Recipients:** *US Non-Profit 501©(3) tax-exempt organizations serving the food insecure*

**Funding Amount:** *\$150,000*

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.

**Eligible Recipients:** *Non-Profit 501©(3) Organizations (by invitation only)*

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

## Research, Education, and Promotion

### Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

Sponsor/Agency: USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

NIFA awards AFRI research, education, and extension grants to improve rural economics, increase food production, stimulate the bioeconomy, mitigate impacts of climate variability, address water availability issues, ensure food safety and security, enhance human nutrition, and train the next generation of the agricultural workforce.

Eligible Recipients: Depends on Grant

Funding Amount: Depends on Grant

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

### Dairy Marketing & Branding Services

Sponsor/Agency: The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC)

The Diary Marketing and Branding Services Grant program will provide grants for established value-added dairy processors and producer associations to access professional marketing and branding services to elevate value-added dairy businesses.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Dairy Producers that transform raw milk sourced from the Northeast region into an edible product*
- *Dairy producer associations/dairy councils which represents and promotes dairy products and dairy businesses of the Northeast*

Funding Amount: \$10,000-\$50,000

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

### Dairy Processing Research & Development Innovation Grant

Sponsor/Agency: The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC)

The Dairy Processing Research & Development Innovation Grant program. This grant will provide funds for dairy processors, dairy producer associations, and educational institutions to conduct research and development projects that support innovation for Northeast dairy processors across a variety of scales.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Licensed Dairy Producers and Producer Associations based in the Northeast.*
- *Educational or Research institutions can also apply but are required to partner with a minimum of two Northeast-based dairy producers.*

Funding Amount: \$75,000-\$250,000

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

## **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.

Eligibility Requirements: *Organizations with programs intended to assist all-sized farms, promote diversity, and create opportunities for new entrants into agriculture. Individual farms are not eligible.*

Funding Amount: *\$500-\$10,000*

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

## **Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)**

Sponsor/Agency: *USDA Agricultural Marketing Service*

The FMPP funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products by developing, coordinating, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, online sales or other direct producer-to-consumer (including direct producer-to-retail, direct producer-to-restaurant and direct producer-to-institutional marketing) market opportunities.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Agricultural Businesses and Cooperatives*
- *Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Networks and Associations*
- *Food Councils*
- *Economic Development Corporations*
- *Local/Tribal Governments*
- *Non-Profit and Public Benefit Corporations*
- *Producer Networks or Associations*
- *Regional Farmers' Market Authorities*

Funding Amounts: *\$50,000-\$500,000 (Dependent on Type of Project)*

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

## **Food Animal Concerns Trust Conference Scholarships (FACT)**

Sponsor/Agency: *Food Animals Concerns Trust*

Food Animal Concerns Trust gives scholarships for livestock and poultry to attend educational events to learn the best practices related to humane animal management and more.

Eligible Recipients: *Current livestock and poultry farmers in the U.S.*

Funding Amount: *up to \$400*

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

## **Northeast Agricultural Education 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.

Eligible Recipients: *501©(3) Non-Profit Organizations*

Funding Amount: *\$1,000-\$10,000*

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.

Eligible Recipients: *Dependent on Grant Program*

Funding Amount: *Dependent on Grant Program*

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

## **Professional Development Grant Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education*

The Northeast SARE Professional Development Grant funds projects that develop the knowledge, awareness, skills, and attitudes of agricultural and other service providers about sustainable agriculture practices or teach, advise, or assist farmers.

Eligible Recipients: *Anyone who works with service providers and farmers*

Funding Amount: *\$30,000-\$150,000*

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

## **Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP)**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA Agricultural Marketing Services

RFSP program supports partnerships that connect public and private resources to plan and develop local or regional food systems. The program focuses on strengthening the viability and resilience of regional food economies through collaboration and coordination.

Eligible Recipients:

- Agricultural Businesses or Cooperatives
- Producer Networks or Associations
- Community Supported Agriculture Networks or Associations
- Food Councils
- Local/Tribal Governments
- Nonprofit Corporations
- Public Benefit Corporations
- Economic Development Corporations
- Regional Farmers Market Authorities

Funding Amounts: \$100,000-\$3,000,000

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

## **Research and Education Grant Program**

Sponsor/Agency: Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

The Research and Education program funds protections that results in gains in farmer knowledge, awareness, skills, and attitudes that are then applied to make measurable on-farm changes leading to greater sustainability. The focus on farmer behavior change is a key requirement of this grant program.

Eligible Recipients: Anyone who works with farmers

Funding Amount: \$30,000-\$250,000

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

## **Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program**

Sponsor/Agency: National Sheep Industry and Improvement Center

The Sheep Production & Marketing Grant Program seeks to develop solutions for practical problems on a national basis and address the needs of the entire sheep industry, while focusing on the measurable benefits for sheep producers, encouraging partnerships among other sheep industry organizations, and reducing the duplication of effort among participating organizations.

Eligible Recipients: Entities that promotes the betterment of the US Sheep Industries

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

## Rural Business & Cooperatives

### Dairy Co-Packing Grant

Sponsor/Agency: Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

The Dairy Co-Packing Grant will provide funds for existing Northeast dairy processors to initiate new co-packing arrangements or to expand existing co-packing capabilities. Along with funding grantees will also gain technical assistance or training as a subset of their funds in their projects. Funds will purchase specialized dairy processing equipment, increase food safety, and product development.

Eligible Recipients: *Applicants must be licensed dairy processors that currently meet the following in the Northeast:*

*Transforms raw milk or dairy component into an edible product meant for human consumption*

*Is licensed in a way that their dairy products can be sold across state lines*

*Is headquartered or based in the Northeast*

*Sources or produces milk or dairy components from within the Northeast*

*Manufactures products within the Northeast*

Funding Amount: \$15,000-\$150,000 with 25% cash match contribution

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

### Dairy Farm Innovation & Modernization Grant

Sponsor/Agency: Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

The Dairy Farm Innovation & Modernization Grant program will provide grants for dairy farmers to access resources and technical assistance to support the implementation of community- and climate-forward production strategies.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Licensed Dairy Farmers/Producers based in the Northeast*
- *Producer Associations that represent, support, or promote dairy products originating from the Northeast*
- *Technical Service Providers*

Funding Amount: \$15,000-\$100,000

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

### Dairy Food Safety and Certification Grant

Sponsor/Agency: Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

The Dairy Food Safety & Certification Grant program 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.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Dairy Farmers/Producers of milk that is headquartered or based in the Northeast or sources or produces milk in the Northeast*
- *Dairy Processors that are headquartered in the Northeast that transform raw milk into an edible product with milk sourced from the Northeast region*
- *Dairy Processor Association/Dairy Councils which represents and promotes dairy products/dairy businesses of the Northeast*

Funding Amount: \$10,000-\$50,000

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

### **Disaster Assistance Tree Assistance Program**

Sponsor/Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture

The tree assistance program provides assistance to orchardists and nursery tree growers to regrow trees and vines lost by natural disasters.

