



Groton Historical Commission
173 Main St.
Groton, MA 01450

January 18, 2012

Greetings:

The Groton Historical Commission is pleased to announce the satisfactory completion of our CPA funded project developing a comprehensive history of agriculture and farming in Groton and Groton Plantation. Conceived by the Historical Commission in collaboration with the Groton Planning Board, The Williams Barn Committee and the Groton Grange, the project was implemented by Oakfield Research of Concord MA to produce three products, with the goal to inform the citizens of Groton and the Commonwealth about the long tradition of agriculture and farming as well as its importance to the past, present and future of our community.

The first product "GROTON FARMS, Understanding the past and planning for the future of agriculture in Groton" traces farming and agriculture from the time of Native American farming of these lands over the past four centuries to establishing the context for thinking about farming today and into the future. Complete with images and maps the report leaves Groton readers with a clearer understanding of how farming and agriculture has been the backdrop against which the Town grew and responded to regional, national and international trends and other events not necessarily related to agriculture. The report also inspires the non-Groton reader to examine their own community and discover the hidden histories that shape their community's development. One important feature of this product is "Conversations with Groton Farmers".

The second product is an exhibit originally displayed at the Williams Barn presenting the history of farming and agriculture in Groton. The exhibit has been very well received and is currently available to be presented at various venues throughout the community.

The third product entitled "RESOURCE GUIDE FOR LOCAL FARMERS, Where to turn when you have more questions than answers" is designed to assist beginning and seasoned farmers alike when questions arise. Questions relating to – The Beginning Farmer, Land, Financial Sources and Resources, Organic Farming, Insurance and Risk Management, Energy, Newsletters, Reports, Periodicals and Agricultural Support Organizations. This document has hyperlinks to all organizations and sources identified. Report products will be placed on the town web site for the benefit of Groton Residents, Interested Others and to facilitate the use of the hyperlinks identified within the report.

Hard copies of the reports will be presented to town officials and others while a CD containing both reports will be made available to every farmer in Groton.

For more information contact Michael Roberts at 978-758-1999 email to redhawkma@gmail.com.

A Collins

Al Collins – Chair Groton Historical Commission

Michael Roberts – Agricultural Survey Project Manager

RESOURCE GUIDE FOR LOCAL FARMERS

Where to turn
when you have
more questions
than answers

A product of the
Groton Agricultural Survey Project
prepared by Oakfield Research 2011



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INTRODUCTION

Whether a farmer be a rank beginner or an experienced old-timer, he or she will always have a need to investigate new options, develop expanded perspectives, and find sources for help - financial, technical, educational, or professional.

But farming involves an inherent struggle between its accompanying realities: because it is a demanding and time-consuming business, the practitioners (particularly if their activities involve livestock) do not have the luxury of time to endlessly investigate opportunities that might improve their abilities to conduct that business, or at least improve their bottom line.

This reference guide is an attempt to provide a short-list compendium that may help aspiring farmers to get started, or allow existing farmers to bridge the chasm between available time and the almost unlimited volume of available material in print, and on the internet. After an extensive search for references suitable for inclusion in this work, final selections have been predicated on fairly simple criteria:

- Priority has been given to topics or organizations that are appropriate to Massachusetts, although certain references to national or New England organizations have been included, if no similar Massachusetts entity was identified.
- No attempt was made to include separate references for all of the myriad sub-sets of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and the United States Department of Agriculture, although note has been taken of many of them.
- Certain references have been annotated in a very succinct manner, particularly if their associated websites contain overwhelming amounts of information, or links to staggering numbers of other sites: the basic outline of the program or organization, with the contact information, has been considered sufficient content for the purposes of this guide - the simple need to keep this document within manageable size prevented the inclusion of some references, and the full content of others.
- Any reference accompanied by an invalid web address, or presenting a web site whose content was egregiously out of date, was dropped from consideration.

All of the information presented in this reference is current. Every web address has been checked for validity, and personnel, where mentioned, have been verified as to name and title. The internet being what it is, however, there are no guarantees (short- or long-term) against sites going dead, web addresses suffering some unpredictable form of transformation (or disappearance), or people who leave their employment positions without the appropriate site corrections being made.

Please note that this document is *not* a "how to" book for farmers. Anyone looking for step-by-step instructions (or even a set of procedures) for achieving any particular task or undertaking any specific project will be disappointed.

What this book *will* provide is a wide spectrum of references, contacts, organizations, businesses, and programs that may provide information, services, or funding (!) that may help the farmer resolve any number of practical question

THE BEGINNING FARMER

TRAINING PROGRAMS and EDUCATION

The Farm School

www.farmschool.org

contact: patrick@farmschool.org (Director)

The Farm School

Sentinel Elm Farm

488 Moore Hill Road

Athol, MA 01331

978-249-9944



- Year-long residential agricultural training program for adults
- Middle-school level in-house school for local children
- School Year and Summer School programs for kids

Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc

www.aginclassroom.org

Contact: Debi Hogan massaginclassroom@earthlink.net

PO Box 345

Seekonk, MA 02771

508-336-4426



Promotes agricultural consciousness in grades pre-K to 12.

Mission: òto foster an awareness and learning in all areas related to the food and agriculture industries and the economic and social importance of agriculture to the state, nation and the world. In addition to the Annual Winter Conference for Educators, Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom offers a seasonal newsletter; workshops on the farm for educators; a fall òGreening the School Conferenceö for teachers, a Summer Graduate Course; a Directory of agricultural materials and providers; mini-grants for teachers and educators; an interactive website; and various manuals and curriculum.ö

New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (Tufts University)

<http://nesfp.nutrition.tufts.edu>

Contact: EGrundberg@comteam.org

978-654-6745

155 Merrimack St., 3rd Floor

Lowell, MA 01850

or

New Entry

Friedman School of Nutrition

150 Harrison Ave.

Boston, MA 02111



Courses offered include:

- Explore Farming: discuss some of the challenges and rewards of farm ownership; think realistically about the financial feasibility of starting and growing your own farm businesses
- Farm Business Planning: how to select farm enterprises, and develop business plans and enterprise budgets; identify and research markets; find and evaluate the materials, equipment, resources; develop a crop plan and schedule.
(This course is available on-line & contact: maura.beaufait@tufts.edu)
- Livestock Field Schools Contact: sanderson@comteam.org
- On-farm Training Program
- Advisory assistance in land acquisition

Northeast Beginning Farmers Project (Cornell University)

www.nebeginningfarmers.org

Contact: Erica Frenay ejf5@cornell.edu

or Michelle (Striney) Podolec

15B Plant Science

Cornell University

Ithaca, NY 14853

(607) 255-9911



Online courses

- for aspiring, new, & experienced beginning farmers
- some courses are specific to NY, but still have wide applicability in the Northeast
- 5-7 week courses help you to establish clear goals, assess personal resources, plan marketing, create budgets, set up record-keeping, navigate regulations, choose the right equipment, improve soil, get organically certified, write a business plan, and learn how to raise veggies and chickens

MDAR Agricultural Business Training Program (ABPT)

www.mass.gov/agr/programs/abtp/index.htm

Contact: Rick Chandler rick.chandler@state.ma.us

MDAR

101 University Drive, Suite C-4

Amherst, MA 01002 413-548-1905



The nature of agriculture in Massachusetts is rapidly changing. Today's agricultural climate favors farm owners and managers who develop innovative approaches and adaptable plans that:

- Emphasize diverse and retail driven markets to distribute risk and net better returns
- Focus on loans and/or personal investment through realistic financial planning and record keeping
- Provide for a living wage and rewarding work for family members and key employees that keeps them involved in the business and improves stability
- Map ways to work as partners within the regulatory requirements of Commonwealth and the municipalities in which the farms are located

MDAR's Agricultural Business Training Program responds to these and other planning needs through training and technical assistance. More than 400 agricultural enterprises have completed an MDAR planning program. We offer three formats for different stages of farm development. Before completing an application, please review the individual course descriptions for relevance and pre-requisites.

ABTP courses for 2012 will begin in January-March, with registration open in September. Those who provide their email addresses and course choices before then will be given priority in early contact. The Department will give you priority notification as soon as the next round of courses is scheduled.

**US Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture**

(UMASS EXTENSION – Center for Agriculture)

<http://extension.umass.edu/index.php/in-your-community/northeastern>



4-H Youth Development Program

www.mass4hfoundation.org

Wendy Marcks 4-H Educator

781-891-0650 Ext. 29

Va Shon Hiltbold 4-H Educator

781-891-0650 Ext. 30

Pam LaFave, 4-H Program Assistant

781-891-0650 Ext. 15



Waltham Office

240 Beaver St.

Waltham, MA 02452

781-891-0650

Serving Essex, Middlesex and Suffolk Counties

Massachusetts 4-H is a youth development program engaging young people in ongoing, experiential learning activities that build life skills including self-esteem, citizenship and leadership. Massachusetts 4-H is rooted in communities throughout Massachusetts, is directed through the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and is affiliated with national 4-H through the United States Department of Agriculture. It has a 100-year history of youth development work through support for a large network of volunteer leaders and by facilitating subject area training and events in areas related to animal care, communications skills and community service. 4-H is well-known as the premier youth development program to use animals as vehicles for learning. In addition, 4-H has extensive name recognition and program resources in the subject area of communications. The mission of Massachusetts 4-H is to prepare youth, ages 5 to 18, to become independent and contributing members of society by providing them with supports and resources to learn about animal care, gain important life skills (such as self-esteem, citizenship and leadership) and develop their communications abilities to advance their positive, long term development as people.

Historically, 4-H core services have been centered on a volunteer-led club model in which small groups of young people meet regularly with trained, caring volunteers to learn more about their particular area of interest. Clubs are 4-H's primary educational vehicles of the education children receive, research has shown a significant impact on a child's life. The 4-H club is a unique, community level vehicle for accessing unusual educational material through specialized curricula and events. 4-H clubs are typically made up of 2 to 15 young people, concentrating on a subject identified by the members of the club themselves (both adults and youth).

A major strength of 4-H is the adaptability and flexibility of project areas tailored to youth needs. Each club tends to have a subject interest area although use of multiple curricula is encouraged. Within the club, youth assume responsibility for short and longer-term projects (up to a year). Clubs are often led by unpaid volunteers and meet in homes and community facilities most conducive to the club's interest area. Some clubs are run by

paid volunteers ó often operating under the umbrella of a public organization (school or non-profit organization) with meetings held in public or non-profit facilities.

READ MORE

Available from the New England Small Farm Institute

Order on-line at www.smallfarm.org/main/bookstore :

Exploring the Small Farm Dream: Is Starting an Agricultural Business Right for You? (NESFI 2003)

Listening to New Farmers: Findings from New Farmer Focus Groups. (NESFI 2001)

Finding the Niche: Case Studies of Beginning Small Scale Farmers (Griffin 1991)

Getting Established in Farming. (Thomas 2002)

You Can Farm: The Entrepreneurs Guide to Start & Succeed in a Farming Enterprise (Salatin 1998)

Starting an Ag Business: A Pre-Planning Guide (Richards, 2004)

Available from NEFSP <http://nesfp.nutrition.tufts.edu> :

Plain Language Guide to Starting a Value Added Food Business

Plain Language Guide to Harvesting Your Crops (Onion Crops, Cruciferous Vegetables, Roots and Tubers, Beans and Peas, Herbs, Pumpkin Squash Blossoms)

Starting a Small Business:

www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/small_business.htm

Business Plan Preparation: Tools for Writing Business Plans:

<http://leeds-faculty.colorado.edu/moyes/bplan>

Small Business Planner:

www.sba.gov/smallbusinessplanner/plan/index.html

Evaluation, Acquisition, and Disposition

New Entry Sustainable Farming Project

(Tufts University)

<http://nesfp.nutrition.tufts.edu>

Contact:

EGrundberg@comteam.org

978-654-6745

155 Merrimack St., 3rd Floor
Lowell, MA



The farmland location and matching service through the [NESFP] assists qualified beginning farmers and experienced growers to locate suitable land for agricultural production. New Entry assists growers to get started or expand the acreage of their agricultural business on available farmland in Massachusetts and surrounding Northeast states.

- Farmland Database
- Consulting service
- Annual farm employment directory

New England Small Farm Institute

New England Landlink

www.smallfarm.org/nell/database.html



New England Landlink (NELL)



NELL is a program to help farmers and landholders locate and transfer farms in New England. Finding and transferring farms are among the biggest challenges that New England farmers face. Since 1994, NELL has helped hundreds of entering and relocating farmers find farms. Through NELL, farm owners and managers have found farmers for their valued farm properties.

Farm transfer means passing a farm, farmland and/or farm business from one party to another. Transfer options include sale, lease, work-in and other tenure relationships.

NELL offers a web-based listing of farm properties in New England and New York. Membership is by low-cost subscription.

**Massachusetts Department of
Agricultural Resources**



State-owned Farmland Licensing Program

Contact: Barbara Hopson: Barbara.Hopson@state.ma.us 413-548-1906

The primary purpose of the State-owned Farmland Licensing Program is to make publicly-owned agricultural land available to farmers and others through agricultural licenses, thereby allowing participants to benefit by implementation of best management practices to assure access to and investment in these public-lands.

The eight (8) representative farmland properties benefiting from the program are located in Agawam, Danvers/Middleton, Grafton, Lakeville, Lancaster, Westborough, Westfield and Princeton that are put out to bid through a Request For Response (RFR) process. The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, which it might receive, and the right to negotiate with any and all applicants. A license agreement will be negotiated and executed between the Commonwealth and the selected applicant(s) to outline the terms and conditions of use. Rental period shall be for five (5) years with an option to renew for an additional period of five (5) years. Related RFR and other program notices will be posted here and in the *Farm and Market Report*.

The Department also manages agricultural Licenses for DCR lands located on several fields in the Wachusett Reservoir watersheds. DAR's management services maintain open lands for agricultural which in turn helps to increase water yields in the state's reservoir system.

Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program (APR)

Contact: Ronald Hall; ronald.hall@state.ma.us 617-626-1704

The Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program is a voluntary program which is intended to offer a non-development alternative to farmers and other owners of "prime" and "state important" agricultural land who are faced with a decision regarding future use and disposition of their farms. Towards this end, the program offers to pay farmland owners the difference between the "fair market value" and the "agricultural value" of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction which precludes any use of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability.

Massachusetts's APR program, begun as an act of the Legislature in 1979, was the first in the nation and has since been a model upon which many other states have built their programs. As of 2010 the Massachusetts APR program has permanently protected almost 800 farms and a total land area of over 66,000 acres. The primary purpose of the APR program is to preserve and protect agricultural land, including designated farmland soils, which are a finite natural resource, from being built upon for non-agricultural purposes or used for any activity detrimental to agriculture and to maintain APR land values at a level that can be supported by the land's agricultural uses and potential.

APR Improvement Program (AIP)

Contact: Melissa Adams, Program Coordinator - Melissa.AdamsAIP@gmail.com 413-268-8269

The purpose of the APR Improvement Program (AIP) is to help sustain active commercial farming on land that has already been protected through the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. AIP provides technical assistance and business planning to improve farm productivity with the goal of enhancing the significance of APR farm operations and their contribution to the state's agricultural industry. The program assists with issues of economic viability, environmental sustainability, resource conservation, ownership control, modernization of infrastructure and other issues that may enhance the long term continued use of the agricultural resource. In Phase I, the AIP offers participant farms technical and business planning assistance that is similar to services provided by the Department's Farm Viability Enhancement Program. However, the land protection component of FVEP is omitted, as APR farmland is already restricted to agricultural uses only. Participating farms that complete an AIP business plan and commit to implementing farm improvement strategies identified in the Plan that meet Program objectives may be eligible for funding through an AIP grant in Phase II of the AIP.

Application periods typically open in the Spring. The application period for Fiscal Year 2012 is now closed.

USDA National Resource Conservation Service - Soils

www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/neasoils/mo12facts.html

Team Leader: David Hvizack
451 West Street
Amherst, MA 01002
413-253-4350



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a federal agency that works hand-in-hand with the people of Massachusetts to improve and protect their soil, water and other natural resources. For decades, private landowners have voluntarily worked with NRCS specialists to prevent erosion, improve water quality and promote sustainable agriculture.

NRCS employs soil conservationists, soil scientists, agronomists, biologists, engineers, geologists and resource planners. These experts help landowners develop conservation plans, create and restore wetlands, restore and manage other natural ecosystems as well as advise on stormwater remediation, nutrient and animal waste management and watershed planning.

NRCS, formerly called the Soil Conservation Service, was initially focused on preventing soil erosion on America's farmland. Over the years Americans have become concerned with a broader array of natural resource issues. In response, NRCS has broadened its technical services in order to provide science-based solutions to address America's ever-changing environmental concerns. While farmers remain the primary client of NRCS, the agency also provides technical assistance to city planners, watershed groups, state and local governments, civic organizations and individual homeowners.

MO-12 (the Eastern region) provides coordination, quality assurance and assistance to state and MLRA soil survey offices located in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and parts of New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Land for Good www.landforgood.org

Contact: info@landforgood.org
29 Center St.,
Keene, NH 03431
603-357-1600



A fee-based consulting service, including:

- Designing farm uses for specific properties
- Drafting leases and management agreements
- Recruiting a farmer
- Planning for conservation development
- Establishing affordable farms and farm homes
- Developing farm-based educational sites and programs
- Evaluating options, and developing farm transfer plans
- Developing strategy and program for land acquisition

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)



Aerial Photography

www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/apfoapp?area=apfohome&subject=landing&topic=landing

The Aerial Photography Field Office (APFO) has one of the largest collections of historical aerial photography in the nation.

View available scales and coverage area of various digital photo sizes. Examples will illustrate what digital photo sizes are available and how much area is covered for each scale and image resolution selected.

The viewer includes contact information and links to assist in quarter quad identification for submitting an order. Please contact Customer Service at apfo.sales@slc.usda.gov or 801-844-2923 with any questions.



UMASS Extension www.masswoods.net

Deciding the Future of My Land

Your land is a part of your legacy. You have been a good steward of your land. Deciding what will happen to your land after you are gone is the next critical step of being a good steward. In fact it may be the most important step you can take as a landowner. Who will own your land and how will it be used? What will your legacy be?

Your land is likely one of your most valuable assets, especially if you have owned it for a long time and it has increased in value. However, there is more to land than just its financial value. Because land can be connected to memories, experiences, and feelings, your land may also have significant personal value. Deciding what to do with your land brings with it the challenge of providing for both these financial and personal needs.

Some of your family may be interested in receiving personal value from the land by keeping it in its current, natural state. Others may be interested in receiving financial value from the land or in obtaining a piece of land to build a home. And, of course, it is also possible that your family may want or need a little of both. The good news is that land is a flexible asset that lends itself to creative solutions for gaining both personal and financial value from it. However, it does take some planning.

An estate is the total of all of your assets, including your land. An estate plan ensures that your assets are distributed in a way that will meet the financial and personal needs of you and your family. An estate plan isn't one all-encompassing document. It is best thought of as a process that includes the development of a combination of documents (such as a will) and tools (such as conservation restrictions) that achieve your goals when implemented together.

Estate planning is not just for the wealthy or for those who own estates. If you own land, then estate planning is a necessary and valuable step to ensure that the legacy of your land is a positive one!

For many landowners and families, the natural beauty and legacy values of their land are at least equally important as its financial value. Your land may be where you raised a family, explored nature, worked in the woods, and took walks.

To meet their family's personal needs or out of a desire to preserve nature, some landowners limit the types of activities that happen on the land in the future so that all or some of it will stay in its natural or undeveloped state through the use of land conservation tools. In addition, these land conservation tools often provide some positive financial values through income or tax savings.

Understanding these options is an important step in deciding the future of your land. Below are descriptions of commonly used land conservation tools and links to stories of families from across the state who have used them to achieve their goals. Speaking with a land protection specialist working for a land trust can help you determine which tool may be right for you.

- Donating or Selling Conservation Restrictions
- Donating or Selling Land
- Bargain Sale
- Bequest
- Reserved Life Estate
- Limited Development

Donating or Selling Conservation Restrictions. Your land includes several different types of rights, including the right to develop your land, farm, hunt, and manage your woods. A conservation restriction (known as a conservation easement in states other than Massachusetts) is a legal agreement that extinguishes some or all of the development rights of the land forever, but allows your other rights such as farming, forestry, and recreation to continue, all while maintaining your ownership of the land.

A conservation restriction (CR) is a flexible tool that can be placed on all or only designated parts of your land, allowing you to reserve house lots to provide financial value or housing options for your family. Some CRs allow public access, others do not – it usually depends on which organization you work with and whether you are receiving funds for your CR.

A CR can be donated, which often provides the landowner with a tax deduction for a charitable gift. A CR can be sold for income if the land has exceptional natural resources. A CR can also be sold below market value for both income and tax benefits (see “Bargain Sale” below).

Donating or Selling Land. Land can be permanently protected by donating it or selling it to a qualified conservation organization, such as a land trust or state conservation organization. Donations of land may provide significant tax advantages as a charitable gift.

Bargain Sale. Landowners can sell their land or conservation restrictions at a price below its fair market value. The difference between the appraised market value and the sale price to a qualified conservation organization, such as a land trust or a state conservation organization, is considered a tax-deductible charitable contribution, providing some income and potentially some tax benefits.

Bequest. A donation of land or a conservation restriction through your will is another way to ensure your land’s permanent protection and potentially to reduce your estate tax burden. You can change your will at any time, and a bequest does not become effective until your death. This is a good approach if you need to keep the financial value of your property in reserve in case of unexpected medical bills or other needs, but want to be sure the land will be conserved if you do not need to sell it during your lifetime.

Reserved Life Estate. Landowners sometimes negotiate a gift or sale of the property while reserving the right to occupy and use the property for life. Upon the death of the landowner, control of the property automatically transfers to a conservation organization. The gift of a property with a reserved life estate can qualify the donor for a charitable deduction based on the value of the property donated and the value of the reserved life estate, which is all based on the donor’s age.

Limited Development. Limited development is an option that protects the majority of the land while a small portion is sold or maintained by the landowner for future development. In a limited development scenario, the areas with the greatest conservation value are protected through one of the tools described above, while other less sensitive areas of the land are set aside for future development.

READ MORE

Available from **New England Small Farm Institute**

www.smallfarm.org/main/bookstore:

Acquiring and Managing Resources for the Farm Business (Thomas 2001)

Holding Ground: A Guide to Northeast Farmland Tenure and Stewardship (Ruth et al 2004)

Farmland Transfer and Protection in New England (NESFI)

Your land, Your legacy. Deciding the Future of Your Land to Meet the Need of You and Your Family

Farming in Wetland Resource Areas: A Guide to Agriculture and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act

(Edited by Kathy Ruhf. 1996.) This guide offers an understanding of the agricultural exemption to the MA Wetlands Protection Act for the farming community, with attention to those areas and activities on your farm that might be subject to regulatory oversight.

Preserving Family Lands (Books II, III) by Stephen Small

Available at: www.preservingfamilylands.com

Land Conservation Options” by Trustees of Reservations

Available at: www.thetrustees.org/hci/library

FINANCIAL SOURCES AND RESOURCES

Grants, Lenders, and Government Programs

The Carrot Project

www.thecarrotproject.org

Dorothy M. Suput, Executive Director
2 Belmont Terrace
Somerville, Massachusetts
Contact: info@thecarrotproject.org
617-666-9637



“The Carrot Project’s mission is to foster a sustainable and diverse food system by increasing the availability of capital, and its wise use, to ecologically and financially sustainable small-and midsize farms and farm-related businesses. Our programs are designed to incubate, learn from, and establish alternative financing programs in combination with business technical assistance. We work collaboratively with private investors, lenders, and farm support organizations. In short, we are helping to rebuild a farm system that offers stability to local farmers. provides healthful food for citizens, replenishes the environment, and is good for regional and local economies.”

Mission:

- Create and administer regional financial programs for farmers
- Provide investment opportunities in sustainable agriculture
- Provide or connect farmers with business planning technical assistance
- Collaborate on research and innovative thinking that contribute to a diverse and strong farm sector

The MassDevelopment/The Carrot Project Small Farm Loan Program

Contact: Dorothy Suput, Executive Director: dsuput@thecarrotproject.org 617-666-9637

Designed for small Massachusetts farms having difficulty obtaining credit for projects that improve their operations and increase their income, as well as for emergency needs. Preference will be given to farms that use or are moving toward organic methods. Funds may be used for capital investments that improve efficiency and quality, and those that expand farm production or sales. Other eligible expenses include farm operations or repairs necessary to maintain farm operations. The fund offers loans of \$3,000 to \$35,000, and terms of up to 5 years.

Next Application Deadline(s): Nov. 4, 2011 and Jan. 6, and Mar. 2, 2012

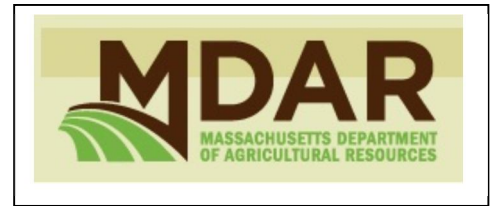
Eligible Borrowers:

- farmers who own or lease farms in Massachusetts, with preference given to farms with 250 or fewer acres under cultivation and annual revenue of no more than \$250,000
- applicants who own or lease the farmed property; leases should be in effect for at least the loan payment period
- applicants engaged in the cultivation of farm, forest, or aquatic products or farm-related businesses
- farms that use or are moving toward organic methods are given preference
- family farms, as defined by USDA's Economic Research Service, are given preference

Eligible Expenses:

- capital investments and expenses that improve efficiency and/or quality, and/or expand farm production and sales
- repairs necessary to maintain farm operations
- short-term operating needs, such as inventory, supplies, and/or labor for expansion
- emergency funds to deal with business interruptions due to fire, natural disasters, or other unforeseeable events

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources



Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture Program

Contact: Kate Hayes: mega.coordinator@gmail.com 413-559-0949

The Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture Program (MEGA) seeks to assist new and beginning farm businesses with startup or expansion costs. The Program offers technical and business planning assistance to support the special needs of beginning farmers. It also makes available financial assistance for equipment, infrastructure or other capital improvements needed to implement strategies recommended through the planning process.

It is the objective of the MEGA Program to assist farmers whose goal is to raise agricultural products and who aspire to develop their farms into commercially viable operations. Priority will be given to new and beginning farm enterprises that have operated commercially as a new or beginning farm for 1 to no more than 5 years, have knowledge or direct experience in agriculture, and have a potential to develop or expand productivity or commercial significance with the infusion of additional technical support and capital.

Funding provided from this Program will be made available on a one to one matching grant basis. The maximum award shall be \$10,000. Consultants and planners provided by the Department are an additional program benefit and the value of their services is in addition to the grant award.

MEGA is a new program the Department of Agricultural Resources established in Fiscal Year 2011. Ten farms were selected to participate in this initial pilot year.

Farm Viability Enhancement Program

Contact: Craig Richov: Craig.Richov@state.ma.us 617-626-1725

The Farm Viability Program seeks to improve the economic viability and environmental integrity of participating farms through the development and implementation of farm viability plans. The Program offers farmers environmental, technical and business planning assistance to expand, upgrade and modernize their existing operations. Capital for the implementation of the improvements recommended in the viability plan is available in exchange for an agricultural covenant on the farm property for a fixed term of five or ten years.

Farm Viability Program Application Period The application period for FVEP has closed for Fiscal Year 2012. The application period typically opens in the Spring.

Farm Viability Enhancement Program Results as of June 30, 2011

During Fiscal Year 2011, the Farm Viability Enhancement Program provided technical assistance to 19 farms with 19 completing business plans. Of these, 18 farms received funding and were placed under Agricultural Covenants protecting **1949** acres. The Program impacted an additional **1300** acres of leased land and protected land under participant management. FY2011 spending was **\$984,500** in direct grants to farms and over **\$140,000** was spent on technical assistance costs to consultants and business plan writers.

Since the Farm Viability Program was initiated in 1996, **433** farms have been selected to participate in the program. A total of **362** farms have now been protected by Covenants and received grant awards.

The **362** farms that have participated in the Farm Viability Enhancement Program result in:

- **34,453** acres placed in protective covenants; **30,787** acres were impacted (additional acreage leased by farms or land already in the APR program for which business plans were developed).
- A total of **65,240** acres of Massachusetts farmland have been impacted by the Farm Viability Program.
- Total of grants paid to participant farms **\$14,856,272**. Total spending on grants per acre placed in protective covenant: **\$431** per acre.
- 73% of farmers in the Program invest additional capital beyond the grant amount to implement business improvement strategies. The average additional investment is \$31,791 per farm.
- For FY 2011, **12** of the 19 participants invested **\$343,000** in additional capital or an average of **\$28,583** per farm.

Improvement projects for the year included: 6 farm stand construction or expansion projects, 3 new livestock/hay barns, 2 new packing sheds, 2 new sugarhouses and updated sugaring equipment, 2 barn repair efforts, 1 new sawmill, 8 projects with new or used equipment purchases (tractors, trucks, and field equipment), an outdoor wood burning furnace, and one project with a new well and irrigation system.

Massachusetts Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP)

Contact: Laura Maul, Coordinator: Laura.Maul@state.ma.us 617- 626-1739

The purpose of AEEP is to support the mitigation and/ or prevention of negative impacts to natural resources that may result from agricultural practices. Farmers selected to participate are reimbursed for the approved costs of materials up to \$30,000 used to install best management practices which improve water quality, conserve water or improve air quality. The program runs on the state Fiscal Year which runs from July 1 to June 30. Applications are typically available in the Spring.

The Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) provides funding to agricultural operations in Massachusetts for the mitigation and/or prevention of impacts on natural resources that may result from agricultural practices. While primarily a water quality program, AEEP will also fund practices that promote water conservation and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions..All projects where the primary focus is renewable energy or energy conservation would need to apply to the Massachusetts **Ag-Energy Grant Program**. Farmers selected to participate are reimbursed for the approved costs of materials up to \$30,000. A minimum of a 5% match is required for each project. Most awards are in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 range.

Background: Since 1999, DAR has funded 390 projects statewide. Growers and producers have received approximately \$4.5 million to help them address environmental concerns on their farms. Examples of conservation practices funded in previous rounds include the installation of animal manure waste systems, pesticide storage facilities, flumes, and automated irrigation systems.

Eligibility: Property must consist of land under the same ownership and be actively devoted to agricultural or horticultural use. Aquaculture operations must possess a current valid shellfish license.

Responses must have proof of a written and updated NRCS Conservation Plan. Flower growers and aquaculture operations are excluded from this requirement.

Farmers interested in discussing a potential response should contact Laura Maul.



United States Department of Agriculture – Massachusetts

<http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Contact: Lynn Vozniak, County Exec. Director: lynn.vozniak@ma.usda.gov

FSA Service Center Office

Middlesex County Farm Service Agency

319 Littleton Rd., Suite 205

Westford, MA 01886

978-692-1904

FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loans (OL) to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution, or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies. Our loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

Many FSA loan application forms are available on our website! We also encourage you to contact your local office or USDA Service Center to learn more about our programs and the information you will need for a complete application.

FSA loans are often provided to beginning farmers who cannot qualify for conventional loans because they have insufficient financial resources. FSA also helps established farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural disasters, or whose resources are too limited to maintain profitable farming operations.

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides direct and guaranteed loans to beginning farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources. Each fiscal year, the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loan (OL) funds to beginning farmers and ranchers.

A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who (1) has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years; (2) meets the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying; (3) substantially participates in the operation; and, (4) for FO loan purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the median size farm in the county. (Note: all applicants for direct FO loans must have participated in business operation of a farm for at least 3 years.) If the applicant is an entity, all members must be related by blood or marriage, and all stockholders in a corporation must be eligible beginning farmers.

Direct Farm Loans

"Direct" farm loans are made by FSA with Government funds. We also service these loans and provide our Direct loan customers with supervision and credit counseling so they have a better chance for success. Farm Ownership, Operating, Emergency and Youth loans are the main types of loans available under the Direct program. Direct loan funds are also set aside each year for loans to minority applicants and beginning farmers (see links below). To apply for a Direct loan, contact your [local FSA office](#).

Direct Ownership Loans

"Direct" farm loans are made by FSA with Government funds. We also service these loans and provide our Direct loan customers with supervision and credit counseling so they have a better chance for success. Farm Ownership, Operating, Emergency and Youth loans are the main types of loans available under the Direct program. Direct loan funds are also set aside each year for loans to minority applicants and beginning farmers. To apply for a Direct loan, contact your local FSA office.

With a Direct Farm Ownership Loan, you can purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings and other fixtures, and promote soil and water conservation.

The maximum amount for Direct Farm Ownership Loans is \$300,000.

Loan applicants may choose to participate in a joint financing plan. In this program, FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed, and another lender provides the balance. FSA may charge an interest rate of not less than 4%.

Direct Operating Loans

Operating Loans may be used to purchase items such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other operating expenses. Operating Loans can also be used to pay for minor improvements to buildings, costs associated with land and water development, family subsistence, and to refinance debts under certain conditions.

Loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises, which include raising earthworms, exotic birds, tropical fish, dogs, or horses for non-farm purposes (racing, pleasure or show).

The limit on Direct Farm Operating Loans is \$300,000.

Emergency Farm Loans

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year
- Pay essential family living expenses
- Reorganize the farming operation
- Refinance certain debts.

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides direct and guaranteed loans to beginning farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources. Each fiscal year, the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loan (OL) funds to beginning farmers and ranchers.

A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who (1) has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years; (2) meets the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying; (3) substantially participates in the operation; and, (4) for FO loan purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the

median size farm in the county. (Note: all applicants for direct FO loans must have participated in business operation of a farm for at least 3 years.) If the applicant is an entity, all members must be related by blood or marriage, and all stockholders in a corporation must be eligible beginning farmers.

Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees loans to approved socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches.

A socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmer, rancher, or agricultural producer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Youth Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans of up to \$5,000 to eligible individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to finance income-producing, agriculture-related projects. The project must be of modest size, educational, and initiated, developed and carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H clubs, FFA or a similar organization.

The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience in agriculture-related skills.

Interest Rates

Effective as of August 1, 2011	
Program	Interest Rates
Farm Operating-Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership- Direct	4.625%
Farm Ownership- Direct, Joint Financing	5.00%
Farm Ownership- Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency Loan- Amount of Actual Loss	3.75%
Conservation Loan	4.75%

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

www.uvm.edu/~nesare/
www.sare.org



Northeast SARE Farmer Grant

Farmer Grants are for commercial producers who have an innovative idea they want to test using a field trial, on-farm demonstration, or other technique. A technical advisor--often an extension agent, crop consultant, or other service professional--is required as a project participant.

Projects should seek results other farmers can use, and all projects must have the potential to add to our knowledge about effective sustainable practices.

Note: **Proposal deadlines are in December with awards announced in March.** The new application is normally released in late summer for awards the following spring.

Cooperative Fund of New England

www.cooperativefund.org

P.O. Box 3413
Amherst, MA 01004-3413
Phone: 910-395-6008 / 1-800-818-7833
Email: cfne@coopfund.coop



The Cooperative Fund of New England is a community development financial institution (CDFI) that is a bridge between socially responsible investors and cooperatives, community oriented non-profits, and worker-owned businesses in New England.

Mission: We advance community based, cooperative and democratically owned or managed enterprises with preference to those that serve low income communities through:

- provision of prompt financial assistance at reasonable rates
- provision of an investment opportunity that promotes socially conscious enterprise; and
- development of a regional reservoir of business skills with which to assist and advise these groups

Farm Credit East www.farmcrediteast.com

Farm Credit East
67 Bedford St.
PO Box 720
Middleboro, MA 02346-0720
508-946-4455 (800-946-0506)
Contact: Cynthia Stiglitz



or

2 Constitution Drive
Bedford, NH 03110
603-472-3554
Contact: David Bishop

Farm Credit East is the largest agricultural lender in New England and New York.

Farm Credit East at a Glance

- 95 years of lending to Northeast agriculture, in good times and bad.
- The # 1 financial services cooperative for the Northeast agricultural industry.
- Serving people involved in the business of agriculture, including farmers, nursery and greenhouse operators, forest products businesses, fishermen, lobstermen, part-time growers, agribusinesses and country home owners.
- Close to 12,000 customers in our six-state territory: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey.
- A leader in farm legislation and land preservation.
- \$4.3 billion in loans to capitalize ag businesses.
- Part of the national Farm Credit System, which was founded in 1916 to promote the growth and prosperity of agriculture throughout the United States.
- A full range of credit services.
- Financial services that enhance productivity and profitability.
- Patronage dividend program, which typically reduces the average interest rate.
- Proud sponsors of dozens of agricultural, community and civic activities, including: FFA Star Farmer, New England Green Pastures, The New England Ag Export Showcase, Cornell Dairy Fellows, Century Farm Awards and agricultural leadership programs throughout the Northeast.
- College scholarships annually.

READ MORE

Available from **New England Small Farm Institute**

www.smallfarm.org/main/bookstore

Building a Sustainable Business: A Guide to Developing a Business Plan for Farms and Rural Businesses (MISA 2002)

Making Your Small Farm Profitable. The New American Farmer: Profiles in Agricultural Innovation. (Macher 1999)

Tools and Resources (to Help New Farmers)

Financing Small-Scale and Part-time Farms

Available at http://agalternatives.aers.psu.edu/publications/financing_small-part_farms.pdf

Financing the Farm Operation

Available at www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/businessmanagement/DF2589.html

Starting or Diversifying an Agricultural Business

Available at <http://agalternatives.aers.psu.edu/publications/StartingAgBusiness%20PM7.pdf>

How to Finance a Small Farm

Available at www.sfc.ucdavis.edu/Pubs/Family_Farm_Series/Farmmanage/finance.html

Successful Small Farming

Available at www.ag.ncat.edu/successfulsmallfarming/Default.htm

Plain Language Guide to Applying for a Farm Service Agency Loan

Available from NESFP <http://nesfp.nutrition.tufts.edu>

See also the following library opportunity: NEW ENTRY (NESFP) <http://nesfp.nutrition.tufts.edu>

New Entry Lending Library & Direct Assistance

Contact: Kimberley: kfitch@comteam.org. 978-654-6745

Looking for cheap compost nearby? Not sure when it's safe to transplant your tomatoes in northeastern Massachusetts? Trying to choose between different row cover gauges to protect against frost? If you have a gardening or farming question, give us a call or write us an email, and we will be happy to assist you, either by giving you some answers, or by giving you another good contact

Anyone is also welcome to check out our free lending library for more information on all aspects of farming, marketing, and small business enterprise. We have over 400 books, videos, farming magazines, and pamphlets in English, Spanish, Hmong, and Khmer. We also invite farmers to use our library computer for internet-based research.

ORGANIC FARMING

Northeast Organic Farming Association – Massachusetts Chapter www.nofamass.org

Contact: nofa@nofamass.org

411 Sheldon Rd.
Barre, MA 01005
978-355-2853



NOFA/Mass offers a variety of educational programs. For 20 years it has coordinated the NOFA Summer Conference, NOFA's regional conference. It also holds an annual winter conference for Massachusetts farmers, gardeners, landscapers, consumers and activists. NOFA/Mass educates on the issue of genetic engineering, publishes the Organic Food Guide of organic growers in the state and provides its members an annual bulk order amendments, cover crops, and farming supplies. In Springfield NOFA/Mass is working with a teen/community gardening project. NOFA/Mass works with organic and transitional dairy farmers to support them in their efforts to sell organic and raw milk, holds a practical skills workshop series and provides organic extension assistance to farmers and gardeners across Massachusetts. NOFA/Mass connects livestock producers with organic grain resources, provides info to connect CSAs with customers and apprentices with farming jobs. NOFA/Mass publishes a bi-monthly newsletter and many useful farming publications. Additionally, with CT NOFA, it provides accreditation to organic land care practitioners and educates consumers on organic land care practices.

Organic Trade Association

www.howtogoorganic.com/index.php?page=massachusetts

PO Box 547
Greenfield, MA 01302
413-774-7511



The Organic Trade Association (OTA) is a membership-based business association that focuses on the organic business community in North America.

An online collection of existing resources for anyone exploring how to transition to organic. The Organic Trade Association is proud to offer this premier resource to help cultivate the growth of organic farming.

This site is organized in to five sections.

1. The Pathway for Producers, where the steps toward making the transition to organic are made clear and informative;
2. The Pathway for Processors, where new or existing processors can learn what it takes to become certified organic;

3. The North American Directory, where organic farming resources can be search by category or keywords;
4. The Regional Guide, where organic farming resources are organized by state and region, and
5. The Key Resources section, where the most relevant and useful resources have been identified by sector

A dedicated page (www.howtogoorganic.com/index.php?page=massachusetts) is devoted to a drop-down menu for other sites directed specifically to Massachusetts-related interests.