Eligible Recipients: Annual crops produced for commercial purposes lost from natural disasters

Funding Amount: 75% of lost crop value

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

### **Existing Dairy Processor Expansion Grant**

Sponsor/Agency: Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

The Existing Dairy Processor Expansion Grant addresses the significant need for investment in processing infrastructure in the Northeast. This grant will only fund existing dairy processing facilities located in the Northeast region with a focus on expanding utilization of regionally sourced milk, dairy components, and/or dairy mix, and diversifying the supply chain.

Eligible Recipients: Licensed Dairy Processors located in the Northeast who process regionally sourced milk in the Northeast and are compliant with state and federal standards

Funding Amount: \$25,000-\$1,000,000 (Dependent on Funding Tier)

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

### **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.

Eligible Recipients: Non-Profit Businesses who are Farm Bureau members

Funding Amount: up to \$100,000 (dependent on prize)

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

## **Farmer Grant Program**

Sponsor/Agency: Sustainable Agriculture Research Education Northeast

Northeast SARE offers grants to farmers to explore new concepts in sustainable agriculture conducted through experiments, surveys, prototypes, on-farm demonstrations or other research and education techniques. Farmer Grant projects address issues that affect farming with long-term sustainability in mind.

Eligible Recipients: Commercial Farm Business Owners and Farm Employees in the Northeast

Funding Amount: \$5,000-\$30,000

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

## **Inflation Reduction Act Assistance for Distressed Borrowers**

Sponsor/Agency: Farm Service Agency

The Inflation Reduction act provided \$3.1 billion to provide relief for distressed borrowers with certain FSA direct and guaranteed loans.

Eligible Recipients: Loan borrowers who are delinquent on a qualifying loan due to inflation issues or the 2020 pandemic.

Funding Amount: Dependent on the loan

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

## **Livestock Forage Disaster Program**

Sponsor/Agency: Farm Service Industry

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program provides payments that can help during times of drought to maintain forage for livestock in certain areas.

Eligible Recipients: Livestock farmers in select counties

Funding Amount: Up to \$125,000

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

## **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**

Sponsor/Agency: Farm Service Industry

This program provides benefits to eligible livestock owners for livestock deaths in excess of normal rates caused by adverse weather, disease, and eligible attacks.

Eligible Recipients: Livestock farmers in select counties

Funding Amount: 75% of the market value of the applicable livestock.

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

## **Local Food Promotion Program**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

The Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer to

consumer marketing to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Agricultural Business and Cooperatives*
- *Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Networks and Associations*
- *Food Councils*
- *Economic Development Corporations*
- *Local/Tribal Governments*
- *Nonprofit and Public Benefit Corporations*
- *Producer Networks or Associations*
- *Regional Farmers' Market Authorities*

Funding Available: \$25,000-\$500,000 (dependent on type of project)

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

### **Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP)**

Sponsor/Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program helps eligible processors expand their processing capacity. The MPPEP will encourage competition and sustainable growth in the U.S.

Eligible Recipients: Entities that engage or plan to engage in meat and poultry processing, including private, non-profit, tribal, cooperative, state or local government, among other entities.

Funding Amount: \$250,000-\$10,000,000

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

### **Rural Business Development Grants**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA Rural Development

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.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Towns*
- *Communities*
- *State Agencies*
- *Authorities*
- *Non-Profit Corporations*
- *Institutions of Higher Educations*
- *Federally Recognized Tribes*

- *Rural Cooperatives (if organized as a private nonprofit corporation)*

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

## **Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA Rural Development

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.

Eligible Recipients: Nonprofit Corporations and Institutions of Higher Education

Funding Amount: up to \$200,000

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

## **Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA Rural Development

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.

Eligible Recipients: Cooperatives and Cooperative Development Centers

Funding Amount: up to \$175,000

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

## **Value Added Producer Grants**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA Rural Development

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. Farm Credit East has worked with many applicants applying for these incentives. More information on Farm Credit East grant writing services is included in the link below.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Independent Producers*
- *Agricultural Producer Groups*
- *Farmer-or-Rancher Cooperatives*
- *Majority-Controlled Producer-Based Business Ventures*

Funding Amount: up to \$75,000 or \$250,000 (Dependent on Type of Grant)

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

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

## **Additional Resources**

### **Center for Rural Affairs – Farm and Food Funding**

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

### **Farm Aid – Farmers Resources Network**

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

### **Small Farm Funding Guide**

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

### **USDA Rural Development Programs and Services**

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

#### Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry Grant

Sponsor/Agency: *CT Department of Agriculture*

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture, through Public Act 2-118 was allocated \$7 million to support Climate Agriculture production and practices. The Climate Smart Farming: Agriculture and Forestry Grant can pay or reimburse to: (1) provide technical assistance, (2) distribute grant funding to producers, (3) coordinate training programs, (4) coordinate projects that pilot or demonstrate water and land-based conservation practices, (5) create tools that help reduce barriers to accessing assistance for water or land-based conservation practices on farms, (6) establish equipment-sharing programs, or (7) other activities that will increase the number of farmers who are implementing climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices.

Eligible Recipients: *Any Agribusiness or Entity*

Funding Amount: *\$100,000 and up (Dependent on Funding Tier)*

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

#### Connecticut Farm Energy Program

Sponsor/Agency: *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**

Sponsor/Agency: USDA RMA

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**

Sponsor/Agency: CT Department of Agriculture

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. Over the past three decades, the Connecticut Grown Program has blossomed into a multifaceted initiative targeting diverse local, regional, national, and international markets through both direct-to-consumer and wholesale-oriented program components.