People and Planet www.planetfriendly.net/organic.html

Contact: P2@planetfriendly.net

People and Planet
PO Box 21006
RPO Ottawa South
Ottawa ON, Canada K1S 5N1
613-744-3392



This massive compilation of contacts, connections, info, books lists, event notices, farming news, jobs, apprenticeships, etc. is so large as to defy reasonable summary. Although Canadian-based, it is largely relevant to American issues and resources. The parent site has a similar volume of references on agricultural topics, other *than just organic interests*.

Organic Land Care www.organiclandcare.net

Contact: Ashley Kremser, Program Manager akremser@ctnofa.org

Organic Land Care Program
CT NOFA
PO Box 164, Stevenson CT 06491
(203) 888-5146



Kathy Litchfield, Massachusetts Coordinator: kathy@organiclandcare.net

•The mission of the NOFA Organic Land Care Program (NOFA OLC) is to extend the vision and principles of organic agriculture to the care of the landscapes where people carry out their daily lives.

Organic land care is a sustainable ecological landscaping system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. It is based on minimal use of off-site inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony and beauty in urban and suburban landscapes and gardens. Organic, in particular, means landscaping with no synthetic pesticides of any kind (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.) and with no synthetic fertilizers or soil amendments.

The NOFA OLC Standards further define organic land care as an approach that:

- Focuses on building healthy soils that reduce the need for watering and fertilizing
- Increases biodiversity and avoids invasive species
- Reduces the risk to children and pets from any kind of pesticides
- Protects water resources from excess nutrients and pesticides

Our program educates professionals and the general public about sustainable organic landscaping and gardening practices that improve the health and well-being of the people and web of life in their care.ö

Rodale Institute www.newfarm.org

611 Siegfriedale Road
Kutztown, PA 19530-9320
610-683-1400



Rodale Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to pioneering organic farming through research and outreach. For over sixty years, we've been researching the best practices of organic agriculture and sharing our findings with farmers and scientists throughout the world, advocating for policies that support farmers, and educating consumers about how going organic is the healthiest option for people and the planet.

Our research Our Farming Systems Trial® is the longest-running side-by-side U.S. study comparing conventional chemical agriculture with organic methods. What have we found? Organic yields match conventional and outperform them in years of drought and environmental distress. New areas of study include rates of carbon sequestration in chemical versus organic plots and new techniques for weed suppression.

Our outreach From field days, to workshops, to exclusive online tools for farmers and original articles, Rodale Institute has been sharing our findings with farmers, scientists, policy-makers, gardeners and consumers the world over.

Bay State Organic Certifiers www.baystateorganic.org

Contact: baystateorganic@earthlink.net

1220 Cedarwood Circle
N. Dighton, MA 02764
774- 872-5544



Baystate Organic Certifiers is a USDA National Organic Program accredited certifying agent that certifies farm operations in the Northeast & Mid-Atlantic United States, and processing operations in the Continental United States. We will certify growers & livestock producers in the following states: Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

NOTE ON PROCESSING CERTIFICATION: Baystate Organic Certifiers often gets calls about packaged agricultural commodities that are certified by BOC that state they are grown in a foreign country. We only certify crop production in the U.S. So, for those products that state they are grown in a foreign country, we are not certifying the crop - we are only certifying the packaging of the agricultural commodity in the United States. For all of these products, another accredited certifying agent has certified the crop production and BOC has verified the certification of the crop.

The National Organic Standards requires that certified agricultural commodities be certified at every step in the production process where the commodity is handled or packaged, and that the certifying agent for the final distributor be listed on the packaging. That is why frozen fruit or packed grain grown in South or Central America is listed as certified by BOC.

Baystate Organic Certifiers focuses solely on certification of organic operations and is a National Organic Program accredited organic certifying agent owned and operated by Massachusetts Independent Certification, Inc. (MICI). MICI is a non-profit business dedicated to sustainable agriculture and food certification organized as a 501(c)3 corporation. MICI is dedicated to providing affordable certification services to farms using sustainable agriculture practices and to food processing and handling operations that purchase sustainable agriculture products.

READ MORE

A series of 8 guides originally published by NOFA, on organic principles and practices for both the beginner farmer as well as established farmers looking to convert to organic, or deepen their practices. Each book is 100 pages, but the information is weighty; the guides use a strong whole-systems farming theory behind their practical advice, as well as offer historical information, further resources, detailed appendices, and profiles of various organic farms across the Northeast. Now available at Chelsea Greens website :

www.chelseagreen.com/bookstore/item/nofa_guides_set:paperback

- *Organic Soil-Fertility and Weed Management* by Steve Gilman
- *Crop Rotation and Cover Cropping: Soil Resiliency and Health on the Organic Farm* by Seth Kroeck
- *Compost, Vermicompost and Compost Tea* by Grace Gershuny
- *Growing Healthy Vegetable Crops: Working with Nature to Control Diseases and Pests Organically* by Brian Caldwell
- *Organic Dairy Production* by Sarah Flack
- *Organic Seed Production and Saving: The Wisdom of Plant Heritage* by Bryan Connolly
- *Whole Farm Planning: Ecological Imperatives, Personal Values and Economics* by Elizabeth Henderson and Karl North
- *Humane and Healthy Poultry Production: A Manual for Organic Growers* by Karma Glos

Also available from Chelsea Green Books: *The Organic Farmer's Business Handbook: a Complete Guide to Managing Finances, Crop and Staff – and Making a Profit.* (Richard Wiswall)

Guide to Organic Land Care (NOFA 2010-1011)

Available from www.organiclandcare.net

The Organic Farming Manual: A comprehensive guide to starting and running a certified organic farm. (Hansen)

Available (along with numerous other farm-related books and pamphlets) from

http://smallfarmersjournal.com/osc/product_info.php

Numerous publications (some in downloadable PDF format) are available from the **National Center for Appropriate Technology** (<https://attra.ncat.org/organic.html>), including the following topics:

- Organic Regulation, Certification, Transition & History
- Organic Fruits
- Organic Vegetables, Flowers and Herbs
- Organic Field Crops
- Organic Livestock
- Organic Control of Pests
- Organic Soils & Fertilizer Issues
- Organic Marketing
- Organic Farming Information from Other Sources

INSURANCE and RISK MANAGEMENT

Farm Credit East www.farmcrediteast.com

Contact: Cynthia Stiglitz
67 Bedford St.
PO Box 720
Middleboro, MA 02346-0720
508-946-4455
800-946-0506

or

Contact: David Bishop
2 Constitution Drive
Bedford, NH 03110
603-472-3554



Managing the risks you face every day is an important part of running your business. Crop insurance can be an important part of your risk management plan. Our crop insurance experts can tailor a program of insurance covering your needs for adjusted gross income and/or multi-peril coverage.

Farm Credit East offers crop insurance through its Crop Growers, LLP insurance agency. We call it weather management insurance. Most people agree that markets and weather are experiencing higher highs and lower lows. Crop insurance provides a safety net that limits the lows based on the percent deductible that you choose. Staffed by experts in crop insurance, our agents can help tailor a plan for your unique business.

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) Insurance

AGR insurance provides protection against low revenue due to unavoidable natural disasters and market fluctuations that occur during an insurance year. AGR is a complex insurance to understand. Your experienced Crop Growers insurance agent will work closely with you to answer your questions, choose a level of coverage and provide a personalized quote.

Multi-peril crop insurance

A little peace of mind goes a long way these days, especially when it's easy and affordable to obtain. Multiple Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) can help you take some of the risk and worry out of the whims of nature. We call it "weather management" insurance, because it can protect your financial wellbeing from nearly all natural disasters, including:

- drought
- excess moisture
- cold and frost
- flood

- wildlife
- unavoidable damage from insects and disease

Combo Policy

Yield and revenue protection are combined under a single policy for corn, soybeans and wheat. The Chicago Board of Trade sets the price.

Livestock Gross Margin - Dairy

Protection for dairy producers from rising feed costs or falling milk prices.

For more detailed information and a personalized analysis by a Crop Growers LLP agent, call 800-234-7012

Northeast Center for Risk Management Education

www.necrme.org/overview.html

Contact: Laurie Wolinski , Center Director:

[lgwudel.edu](mailto:lgwudel@udel.edu) 302-831-2538

112 Townsend Hall

University of Delaware

Newark, DE 19716-2130



The Northeast Center for Risk Management Education was established in 2001 and is located at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware. The Northeast Center is funded through the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), formerly CSREES, and is one of four regional Risk Management Education Centers throughout the country.

The mission of the Northeast Center is to improve the risk management decision-making processes of agricultural producers in the Northeast Region through a comprehensive educational program.

Risk Management: An Introduction

Risk has always been a part of agriculture. But farming in America has changed dramatically over the past decade. Increasingly, farmers and ranchers are learning that agriculture today is full of new rules, new stakes, and most of all, new risks. In addition to crop insurance, effective risk management involves selecting tools and approaches that reduce the financial effects of the uncertainties of weather, yields, prices, government policies, global markets and other factors that can cause wide swings in farm income and threaten economic viability.

The nation's most successful farmers are now searching for a consistent and knowledgeable approach to risk management. Survival means farming with confidence in our rapidly changing world, filled with new, attractive farming opportunities.

There are five general types of risk associated with farm businesses which are described below:

Production Risk

Production Risk is a result of uncertain natural growth processes of crops and livestock. Weather, disease, pests, and other factors affect both the quantity and quality of commodities produced.

Market or Price Risk

Price or Market Risk is created by the variability of prices producers receive for their production, the access they have to markets for their products, and the prices and the availability of inputs.

Financial Risk

Financial Risk occurs due to the capital-intensive nature of farming and ranching businesses. Volatility of prices, yields and income impact the debt-repayment ability and a business's cash liquidity. Changing interest rates, credit rules, and the availability of credit are also aspects of financial risk. Financial risk is often intensified by the lack of detailed financial analysis and planning.

Legal/Institutional Risk

Legal/Institutional Risk is generated by uncertainties surrounding and resulting from government policies and regulations related to tax laws, food safety, labeling and marketing, protected species, water use, animal health and welfare, chemical use, animal waste, other environmental issues such as clean air and water, government commodity and income support programs, and the legal liabilities of a variety of litigious issues faced by farms and ranches.

Human Risk

Human Risk refers to human relationships that impact the viability of farm and ranch businesses including communication, labor management and supply, business succession and intergenerational transfer of assets and management, estate planning, and human health and relationship issues including accidents, illness, disability, death and divorce.

Competitive Grants

The Center, in conjunction with the other three regional centers, conducts the **Extension Risk Management Education Competitive Grants Program**. This program involves an annual competitive process, and provides funding to both public and private organizations for educational projects designed to improve the ability of agricultural producers to effectively manage the risks associated with their farming businesses. A key feature of this program is that it is "results-based" – awards are made to projects that clearly identify risk management results for the participants. As investors, the Risk Management Education Centers are not funding project team activities, but rather a change in risk management behavior for a group of participating producers. For more information about our results-based philosophy, please watch the video below on this topic.

Extension Risk Management Education

As a regional resource, the Northeast Center provides risk management education leadership and coordination, establishing priorities for Extension Risk Management Education Programming. The Center also works to enhance collaboration and partnering within the region, and disseminates information regarding risk management activities occurring throughout the Northeast.

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers

A second program administered through the regional Risk Management Education Centers is Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAA). This program was established by the Trade Act of 2002, and re-authorized by the Economic Recovery Act of 2009 to assist agricultural producers and fishermen in adjusting to import competition. The program provides technical assistance and cash benefits to eligible farmers and fishermen from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Please visit TAAforFarmers.org for complete information.

US Department of Agriculture

Risk Management Agency www.rma.usda.gov/

Eastern Regional Office:

Raleigh Regional Office
4405 Bland Road, Suite 160
Raleigh, NC 276099
919-875-4880



Crop Insurance and Livestock Price Insurance sold only through licensed agents.

See: <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/companies/> and <http://www.rma.usda.gov/pubs/rme/aboutrma.pdf>

Crop Policies and Pilots

Overview

Buying a crop insurance policy is a risk management tool available to agricultural producers. Producers should consider how a policy will work in conjunction with their other risk management strategies to insure the best possible outcome each crop year. Crop insurance agents and other agri-business specialists can assist producers in developing a good management plan.

RMA provides policies for more than 100 crops. Policies typically consist of general crop insurance provisions, specific crop provisions, policy endorsements and special provisions. See RMA's county crop program listings for information about crop policies available in specific counties and states.

Policies are available for most commodities; however, some policies are being tested as pilots or have not been expanded nationwide so are not available in all areas.

Insurance Plans provide different types of insurance coverage to specific commodities:

- **Actual Production History (APH)** policies insure producers against yield losses due to natural causes such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, wind, frost, insects, and disease. The producer selects the amount of average yield to insure; from 50-75 percent (in some areas to 85 percent). The producer also selects the percent of the predicted price to insure; between 55 and 100 percent of the crop price established annually by RMA. If the harvested plus any appraised production is less than the yield insured, the producer is paid an indemnity based on the difference. Indemnities are calculated by multiplying this difference by the insured percentage of the price selected when crop insurance was purchased and by the insured share.
- **Actual Revenue History (ARH)** plan of insurance has many parallels to the APH plan of insurance, with the primary difference being that instead of insuring historical yields, the plan insures historical revenues. The policy is structured as an endorsement to the Common Crop Insurance Policy Basic Provisions. It

restates many of the APH yield procedures to reflect a revenue product. Each crop insured under ARH has unique crop provisions. Like current revenue coverage plans, the ARH pilot program protects growers against losses from low yields, low prices, low quality, or any combination of these events.

- **Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) and AGR-Lite** policies insure revenue of the entire farm rather than an individual crop by guaranteeing a percentage of average gross farm revenue, including a small amount of livestock revenue. The policies use information from a producer's Schedule F tax forms, and current year expected farm revenue, to calculate policy revenue guarantee.
- **Dollar Plan** policies provide protection against declining value due to damage that causes a yield shortfall. The amount of insurance is based on the cost of growing a crop in a specific area. A loss occurs when the annual crop value is less than the amount of insurance. The maximum dollar amount of insurance is stated on the actuarial document. The insured may select a percent of the maximum dollar amount equal to CAT (catastrophic level of coverage), or purchase additional coverage levels.
- **Group Risk Plan (GRP)** is designed as a risk management tool to insure against widespread loss of production of the insured crop in a county. GRP policies use a county yield index as the basis for determining a loss. When the estimated county yield for the insured crop, as determined by National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), falls below the trigger yield level chosen by the producer, an indemnity is paid. Payments are not based on an individual producer's crop yields. Coverage levels are available for up to 90 percent of the expected county yield. GRP involves less paperwork and costs less than plans of insurance against individual loss, as described above. Under GRP, insured acreage for an individual producer's crop may have low yields and not receive a payment if the county does not suffer a similar level of yield loss. This insurance is primarily intended for producers whose crop yields typically follow the average county yield.
- **Group Risk Income Protection (GRIP)** is designed as a risk management tool to insure against widespread loss of revenue from the insured crop in a county. GRIP policies use a county revenue index as the basis for determining a loss by using the estimated county yield for the insured crop, as determined by National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), multiplied by the harvest price. If the county revenue falls below the trigger revenue level chosen by the producer, an indemnity is paid. Unlike GRP, it is not necessary to have a decline in yield to be indemnified, as long as the combination of price and yield results in a county revenue that is less than the trigger revenue. Payments are not based on individual producer's crop yields and revenues. Coverage levels are available for up to 90 percent of the expected county revenue. GRIP involves less paperwork and costs less than plans of insurance against individual loss as described above. Under GRIP, an individual producer's crop may receive reduced revenue from the insured acreage and not receive a payment under this plan if the county does not suffer a similar level of revenue loss. This insurance is primarily intended for producers whose crop yields typically follow the average county yield and wish to insure that the combination of yield and price result in a particular level of revenue.
- **Group Risk Income Protection - Harvest Revenue Option (GRIP-HRO)** is a supplemental endorsement to the GRIP Basic Provisions. The Harvest Revenue Option changes the trigger revenue to be the result of multiplying the expected county yield by the greater of the expected price or the harvest price and by the producer chosen coverage level percentage. If the county revenue for the insured crop, type, and practice falls below the GRIP-HRO trigger revenue, an indemnity is paid.
- **Livestock policies** are designed to insure against declining market prices of livestock and not any other peril. Coverage is determined using futures and options prices from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group. Price insurance is available for swine, cattle, lambs and milk. Producers decide the number of head (cwt of milk) to insure and the length of the coverage period. There are two types of plans available: Livestock Risk Protection, provides coverage against market price decline, if the ending price is less than the producer determined beginning price and indemnity is due; and Livestock Gross Margin, provides coverage for the difference between the commodity and feeding costs. If the producer determined expected gross margin is greater than the actual gross margin, an indemnity is due.
- **Rainfall Index (RI)** is based on weather data collected and maintained by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center. The index reflects how much precipitation is

received relative to the long-term average for a specified area and timeframe. The program divides the country into six regions due to different weather patterns, with pilots available in select counties.

- **Revenue Protection** policies insure producers against yield losses due to natural causes such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, wind, frost, insects, and disease, and revenue losses caused by a change in the harvest price from the projected price. The producer selects the amount of average yield he or she wishes to insure; from 50-75 percent (in some areas to 85 percent). The projected price and the harvest price are 100 percent of the amounts determined in accordance with the Commodity Exchange Price Provisions and are based on daily settlement prices for certain futures contracts. The amount of insurance protection is based on the greater of the projected price or the harvest price. If the harvested plus any appraised production multiplied by the harvest price is less than the amount of insurance protection, the producer is paid an indemnity based on the difference.
- **Revenue Protection With Harvest Price Exclusion** policies insure producers in the same manner as Revenue Protection policies, except the amount of insurance protection is based on the projected price only (the amount of insurance protection is not increased if the harvest price is greater than the projected price). If the harvested plus any appraised production multiplied by harvest price is less than the amount of insurance protection, the producer is paid an indemnity based on the difference.
- **Vegetation Index (VI)** is based on the U.S. Geological Survey's Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) data derived from satellites observing long-term changes in greenness of vegetation of the earth since 1989. The program divides the country into six regions due to different weather patterns, with pilots available in select counties.
- **Yield Protection** policies insure producers in the same manner as APH policies, except a projected price is used to determine insurance coverage. The projected price is determined in accordance with the Commodity Exchange Price Provisions and is based on daily settlement prices for certain futures contracts. The producer selects the percent of the projected price he or she wants to insure, between 55 and 100 percent.

Policy Endorsements and Options are available for some crop provisions that add supplemental coverage, exclude coverage or otherwise modify coverage. An endorsement or option generally must be applied for on or before the sales closing date.

- **Catastrophic Risk Protection Endorsement (CAT Coverage)** pays 55 percent of the price of the commodity established by RMA on crop losses in excess of 50 percent. The premium on CAT coverage is paid by the Federal Government; however, producers must pay a \$300 administrative fee (as of the 2008 Farm Bill) for each crop insured in each county. Limited-resource producers may have this fee waived. CAT coverage is not available on all types of policies.
- See actuarial documents for other endorsements and options available to a specific commodity.

Producer Obligations - Producers must:

- Report acreage, and any required protection, accurately,
- Meet policy deadlines,
- Pay premiums when due, and
- Report losses immediately.

Producer Expectations - Producers will receive:

- Accurate answers to questions on types of coverage,
- Prompt processing of their policy, and
- Timely payments for covered losses.

Important Deadlines:

- **Sales closing date** - last day to apply for coverage.
- **Final planting date** - last day to plant unless insured for late planting.
- **Acreage reporting date** - last day to report the acreage planted. If not reported, insurance will not be in effect.
- **Date to file notice of crop damage** - for a planted crop, notice must be provided within 72 hours of discovery of damage or loss of production (but not later than 15 days after the end of the insurance period). If there is no damage or loss of production and a revenue plan of insurance is in effect, notice must be given no later than 45 days after the latest date the harvest price is released. For crops that are prevented from being planted, notice must be provided within 72 hours after the final planting date or the time the producer determines it will not be possible to plant during any applicable late planting period.
- **End of insurance period** - latest date of insurance coverage.
- **Payment due date** - last day to pay the premium without being charged interest.
- **Cancellation date** - last day to request cancellation of policy for the next year.
- **Production reporting date** - last day to report production for APH, ARH, Revenue Protection, and Revenue Protection with harvest price exclusion option.
- **Debt termination date** - date the approved insurance provider will terminate a policy for nonpayment.

New Policies and Policy Expansion

If an established crop policy is not available in a particular state or county, producers may request that their RMA Regional Office expand the program to their county the next crop year. They may also request insurance coverage under a written agreement, a kind of individual policy which bases premium rates on data from other counties. Producers are required to have documented experience in growing the crop, or in growing an agronomically similar crop, to obtain the agreement and written agreements must be allowed by the applicable policy. See the RMA fact sheet [Requesting Insurance Not Available in Your County](#).

Although RMA has streamlined the process of developing new policies, much must be done before a policy can be made available nationwide, especially if it is a new type of policy or a policy on a crop which is not similar to any crop already insured. Generally, the process takes several years. [Frequently Asked Questions](#) provides information regarding new insurance policies developed under contract for RMA by private entities or [privately developed 508\(h\) insurance products](#) approved by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. Also see the Concept Proposals option for submitting proposals for 508(h). RMA has developed some training resources for pilot programs.

READ MORE

Plain Language Guide to Managing Risks on the Small Farm - Production Risk, Marketing Risk, Financial Risk, Worker Risk, Legal Risk

Available from NESFP <http://nesfp.nutrition.tufts.edu>

öNo matter what you grow, you'll need to sell it at a profit if you're going to stay in business. These resources can guide agricultural business planning and help farmers manage the amount of risk in their enterprises. In addition, some of these resources offer advice on diversifying, developing new markets and adding value to farm products to increase income. Several categories of publications are offered:ö

Numerous publications (some in downloadable PDF format) are available at **National Center for Appropriate Technology**: <https://attra.ncat.org/marketing.html#risk> – including the following topics:

- Business Planning and Management
- Funding
- Risk Management

AG Risk Educational Library at Northeast Center for Risk Management Education

has thousands of online documents at <http://www.agrisk.umn.edu/Library/Topics.aspx?LIB=AR> relating to topics:

- ♦ Production
- ♦ Price
- ♦ Financial
- ♦ Legal
- ♦ Human
- ♦ General

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources



Massachusetts Farm Energy Project

www.mass.gov/agr/admin/farmenergy.html

Contact: Linda Demirjian: linda.demirjian@state.ma.us, 617-626-1733

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources is the state agency responsible for determining and certifying eligibility for the Farm Energy Discount Program ("Farm Discount") described and contained in the legislation enacted to restructure the utility industry. As a result of the utility restructuring, all ratepayers will enjoy a mandated ten percent reduction on their energy bills for electricity and natural gas.

Subject to certification by the DAR, persons or corporations determined to be principally and substantially engaged in the business of production agriculture or farming for an ultimate commercial purpose will, upon written application, be eligible for a ten percent discount on rates.

To inquire regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for farming operations in Middlesex County, contact USDA staff member:

Lyndon S. Nichols, Area Director ,508-829-4477, ext 4; lyndon.nichols@ma.usda.gov

Farm Energy Discount Program

Contact: Linda Demirjian, Office Manager at linda.demirjian@state.ma.us (617) 626-1733.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources("DAR" or "Department") is the state agency responsible for determining and certifying eligibility for the Farm Energy Discount Program ("Farm Discount") described and contained in the legislation enacted to restructure the utility industry . As a result of the utility restructuring, all ratepayers will enjoy a mandated ten percent reduction on their energy bills for electricity and natural gas.

Subject to certification by the DAR, persons or corporations determined to be principally and substantially engaged in the business of production agriculture or farming for an ultimate commercial purpose will, upon written application, be eligible for a ten percent discount on rates.

Instructions

Please complete the FARM ENERGY DISCOUNT ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION in as much detail as possible and return it to the DAR, Attention: Farm Energy Discount Program, as quickly as possible.

The discount will not be available until an application is filed and the DAR certifies eligibility to your energy supplier.

Each application will be considered on the basis of the information contained therein. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that you provide the Department with as much detail as possible.

Please attach copies of all documents showing your agricultural business or farm is conducted for an ultimate commercial purpose and that you are or your company is principally and substantially engaged in such business or farm. The application process is designed to process the majority of agricultural businesses and farms on a predetermined basis.

Those persons or corporations attesting, in the FARM ENERGY DISCOUNT ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION, to be principally and substantially engaged in the business of production agriculture or farming for an ultimate commercial purpose, and who provide valid supporting documentary material (suggestions described below) showing them to be engaged in production agriculture or farming will be certified to be eligible for the Farm Discount.

Persons or corporations with 75 or more full time employees in January of the application year will not be eligible for nor qualify for the Farm Discount. Full time employees shall not include any seasonal or part-time workers.

Please note that submission of one of the documentary items in GROUP ONE below and the executed attestation is ordinarily sufficient for a determination of eligibility. In all other instances, the applicant must submit as many items in GROUP TWO as pertain to your agricultural business or farm. For prompt action on your application, copies must be legible and clearly relate to the applicant and property location.

GROUP ONE

1. Valid farm registration certificate from the Registry of Motor Vehicles;
2. Tax certificate for classified forest land pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 61;
3. Farm Viability Plan created in conjunction with the Department;
4. Recorded Agricultural Preservation Restriction;
5. Federal income tax returns including Schedules C, D and F;
6. State income tax returns including Schedules C, D and F;
7. Special Assessment of real estate taxes pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 61A; or
8. Licenses issued by DAR for operation of production agriculture or farm business.

GROUP TWO

1. For corporate entities, Articles of Organization, Certificates of Organization, or Registrations filed with the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth;
2. Sales tax or gasoline tax exemptions obtained from the Commonwealth;
3. Municipal shellfish grant or other licensed aquaculture project showing active production farming;
4. Photographs depicting the business or farm, brochures or marketing information describing the business or farm, contracts entered into by the business or farm, feature articles published about the business or farm;
5. Business certificates issued by the municipality where you operate;
6. Permits or licenses required by any federal, state or local law or regulation for engaging in the business of agriculture or farming;
7. Conservation Plan approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and
8. Any other documentation that would assist the DAR in determining that the applicant is principally and substantially engaged in the business of agriculture or farming production and that such business or farm is conducted for an ultimate commercial purpose.

The application must be filed with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. Your completed application along with supporting documentation must be mailed or delivered to:

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
Attention: FARM ENERGY DISCOUNT PROGRAM
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114

Upon determination that the applicant qualifies for the Farm Discount, MDAR will certify to the appropriate power supplier (either electricity or natural gas) that the applicant meets the requirements for the Farm Discount. The discount is not available for propane or fuel oil accounts.

Participation in the Program will be automatically renewed annually unless there are any changes to accounts. If there have been any changes to energy account(s), participants must notify the Department. Examples of changes to energy accounts that warrant a notification to the Department include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Address change
- Account holder name has changed
- Change in telephone/ fax number
- Additional accounts have been added
- Accounts have been deleted
- Account numbers have changed
- Account holder is no longer engaged in the business of agriculture or farming
- Farm is no longer in business
- Account holder is deceased

Massachusetts Agricultural Energy Grant Program

Contact: Gerry Palano - Gerald.Palano@state.ma.us 617-626-1706

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Agricultural Energy Grant Program (Ag Energy) is a competitive program that funds agricultural energy projects in an effort to improve energy efficiency and to facilitate adoption of alternative clean energy technologies by Massachusetts farms in order that farms can become more sustainable and the Commonwealth can maximize the environmental and economic benefits from these technologies. Reimbursement grants of up to \$30,000 are available. The application usually comes out in the spring of each year.

MDAR is soliciting proposals for both the AEEP and Ag-Energy Program during the same timeframe. AEEP will continue to consider for funding energy related projects where the main purpose is to improve water quality, conserve water or reduce local, i.e., on-site, greenhouse gas emissions. Please refer to the AEEP RFR for eligible projects. Ag-Energy will consider all other energy related projects. Applicants **CANNOT** apply to and receive funding from both programs for the same project but must select the appropriate program based on the RFR information provided for each program.

This is the third consecutive year of funding for the Ag Energy program. Since its implementation in 2009 the program has funded 59 projects totaling approximately \$850,000. Though all farm related energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that meet Ag-Energy Program requirements will be considered, project priority types vary from year to year. An example of FY2012 project priorities are:

Category One:	Energy Efficiency: To include any conventional energy efficiency technologyproject with high priority placed on projects that employ the following technologies:
Dairy Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy plate coolers and refrigeration heat recovery water tanks. • New replacement variable speed drive vacuum pumps • Replacement high efficiency refrigeration equipment
Greenhouse/Nurseries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thermal blankets • Roof venting modifications to eliminate mechanical ventilation needs • Efficient heating distribution modifications ó e.g. bench/soil in combination with staged control • Electronic controls
Higher Efficiency Advanced Low Emissions Indoor Furnaces or Boilers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condensing type, central or unit heater utilizing conventional fuels • Maple sap evaporator wood furnaces
Other Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk-in cooler, high efficiency refrigeration, optimally with heat recovery • Reverse Osmosis equipment for maple sugaring operations • Process heat recovery • Energy Efficiency Technologies advancing urban food gardens
Category Two:	Renewable Clean Energy Technologies: To include any proven technology with high priority placed on projects employing the following:
All Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photovoltaics • Wind • Solar Thermal • Geothermal • Bio-fuel crops for those shown to be grown on marginal soils or used in crop rotation • Bio-fuel Production provided demonstration of all federal, state and local process permits and approvals are identified and will be provided as part of the project installation, including but not limited to product pre- and post- storage, hazardous materials, and process effluents • High Efficiency Advanced Gasification Biomass thermal boilers or furnaces intended for indoor use only utilizing wood pellets, wood chips or kernel corn, meeting all current federal, state and/or local construction, emission and efficiency standards, and regulations. • Advanced biomass (gasification) Outdoor Wood Boilers (OWB), meeting all current federal, state and/or local construction, emission and

	<p>efficiency standards, and regulations. Requirements that must be met include a demonstration that the OWB system will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. meet the local Board of Health requirements 2. installed and certified under Mass Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations 310 CMR 7.26 (50) through (54) found at www.mass.gov/dep/air/laws/regulati.htm#owb 3. The MA DEP certified OWB equipment is listed at: www.mass.gov/dep/air/community/certohh.htm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable Technologies advancing urban food gardens
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Energy Efficiency, Conservation, and Renewables Program

Contact: Gerry Palano at Gerald.Palano@state.ma.us or 617-626-1706

The MDAR Energy Program's primary function is to promote energy knowledge and awareness and to facilitate the implementation of energy related projects for our agri-businesses through energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy applications, as a means to reduce both energy costs and environmental pollution. Furthering this effort, working in conjunction with USDA NRCS and Berkshire Pioneer Resource Conservation & Development, the MA Farm Energy Program (MFEP) was created. Now in its 2nd year of operation, the MFEP is intended to be the one-stop shop for MA Agri-businesses, being a clearinghouse of information, technical assistance, incentives, rebates, grant programs, etc. Please visit our website at www.berkshirepioneercd.org/mfep and become part of the MFEP.

READ MORE

Information Links available at https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/farm_energy/#top (some are downloadable in PDF):

A Farmer's Handbook for Energy Self-Reliance

A guide created by the Institute for Energy and the Environment at Vermont Law School is a tool to help farmers increase energy self-reliance and profitability.

A Farm Energy Field Guide from Maine Rural Partners

A diverse collection of publications, templates, sample audit reports, and other training materials. Includes many energy efficiency and renewable energy topics: lighting, dairies, buildings, cooling, fuel usage, greenhouses, irrigation, motors, storage, ventilation, water heating, biofuels, biomass, solar, wind, and funding opportunities.

National Agricultural Law Center ~ Renewable Energy Reading Room

A website containing information specific to agriculture and energy, including articles, major statutes and regulations, case law, publications, materials from many government agencies and additional resources that will prove beneficial to attorneys, researchers, farmers and others involved in the renewable energy field.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program: Renewable Energy and Sustainable Agriculture

Information on SARE funded renewable energy projects including construction of passive solar greenhouses, alternative biomass production, on-farm biomass conversion methods and small-scale methane digesters.

Clean Energy Farming: Cutting Costs, Improving Efficiencies, Harnessing Renewables

Innovative SARE-funded research and examples of farmers who are improving energy efficiency while saving money, implementing farming practices that both save energy and protect natural resources, and producing and using renewable fuels.

25x'25: America's Energy Future

News updates, economic analysis, position papers, calendar of events, and other resources from a broad-based coalition whose vision is that "By 2025, America's farms, forests and ranches will provide 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States, while continuing to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed and fiber.

Environmental and Energy Studies Institute: Agriculture & Energy

Publications, news updates, policy initiatives, and Congressional briefings.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency:

Opportunities for Oregon's Agricultural Producers

An overview of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency opportunities, and incentive programs available to Oregon's agricultural producers, with good case studies.

Energy Farms Network

Information and links about growing and processing bioenergy crops as well as updates on the Network's Local Farm Energy Demonstration Projects.

U of Minnesota Agricultural and Alternative Energy Links

Links to alternative energy information sources including solar, wind, fuel cell and biogas, among others.

Alternative Energy for Agriculture -- Publications List

The USDA Alternative Farming Systems Information Center's list of farm energy options.

Renewable Energy and Agriculture: A Natural Fit

Includes downloadable fact sheets on renewable energy topics specifically related to agriculture.

Resources for Agricultural Energy Efficiency

Includes links to commercial contacts, government offices, research organization and trade associations.

NRCS Energy Program

Includes energy estimator calculators for animal housing, irrigation, nitrogen and tillage.

Energy and Agriculture: Making the Connection

Resources and links for farmers and ranchers interested in renewable energy.

Energy and Agriculture: Making it Work

Article summarizing a presentation at Iowa State University by Hunter Lovins about on-farm efficiency. Includes a link to Lovins' paper entitled, "Energy and Sustainable Agriculture".

EnergyAg Newsbriefs Monthly Listserv

The WSU Energy Program hosts a monthly listserv that highlights agricultural news, events and resources, providing technical assistance and project management.

Farm Bill 2002 Title IX: Energy

Outlines the new developments and grants related to renewable energy in the 2002 Farm Bill.

2002 Farm Bill Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program

Program that funds grants and loan guarantees to agricultural producers and rural small business for assistance with purchasing renewable energy systems and making energy efficiency improvements.

USDA Rural Utilities Service: Renewable Energy

Renewable energy technology resources, meetings of interest, grant programs and success stories.

Using Renewable Energy in Agriculture

A 4 page PDF document that highlights agricultural renewable energy options and provides examples of agricultural facilities that have installed renewable energy.

Numerous publications are available from the **National Center for Appropriate Technology** at https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/farm_energy/farm_pubs.html, encompassing

- Energy Conservation and Efficiency
- Renewable Energy Options
- Reducing Nitrogen Fertilizer and Indirect Energy Usage
- Reducing Food Miles and Transportation Energy

NEWSLETTERS, REPORTS, and PERIODICALS

Keeping Track of Trends, Developments, and New Initiatives

Massachusetts Department of Agriculture:

Farm and Market Report

www.mass.gov/agr/news/fmr/index.htm



The *Farm and Market Report* is the Department's bi-monthly newsletter which includes a Commissioner's Column, program/grant updates, workshop/educational updates, news from USDA, along with a Calendar and Classified section. It is distributed to over 6000 emails within the agricultural community in Massachusetts.

Science Daily:

Agriculture and Food News

www.sciencedaily.com/news/plants_animals/agriculture_and_food/



Farm Journal

www.agweb.com

Farmland Preservation Report

www.farmlandpreservationreport.com

Farm Policy.com

www.farmpolicy.com



An Internet-based newsletter that provides a daily summary of news relating to U.S. farm policy. FarmPolicy.com covers issues associated with the U.S. and global agricultural economy, including the Farm Bill, production agriculture, trade, biofuels and crop insurance. FarmPolicy.com enjoys a diverse reading audience from across the political spectrum.

New Farm:

Organic News

www.rodaleinstitute.org/new_farm



The Carrot Project:

Newsletter

subscribe@thecarrotproject.org



National Family Farm Coalition: www.nffc.net

Quarterly newsletter

Northeast Beginning Farmers Project:

Small Farm Update

A monthly electronic newsletter sent out around the middle of each month. The newsletter contains announcements from the Small Farms Program, links to upcoming events and trainings, selected small farm-related job openings, new resources for farmers, and funding opportunities. You can find a sample newsletter, as well as all the e-news archives, on the [Small Farms Program](http://www.smallfarms.cornell.edu/pages/news/monthlyupdates/78_jan2011.cfm) website : http://www.smallfarms.cornell.edu/pages/news/monthlyupdates/78_jan2011.cfm .



**Northeast Sustainable Agriculture
Working Group (NESAWG)**

www.nesawg.org

Monthly on-line agricultural news summary



National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT):

Weekly Harvest

The Sustainable Agriculture Project publishes a weekly e-newsletter

www.thedatabank.com/dpg/427/personal2.asp?formid=signup



Agriculture.com:

See publication list at: www.agriculture.com

Successful Farming Magazine – a subset of Agriculture.com.

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation

www.mfbf.net

newspaper



Small Farmer's Journal

<http://smallfarmersjournal.com>



SPECIALTY FARMING

CHRISTMAS TREES

Massachusetts Christmas Tree Association

www.christmas-trees.org

PO Box 242
Sterling, MA 01564
978-365-5818



An association of growers and retailers, provides information about trees, member directory, calendar of events, educational materials, professional assistance to members.

National Christmas Tree Association www.christmastree.org/home.cfm

Contact: info@realchristmastrees.org

16020 Swingley Ridge Road, Suite 300
Chesterfield, MO 63017
636-449-5070



An organization that represents Christmas Tree Professionals and promotes the use of Real Christmas Trees. Site offers information about trees; services to members include professional discounts, insurance programs, promotional materials, and catalog of industry research.

BEEKEEPING

Massachusetts Beekeepers Association www.massbee.org

Contact: president@massbee.org

Site for the association includes lists of 1) Honey, beeswax and other hive products for sale (retail or wholesale), 2) people who perform bee removals or will respond to swarm calls, 3) pollination services, 4) people willing to speak on beekeeping topics, and 5) beekeeping equipment suppliers.



Iowa State Entomology Index of Internet Resources www.ent.iastate.edu/list/directory/109

A guide to beekeeping resources online from Iowa State University

The Internet Apiculture and Beekeeping Archive <http://www.ibiblio.org/bees/>

An archive of beekeeping information from newsgroups and listserves devoted to beekeeping.

MAPLE

Massachusetts Maple Producers Association www.massmaple.org

Contact: info@massmaple.org

Watson Spruce Corner Road
Ashfield, MA 01330
413-628-3912

A non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of maple sugaring in Massachusetts. Extensive technical information on maple syruping, directory of sugarhouses, and promotional materials.

North American Maple Syrup Council www.northamericanmaple.org

Contact: mgirard@simscroft.com

PO Box 581
Simsbury, CT 06070
603-783-4468

An international network of maple syrup producer associations representing sixteen commercial maple producing States and Canadian Provinces within North America. Site includes information on research fund and the Maple Syrup Digest (the organization journal).



FRUITS/VEGETABLES

UMass Fruit Advisor www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/

A website intended to assist fruit growers with all aspects of horticultural and pest management. It is a cooperative program of the research and extension efforts of the Department of Plant, Soil, & Insect Sciences in the College of Natural Resources & the Environment at the University of Massachusetts. Publications available for download, including New England Apple and Small Fruit Management Guides.

Contact information for individual team members specializing in various areas of fruit growing are available on the site.

Virtual Orchard

www.virtualorchard.net

An online information and news resource for apple growers. Includes technical information, news, and a listserv discussion group.



New England Apples <http://74.52.58.98/~apples/site03/>

Contact: info@newenglandapples.org

Post Office Box 41
Hatfield, MA 01038
413-247-9966



A non-profit, grower-funded organization charged with improving the movement and profitability of member fruit using the brand-name New England Apples, and raising awareness of apple varieties grown in New England. Orchard directory and general apple information.

New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association

The New England Vegetable & Berry Growers Association (NEV & BGA) is the oldest vegetable growers association in America. We support and promote the vegetable and berry industry in New England. The Association publishes a newsletter three times a year and provides bulletins and magazines deemed important to its members.

Go to www.newenglandvfc.org/# for information regarding December 2011 conference in Manchester, NH.



Massachusetts Fruit Growers Association www.massfruitgrowers.org

A non-profit which consists of commercial and hobby fruit growers, industry personnel, extension and university personnel and is dedicated to the promotion and marketing of New England fruit. Publishing proceedings of annual meeting, provides directory of members.

DEER/ELK

Northeast Deer & Elk Farmers, Inc.