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

## **Connecticut Women's Business Development Council Equity Match Grant**

Sponsor/Agency: Women's Business Development Council

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.

Eligible Recipients: 51% or more women-owned for-profit businesses headquartered, registered, and owned in CT

Funding Amount: \$2,500-\$10,000

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

## **Dairy Funding Opportunities**

Sponsor/Agency: CT Department of Agriculture

The Connecticut Milk Promotion Board has up to \$660,000 available in funding opportunities for programming in the fiscal years of 2024 and 2025. The funding is intended to support the CTMB's mission to develop, coordinate, and implement promotional, research, and other programs designed to promote Connecticut dairy farms and the consumption of milk and dairy products.

Eligible Recipients: Dependent on the Funding Opportunity

Funding Amount: Dependent on the Funding Opportunity

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

## **Energize Connecticut**

Sponsor/Agency: *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**

Sponsor/Agency: *CT Department of Agriculture*

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.

Market Promotion Program Eligible Recipients: *Small US companies that produce food and Ag related products*

Funding Amount: *\$2,500-\$5,000*

*\*The Exporter Education Program and Market Entry program do not have eligibility requirements or specified funding amounts*

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

## **Farm Transition Grant**

Sponsor/Agency: *CT Department of Agriculture*

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.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Agricultural Producers*
- *Agricultural Cooperatives*
- *Previous FTG recipients (grant categories may have their own specified requirements)*

Funding Amount: *up to \$49,999 (Dependent on Grant Category)*

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

## **Farm Viability Grant (Now Agricultural Enhancement Grant)**

Sponsor/Agency: *CT Department of Agriculture*

The Farm Viability Grant (FVG) is a competitive matching grant program open to municipalities, regional planning organizations, associations 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 Farm Viability Grant program has expanded and now offers a Micro Grant program as well.

**Eligible Recipients:**

- *Municipalities with a current plan of conservation and development*
- *Regional Councils of Government organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p*
- *Groups of Municipalities that have established a regional inter-local agreement pursuant to sections 7-339a to 7-339l*
- *Agricultural Non-Profits*

**Funding Amount:** up to \$5,000 or \$49,999 (Dependent on Grant Program)

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

**Farmland Preservation Program**

**Sponsor/Agency:** CT Department of Agriculture

Development Rights are sold to the state of Connecticut and the landowner is presented with compensation for the value of those rights. Typically, a good fit for preserving larger (>30 acres) farms that have a significant quantity of good cropland and prime and important soils as defined by the USDA.

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

**Farmland Restoration, Climate Resiliency, and Preparedness Grant (RRP)**

**Sponsor/Agency:** CT Department of Agriculture

FLRG provides matching funds to Connecticut Farmers, no profits, and municipalities to increase food and fiber production in the state by restoring lands into active agricultural production. 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).

**Eligible Recipients:**

- *Agriculture Producers with at least one year of production experience*
- *Not for profits owning or leasing property in use for agricultural production*
- *Municipalities leasing farmland currently in use by a farmer*

**Funding Amount:** up to \$20,000

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

**Milk Producer (Dairy Sustainability) Grant**

**Sponsor/Agency:** CT Department of Agriculture

Public Act No. 09-229 provides grants to Connecticut producers of cow's milk for pasteurization. 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.

*Eligible Recipients:* CT Producers of cow's milk for pasteurization

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

### **Property Tax Exemption for Farm Buildings and Farm Machinery**

*Sponsor/Agency:* CT Department of Agriculture

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).

*Funding Amount:* up to \$100,000 in tax exemptions

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

### **Public Act (PA) 490**

*Sponsor/Agency:* Connecticut State Law

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**

*Sponsor/Agency:* Connecticut Department of Agriculture

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**

*Sponsor/Agency:* CT Department of Agriculture

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).

*Eligible Recipients:* Anyone engaged in agricultural production as a trade or business whose preceding taxable year has a gross income of \$2,500 or more from agricultural production, or who has on average a gross income of no less than \$2,500

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

### **Sea Grant Research Funding**

*Sponsor/Agency:* The University of Connecticut and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Sea Grant Program

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

*Eligible Recipients:* Researchers and educators at all non-profit academic institutions, research laboratories, and outreach/educational facilities in Connecticut

*Funding Amount:* Dependent on grant program

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

### **Small Poultry Processor Inspection Program**

*Sponsor/Agency:* CT Department of Agriculture

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has established an inspection program for poultry producers who intend to operate under a USDA grant of inspection and to supply poultry products to retail establishments, restaurants, hotels, and boarding houses.

*Eligible Recipients:* Poultry Producers of less than 5,000 turkeys or 20,000 poultry whose products are sold or offered for sale to restaurants, hotels, and boarding houses

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

### **Specialty Crop Block Grant Program**

*Sponsor/Agency:* CT Department of Agriculture

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has an availability of grant funds to enhance the competitiveness of Connecticut specialty crops. Projects funded through this grant program must benefit more than one specialty crop business, individuals, or organization.

*Eligible Recipients:* Any entity may apply, but projects must benefit Connecticut's specialty crop industries

*Funding Amount:* up to \$100,000

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

### **Voluntary Small Shell Egg Processing Plant Inspection Program**

*Sponsor/Agency:* CT Department of Agriculture

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has established a voluntary program for small egg producers who do not meet the USDA's minimum mandatory inspection criteria of 3,000 laying birds who wish to enter "approved" eggs into commerce.

*Eligible Recipients:* Small egg producers (or a group of shell producers who pool eggs) with between 200-3,000 laying birds

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

## Maine

### **Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund (AMLF)**

Sponsor/Agency: *Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry*

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.

Eligible Recipients: *Agricultural or Aquaculture Enterprises located in the state of Maine*

Funding Amount: *up to \$250,000*

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

### **Blue Hill Peninsula Community Food Grants**

Sponsor/Agency: *Maine Farmland Trust*

Maine Farmland Trust awards grants for projects that promise to increase food sustainability and improve the health and wellbeing of Blue Hill Peninsula residents.