<http://www.ndef.org/>

Contact: nbmierke@aol.com

A non-profit association providing support to farmers including a newsletter, conference, special courses and demonstrations.

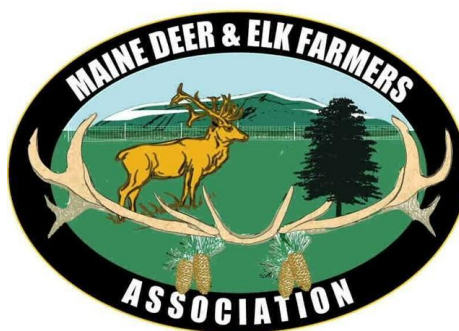


Maine Deer and Elk Farmers Association

<http://mdefa.org/default.aspx>

Contact: info@mdefa.com

An organization to promote better communication between farmers, to more effectively distribute information, suggestions, and comments regarding deer and elk farming methods, and to advocate for deer and elk farming as an industry. Offer directory and general information.



North American Deer Farmers Association

<http://www.nadefa.org/>

Contact: info@nadefa.org

1215 North 7th Street Suite 104
Lake City, MN 55041
651-345-5600



An organization dedicated to the promotion of deer farming and ranching as an agricultural pursuit which serves its members through its educational programs and publications and by providing leadership in setting and maintaining quality standards

DRAFT ANIMALS

Association of New England Ox Teamsters Inc.

<http://www.neotaonline.com/>

Contact: info@NEOTAonline.com

Massachusetts Representative:

Harold Ashley

RFD #1

Berkley, MA 02780

(508) 823-0152

An organization for those interested in ox drawing and exhibition of oxen. Includes member listing, calendar of events, newsletter, classifieds.

Tillers International <http://www.tillersinternational.org/>

Contact: tillers@tillersinternational.org

10515 East OP Avenue

Scotts, MI 49088 USA

(800) 498-2700



National organization with a mission to preserve, study, and exchange low-capital technologies that increase the sustainability and productivity of people in rural communities. Offers on-site and off-site classes in traditional rural skills, publications and teaching videos, as well as products for draft animals.

LLAMAS/ALPACAS

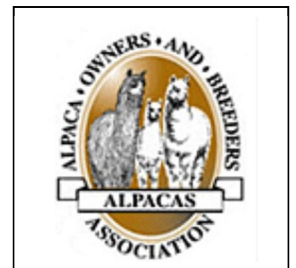
Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association, Inc. www.alpacainfo.com/index.asp

Contact: info@aobamail.com

5000 Linbar Drive, Suite 297

Nashville, TN 37211

615-834-4195



Extensive information about raising alpacas, including financial planning and market information, a directory of members and industry resources, and calendar of events.

Alpaca Breeders of Vermont

www.alpacabreedersofvermont.org

Contact: snowshoefarm@surfglobal.net

PO Box 280

Peacham, VT 05862-0280

802-592-3153

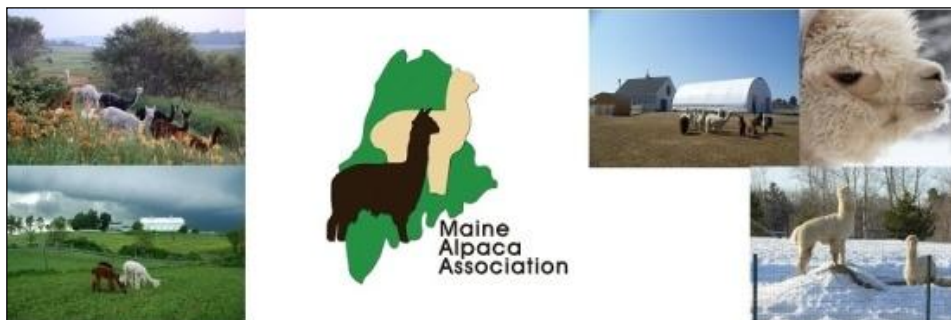


An organization dedicated to promoting Vermont alpaca farms. Site offers member listing and a calendar of events.

New Hampshire Lama Association

Contact: info@nhlamas.org

A non-profit organization created to help promote, market, educate, and create a support network for New Hampshire lama owners and enthusiasts. Site provides information about the care of lamas, downloadable brochures, and event information.



Maine Alpaca Association www.mainealpacaafarms.com

Contact: mainealpacaassociation@gmail.com

c/o Robin Fowler

141 Crosby Brook Rd.

Unity, ME 04988

207-356-4146

A non-profit which provide supports for the alpaca owners, breeders and enthusiasts of Maine through education, camaraderie and cooperative marketing efforts and educates the public about alpacas, their fiber and the many advantages of operating sustainable alpaca farms and fiber operations. Website offers e-sent calendar, vet listing, general information about alpacas, classifieds and newsletter.

DAIRY

New England Dairy Promotion Board

www.newenglanddairy.com

Contact: moralea@NewEnglandDairy.com

10 River Rd., Suite 206

Uxbridge, MA 01569

508-278-7380



A not-for-profit (IRS 501(c)6) marketing and promotion company, the local affiliate of the American Dairy Association and Dairy Management, Inc. Promotional and nutritional information about dairy. Runs Great Cheeses of New England program (www.newenglandcheese.com).

Keep Local Farms www.keeplocalfarms.org

Contact: contact@keeplocalfarms.org

9 Depot Rd

Hatfield, MA 01038

Phone: 877-388-7381



New England dairy farms are in crisis. We've lost over 66% of our region's dairy farms over the past 30 years due to low milk prices and high feed, energy and labor costs. Without local dairy farms, we all lose open land for outdoor recreation and wildlife, jobs, economic activity and a source of fresh, local dairy products. Don't let this trend continue. Help us keep New England's dairy farms for future generations. That's what we're fighting for.

Keep Local Farms is an education and contribution program that connects consumers with local dairy farmers and encourages the purchase of local foods. It is a way to educate consumers about the value of local dairy farms, raise funds to support dairy farms throughout New England, and drive dairy sales.

New England farm families work hard every day to bring you fresh, great tasting, wholesome milk products. About 99% of all U.S. dairy farms are family-owned and operated and these families take pride in maintaining natural resources by preserving the land where they live and work, protecting the air and water they share with neighbors, and providing the best care for their cows. Dairy farms strengthen our economy by providing jobs, supporting local businesses and attracting tourists who appreciate scenic beauty and an open, working landscape. Unfortunately, New England dairy farms are struggling to survive due to low milk prices and high feed and energy costs. Join us in keeping the farms that provide the delicious products and open landscape we love.

Together, we can provide a more stable income for dairy farms so they can continue to produce fresh, wholesome milk. We can also maintain open land for beautiful scenery, recreation and wildlife habitats

SHEEP/GOATS

New England Sheep and Wool Growers Association

www.nesheep.org/top2.html

Contact: info@NEsheep.org

c/o Peter Scott Poitra, 95 Hollow Road
Brimfield, MA 01010
413-245-4589

An organization of sheep growers which provides members with a forum for exchange of ideas, promotes sheep and wool products, encourages youth interested in sheep, and conduct sheep sales and wool pools.



Pioneer Valley Sheep Breeders Association (MA)

www.pvsba.com

Organization of Pioneer Valley area sheep breeders; site offers member directory and information on youth awards.



American Sheep Industry Association

www.sheepusa.org

Contact: info@sheepusa.org

9785 Maroon Circle, Suite 360
Englewood, CO 80112
303-771-3500

A federation of 40+ state sheep associations as well as individual members. Offer extensive information about wool and the wool industry, sheep production, guide to direct marketing of wool and lamb, and more.



BEEF

Maine Beef Producers Association

www.mainebeefproducersassociation.org

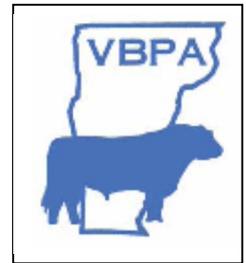
Contact: info@mainebeefproducersassociation.org

An association that helps identify producer needs and critical issues in the industry, provide producers with important and up-to-date information on governmental regulations, and lobbies for beef producers. Sales and educational programs.

Vermont Beef Producers Association <http://www.vermontbeefproducers.org/>

Contact: Chip@WoodCreekFarmBeef.com

Box 114
Bridport, VT 05734
802-758-2909



An association of beef producers, offers members a calf clinic, conferences, field days, spring and fall sales, and a newsletter.

American Angus Association www.angus.org

Contact: angus@angus.org

3201 Frederick Ave.
St. Joseph, MO 64506
816-3365-5100



Mission Statement: To provide programs, services, technology and leadership to enhance the genetics of the Angus breed, broaden its influence within the beef industry, and expand the market for superior tasting, high-quality Angus beef worldwide.

Vision Statement: To be the leading and most progressive, member-driven, consumer-focused beef organization in the world.

Core Strategies:

1. Achieve Angus Excellence Through Information
2. Increase Beef Demand With Angus Equity
3. Identify and Implement Relevant Technologies
4. Optimize Resources
5. Create Opportunities

RARE/ HERITAGE BREEDS

The Heritage Breeds Conservancy www.nehbc.org

Contact: contact@NEHBC.org

PO Box 187
Great Barrington, MA 02130
(413) 528-2817



A non-profit working to preserve heritage breeds of livestock and poultry. Website offers information about their heritage farms programs, which assists farmers with breeding and raising heritage breeds, as well as classifieds, a services directory, and educational materials. Also provides contact information for the Northeast Livestock Processing Service Company (NELPSC), which assists livestock farmers by advocating for best quality processing, discounts, scheduling, cutting instructions, and technical assistance.



American Livestock Breeds Conservancy

www.albc-usa.org

PO Box 477
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-5704

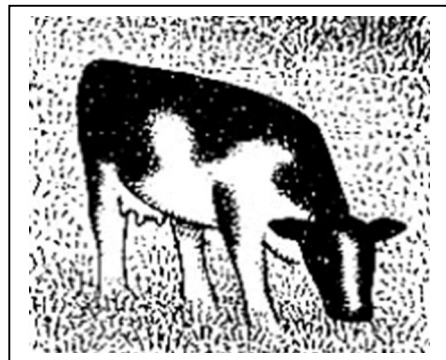
A nonprofit membership organization working to protect over 150 breeds of livestock and poultry from extinction. Provides information and research on traditional livestock breeds, offers technical support to farmers, and conducts rescue of threatened populations.

PASTURE

Vermont Pasture Network www.uvm.edu/~pasture

Contact: pasture@uvm.edu

UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture
63 Carrigan Drive
Burlington, VT 05405
802-656-3131



A collaboration between the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI), the Vermont Grass Farmers' Association (VGFA), and UVM Extension. Website offers listserv, information on assistance available for writing grazing plans, calendar of pasture walks and on-farm workshops, publications and technical assistance.

FLOWERS

Massachusetts Flower Growers Association

<http://massflowergrowers.com>

The Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association was established in 1947 to promote the advancement of the Massachusetts Flower Industry. The Association is a non-profit organization of flower growers and associated tradesmen from the Commonwealth



READ MORE

New England Vegetable Management Guide

Available at www.nevegetable.org

A guide for commercial vegetable growers with information on current production and pest management techniques from Extension Vegetable Programs of the Universities of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

Northeast Vegetable and Strawberry Pest Identification

(available at www.nevegetable.org)

Plain Language Guide to USDA's NASS End of Season Fruit and Vegetable Inquiry

(available from NESFP <http://nesfp.nutrition.tufts.edu>)

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

Joining Wider Constituencies

American Farmland Trust

www.farmland.org

New England Regional Office
1 Short St., Suite 2
Northampton, MA 01060
413-586-4593



American Farmland Trust is leading a campaign to transform U.S. farm policy. Their vision is for well-managed, protected farm and ranch land that provides open space, clean water, healthy food, wildlife habitat and a renewed connectedness between the farm community and the rest of America.

American Farmland Trust Information Center: www.farmlandinfo.org (a public/private partnership between USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and AF) maintains an online collection of laws, literature, and technical resources, as well as provide technical assistance by phone and e-mail.

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)

www.uvm.edu/~nesare/
www.sare.org

Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program has helped advance farming systems that are profitable, environmentally sound and good for communities through a nationwide research and education grants program

What we do

SARE offers competitive grants to projects that explore and address key issues affecting the sustainability and future economic viability of agriculture. The program is authorized under Subtitle B of Title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990.



Where we do it

The Northeast region is made up of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, West Virginia, Vermont, and Washington, D.C.

Grant offerings

Northeast SARE offers two different tiers of grant funding:

Projects with smaller budget

One tier is for projects with smaller budgets (from \$1,000 to \$15,000) that normally run a year or two. This currently includes Farmer, Partnership, Sustainable Community, and Graduate Student grants.

Projects with larger budgets

The other tier is for large projects with larger budgets, often in the \$35,000 to \$250,000 range, depending on the complexity, duration, and performance targets of the project. This currently includes Research and Education, Professional Development, and Agroecosystems grants, although we aren't accepting Agroecosystems proposals right now.

These projects are awarded using an outcome-based approach and focus on developing and delivering training in sustainable agriculture, conducting research, and working cooperatively with farmers to test new sustainable techniques.

These larger grants normally run two to four years, and the application process involves submitting a preproposal.

Northeast SARE outcome statement

An outcome statement, like a mission statement, expresses a long-term vision of the results we are working to achieve. The Northeast SARE outcome statement is:

Agriculture in the Northeast will be diversified and profitable, providing healthful products to its customers; it will be conducted by farmers who manage resources wisely, who are satisfied with their lifestyles, and have a positive influence on their communities and the environment.

This outcome statement bears directly on what kinds of projects we fund, how we set priorities, and what grants are offered.

SARE Massachusetts State Initiatives

Producing natural local meats in Southern New England

Despite increasing demand, local and sustainably produced meat is not widely available in southern New England. This initiative will implement a three-pronged approach to addressing this issue - by providing education about sustainable grass-based livestock production, the need for local processing facilities, and effective local marketing methods. The lack of local meat processing facilities is a significant barrier to local meat marketing in Southern New England.

The University of Connecticut will lead the effort to bring together diverse food system professionals to develop a plan to increase access to meat processing facilities. To address the increasing demand for sustainably produced "grass-fed" meat, the University of Massachusetts will coordinate a program to educate producers about cutting edge research on rotational grazing methods. The University of Rhode Island will complement these efforts by implementing an initiative to identify successful local meat marketing strategies in the southern New England region.

This collaborative effort between Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island has three targets:

- ◆ 150 agricultural professionals and farmers will use knowledge gained from SARE training about the benefits of appropriate grazing techniques to educate others, with 75 farmers initiating appropriate techniques.
- ◆ 150 agricultural professionals and farmers will use knowledge gained from SARE workshops about a locally produced meat system to address consideration of alternative methods for slaughter and processing of locally-produced meats.
- ◆ 150 agricultural professionals and farmers will use knowledge gained about marketing techniques in the education of others about the benefits of locally-produced meats.

SARE Grant: \$57,000

Massachusetts sustainable agriculture training plan

This initiative supports in-service and out-of-state sustainable agriculture training opportunities for University of Massachusetts faculty and staff and federal and state agency personnel.

The training aims to help agricultural service providers improve farm economic viability and environmental sustainability in Massachusetts. Training activities are planned in the fall of each year with input from stakeholders, and take the form of workshops, field tours, and travel scholarships to attend out-of-state training events.

This annual training program has three ultimate goals:

- ◆ To provide research-based information and shared knowledge to enhance the sustainable management of our agricultural and horticultural resources.
- ◆ To help crop and livestock producers protect the local environment and natural resource base for the long term.
- ◆ To enhance public understanding of the importance of agriculture.
- ◆ The targets of this initiative include:
 - (1) 8 to 12 staff from Extension and federal and state agencies will participate in state and regional sustainable agriculture training.
 - (2) 3 to 5 agricultural service providers will conduct their own training to educate other staff and farmers about one or more topics related to the sustainable agriculture training they received through this initiative.

SARE Grant: \$15,000



Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG)

www.nesawg.org

Contact: nesawg@nesawg.org

PO Box 11

Belchertown, MA 01007

413-323-9878

The mission of the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG) is to build a more sustainable, healthy, and equitable food system for our region. We organize, support, and mobilize a 12-state network of organizations and individuals to ensure the strategic impact of our collective voice as we take action toward common goals. Our work strengthens and coordinates the work of hundreds of other organizations by building synergy among them and aligning resources to achieve systemic change at all levels.

NESAWG is the Northeast's food and farm network. Our activities are based on a systems approach, recognizing the interdependence of government, market, and civic arenas for social change. We maintain an overview of our region's movement toward a more sustainable food system and guide the network to maximize our collective impact. Working at local, state, regional, and national levels, our efforts help organizations redirect public policy, foster market-based innovation, and generate an informed and active citizenry.

Networking is a systems concept and a necessary function for a systems change response to food system problems. When a handful of people founded NESAWG in 1992, it was one of the first multi-sector food system networks in the country. Now, nearly 20 years later, over 400 organizations representing thousands of individuals actively participate in the NESAWG network. Our collective actions are transforming the food system in the Northeast and the nation.

New England Farmers Union www.NewEnglandFarmersUnion.org/foundation

Contact: info@NewEnglandFarmersUnion.org

PO Box 226
5 State Street, 3rd Floor
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
413-625-3051 or 413-548-6930

Mission: New England farmers Union, a member-driven organization, committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, fishermen, nurserymen, and the customers through educational opportunities, co-operative endeavors, and civic engagement.

Vision: New England Farmers Union envisions a New England with the capacity to feed and fuel itself in a manner that maintains the integrity and diversity of the ecology of the region.



National Family Farm Coalition

www.nffc.net

110 Maryland Ave., SE, Suite 307
Washington, DC 20002
202-543-567

Mission Statement: National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC) unites and strengthens the voices and actions of its diverse grassroots members to demand viable livelihoods for family farmers, safe and healthy food for everyone, and economically and environmentally sound rural communities.

New England Small Farm Institute www.smallfarm.org

PO Box 937
275 Jackson Street
Belchertown, MA 01007
413-323-4531



Mission: to promote small farm development by providing information and training for aspiring, beginning, and transitioning farmers. We maintain an extensive resource collection; produce publications; develop and offer innovative, farmer-guided programs; and advocate for policies that encourage sustainable small-scale agriculture. We seek collaborative program-delivery partnerships with service providers-associates, on-farm mentors, organizations, and agencies throughout the Northeast and Nationwide.



UMASS Extension www.masswoods.net

The adoption of the internet as a prime source of information provides a great opportunity to reach landowners who have not been attracted to more traditional approaches. MassWoods.net features information directed at people that have not planned their management, but need to make a decisions about selling timber or land conservation. The web site features a map to provide contact information for local professionals including: service forester, private foresters, land trusts, estate planning attorneys, appraisers, Keystone cooperators, and conservation organizations. MassWoods uses YouTube video and has recently launched a Twitter page in an effort to find those emerging technologies that will help reach more landowners

Most days, you just enjoy your property for its privacy, its beauty, the recreational opportunity it provides or just the piece of mind that you own it. It is only periodically that an event arises that raises a decision point: “**Should I sell my timber?**”

Harvesting Timber

The decision point may arise based on an offer for your timber, from your management plan, because someone down the road is having a timber sale, or it may be from a need you have. The decision to harvest timber is an important one for you as a landowner with financial and ecological results that will last for years to come.

When deciding to sell timber, it is critical to have accurate information regarding your options and the likely outcomes...

Harvest Objectives

Your goals for your family and your property should dictate the type of harvest implemented in your woods. **All harvests do not provide the same benefits.** Choosing an objective will help determine the type of trees that get harvested and in what numbers, in order to help you achieve your immediate goals. The trees that remain will profoundly influence the composition and ecology of your woods and therefore what benefits your woods will provide in the future.

Objectives vary between landowners and can include things such as wildlife habitat, income, forest health, and recreation. Of course, many landowners have multiple objectives. You will be faced with the outcome of the harvest for years to come, make sure you are getting what you want. We encourage you to speak with your local state service forester and to work with a licensed forester in order to make an informed decision regarding the differences between objectives and their likely impacts.

There is more to a harvest than deciding what to cut. There are different ways that timber can be sold. How you sell your timber is an important factor in what money you receive. Selling timber is discussed in "Important considerations when selling timber" on the next page.

Stating Objectives on a Cutting Plan

Most harvests require filing a Forest Cutting Plan with the state Department of Conservation and Recreation. A state service forester will then review the plan in the woods to make sure it meets the minimum state requirements.