Eligible Recipients: *Projects or programs must be carried out in the towns of Blue Hill, Sedgwick, Penobscot, Castine, Orland, Surry, Deer Island, Stonington, Brooksville, or Brooklin.*

- *Nonprofit organizations*
- *Schools*
- *Community Groups*
- *Individuals.*

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

### **Dairy Improvement Fund (DIF)**

Sponsor/Agency: *Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry*

The Dairy Improvement Fund provides financing to help Maine agricultural businesses undertake projects to enhance the viability of the farm, and improve the manufacturing, marketability, and production of their products. DIF provides eligible borrowers with direct loans of up to \$250,000 at a 1% fixed interest rate for capital improvements.

Eligible Recipients: *Maine Dairy Enterprises, Dairy Farms, or Businesses making milk products who keep cows, sheep, and/or goats that contribute milk to their products that produce milk products that are sold commercially*

Funding Amount: *up to \$250,000*

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

## Farm Business Planning Programs

Sponsor/Agency: *Maine Farmland Trust*

Maine Farmland Trust offers two business programs that help farmers analyze their business with support from local technical service providers. The first program is the **Business of Farming program** that works with experienced farmers who want to analyze their current business model and use the information for decision making. The second program is the **Farming for the Long-Haul program** which is a two-year business planning program for experienced farmers that combines technical assistance, peer learning, and an opportunity to apply for a grant to implement their business plan.

Eligible Recipients: *Dependent on Program*

Funding Amount: *Dependent on Program*

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

## Farmland Protection Programs

- 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 products 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

## Journeyperson Program

Sponsor/Agency: *Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association*

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association seeks applicants who are serious about operating farm businesses in Maine that will make significant contributions to the agricultural community and economy. While open to farms at any stage of development, the program is best utilized by those who have an established farm businesses with secure land tenure and will use this program as a tangible step toward achieving their farm goals.

Eligible Recipients: *Farms with a minimum of two years of farming experience and one calendar year of farm experience in Maine*

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

## **Land for Maine's Future (LMF)**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry*

Multi-purpose land conservation funding is 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.

*Eligible Recipients:* *Dependent on Type of Proposal*

*Funding Amount:* *Dependent on Type of Proposal*

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

## **Maine AgrAbility Project**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *The University of Maine*

The mission of AgrAbility is to enable a lifestyle of high quality for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities, so that they, their families, and their communities continue to succeed in rural America. AgrAbility addresses a wide variety of disabling conditions in agriculture, including, but not limited to arthritis, spinal cord injuries/paralysis, back impairments, amputations, brain injury, visual impairments, disabling disease, cerebral palsy, respiration impairments, and head injury.

*Eligible Recipients:* *Owners, operators, managers, employees, and family members of the farming, forestry, or forestry businesses*

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

## **Maine Farms for the Future Program**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry*

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.”

*Eligible Recipients:* *Dependent on Grant Phase*

*Funding Amount:* *Dependent on Grant Phase*

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

## **MOFGA Farm Beginnings**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association*

MOFGA (Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association) Farm Beginnings is a farmer-led program to help guide those with strong commitment to creating a sustainable farm business achieve their goals.

*Eligible Recipients:* *Producers with at least one year of sales records*

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

## **Organic Farmer Loan Fund**

Sponsor/Agency: *Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association*

The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association is now accepting applications to its Organic Farmer Loan Fund (OFLF) on a continually rolling, open enrollment process. This fund is designed to help organic farmers and processors, particularly new and young farms and businesses, to build credit and relationships with a local bank, by guaranteeing funds to help cover business needs such as operating expenses, infrastructure or depreciable equipment expenses and/or provide bridge funding for expenses in certain reimbursement programs.

Eligible Recipients:

- *MOFGA certified organic producers, processors, and handlers*
- *Those who are exempt from organic certification under then NOP rules*
- *Farmers interested in making the transition to organic management*
- *Current participants, or graduates of, MOFGA's Journey person program or Maine Farm Resilience Program*
- *Graduates MOFGA's Farm Beginning's Program*

Funding Amount: \$2,000-\$25,000

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

## **Potato Marketing Improvement Fund**

Sponsor/Agency: *Finance Authority of Maine*

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.

Eligible Recipients: *Any person or business engaged in growing, processing, or marketing potatoes in Maine*

Funding Amount: *Dependent on the Loan Program*

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

## **Rural Rehabilitation Trust Fund**

Sponsor/Agency: *Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry*

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.

Eligible Recipients: *Dependent on Loan Program*

Funding Amount: *Dependent on Loan Program*

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

## **Senior Farm Share Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry*

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](#).

## **Specialty Crop Block Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry*

This program provides federal funding to projects identified as critical at the local level. Past and current awards have supported research into Maine's most crucial agricultural commodities, development of pest management strategies, school initiatives, and food safety projects.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Agricultural Associations*
- *Industry and Producer Groups*
- *Municipalities*
- *Community-Based Organizations*
- *Educational Institutions*
- *Non-Profit Organizations*

Funding Amount: *up to \$100,000*

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

## **Woods WISE Incentives to Stewardship Enhancement**

Sponsor/Agency: *Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry*

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 Woods WISE 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.

Eligible Recipients: *Maine landowners who own 10-1,000 forested acres statewide. Ownerships of up to 5,000 forested acres may also be eligible under certain circumstances. Landowners may be individuals, families, organizations such as land trusts, or businesses.*

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

## Massachusetts

### **Agricultural Composting Improvement Program (ACIP)**

Sponsor/Agency: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

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.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Registered Agriculture Composters*
- *Agricultural Composting Farms exempt from registration*
- *Agriculture Composters in the process applying for registration prior to the release of this grant*

Funding Amount: up to \$75,000

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

### **Agricultural Climate Resiliency and Efficiencies (ACRE) Program**

Sponsor/Agency: EEA Office of Grants and Technical Assistance

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.

Eligible Recipients: *Agricultural Operations engaged in production agriculture for commercial purposes*

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

### **Agricultural Energy Grant Program (ENER)**

Sponsor/Agency: EEA Office of Grants and Technical Assistance

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

Eligible Recipients: *Agricultural Operations that are principally and substantially engaged in the business of production agriculture or farming for commercial purposes*

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

### **Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP)**

Sponsor/Agency: EEA Office of Grants and Technical Assistance

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.

Eligible Recipients: *Agricultural Operations engaged in production agriculture for commercial producers*

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

## **Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program (AFSIP)**

Sponsor/Agency: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural and Resources

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.

Eligible Recipients: Produce or Aquaculture Operations that are principally and substantially engaged in agricultural production for commercial purposes

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

## **Agricultural Produce Safety Improvement Program (APSIP)**

Sponsor/Agency: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

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).

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

## **Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program (APR)**

Sponsor/Agency: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

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.

Eligible Recipients: Farms at least 5 acres in size that have been actively devoted in agriculture for the two preceding tax years. Farms must produce at least \$500 in gross sales per year for the first five acres plus \$5 for each additional acre or \$0.50 per each additional acre of woodland and/or wetland.

Funding Amount: Dependent on grant

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

## **APR Improvement Program (AIP)**

Sponsor/Agency: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

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 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.

Eligible Recipients: APR privately family-owned or operated farm that has been in active commercial agricultural use for at least three years and meets a minimum gross income as stated in the current RFR.

Funding Amount: \$60,000-\$125,000

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

## **Climate Smart Agriculture Program**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources*

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.

*Eligible Recipients:* *Agricultural Operation that is principally and substantially engaged in the business of production agriculture*

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

## **Cranberry Bog Renovation Grant Program**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources*

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.

*Eligible Recipients:* *Agricultural Operation that are principally and substantially engaged in business of cranberry production for commercial purposes with bogs greater than one acre in size*

*Funding Amount:* *\$15,000 per acre, up to \$125,000*

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

## **Cranberry Bog Renovation Tax Credit Program**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services*

The Cranberry Bog Renovation Tax Credit helps provide necessary funds to renovate cranberry bogs to install a new tile drainage system, pumps and more. This legislature will offset 25% of the cost of renovating bogs in Massachusetts up to a \$100,000 credit

*Eligible Recipients:* *Massachusetts cranberry bogs with a renovation project plan approved by the state*

*Funding Amount:* *Up to a \$100,000 credit*

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

## **Dairy Farmer Tax Credit Program**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources*

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.

*Eligible Recipients:* *Dairy Farms registered to Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources*

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

### **Dairy Promotion Board Grants**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources*

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**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources*

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.

*Eligible Recipients:* *People or Corporations determined to be principally and substantially engaged in the business of production agriculture or farming for an ultimate commercial purpose*

*Funding Amount:* *10% discount on electricity and natural gas bills*

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

### **Farm Viability Enhancement Program (FVEP)**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources*

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 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.

*Eligible Recipients:* *Privately family-owned farms of at least 5 acres of land that is currently in active agricultural use for at least three years and meets a minimum gross income as stated in the current RFR.*

*Funding Amount:* *up to \$100,000-\$200,000*

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

### **Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP)**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources*

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

*Eligible Recipients:*

- *State Departments of Agriculture*
- *State Agricultural Experiment Stations*
- *Other Appropriate Agencies*

Funding Amount: \$50,000-\$250,000

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

### **Food Security Infrastructure Grant (FSIG) Program**

Sponsor/Agency: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

The Food Security Infrastructure Grant ensures farmers and other entities be better engaged with a strong, resilient food system to help mitigate food supply and ensure that individuals and families throughout the Commonwealth have equitable access to food.

Eligible Recipients: *Applicants may be individuals, for-profit, or non-profit entities. Applicants must be an agricultural operation that is principally and substantially engaged in the business of production. Applicants also must play a role in addressing food access and/or improving and strengthening the resiliency of the Commonwealth's local food system.*

Funding Amount: up to \$500,000

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

### **Food Ventures Grant Program**

Sponsor/Agency: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

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.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Massachusetts Municipalities*
- *Massachusetts Non-Profit or For-Profit Organizations,*
- *Individual Residents of Massachusetts*

Funding Amount: \$50,000-\$250,000

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

### **Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) / Good Harvesting Practices (GHP) Reimbursement Program**

Sponsor/Agency: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

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**

Sponsor/Agency: *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.

Eligible Recipients: *Farms with annual gross sales of at least \$10,000 that grow, harvest, and market their own agricultural products as more than 50% of their economic activity. Farms must be in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, or Berkshire County of Massachusetts or a member of the Berkshire Grown or CISA.*

Funding Amount: *up to \$2,500*

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

## **Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (Mass CEC) Funding**

Sponsor/Agency: *Massachusetts Clean Energy Program*

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.

Eligibility Requirements: *Dependent on Funding Program*

Funding Amount: *Dependent on Funding Program*

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

## **Massachusetts Food Trust Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *Mass 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.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Grocery and Corner Stores*
- *Food Co-Ops that are open to the public without requiring membership*
- *Farmers Markets and Mobile Markets*
- *Food Hubs, Community Kitchens, Indoor and Outdoor Greenhouses and other infrastructure for gathering, preparing, and distributing health food for retail in areas that are low-and-moderate income (LMI) and underserved*

Funding Amount: *\$5,000-\$25,000*

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

## **Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture Grant (MSPA)**

Sponsor/Agency: *The Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture*

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.

Funding Amount: \$500-\$25,000

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

## **Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture Program (MEGA)**

Sponsor/Agency: *Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources*

This grant program assists beginner farmers who are between 1 and 6 years in business by providing technical assistance and business planning. Grant funds are to assist farmers whose goal is to raise agricultural products and develop their farms into commercially viable operations.

Eligible Recipients: *Beginning Farmers who are between 1-10 years in business*

Funding Amount: up to \$10,000, \$20,000, \$30,000

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

## **National Grid Incentives**

Sponsor/Agency: *National Grid*

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

Eligible Recipients: *Dependent on Service/Rebate*

Funding Amount: *Dependent on Service/Rebate*

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

## **Net Metering**

Sponsor/Agency: *Electric Power Division*

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.

Eligible Recipients: *Customers of Regulated Electric Companies (Eversource, National Grid, Utili)*

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

## **Organic Cost Share Program**

Sponsor/Agency: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

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.

Eligible Recipients: *Organic operations certified for crops, wild crops, livestock, and handlers*

Funding Amount: *up to 50% (\$500 maximum) of the total certification cost*

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

## **Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) Retrofit Program**

Sponsor/Agency: National ROPS Rebate Program

Rollover protective structures ROPS in tractors are 99% effective in preventing rollover deaths and injuries. 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.