As a part of filing the Forest Cutting Plan, you will be asked to choose your harvest objective. Be sure that you understand the objectives and that the plan accurately reflects your goals. State service foresters are also responsible for providing free education and technical assistance to landowners. If you have any questions, contact your local service forester.

Selling Timber

There are many factors which affect the value of your timber including its: species, size and quality. Factors such as terrain, logging distance, and the presence of streams and wetlands also influence the difficulty of the job and will affect the price.

Removing only the biggest and best trees does not necessarily maximize your immediate return. How you sell your wood will also have a large impact on the money you receive. Removing only the biggest and best can also greatly minimize future economic return. Generally there are two ways in which the price of your timber is determined:

1. Negotiated Price - A price is negotiated for the value of your timber. The price can be negotiated by yourself or by someone with a greater knowledge of timber prices representing your interests, such as a consulting forester. The price can be paid as a lump sum (i.e. one amount of money for your timber) or based on mill tally (i.e. your trees are cut, brought to the mill, and you are paid for the wood based on their measurement of the delivered logs).

Negotiated prices are used most frequently when timber harvesters, timber buyers or industrial foresters buy timber directly from landowners. Consulting Foresters will also use negotiated sales when selling timber of marginal value or when particular equipment or expertise is needed.

2. Competitive Bid - The trees to be cut are marked in the woods with paint and at the same time the volume of the wood is estimated. A showing is organized in which multiple bidders visit your property and make bids on your wood. A competitive bid will determine the value of your wood in the open market and can give you the most money for your wood, especially for high quality timber. Competitive bids are used primarily by consulting foresters.

Your Legal obligation

You are legally responsible for making sure the harvest meets all relevant local and state laws such as the Forest Cutting Practices Act, Wetland Protection Act, and Endangered Species Act. This means you need a clear understanding of pertinent laws or should work with someone you trust that can protect your interests.

It should be noted that although the state service forester may periodically check on a job for compliance with state regulation, it is not their responsibility to supervise a job for you or to make sure it is in compliance with your individual contract.

Contract

A good contract is a critical part of a successful job! A strong contract with the important elements that represents your interests will make sure your goals and legal obligations are met.

Performance Bond

A performance bond can be issued at the start of the job as assurance that contract provisions will be met. Should the contract not be fulfilled, the landowner has the means to address the deficiencies, such as hiring a bull dozer to smooth ruts or grade the roads.

You can choose to work with one of several types of people when selling timber, or choose to do the work yourself. Most people choose not to harvest themselves. Landowners make decisions to work with people for various reasons including the desire for particular expertise, personal relationships, past experiences or recommendations of a friend, or simply because someone knocked on their door.

There is not a right or wrong way to sell timber, as long as a woodland owner knows their options, and is comfortable with their arrangement.

1. Harvest Wood on your land yourself and sell the logs**Pros:**

- Satisfaction of doing the work yourself
- No expenses for a timber harvester
- No expenses for professional forestry services

Cons:

- Tough, dangerous work that is hard on machines and people
- Lack of the right equipment for the job
- Must become a Licensed Timber Harvester to cut under a forest cutting plan and comply with all relevant state regulations
- Typically, no formal training in forest management
- Must negotiate the price of your logs with someone with a greater knowledge of timber prices, who deals in the marketplace everyday
- If the timber did not go out for bid on the open marketplace, you do not know if it could have brought a higher price.
- Must have good knowledge of the marketplace to know how to cut logs out of tree-length material in order to maximize value. Log value, especially for hardwoods, can vary tremendously, depending on length, diameter, and the extent of defects and straightness.
- Cut logs must be moved quickly before they spoil, especially in the warmer months

2. Timber Harvester

A timber harvester, or logger, is in the business of cutting down trees, cutting them into logs, removing the logs from the woods to the roadside and transporting the logs to the sawmill. They are usually in business independently or may be in the employment of a sawmill.

Timber Harvesters in Massachusetts are required to hold a state license which is based on passing a written exam of relevant laws and must participate in ongoing continuing education. A licensed timber harvester is required on all harvests which have a cutting plan.

Payment: No out of pocket expenses for services, though indirectly, the price you receive for your timber may be reduced to cover the cost of their time.

Pros:

- Less time to set up sale
- No expenses for professional forestry services

Cons:

- Typically, no formal training in forest management
- Typically do not mark trees to be removed
- Must negotiate the price of your timber with someone with a greater knowledge of timber prices, who deals in the marketplace everyday
- If the timber did not go out for bid on the open marketplace, you do not know if it could have brought a higher price.
- Contract represents timber harvester's interests

3. Timber Buyer

A timber buyer is a person responsible for purchasing timber or logs for their company or business. This individual may or may not be a licensed forester or a licensed logger. Typically, this person arranges for standing timber to be harvested, either by their own logging crews or by contract crews, once they have purchased standing timber.

Payment: No out of pocket expenses for services, though indirectly, the price you receive for your timber may be reduced to cover the cost of their time.

Pros:

- Less time to set up sale

Cons:

- Typically no Formal Training in Forest Management
- Typically do not mark trees to be removed
- Must negotiate the price of your timber with someone with a greater knowledge of timber prices, who deals in the marketplace everyday

- If the timber did not go out for bid on the open marketplace, you do not know if it could have brought a higher price.
- Contract represents timber buyer's interests

Forester

A Forester is a professional with a college level education and experience in a broad range of forest-related topics including forest and wildlife ecology, economics, legal issues, and the growing and harvesting of forest products.

Foresters in Massachusetts are required to hold a state license which is generally based on experience, training and ongoing continuing education.

A licensed forester must plan all harvests that fall under the Ch. 61 property tax program and the Forest Stewardship Program.

There are two kinds of private foresters that can help you sell your wood: Industrial Forester and Consulting Forester

4. Industrial Forester

Industrial Foresters are private, professional foresters employed by a sawmill or other wood-using industry.

Payment: No out of pocket expenses for professional services, though indirectly, the price you receive for your timber may be reduced to cover the cost of the forester's time.

Pros:

- Professional Advice
- May mark trees to be removed, with an estimate of the volume removed.
- Upon request, can issue a performance bond to protect your interests and legal obligations.

Cons:

- Must negotiate the price of your logs with someone with a greater knowledge of timber prices, who deals in the marketplace everyday
- If the timber did not go out for bid on the open marketplace, you do not know if it could have brought a higher price.
- Contract represents mill's interests

5. Consulting Forester

Consulting Foresters generally work independently or in small firms and are paid directly by the landowner

Payment: Landowner billed for services separately. Payment is generally as a percentage of the total sale, or by the volume of timber, or by the hours of service rendered.

Pros:

- Professional advice
- Trees marked and volume of trees estimated for you

- Represents landowner's interests when selling wood by either putting high quality wood out to bid or negotiating price of marginal value timber.
- More money for timber through bidding process
- Contract represents landowner's interests
- Can monitor harvest for owners who do not live on or near land and ensure contract, legal and financial obligations are met by the buyer.
- Performance bond to protect your interests and legal obligations

Cons:

- May take longer to set up the timber sale depending on factors such as the time it takes to research and hire a consultant and whether the sale will be negotiated or put out to bid.

READ MORE

Available for download at: www.masswoods.net/index.php/harvesting-timber

Forestry BMP Manual

Your Land, Your Choices

Running the Numbers on Forest Conservation

Foresters and the care of your land

Ch. 61B Information

Expense of Forestry

Spread of lump sum stumpage bids

What is a fair price for your timber?

Common Elements of a Contract

Forest Cutting Practices Act (Ch. 132)

High Grade Harvesting

Diameter Limit Cutting

Restoring Old-Growth Characteristics

Crop Tree Management

Timber Tax Tips

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation www.mfbf.net

466 Chestnut St.
Ashland, MA 01721
508-881-4766 (toll free 866-548-6323)



Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation is the largest grass roots general farm organization in the Commonwealth. Their unique member driven policy process gives us a true representation of the issues, challenges and opportunities facing agriculture in the ever changing legislative and regulatory environment. Their mission is to protect the rights, encourage the growth, and be of service to our members.

It is a federation, or union of smaller organizations, which consists of 11 county Farm Bureaus representing a total of over 6500 member families. MFBF, along with state Farm Bureaus from the 49 other states and Puerto Rico, is a member of The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). The county, state and national organizations are all linked and work closely together, but they remain independent organizations. Nationwide there are about 2800 County Farm Bureaus representing a total of over 6 million member families

Who Makes up Farm Bureau Membership?

Farmers, not surprisingly, make up the bulk of membership in all of the various Farm Bureau organizations. Agriculture is a broad field. Farm Bureau membership is diverse and includes members involved in fruit and vegetable production, dairy, livestock, greenhouse and nursery, aquaculture, forestry, equine, beekeepers, and others.

Non-Farmers who want to support agriculture and/or have a strong interest in agriculture are also invited to be Associate members. Associate members receive all the communications and discounts that Regular Members receive and are welcome to participate in meetings. Associate members cannot however hold office, or vote. Student members receive the same benefits as Associate members and are also eligible to participate on the Young Farmers Committee as well as various leadership trainings.

READ MORE

Available for download in PDF under "Resources" tab at www.mfbf.net

[MFBF Horse Directory](#)

[Massachusetts Laws for the Equine Industry](#)

[2012 Horse Farm of Distinction](#)

[Slow Moving Vehicles](#)

[Farm Plate Guide](#)

[Using MA Farm Plates in Maine](#)

[61A Tax Publications](#)

[2011 Excise & Sales Tax Guide For Farmers](#)

Right to Farm

Farming in the Wetlands

Alternative Energy Publications

Fiscal Year 2012 Chapterland Valuations

Fiscal Year 2012 Farm Animal Excise Values

National Center for Appropriate Technology

<https://attra.ncat.org/index.php>

3040 Continental Dr.

PO Box 3838

Butte, MT 59702

or

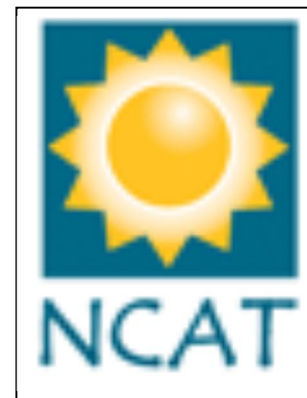
NCAT Northeast

79 Hillside Road

Shavertown, PA 18708

(570) 696-6786

(877) 248-5379



A staggeringly extensive site, involving a seemingly infinite variety of topics ó hours of happy browsing will be amply rewarded. The options include:

- ♦ Searchable databases at <https://attra.ncat.org/index.php>

Anyone can browse the listings for free. Subscribers can build a personalized listing to connect with internship seekers. The listed farms are primarily seeking interns/apprentices from North America.

Sustainable Farming Internships and Apprenticeships

A directory of on-the-job learning opportunities in sustainable and organic agriculture in the U.S. (and some in Canada) has been published since 1989 as a tool to help farmers and apprentices connect with each other.

Biorationals: Ecological Pest Management Database

ATTRA has created a new, on-line pest management tool for farmers. This database highlights reduced risk materials that can be integrated with ecological pest management strategies.

Directory of Energy Alternatives

A searchable directory of energy-related businesses, agencies, and non-profit organizations serving agriculture and rural people in North America.

Organic Livestock Feed Suppliers

This directory helps organic livestock producers locate sources of organic formulated feed rations or feed ingredients. You can search by state or by type of product.

Measurements, Conversion Units and Calculations

This directory is a searchable collection of web sites that specialize in agriculture-related measurements and calculations, as well as general resources on metric conversions.

Sources of Organic Fertilizers and Amendments This resource list is a guide to suppliers of bulk organic fertilizers and specialty soil and foliar amendments, and is geared to commercial farmers and market gardeners-especially organic producers.

Small Poultry Processing Plants and Services

This list is a joint effort of several nonprofit organizations to assist small poultry growers in finding poultry processors.

Sustainable Agriculture Organizations and Publications

This list of sustainable agriculture grassroots groups, nonprofits, and agencies is updated annually. State-by-state contacts for a broadly defined sustainable agriculture community are included to facilitate networking.

Directory of Organic Seed Suppliers

This database provides sources for organic seed of both agronomic and horticultural crops. Some national, mail-order suppliers of untreated seed are included, with the emphasis on small alternative seed companies offering open-pollinated vegetable, flower, and herb seed.

- ◆ Over 300 publications (some in downloadable PDF form) covering numerous topics are available at <https://attra.ncat.org/publication.html>
- ◆ Local Food Directories
This resource offers listings for local food directories and promotional programs that are trying to help agricultural producers connect with customers by compiling directories of local food
- ◆ Other topic headings addressed at <https://attra.ncat.org/index.php> include:

ÉWhat is Sustainable Agriculture?

ÉPest Management

ÉHorticultural Crops

ÉOrganic Farming

ÉField Crops

ÉLivestock & Pasture

ÉSoils & Compost

ÉMarketing, Business & Risk Management

ÉLocal Food Systems

ÉEducation

ÉFarm Start-Up

ÉIllustrated Publications

ÉEnergy Alternatives

Massachusetts Center for Agriculture

www.masscenterforag.org

www.umass.edu/agcenter/

The Center for Agriculture brings together agricultural programs from UMass Extension, the College of Natural Resources and the Environment, and the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station. The purpose of the Center for Agriculture is to serve as a portal through which individuals, industries, and agencies can connect with scientists and educators. Simply put, The Center for Agriculture provides access to all of the expertise within the agricultural programs of the university.



The **Massachusetts Center for Agriculture** is a collaboration between these agencies:

University of Massachusetts Center for Agriculture

University of Massachusetts College of Natural Resources and the Environment

University of Massachusetts Extension

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

Risk Management Agency

United States Department of Agriculture

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)

www.mass.gov/agr

Amherst office
101 University Drive, Suite C4
Amherst, MA 01002
413-548-1900

Boston Office
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114
617-625-1720



The mission of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions,

- Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance,

- Agricultural Markets,
- Animal Health, and
- Crop and Pest Services

MDAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth's agricultural community, to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production.

The following listings are noted initially by Division, and then by programs or services grouped under each of those respective divisions:

Division of Agricultural Conservation and Technical Assistance

Contact: Gerard Kennedy, Director - Gerard.Kennedy@state.ma.us – 617-626-1773

Working with the Divisions of Agricultural Markets, Animal Health, and Crop Management and Inspectional Services, the Division of Agricultural Conservation and Technical Assistance (DACTA) works to advance the conservation and utilization of agricultural resources through preservation, environmental stewardship, technology, technical assistance and education in order to enhance the viability of agricultural enterprises and safeguard natural resources.

DACTA delivers services to conserve agricultural lands and improve agricultural stewardship and use of natural resources; promote energy efficiency and use of renewable energy; and ensure economic competitiveness and profitability. These programs are supported by the Division's digital based information management systems and interaction with local, state, and federal partners.

Specific programs and services of this Division include:

- **Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program**
(Previously noted under the "Land" heading)
- **State Land Licensing Program**
(Previously noted under the "Beginning Farmer" heading)
- **Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP)**
(previously noted under the "Financial sources" heading)
- **APR Improvement Program**
(previously noted under the "Financial Sources" heading)
- **Farm Energy Discount Program**
(previously noted under the "Energy" heading)
- **Farm Viability Enhancement Program**
(previously noted under the "Financial Sources" heading)
- **Agricultural Energy Grant Program**
(previously noted under the "Financial sources" heading)

- **Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture Program (MEGA)**
(previously noted under the "Financial Sources" heading)
-

- **Agricultural Business Training Programs**
(Previously noted under the "Beginning Farmer" heading)

- **Land Use**
Contact: Ronald Hall ronald.hall@state.ma.us 617-626-1704
-

It is the combined role of the Land Use Programs to ensure that land suitable for agriculture production is made available and maintained for the farming community into the future. To that end, the programs are primarily aimed at preserving active agricultural lands by providing farmland owners a choice to capitalize from their land's non-agricultural value while still retaining ownership, making state owned lands available to Massachusetts farmers, and conducting environmental reviews when farmland is impacted or taken out of agricultural production

- **Responses to MEPA involving Agricultural Conversion**
Contact: Barbara Hopson, Barbara.Hopson@state.ma.us 413-545-0179.

The primary purpose for the Department of Agricultural Resources' Environmental Review program is to direct state agencies to seek alternative development strategies to avoid conversion of state-owned farmland to non-agricultural use and to preclude use of state funds to develop privately-owned agricultural land and to mitigate against conversion.

The only protection afforded state-owned farmland that is not controlled by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs agencies is Executive Order 193. Signed in 1981 by former Governor King, EO# 193 targets both conversion of state-owned agricultural land and use of state funds to develop privately-owned agricultural land or land of Prime or State Important agricultural soils. EO# 193 does not actually prevent development, but rather directs state agencies to seek alternative sites and mitigates against conversion by means of the Department's Agricultural Land Mitigation Policy.

In addition, the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) through the Executive Office of Energy and Environment Affairs "requires that state agencies study the environmental consequences of their actions" It is a mechanism that DAR participates in and reviews projects that may have a detrimental impact towards state-owned and privately owned agricultural lands. Information is available on the MEPA

- **Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)**
Contact: Craig Richov, Craig.Richov@state.ma.us 617-626-1725
-

The Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) was established in 1995 to ensure that citizens in need have access to a supply of quality food in the Commonwealth. The program is implemented through a unique partnership between the state and a private, non-profit food distribution network made up of four regional food banks. Funding is provided by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.

MEFAP ensures a consistent supply of quality nutrient dense foods and locally grown fresh produce to a statewide network of over 800 emergency food providers. Each provider is a member of one of the four food bank distribution centers.

- The Greater Boston Food Bank
- The Merrimack Valley Food Bank

- The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
- The Worcester County Food Bank

In 2010, the most recent year for which data is available, four regional food banks collectively distributed over 51 million pounds of food, over 17 million pounds of which was purchased through MEFAP. Total funding provided by the Department of Agricultural Resources was \$11,270,000.00.

Technical Assistance Programs:

- **Aquaculture Program**

Contact: Sean Bowen, Aquaculture Specialist at Sean.Bowen@state.ma.us (617) 626-1724

The cultivation of marine and freshwater organisms is a very diverse segment of the Massachusetts agriculture industry. The Commonwealth's aquaculture industry produces aquatic species for food, education, ornamental, bait and sport fishing activities, including 6 species of shellfish and 10 species of finfish that are cultured experimentally and commercially.

The Aquaculture Specialist's Office at the Department of Agricultural Resources provides a variety of services aimed at the promotion and development of Massachusetts aquaculture. The Aquaculture Program, located within the Division of Agricultural Technical Assistance, fosters development of the **Massachusetts Aquaculture Industry** through efforts aimed at implementation of the Commonwealth's **Aquaculture Strategic Plan**.

- **Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Information**

Contact: Gerard Kennedy, Director - Gerard.Kennedy@state.ma.us 617-626-1773

A CAFO is a type of Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) where animals are kept and raised in confinement. CAFOs generate significant quantities of manure, litter and process wastewater that, if not managed properly, can impact surface waters. Due to this potential to impact surface waters, facilities that are defined, or designated by the EPA as "Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations" (CAFO) under the EPA CAFO Rule, may be subject to permitting requirements and be required to implement Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs). A final rule issued July 18, 2007 extends the deadline for CAFO compliance, establishing February 27, 2009 as the new date for newly defined CAFOs to seek NPDES permit coverage and for permitted CAFOs to develop and implement nutrient management plans (NMPs) as required by EPA's 2003 CAFO rule.

Background

In Massachusetts, many livestock operations meet the regulatory definition for "Animal Feeding Operation" (AFO) because animals are generally confined for periods of at least 45 days over the course of a year due to the harsh winter conditions.

If any of these AFOs are impacting water resources, they could potentially meet the definition for a CAFO; or they could be designated as a CAFO regardless of size. EPA's CAFO regulations apply to both the production area and the land application area. EPA is the enforcement authority for the CAFO rule in Massachusetts.

In Massachusetts, livestock operations typically would be considered small or medium operations. A dairy operation with between 200 and 699 mature dairy cattle where animal waste is directly impacting a water resource meets the definition for a medium CAFO. A beef operation with 50 cattle that is significantly impacting on a water body could be designated as a CAFO by EPA.

Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) field staff are directly providing outreach and education to AFO operators on both EPA's regulatory CAFO program and the availability of technical and financial assistance programs which can help farmers to pro-actively address any water quality impacts. DAR field staff typically conduct a field analysis of a facility and help identify areas where the farmer might need to address potential water quality impacts. Information on technical assistance and funding opportunities are then provided. Among the recommended funding resources available are the state's Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) and the federal EQIP program.