Funding Amount: *70% the cost of purchasing and installing the ROPS (up to \$865 maximum rebate)*

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

## **Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs (SARA)**

Sponsor/Agency: Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources

This grant program funds projects to restore farmland for agricultural use on agricultural preservation restriction (APR) farms. Funds may be used for materials and contracted labor or equipment rental costs to clear or reclaim inactive fields that are out of production at no fault of the current owner.

Eligible Recipients: *Individuals who are not the original owners of land that was placed under the APR (exceptions may apply)*

Funding Amount: *up to \$35,000*

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

## **Specialty Crop Block Grant Program**

Sponsor/Agency: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources has an availability of grant funds to enhance the competitiveness of Massachusetts specialty crops. Projects funded through this grant program must benefit more than one specialty crop business, individuals, or organization.

Eligible Recipients: *Any entity may apply, but projects must benefit Connecticut's specialty crop industries*

Funding Amount: *up to \$100,000*

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

## **Urban Agriculture Program**

Sponsor/Agency: Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

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

Eligible Recipients:

- *Municipalities*
- *Nonprofit Organizations 501©(3)*
- *Public or Non-Profit Educational or Public Health Institutions*
- *Established Urban Farmers with more than three years of commercial urban farming experience*

Funding Amount: up to \$100,000 (dependent on project type)

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

## New Hampshire

### Agricultural Mini-Grant Program

Sponsor/Agency: New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food

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.

Eligible Recipients: Organization or Commodity Groups engaged in production, marketing, or promotion of New Hampshire agricultural products

Funding Amount: up to \$1,000

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

### Commercial & Industry Solar Incentive Program

Sponsor/Agency: New Hampshire Department of Energy

New Hampshire's Commercial & Industrial Solar Incentive Program seeks to provide incentive funds to C & I electric customers for solar photovoltaic and solar thermal energy projects.

Eligible Recipients: Non-Residential Structures with a commercial electric meter located in New Hampshire

Funding Amount: 25% if the total project or \$10,000 if less than the calculated AC or DC incentive payment

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

### GAP Certification

Sponsor/Agency: New Hampshire Department of Agriculture Markets & Food

The nationally recognized cooperative partnership performs audits based on the Food and Drug Administration's Guidelines to Minimize Microbial Contamination for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. GAP & GHP audits are performed on a voluntary basis at the request of NH farmers and packing operations.

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

### Net Metering

Sponsor/Agency: New Hampshire Department of Energy

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.

Eligible Recipients: Customers of Eversource, Liberty Utilities, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative and Unitil who are interested in installing equipment which produces electricity using renewable energy

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

## New Hampshire Department of Energy Programs

Sponsor/Agency: *New Hampshire Department of Energy*

New Hampshire's Department of Energy administers energy-related programs to support the states' goal of providing affordable, efficient, innovative, sustainable, and secure energy options to the state and its citizens.

Eligible Recipients: *Dependent on Program*

Funding Amount: *Dependent on Program*

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

## Property Tax Exemption for Renewable Energy

Sponsor/Agency: *New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration*

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. The form for this program is [PA-29: Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions](#).

## Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) Retrofit Program

Sponsor/Agency: *National ROPS Rebate Program*

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

Funding Amount: *70% the cost of purchasing and installing the ROPS (\$500 out of pocket cap)*

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

## Solar Rebate Program

Sponsor/Agency: *New Hampshire Department of Energy*

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.

Eligible Recipients: *qualifying New Hampshire residents who install photovoltaic (PV) or wind turbine electrical generation systems*

Funding Amount: *rebates of \$0.20 per watt of panel related power up to \$1,000 or 30% of total facility cost*

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

## **Specialty Crop Block Grant Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food*

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.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Commodity Groups*
- *Agriculture Organizations*
- *Colleges and Universities*
- *Municipalities*
- *State Agencies*
- *Non-Profit Organizations*

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

## **State Energy Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *New Hampshire Department of Energy*

The New Hampshire Department of Energy administers the State Energy Program (SEP) sub-grants to fund the following initiatives: building improvements, energy education and technical assistance, energy security, and transportation.

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

## New Jersey

### Farmland Assessment

Sponsor/Agency: New Jersey Department of Agriculture

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.

Eligible Recipients: Owners of land consisting of at least 5 adjoining acres being farmed and/or under a woodland management plan and whose gross sales of products from the land averages at least \$1,000 for the year for the first 5 acres, plus an average \$5 per acre for each acre over 5. Land with woodland or wetlands has an income requirement of \$500 per year for these first 5 acres, plus \$0.50 per acre over 5.

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

### Farmland Preservation Program

Sponsor/Agency: New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee

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](#).

### Jersey Fresh

Sponsor/Agency: New Jersey Department of Agriculture

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.

Eligible Recipients: Licensed Growers in New Jersey

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

### Net Metering

Sponsor/Agency: New Jersey Clean Energy Program

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.

Eligible Recipients: Retail customers of all electric companies, suppliers, or providers regulated by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

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

## **New Jersey Clean Energy Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *New Jersey's 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.

Eligible Recipients: *Dependent on Program/Incentive*

Funding Amount: *Dependent on Program/Incentive*

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

## **New Jersey Innovative Healthy Food Retail Initiative**

Sponsor/Agency: *The Food Trust*

The New Jersey Innovative Healthy Food Retain Initiative targets the disparities in food access across New Jersey. Applicants must submit a project proposal that will expand or preserve the availability of an assortment of staple and perishable foods in high poverty areas.

Eligible Recipients: *A project that serves a low to moderate income area or a low supermarket area*

Funding Amount: *up to \$200,000*

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

## **New Jersey Wine Industry Project Grants**

Sponsor/Agency: *New Jersey Department of Agriculture*

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture/ New Jersey Wine Industry Advisory Council (NJIWAC) 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](#).

## **Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *USDA Rural Development*

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.

Eligible Recipients: *Agricultural Producers and Small Businesses*

Funding Amount: *up to 75% of total eligible project costs*

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

## **Soil and Water Grants**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee*

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.

*Funding Amount:* *up to 50% of project costs*

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

## **Specialty Crop Block Grant Program**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *New Jersey Department of Agriculture*

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

### **Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets*

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 to the areas of planning or implementation.

Funding Amount: *up to 75% of project costs*

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

### **Agriculture Energy Audit Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *New York State Energy and Research Development Authority*

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.

Eligible Recipients: *Farms who are customers of New York State investor-owned utilities and contribute to the electric System Benefits Charge (SBC)*

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

### **Black Farmer Fund**

Sponsor/Agency: *Black Farmer Fund*

The Black Farmer Fund is a community investment fund that invests back into black food systems and entrepreneurs in New York State to fight the disparity in farm incomes based on race. Offering temporary emergency funding, expansion grants, and more.

Eligible Recipients: *To receive funding must be a farmer of color within New York State*

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

## **Climate Beneficial Fiber Program**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *National Center for Appropriate Technology, U.S. Department of Agriculture*  
An expansion of the existing Climate Beneficial fiber program, this program helps producers negotiate a price [premium that provides enhanced commodity value while building stronger direct market relationships.

*Eligible Recipients:* *Cotton producers in New York State*

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

## **Climate Resilient Farming Program**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets*

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**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *Cornell CALS PRO-DAIRY*

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.

*Eligible Recipients:* *New York Dairy Cattle Farm that ships milk*

*Funding Amount:* *Dependent on Project Type*

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

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

## **Farmers School Tax Credit (FSTC)**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *New York State Department of Taxation and Finance*

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.

*Eligible Recipients:* *Individuals or Businesses engage in the business of farming and paid school district taxes on qualified agricultural property*

*Funding Amount:* *Dependent on the number of qualified acres and the amount of school district property taxes paid*

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

## **Farmland Protection Implementation Grants**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets*

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.

*Eligible Recipients:* *Dependent on Grant*

*Funding Amount:* *Dependent on Grant*

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

## **Farm-to-School Program**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets*

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.

*Eligible Recipients:*

- *Kindergarten through Grade 12 Food Authorities*
- *Public, Charter, and Not-for-Profit Schools*
- *Indian Tribal Organizations*
- *Other entities participating in the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, or the Summer Food Service Program.*
- *Non-for-profit entities working with school food authorities and eligible schools*

*Funding Amount:* *up to \$100,000*

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

## **Investment Tax Credit (ITC)**

*Sponsor/Agency:* *New York State Department of Agriculture*

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, qualified film production facilities, waste treatment and pollution control property, or research and development property.

*Eligible Requirements:* *Individuals or Businesses who placed qualified property into service during the tax year*

*Funding Amount:* *20% of investment credit base on qualifying property*

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

## **John May Farm Safety Fund**

Sponsor/Agency: *New York Center for Agriculture and Health*

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.

Eligible Recipients: *An active farmer who is a New York State resident, that has a gross annual farm income of \$10,000-\$350,000 or a dairy farm milking fewer than 1,000 cows*

Funding Amount: *up to \$5,000 (must not exceed 50% of the estimated total project cost)*

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

## **Milk Security Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets*

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.

Eligible Recipients: *Licensed Dealers how purchase milk directly from producers or cooperatives*

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

## **National Grid Incentives**

Sponsor/Agency: *National Grid*

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

Eligible Recipients: *Dependent on Service/Rebate*

Funding Amount: *Dependent on Service/Rebate*

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

## **New York State Agricultural Society Foundation**

Sponsor/Agency: *New York State Agricultural Society*

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.

Eligible Recipients: *Organizations recognized as qualifying under Section 510C(3) of Internal Revenue Code serving New York State residents*

Funding Amount: *up to \$2,500*

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

## **NYS Consolidated Funding Application**

Sponsor/Agency: *New York State Regional Economic Councils*

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](#).

## **New York State Grown & Certified Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *New York State Grown & Certified Program*

The New York State Grown & Certified Seal indicates the product has been inspected for safe food handling and environmental stewardship. The label indicates that the food was grown in-state.

Eligible Recipients: *Producers whose products are grown and produced in New York State and participate in an environmental management program*

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

## **NYFVI Farm Viability Grants**

Sponsor/Agency: *NY Farm Viability Institute*

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

Eligible Recipients:

- *Farmer Groups*
- *Researchers and Educators*
- *Organizations, Agencies, and Businesses*

Funding Amount: *\$15,000-\$125,000*

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.

*Eligible Recipients:*

- *Farmer Groups*
- *Researchers and Educators*
- *Organizations, Agencies, and Businesses*

*Funding Amount:* \$15,000-\$125,000

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

## **NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)**

*Sponsor/Agency:* New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

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

*Eligible Recipients:* Dependent on Program

*Funding Amount:* Dependent on Program

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

## **NYS Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices**

*Sponsor/Agency:* New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

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.

*Funding Amount:* up to \$2,000 the cost of the audit

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

## **New York Young Farmers Loan Forgiveness Incentive Program**

*Sponsor/Agency:* New York High Education Services Corporation

The young farmers loan forgiveness incentive program offers forgivable loans to college graduates to pursue careers in farming who obtain an undergraduate degree from an approved college and agree to operate a farm in NYS for five years.

*Eligible Recipients:* NYS residents with student loan debt from an agricultural degree

*Funding Amount:* Up to \$50,000

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

## **Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) Retrofit Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *National ROPS Program*

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

Funding Amount: *70% the cost of purchasing and installing the ROPS (\$500 out of pocket cap)*

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

## **Urban and Community Forestry Grants**

Sponsor/Agency: *New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*

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.

Eligible Recipients:

- *New York municipalities*
- *Quasi-government entities*
- *Not-for-Profit Corporations*

Funding Amount: *Dependent on Grant Program*

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

## **USDA Specialty Crop Block Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *NY Farm Viability Institute*

The New York Farm Viability Institute partnered with New York State's Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) to manage the New York State's USDA Specialty Crop Block Program. This program seeks work that will achieve the following outcomes: improve pest control & disease control processes, develop new seed varieties & specialty crops, expand specialty crop research and development, and improve environmental sustainability of specialty crops.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Non-for-Profit Organizations*
- *Not-for-Profit Educational Institutions*
- *Local and Tribal Governments*

Funding Amount: *\$50,000-\$100,000*

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

## Rhode Island

### Agricultural Energy Grant Program

Sponsor/Agency: Rhode Island Office of Energy Resource

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) manages the Agricultural Energy Grant Program that provides grants of up to \$20,000 for eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy projects located on farms throughout Rhode Island. Our goal is to support clean energy projects in the agricultural sector.