Farmers interested in a field visit to discuss the CAFO rule should contact Gerard Kennedy
gerard.kennedy@state.ma.us 617-626-1773

- **Energy Efficiency, Conservation, and Renewables Program**

Contact: Gerry Palano at Gerald.Palano@state.ma.us or 617-626-1706

The MDAR Energy Program's primary function is to promote energy knowledge and awareness and to facilitate the implementation of energy related projects for our agri-businesses through energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy applications, as a means to reduce both energy costs and environmental pollution. Furthering this effort, working in conjunction with USDA NRCS and Berkshire Pioneer Resource Conservation & Development, the MA Farm Energy Program (MFEP) was created. Now in its 2nd year of operation, the MFEP is intended to be the one-stop shop for MA Agri-businesses, being a clearinghouse of information, technical assistance, incentives, rebates, grant programs, etc. Please visit our website at www.berkshirerescd.org/mfep and become part of the MFEP

Regulatory Programs

- **Composting Program**

Contact: William Blanchard at William.Blanchard@state.ma.us or 617-626-1709

Agricultural composting that takes place on farms has long been viewed as a beneficial practice to manage manure and other agricultural wastes. More recently, however, composting has been recognized as a preferred alternative to landfilling or incinerating organic wastes, including leaf and yard waste, and food scraps. Composting is, in essence, a form of organics recycling, whereby discarded organic materials are transformed into an easily handled, useful material that can be land-applied as a soil amendment, added to potting soil and topsoil mixes, and used for mulching and animal bedding. In large part due to the Commonwealth's ambitious recycling goals set forth in the **Solid Waste Master Plan**, Massachusetts farmers have been taking a larger role in the organics recycling effort by composting non-agricultural wastes in addition to farm-generated wastes.

MDAR's Agricultural Composting Program (**330 CMR 25.00**) encourages and supports composting on farms by providing technical assistance to compost operators as well as an Agricultural Composting Registration process that allows qualifying farms to register their operations with MDAR under an "Agricultural Waste Composting" exemption in MassDEP's Site Assignment Regulations for Solid Waste Facilities (**310 CMR 16.00**). Under that exemption, any farm that wishes to compost organic materials other than those that are generated on their own farms, must register their operation with MDAR. To qualify for an Agricultural Composting Registration the following conditions must apply:

The farm must be engaged in "agriculture" or "farming" as defined in MGL c. 128, Sec. 1A.

- Only agricultural wastes and other approved materials may be composted.
- The farm must submit an application for an Agricultural Composting Registration, and agree to a site visit.
- The applicant demonstrates the knowledge and capability to conduct an agricultural composting operation to produce a stabilized compost product.
- The applicant agrees to comply with MDAR's Agricultural Compost Guidelines.
- If a registration is approved, the registrant agrees to submit Annual Reports to MDAR (reporting forms to be provided).

Other approved materials:

1. leaf and yard waste;
2. wood wastes;
3. clean newspaper or cardboard;
4. clean, compostable (i.e. thin) shells, and clean bones;
5. non-agricultural sources of manures and animal bedding materials.
6. less than 20 cubic yards or less than ten tons per day of vegetative material; and
7. less than ten cubic yards or less than five tons per day of food material.

- **Farm Technology Review Commission**

Contact: Gerard Kennedy, DATA Director, Gerard.Kennedy@state.ma.us – 617-626-1773

The Farm Technology Review Commission (FTRC) is chaired by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Scott Soares, and is comprised of state officials and farming representatives. The role of the Commission is to study and recommend options for updating farming technology including, but not limited to ways to promote energy conservation, collaborative purchasing, purchasing and selling of energy and energy saving technology. In addition, the Commission will also recommend alternative options for agricultural sustainability and growth, and analyze regulations and statutes to ensure that they are not impediments to the adoption of farming technology.

The Commission was created as a result of the Dairy Preservation Act of 2008, (MGL Chapter 310, Section 11)

An annual report is required to be submitted by the Commission to the Governor and the Legislature on the results of its investigation and study, and its recommendations. The report may include any drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect.

While the Department of Agricultural Resources will chair the eight member commission other state agencies that will participate include the Department of Environmental Protection; the Department of Public Health, the Department of Revenue and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. Three dairy farmers representing the Massachusetts Association of Dairy Farmers, the New England Producer Handler Association and the Massachusetts Cooperative Milk Producers Federation have also been appointed.

- **Milkhouse Wastewater Pilot Program**

Contact: Gerard Kennedy, Director - Gerard.Kennedy@state.ma.us 617-626-1773

MDAR and MassDEP have agreed to develop a pilot program to collect data to demonstrate the efficacy of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) designed vegetated treatment areas (also known as wastewater treatment strips) in managing milkhouse wastewater (MHW). Non-sanitary wastewater, such as MHW, is considered to be "industrial waste" by MassDEP regulations. Since MHW fits into this designation, any discharge of MHW to the ground violates MassDEP regulations to protect groundwater.

Milkhouse wastewater includes wastewater that is generated through the processing of dairy products such as

milk, cheese, ice cream, and yogurt that are customarily disposed of by Dairy Operations. For the purposes of the agreement between MDAR and MassDEP, it does not include bottling operations.

A standard conservation practice for managing milkhouse wastewater is to use a vegetated wastewater treatment area. A vegetated treatment area is a component of an agricultural waste management system consisting of a strip of vegetation for the treatment of runoff. The vegetation consists of specific vegetation adapted to local soils and climate that is used to improve water quality by reducing nutrient loads, pathogens, and other contaminants associated with manure, wastewater, and runoff from livestock areas. The intent of this pilot program is to collect data that can provide MassDEP with a high level of confidence that the application of the vegetated strip is an appropriate treatment method.

The pilot program will evaluate the effluent characteristics of MHW and the efficacy of vegetated treatment areas that are installed and maintained in accordance with the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard. Two farms ("Pilot Farms") will be selected for a monitoring study as part of the pilot program. Other farms (Grantee Farms") that install vegetated treatment areas to manage milkhouse wastewater will be required to participate in the pilot program.

To participate in the program, farms must execute a written agreement with MDAR to install and maintain the vegetated treatment areas in accordance with all requirements and standards set forth in NRCS Code 635. The pilot program will last for three years. At the end of the pilot, the results of the monitoring program will be evaluated in order to determine the extent to which discharge to vegetated treatment areas complies with existing regulatory requirements. As part of the agreement, MassDEP will extend enforcement forbearance to pilot program participants for the term of the agreement.

Farms that wish to be included in this pilot program will receive enhanced eligibility for the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP). AEEP provides funding to agricultural operations in Massachusetts for the mitigation and/or prevention of impacts on natural resources. Any farm that is working with a federal or state agency to install a vegetated treatment areas interested in participating in the Pilot Program must complete the Milkhouse Wastewater Pilot Program Application. The application requires the farmer to install and manage the vegetated treatment area in accordance with the terms of the pilot program.

Farmers interested in discussing potential participation in the Pilot Program should contact MDAR directly: Gerard Kennedy at 617-626-1773 or gerard.kennedy@state.ma.us

Outreach and Education Programs:

- **Agricultural Best Management Practices**

Contact: Gerard Kennedy, Director - Gerard.Kennedy@state.ma.us 617-626-1773

Agricultural "Best Management Practices" are site specific, economically feasible practices that are applied by farmers while accounting for environmental and public health impacts. They are also dynamic in nature and can include new and innovative technologies as they are developed. Because every farm operation is different, BMPs are not intended to be regulatory. However, they are intended to provide guidance on practices that can be implemented on Massachusetts farms.

READ MORE

Best Management Practices (BMP's)

The following guidance documents, which are current as of 2010, provide farmers and producers with the latest guidance to benefit their operation. They will change, and be updated, as practices and technology change; they are available as downloads at www.mass.gov/agr/programs/bmp/index.htm

FinFish/Aquaculture BMP's

Cranberry BMP's

Greenhouse BMP's

Livestock and Poultry BMP's

Backyard Poultry-Keepers BMP's

Maple BMP's

Nursery BMP's

Orchard BMP's

Shellfish BMP's

Small Fruit BMP's

Turf BMP's

Vegetable Production BMP's

Division of Agricultural Markets

Contact: Mary Jordan, Director at Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us -- 617-626-1750

The Division of Agricultural Markets fosters the growth and viability of the Commonwealth's agricultural markets including domestic, international, as well as state agricultural fairs. Staff offer field expertise in the development and support of innovative market venues, business expansion, grant opportunities, consumer and industry outreach. The Division seeks to promote new opportunities for consumers to gain greater access to local agricultural products and endorses high quality standards for the agricultural industry. Division staff work closely with over 50 agricultural and commodity organizations as well as with a broad-breadth of local, state, and federal level entities.

Division of Crop Inspectional Services

Contact: Lee Corte-Real, Director at Lee.Corte-Real@state.ma.us - 617-626-1776

Crop Inspectional Services administers a diversified quality-control program that ensures the quality of farm inputs, such as fertilizer, animal feed, and seeds and inspects consumer products such as plants, fruits and vegetables. Crop Inspectional Services enforces Truth-In-Labeling laws on apples, potatoes, seed, feed, pet food, fertilizer, limestone and certifies Controlled Atmosphere rooms for compliance.

The quality of farm products is monitored for adherence with established standards, including the Federal-State Fruit and Vegetable Quality Program and in conjunction with the USDA's grading program. The uniform laws and grades allow for products in interstate and export commerce. Working with other states, the U.S.D.A., F.D.A., APHIS and various regulated industries, Farm Products and Plant Industries section of the Department of Agricultural Resources have helped foster the marketing of high-quality products for the consumer.

The field staff is trained and licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which allows them to issue federal certificates attesting to the quality, condition and grade of Massachusetts produce, plants and plant products for shipment.

The nursery inspection program prevents and minimizes the impact of pests entering the state. All nurseries and greenhouses are inspected and certified annually for control of insects and diseases. Agent licenses are issued to retail outlets who purchase nursery stock and offer it for resale.

Apiary (bee) inspections are conducted to prevent the introduction and establishment of honey bee pests and diseases.

Division of Animal Health

Contact: Michael Cahill, Director at Michael.Cahill@state.ma.us 617-626-1794

The Division of Animal Health focuses its efforts on ensuring the health and safety of the Commonwealth's domestic animals. Animal Health staff work closely with the Department of Public Health, the Animal Rescue League of Boston, the MSPCA, local veterinarians, local health departments, municipal animal inspectors and animal control officers when responding to possible disease situations. Rapid response to potential outbreaks ensures the fewest number of animals and animal owners are affected. Working in concert with the Divisions of Agricultural Technical Assistance, Crop and Pest Services, and Agricultural Development, through diligent inspection, examination and licensing, Animal Health promotes the health and welfare of companion and food-producing animals in Massachusetts.

Programs

- **Animal Imports and Livestock Markets**

All livestock, horses, poultry, waterfowl and other animals, including cats, dogs and other pets entering Massachusetts from other states must comply with Commonwealth regulations, significantly reducing the possibility of introducing contagious disease to our domestic animal population. Livestock dealers and transporters are licensed and their equipment and facilities inspected. Cattle, swine, goats, sheep, llamas/camelids, horses and other equines must have valid health certificates. All cattle, swine, sheep and goats must be identified by an official ear-tag, tattoo, microchip or registration number. Other animals, such as poultry, waterfowl, rabbits, dogs, cats, doves, pigeons and other pets must be accompanied by an official health certificate stating that the animals are healthy, free of symptoms of infectious or transmissible disease and internal and/or external parasites.

Animals leaving Massachusetts must comply with the regulations set by the state of destination. **Visit the [USDA website](#)** to view these import requirements. For animal being exported to another country call USDA/APHIS/VS at (508) 363-2290 for proper procedures

- **Biosecurity Program**

Biosecurity is a set of protocols or precautions used to minimize the risk of introducing an infectious disease into an animal population, and to prevent the spread of disease within that population. The protocols and precautions include proper cleaning, disinfection and precautionary methods of ensuring that diseases are not carried from one premise to another.

Good Biosecurity practices should be used any place where animals are kept and especially at farms, shelters/rescues, kennels, animal foster homes and pet stores. Diseases can be spread through the air, direct contact (animal to animal) or indirect contact with an infected animal (through equipment, accessory items, vehicles and clothes). To prevent the transmission of various diseases the following sanitary suggestions should be followed:

- Clean animal housing, bowls, dishes and other feeding and watering containers daily or more often when necessary.
- After items are cleaned they should be properly disinfected.
- When moving animals always clean and disinfect the area where the animal will be kept and then clean and disinfect the area where the animal was moved from.
- Wear clean coveralls or smocks to handle and care for animals.
- If caring for sick animals, take care of healthy animals first. Change clothes and wash hands prior to moving from one group of animals to another.
- When introducing new animal(s) on the premises assure the animal(s) is healthy. Isolate new animals from those already on the property for an appropriate period of time. This allows incubating diseases to emerge without infecting an entire group.
- Do not use or allow equipment to enter the premises unless it has been properly cleaned and disinfected prior to entering the premises.
- Foot baths used to disinfect footwear of people coming and going from animal areas can be used.
- Disposable or clean coveralls should be worn by people entering the animal areas.

Animal owners are urged to look at the type of animal operation that they have and institute good Biosecurity procedures to protect animal health.

- **Dairy Program**

The Dairy Program ensures a healthy environment for livestock and a safe, high quality supply of milk at fair prices for consumers, processors and dairy farmers. This requires careful inspection and monitoring to enforce the relevant laws and regulations. The Program monitors milk production, hauling, distribution, pricing, and marketing. Inspection of dairy farms to assure a safe and healthy supply of milk to processors, and ultimately consumers. Many factors influence the quality and quantity of milk produced by a dairy farm. Bacteriological counts produced through testing of milk samples helps determine the quality of milk. When the counts exceed regulatory standards, a dairy farmer is required to return to compliance within a timely fashion. The Dairy Program also assists dairy farmers to comply with Appendix N requirements of the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance.

- **Equine Program**

The Division of Animal Health licenses both Riding Instructors and Riding Schools/Stables where hay, sleigh, carriage, pony and trail rides are for hire and/or where Riding Instruction is offered. The Division also licenses the business of selling, dealing, auctioning or transporting equine animals. Animal Health

also promotes the breeding of thoroughbred and Standardbred horses in the Commonwealth, administering a registration program for the Massachusetts State racing Commission.

- **Farm Emergency Plan Template**

An emergency can strike your farm at any time. It is important to be prepared with a plan of action should the need arise. Part of that plan should include information to assist emergency responders and others if called upon should a disaster like a fire, flood or disease outbreak occur. Your farm may present unique challenges in an emergency situation. Ensuring that public safety officials and emergency response planners in your community are aware of your specific needs will serve to reduce the impact of an emergency on you and your property.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural resources (MDAR), Division of Animal Health, has developed a template to assist you in creating a farm emergency plan.

- **Municipal Animal Inspection Program**

The Division of Animal Health appoints a municipal animal inspector for each and every city and town in the Commonwealth. The primary duty of the Animal Inspector has recently become rabies control in the domestic animal population. Municipal Animal Inspectors are also responsible for barn inspections and may be called to assist with domestic animal disease quarantines in the event of an outbreak.

- **Pet Shop Licensing and Inspection Program**

The Division of Animal Health has the statutory responsibility to license all pet shops. Pet shop inspections are required for licensure and annual re-licensure of all Massachusetts pet shops. Each establishment must meet facilities requirements outlined in 330 CMR 12.00 in order to receive a license. These requirements are in place to protect the health of the animals, as well as that of the visiting public and the employees who work in these shops.

- **Poultry Program**

The Division of Animal Health Poultry Program strives to educate producers and consumers about the benefits of local poultry and poultry products. Massachusetts law (MGL Ch 129 sec 26B) requires that all live poultry or hatching eggs moving within the Commonwealth originate from current certified Salmonella pullorum clean flocks. The testing is free and can be arranged by calling MDAR at 617-626-1795. Other poultry testing available to Massachusetts producers are Avian influenza, Mycoplasma gallisepticum, Mycoplasma synoviae, Mycoplasma meleagridis and Salmonella enteritidis. The poultry program provides producers and consumers with educational materials, production support, egg safety, egg handling and inspections.

The definition of poultry includes, but is not limited to chickens, guinea fowl, peafowl, pheasants, partridges, quail and turkeys.

Diagnostic Testing Services for poultry and the avian species listed above is available to all residents of the commonwealth.

The Poultry Division also administers an **Egg Grading Program** encompassing many different inspectional programs for hatcheries, egg grading stations, egg packers and retail store egg sales.

Best Management Practices for Poultry; Safe Egg Handling for Backyard Egg Producers

In response to a steady increase in the number of families raising small poultry flocks throughout the Commonwealth, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) has developed these documents to aid residential poultry producers in the methods of caring for poultry, marketing eggs and of handling the waste products. We hope these documents will also serve to educate municipal officials in communities that have not traditionally had experience with agricultural endeavors.

- **Rabies Program**

Rabies is a viral disease that can affect all mammals, including humans. The virus attacks the central nervous system and can be secreted in saliva. Because rabies affects people as well as animals, control of this disease has become a top priority for the Division of Animal Health. With the cooperation of the Department of Public Health and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, every angle of potential rabies exposures gets covered in order to prevent further rabies infections.

Although bat strain rabies has been known to exist in Massachusetts since the 1960's, a small bat population in the state and infrequent exposures limited the need for widespread awareness and control. The raccoon rabies epidemic beginning in 1992 posed new problems for public health officials. Since raccoons are so prevalent in rural and suburban areas, the potential for a large number of human and domestic animal exposures rose.

- **Reportable Disease Program**

Reportable diseases may be foreign animal diseases which we currently do not have in this state; diseases which have serious public health consequences; or diseases that we have either previously eradicated from Massachusetts or are very close to eradicating.

Veterinary practitioners are required to report suspect or positive cases of these diseases to the Division of Animal Health promptly. The Division will then take appropriate action following a thorough investigation and evaluation.

Reportable diseases in Massachusetts:

Reporting Priorities:

- 1) Report immediately by telephone, confirm in writing.
- 2) Report in writing or by telephone within 24 hours.
- 3) Report in writing or by telephone within 5 days.

Disease	Species Affected	Priority
Actinomycosis	Bovine	2
African Swine Fever	Porcine	1
Anaplasmosis	Bovine	1
Anthrax *	All species	1

Avian Influenza	Avian	1
Babesiasis (Piroplasmosis)	All Species	1
Blackleg	Bovine	2
Bluetongue	Bovine/Ovine/Llama	1
Botulism (<i>Clostridium botulinum</i>)	All	1
Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)	Bovine	1
Bovine Viral Diarrhea	Bovine	1
Brucellosis	All Species	2
Canine distemper	All	2
Canine influenza	Canine	1
Canine Parvovirus	All	2
Chronic Wasting Disease	Cervid	1
Contagious Ecthyma	Ovine	3
Contagious Equine Metritis	Equine	1
Eastern Equine Encephalitis *	Equine	1
Encephalomyelitis (All)	Equine, Avian	1
Equine Infectious Anemia	Equine	1
Equine Viral Arteritis	Equine	2
Erysipelas	Porcine	2
Feline calicivirus	Feline	2
Feline panleukopenia	Feline	2
Foot and Mouth Disease	All Species	1
Fowl Plague (Cholera)	Avian	2
Glanders	Equine	1
Hog Cholera	Porcine	1
Infectious Laryngotracheitis	Avian	3
Listeriosis	Bovine/Ovine	2
Mange, All Types	Ovine	2
Sarcoptic, Psoroptic	Bovine	2
Sarcoptic	Porcine	2
Newcastle Disease including VVND	Avian	1
Paratuberculosis (Johnes)	Bovine	2
Plague (<i>Yersinia pestis</i>) *	All	1
Potomac Fever	Equine	2
Pseudorabies	All Species	1
Psittacosis	Pet Birds	2
Pullorum	Avian	2
Q Fever (<i>Coxiella burnetti</i>)	All	1
Rabies	All Species	1
Rinderpest	All Species	1
Scrapie	Caprine/Ovine	1
Swine Influenza	Porcine	2
Tuberculosis	All Species	1

Tularemia (<i>Francicella tularensis</i>)	All	1
Vesicular Exanthema	All Species	1
Vesicular Stomatitis	All Species	1
Viral Abortion	Ovine	2
Viral Encephalities	Equine	1
Viral Enteritis	Avian (Ducks)	2
West Nile Virus *	Equine	1

- **Shelter / Rescue Program**

The Division of Animal Health Shelter/Rescue program ensures the health and safety of animals coming into the Commonwealth of Massachusetts , through registration of individual shelters and rescue groups who operate adoption programs within Massachusetts or adopt animals into Massachusetts from other states.