Eligible Recipients: Agricultural entities with a physical location located in Rhode Island that can demonstrate that it has produced at least \$2,500 in income from agricultural operations in one of the last two calendar years

Funding Amount: up to \$20,000

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

### Farm, Forest and Open Space Act

Sponsor/Agency: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

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

Sponsor/Agency: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

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.

Eligible Recipients:

- For-profit Farmers
- Fishermen/women
- Producer Groups
- Non-Profit Organizations

Funding Amount: up to \$20,000

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

## **Rhode Island Energy Rebate Programs**

Sponsor/Agency: *Rhode Island Energy*

The Rhode Island Energy Rebate Programs offers assistance in ways to become more energy efficient while also reducing energy expenses. Rhode Island Energy offers incentives, rebates, and discounts to eligible business and multifamily properties.

Eligible Recipients: *Dependent on Rebate Program*

Funding Amount: *Dependent on Rebate Program*

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

## **Rhode Island Seafood Logo**

Sponsor/Agency: *Rhode Island Seafood*

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.

Eligible Recipients: *Sellers of Rhode Island seafood*

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

## **Specialty Crop Block Grant Program**

Sponsor/Agency: *Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management*

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).”

Eligible Recipients:

- *Organizations*
- *Industry Groups*
- *Academic Institutions*

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

## Vermont

### Agricultural Clean Water Program

Sponsor/Agency: Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFM) Water Quality Division supports businesses, organizations, or individuals to work with farms to support the improvement of water quality across the state of Vermont through education and outreach, technical assistance, organizational capacity development, and conservation practice surveys.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Farm Operations or Agricultural Associations*
- *Local Government Entities*
- *Public or Private Schools*
- *Other Educational Institutions*
- *Nonprofit Organizations working with Vermont farms*

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

### Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP)

Sponsor/Agency: Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets

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.

Eligible Recipients:

- *Vermont Farms*
- *Custom Operators*
- *Non-Profit Organizations*
- *Phosphorus Extraction Equipment Providers*

Funding Amount: up to \$60,000 (Dependent on Equipment Type)

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

### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Sponsor/Agency: Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets

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.

Eligible Recipients: Vermont Farms adjacent to a perennial stream or river that lack vegetative buffers and have agricultural related water quality impacts

Funding Amounts: 90% of the implementation costs

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

### **Engineering Services and Farmstead Best Management Practices Program**

Sponsor/Agency: Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets

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.

Eligible Recipients: Farms who comply with Vermont's [Required Agricultural Practices](#)

Funding Amount: Dependent on Program

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

### **Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) Program**

Sponsor/Agency: Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets

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.

Eligible Recipients:

- Farms who comply with Vermont's [Required Agricultural Practices](#)
- Organizations and Businesses providing educational events for Vermont Farms

Funding Amount: up to \$10,000

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

### **Farm to Institution Market Development Grants**

Sponsor/Agency: Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets

The Farm to Institution Market Development Grant (formerly Local Market Food Development Grant) is intended to support market development opportunities for local food producers and market processors, with a focus on Vermont institutional markets. Funding is provided to help

improve local producer access to, and engagement with local schools, hospitals, correctional facilities, and other local institutions.

**Eligible Recipients:**

- *Vermont Farm of Food Businesses*
- *Vermont Producer Groups or Associations*
- *Supply Chain Facilitators*

**Funding Amount:** \$10,000-\$30,000

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

**Farm to School and Early Childhood Capacity Building Grant**

**Sponsor/Agency:** *Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets*

The Farm to School and Early Childhood Capacity Building Grant will help organizations develop and expand farm to school programs to enhance relationships with local farmers and producers. Along with financial support, grantees will receive technical assistance from the Vermont Farm to School and Early Childhood Network and partner organizations to help implement these changes.

**Eligible Recipients:** *Any of the following entities:*

*Vermont resident or licensed early care providers*

*Independent schools participating in any federal child nutrition programs*

*Individual public schools*

*Supervisory unions or educational districts on behalf of a public school or consortium of schools*

**Funding Amount:** *Dependent on grant*

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

**Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip (GWFS) Program**

**Sponsor/Agency:** *Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets*

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.

**Eligible Recipients:** *Vermont farm with an annual cropping history within 5 years and adjacent to surface waters and/or ditches*

**Funding Amount:** *90% of installation costs*

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

**Pasture and Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program**

**Sponsor/Agency:** *Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets*

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.

Eligible Recipients: Vermont Farms

Funding Amount: up to \$10,000 or \$15,000 (Dependent on Type of Project)

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

### **Vermont Farmworker Housing Repair Loan Program**

Sponsor/Agency: Champlain Housing Trust

The Vermont Farmworker Housing Repair Loan Program gives farmers a forgivable loan to make any necessary improvements to farmworker housing. These programs help to improve the health and well being of the farm workforce,

Eligible Recipients: Units include manufactured homes, stick-built homes, and apartments in barns or other buildings going under health and safety related repairs.

Funding Amount: \$30,000 at 0% forgiven over 10 years

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

### **Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grants**

Sponsor/Agency: Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets

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.

Eligible Recipients: Rhode Island Farms that grow, harvest, pack, or hold “covered produce” as defined by the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule (FMSA PSR) and have annual produce sales (averaged over the past three years) of greater than \$29,245

Funding Amount: \$5,000-\$20,000

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

### **Vermont Farmworker Housing Repair Loan Program**

Sponsor/Agency: Champlain Housing Trust

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Eligible Recipients: Units include manufactured homes, stick-built homes, and apartments in barns or other buildings going under health and safety related repairs.

Funding Amount: \$30,000 at 0% forgiven over 10 years

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

### **Working Lands Enterprise Grants**

Sponsor/Agency: Vermont Working Lands Enterprise Initiative

The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) offers funding opportunities to a variety of business structures encompassing forest, farm, and food enterprises. These include producer associations, farms, food cooperatives, business assistance provider organizations and more. The Working Lands Enterprise Board (WLEB) meets each summer to decide which funding opportunities to offer for the coming year based on the available funds and the needs across Vermont.

Eligible Recipients: Dependent on Grant

Funding Amount: Dependent on Grant

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

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