- **Swine Program**

The Massachusetts swine program includes permitted garbage feeders, licensed swine dealers, and Classical Swine Fever, Brucellosis and Psuedorabies testing. For more information on permits and licenses, please call 617-626-1797.



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency – Massachusetts www.fsa.usda.gov

Contact: Lynn Vozniak, County Executive Director: lynn.vozniak@ma.usda.gov

FSA Service Center Office
 Middlesex County Farm Service Agency
 319 Littleton Rd., Suite 205
 Westford, MA 01886
 978-692-1904

- **Farmable Wetlands Program**

Overview

The Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP) is a voluntary program to restore up to one million acres of farmable wetlands and associated buffers by improving the land's hydrology and vegetation. Eligible producers in all states can enroll eligible land in the FWP through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Producers plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat on land enrolled in CRP. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. FWP is designed to prevent degradation of wetland areas, increase sediment trapping efficiencies, improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and provide habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Eligible Land

To be eligible, land must meet one of the following:

- Includes farmed and prior converted wetlands that have been impacted by farming activities. Must be cropland planted to an agricultural commodity three of the 10 most recent crop years and be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity;
- Include a constructed wetland developed to receive flow for a row-crop agriculture drainage system for the purpose of providing nitrogen removal and other wetland functions;
- Devoted to commercial pond-raised aquaculture in any year during 2002-2007; and
- Cropland that, after Jan. 1, 1990, and before Dec. 31, 2002, was cropped during at least three of 10 crop years, and was subject to the natural overflow of a prairie wetland.

Acreage must also meet the following FWP eligibility requirements:

Enrolled land cannot exceed:

- 40 acres for wetlands or constructed wetlands
- 20 acres for intermittently flooded prairie wetlands
- 40 acres per tract for eligible wetlands and buffers; and

Participants must agree to restore the hydrology of the wetlands to establish vegetative cover, which may include emerging vegetation in water, bottomland hardwoods, cypress and other appropriate tree species; and to the general prohibition of using the enrolled land for commercial purposes.

Conservation Practices

The conservation practices authorized under FWP are:

CP27 - Farmable Wetlands Wetland;

CP28 - Farmable Wetlands Buffer;

CP39 - Farmable Wetlands Constructed Wetland

CP40 - Farmable Wetlands Aquaculture Wetland Restoration

CP41 - Farmable Wetlands Flooded Prairie Wetland

Contract Duration and Effective Date

FWP contracts are in effect for 10 to 15 years, in exchange for annual rental payments, incentive payments, and cost-share for installing necessary practices. The effective date of the contract is the first day of the month following the month of approval.

Payments

Eligible producers may receive the following types of payments:

- Annual rental payments for a 10- to 15-year period. The rental rate is based on the weighted average dryland cash rent.
 - For aquaculture, if there is no soil survey data, annual rental payments are based on the country average CRP rental rate.
 - Upfront CRP signing incentive payment of \$100 per acre. (This one-time payment is made after the contract is approved and all payment eligibility criteria are met.)
 - Practice incentive payment equal to 40 percent of the eligible costs of installing the practice. This one-time payment is made after the practice is installed, eligible costs are verified, and other payment eligibility criteria are met.
 - Incentive amount equal to 20 percent of the weighted average dryland cash rent.
 - Up to 50 percent cost-share for establishing permanent cover.
- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

Overview

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CRP, you can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland.

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes annual rental payments based on the agriculture rental value of the land, and it provides cost-share assistance for up to 50 percent of the participant's costs in establishing approved conservation practices. Participants enroll in CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years.

Benefits

CRP protects millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion and is designed to safeguard the Nation's natural resources. By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, CRP protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams. Acreage enrolled in the CRP is planted to resource-conserving vegetative covers, making the program a major contributor to increased wildlife populations in many parts of the country.

CRP Administration

FSA administers CRP, while technical support functions are provided by:

- USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS);
- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture;
- State forestry agencies;
- Local soil and water conservation districts;
- Private sector providers of technical assistance.

CRP General Sign-up

Producers can offer land for CRP general sign-up enrollment only during designated sign-up periods. For information on upcoming sign-ups, contact your local FSA office.

CRP Continuous Sign-up

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled at any time under CRP continuous sign-up. Certain eligibility requirements still apply, but offers are not subject to competitive bidding. Further information on CRP continuous sign-up is available in the FSA fact sheet "Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Sign-up."

Eligible Producers

To be eligible for CRP enrollment, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to close of the CRP sign-up period, unless:

- The new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death;
- The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right or redemption in accordance with state law; or
- The circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not require the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

Eligible Land

To be eligible for placement in CRP, land must be either:

- Cropland (including field margins) that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity 4 of the previous 6 crop years from 2002 to 2007, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity; or
- Certain marginal pastureland that is suitable for use as a riparian buffer or for similar water quality purposes.

Additional Cropland Requirements

In addition to the eligible land requirements, cropland must meet one of the following criteria:

Have a weighted average erosion index of 8 or higher;

- Be expiring CRP acreage; or
- Be located in a national or state CRP conservation priority area.

CRP Payments

FSA provides CRP participants with annual rental payments, including certain incentive payments, and cost-share assistance:

- Rental Payments - In return for establishing long-term, resource-conserving covers, FSA provides annual rental payments to participants. FSA bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average dry land cash rent or cash-rent equivalent. The maximum CRP rental rate for each

offer is calculated in advance of enrollment. Producers may offer land at that rate or offer a lower rental rate to increase the likelihood that their offer will be accepted.

- Maintenance Incentive Payments - For certain continuous signup practices, CRP annual rental payments may include an additional amount up to \$5 per acre per year as an incentive to perform certain maintenance obligations.
- Cost-share Assistance - FSA provides cost-share assistance to participants who establish approved cover on eligible cropland. The cost-share assistance can be an amount not more than 50 percent of the participants' costs in establishing approved practices.
- Other Incentives - FSA may offer additional financial incentives of up to 20 percent of the annual payment for certain continuous sign-up practices.

Ranking CRP Offers

Offers for CRP contracts are ranked according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA collects data for each of the EBI factors based on the relative environmental benefits for the land offered. Each eligible offer is ranked in comparison to all other offers and selections made from that ranking. FSA uses the following EBI factors to assess the environmental benefits for the land offered:

- Wildlife habitat benefits resulting from covers on contract acreage;
- Water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff, and leaching;
- On-farm benefits from reduced erosion;
- Benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period;
- Air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion; and
- Cost.

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA – MASSACHUSETTS)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov

Westford Service Center
319 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886
978-692-1904 ext. 3



About Massachusetts NRCS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a federal agency that works hand-in-hand with the people of Massachusetts to improve and protect their soil, water and other natural resources. For decades, private landowners have voluntarily worked with NRCS specialists to prevent erosion, improve water quality and promote sustainable agriculture.

NRCS employs soil conservationists, soil scientists, agronomists, biologists, engineers, geologists and resource planners. These experts help landowners develop conservation plans, create and restore wetlands, restore and manage other natural ecosystems as well as advise on stormwater remediation, nutrient and animal waste management and watershed planning.

NRCS, formerly called the Soil Conservation Service, was initially focused on preventing soil erosion on America's farmland. Over the years Americans have become concerned with a broader array of natural resource issues. In response, NRCS has broadened its technical services in order to provide science-based solutions to address America's ever-changing environmental concerns. While farmers remain the primary client of NRCS, the agency also provides technical assistance to city planners, watershed groups, state and local governments, civic organizations and individual homeowners.

Our Mission: Helping people help the land.

Our Vision: Productive lands, healthy environment.

Programs:

- **Agricultural Management Assistance**

Contact: Program Manager: Deborah Johnson Hawk: deb.johnson@ma.usda.gov 413-235-4368
or
Westford Service Center
319 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886
978-692-1904 ext. 3

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) provides cost share assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farming operations.

In Massachusetts, cost-share is available to producers for drought mitigation. Program participants may develop or improve sources of irrigation water supply, construct new or reorganize irrigation delivery systems on existing cropland to mitigate the risk of drought. Incentive payments are available to encourage producers to adopt irrigation water management.

Bay State farmers are encouraged to sign-up for AMA by May 15th. For more information, contact your local NRCS office or USDA Service Center, listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture, or on the web at <http://offices.usda.gov>. Additional information about NRCS programs in Massachusetts can be found at www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov.

AMA, administered by NRCS, is a voluntary conservation program available in states where participation in the Federal Crop Insurance Program is historically low. Massachusetts is one of 15 states that will receive a total \$14 million in AMA funding this fiscal year.

- **Conservation Stewardship Program**

Contact: Program Manager Barbara Miller, State Resource Conservationist: barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov 413-253-4380
or
Westford Service Center
319 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886
978-692-1904 ext. 3

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by:

- Undertaking additional conservation activities; and
- Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land in all 50 states and the Caribbean and Pacific Islands areas. The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location.

Program Description

Through CSP, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest lands, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land used for the production of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. Participation in the program is voluntary.

CSP encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land. NRCS will make CSP available nationwide on a continuous application basis.

The State Conservationist, in consultation with the State Technical Committee and local work groups, will focus program impacts on natural resources that are of specific concern for a state, or the specific geographic areas within a state. Applications will be evaluated relative to other applications addressing similar priority resource concerns to facilitate a competitive ranking process among applicants within a state who face similar resource challenges.

The entire operation must be enrolled and must include all eligible land that will be under the applicant's control for the term of the proposed contract that is operated substantially separate from other operations.

CSP offers participants two possible types of payments:

- 1) Annual payment for installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities
- 2) Supplemental payment for the adoption of resource-conserving crop rotations

Available for download at www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov :

CSP Fact Sheet

CSP Final Rule: Federal Register, June 2010

Changes to CSP Final Rule: June 2010

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

Contact: Program Manager: Deborah Johnson Hawk: deb.johnson@ma.usda.gov 413-235-4368

or

Westford Service Center
319 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886
978-692-1904 ext. 3

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and forest land owners who want to improve and protect the condition of soil, water, air, plants and animals.

NRCS provides financial compensation for part of the cost of establishing and maintaining conservation practices that improve the natural resources on your land.

Applications are accepted year-round, but are ranked and funded periodically. Check the website again, or call your local NRCS office for the next ranking cut-off date.

EQIP High Tunnel Pilot Project - NRCS is conducting a three-year high tunnel, pilot project. Agricultural producers can apply to receive financial and technical assistance to help NRCS test the conservation benefits and effects of high tunnels (also known as hoop houses) in practical, real-world situations.

EQIP Organic Initiative - NRCS is now offering technical and financial assistance for conservation practices related to organic production through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Organic Initiative.

Please contact your [local NRCS office](#) to start the planning and application process.

Current application materials, a list of eligible conservation practices and payment rates are on the application materials & documents page.

Please contact your local NRCS office to start the planning and application process.

How EQIP Works in Massachusetts - State and national environmental priorities

Application ranking, selection and funding is managed at a statewide level in Massachusetts. All applications are competitively ranked in statewide pools based on resource concerns, cost effectiveness and how well the proposed project meets national, state and local priorities of the program.

All of the applications received statewide will be evaluated using the ranking criteria for that pool.

National EQIP priorities:

- Reduction of non-point source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides or contaminants from point sources such as confined animal feeding operations in impaired watersheds and other groundwater and surface water resources.
- Conservation of ground and surface water resources, such as inefficient use of irrigation water.
- Reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of national Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation.
- Emphasis on certain conservation practices, including residue management, nutrient management, air quality management, invasive species management, pollinator habitat, and animal carcass management technology or pest management.
- Promotion of energy conservation and organic production.

Massachusetts EQIP priorities:

- Water quality & conservation
- Soil quality & Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Invasive species control
- Wildlife & pollinator habitat
- Sustainable forests
- Organic farming
- Air quality & energy

Funding pools for EQIP :

This year, EQIP applications will be assigned to one of five funding pools for competitive ranking and selection.

- General EQIP
- Organic farming
- Air quality
- Planning - (Forest management plans)
- Historically underserved populations
- Beginning farmers
- Socially disadvantaged farmers
- Tribal lands

- **Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program**

Contact: Program Manager Barbara Miller, State Resource Conservationist: 413-235-4380
barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) provides funds to purchase the development rights to farmland, preserving productive farmland for agricultural use. Working through existing programs, USDA joins with state, tribal or local governments to acquire conservation easements from landowners. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value.

To qualify, farmland must be part of a pending offer from a state, tribe or local farmland protection program; be privately owned; have a conservation plan; be large enough to sustain agricultural production; be accessible to markets for what the land produces; have adequate infrastructure and agricultural support services and have surrounding parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production. Depending on availability of funds, proposals must be submitted by a government entity to the NRCS State Office during the sign-up period.

Program information Available for download at www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov:

Fact Sheet

Key Points

Questions and Answers

Program Description

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program in Massachusetts

- **Grassland Reserve Program**

Contact: Program Manager Thomas Akin, Conservation Agronomist: 413-253-4365
thomas.akin@ma.usda.gov

or

Barbara Miller, State Resource Conservationist: 413-235-4380 barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov

Introduction

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary conservation program that emphasizes support for working grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity, and protection of grassland under threat of conversion to other uses.

Participants voluntarily limit future development and cropping uses of the land while retaining the right to conduct common grazing practices and operations related to the production of forage and seeding, subject to certain restrictions during nesting seasons of bird species that are in significant decline or are protected under Federal or State law. A grazing management plan is required for participants.

Program Information Available for download at www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov:

Massachusetts Eligible Practices and Payment Portrait - 2011

Massachusetts Practice Guide Notes - 2011

Massachusetts Ranking Tool - 2011

GRP Final Rule Published November 29, 2010 in the Federal Register

GRP Fact Sheet

GRP At-A-Glance

GRP Key Points

2009 Finding of No Significant Impact

2009 Environmental Assessment

- **Wetlands Reserve Program**

Contact: Program Manager Beth Schreier: beth.schrteier@ma.usda.gov 413-253-4393

or

Westford Service Center
319 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886
978-692-1904 ext. 3

Applications are accepted year-round, but are ranked and funded periodically. Contact your local NRCS office.

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore, protect and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture.

With WRP, landowners can:

- receive compensation for conservation easements and/or wetland restoration
- eliminate the difficulties of farming wet marginal land
- provide water quality improvements, wildlife habitat and more

NRCS will provide compensation for part of the cost of establishing and maintaining conservation practices that enhance and improve wildlife habitat and restoring natural ecosystems.

Program information available for download:

A Landowner's Guide to the Wetlands Reserve Program (Massachusetts)

- **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program**

Contact: Program Manager Beth Schreier: beth.schreier@ma.usda.gov 413-253-4393
or
Westford Service Center
319 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886
978-692-1904 ext. 3

Applications are accepted year-round, but are ranked and funded periodically. Contact your local NRCS office for the next ranking cut-off date.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to people who want to improve fish and wildlife habitat or restore natural ecosystems on their land. NRCS will provide compensation for part of the cost of establishing and maintaining conservation practices that are necessary for enhancing and improving wildlife habitat and restoring natural ecosystems. Please contact your local NRCS office to start the planning and application process.

READ MORE

All the following are available for download from: www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/news/publications.html

A Guide to the 2008 Farm Bill Conservation Programs in Massachusetts

Program brochures

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Massachusetts

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) in Massachusetts

Fact Sheets

Programs and Practices for Forest Land in Massachusetts

Programs and Practices for Grassland Bird Habitat

Programs and Practices for Organic Farmers in Massachusetts

Programs and Practices for Wood Turtle Habitat in Massachusetts

Approved Practice List

Cranberry Ranking

Data Collection Worksheet

Ranking Irrigation and Planning

AMA in Massachusetts brochure

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Massachusetts

Other programs

[Emergency Watershed Protection \(EWP\) brochure](#)

[Massachusetts RC&D fact sheet](#)

[Small Watershed Program](#)

General Conservation Information

[Conservation Technical Assistance in Massachusetts](#)

[Massachusetts Conservation Districts - Working to Conserve the Natural Resources of Massachusetts](#)

[Partners in Conservation - Serving Massachusetts Landowners](#)

Agricultural Conservation Practices

[Alley Cropping](#)

[Contour Buffer Strips](#)

[Crosswind Trap Strips](#)

[Field Borders](#)

[Filter Strips](#)

[Grassed Waterway/Vegetated Filter System](#)

[Herbaceous Wind Barriers](#)

[Nutrient Management](#)

[Residue Management: Mulch Till](#)

[Residue Management: No Till and Strip Till](#)

[Riparian Forest Buffer](#)

[Sustainable Grasslands](#)

[Vegetative Barriers](#)

[Windbreak/Shelterbelt](#)

Backyard Conservation Practices

[Massachusetts Native Trees and Wildflowers](#)

[Massachusetts Native Shrubs and Grasses](#)

[Backyard Ponds](#)

[Composting](#)

[Mulching](#)

[Nutrient Management](#)

[Pest Management](#)

[Terracing](#)

[Tree Planting](#)

[Water Conservation](#)

[Wetlands](#)

[Wildlife Habitat](#)

Other Publications

Earth Team brochure

Soil Surveys

US Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

(UMASS EXTENSION – Center for Agriculture)

<http://extension.umass.edu/index.php/in-your-community/northeastern>

Northeast Offices:

Boston:

Nutrition Education Program Greater Boston Office

56-R Roland St.

Boston, MA 02129

617-628-5607



Waltham:

4-H Program Office

240 Beaver St.

Waltham, MA 02452

(Middlesex) 781-891-0650

Lawrence:

Nutrition Education Program Office

Family Service Building

430 North Canal St. #2

Lawrence, MA 01840.

978-689-4744

- **Agriculture & Landscape Program**
UMASS EXTENSION – Center for Agriculture

Kathleen Carroll, Program Director

French Hall

230 Stockbridge Road

University of Massachusetts

Amherst, MA 01003-9316

(413) 545-0895

The mission of the UMass Extension Agriculture and Landscape Program is to serve the public good by helping agriculturists and communities develop and sustain ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially

responsible agricultural production, education and marketing systems through participatory research and education.

The focus of the program is to work in partnership with individual agricultural businesses and industries. Agriculture and Landscape staff and faculty focus their expertise and resources to help develop and apply new technologies and practices that meet the public demand for safe, high quality food and a clean living environment, and facilitate public education and dialogue on agricultural issues between the agricultural and nonagricultural communities.

The public served by the Agriculture and Landscape Program includes people who produce, as well as those who use the products of farming, green industries, and managed green spaces. They include: agricultural producers and related businesses; green industry and related services; public agencies and private organizations with agricultural interests; local, regional and state government and citizens.

The issues of critical importance for the Agriculture and Landscape Program include three major societal concerns which affect the agricultural and nonagricultural communities: agricultural research and education focused on the development of profitable and environmentally-friendly production and management technologies; efficient management of resources, land and waste; and increased community and agriculture interactions.

- **Natural Resources & Environmental Conservation Program**

- **UMASS EXTENSION – Center for Agriculture**

Scott Jackson, Program Director
Holdsworth Natural Resources Center
160 Holdsworth Way
University of Massachusetts
Amherst MA 01003-9285
(413) 545-4300

The mission of the Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (NREC) program is to provide educational programs and materials that enable people to make informed decisions and take action to preserve or enhance the quality, productivity and sustainability of natural resources and natural systems.

The goals of the NREC program are to:

- Strengthen the capacity within communities to identify and effectively address natural resource issues through education, training and technical assistance
- Provide a mechanism for information exchange between the research community and those engaged in conservation
- Provide comprehensive continuing education and training programs for local officials, natural resource professionals and educators
- Facilitate communication and partnerships among various individuals, groups, and agencies engaged in conservation and environmental education

The public with which NREC strives to be involved includes: local officials (planning boards, conservation commissions and boards of health); natural resource professionals; educators; conservation organizations, natural resource-based businesses (timber harvesting, marine aquaculture); community opinion leaders; and state and federal agencies involved in conservation and environmental education.

The issues which form the basis of research and education within the program include:

- Watershed planning and management
- Wetlands and water resources protection
- Fish, wildlife and biodiversity conservation
- Forest stewardship
- Marine aqua-culture

- Environmental education
- Land use planning and management

- **Nutrition Education Program**
UMASS EXTENSION – Center for Agriculture

Director: Jean Anliker, PhD, RD, LDN janliker@nutrition.umass.edu

UMass Extension Nutrition Education Program
Department of Nutrition
206A Chenoweth Lab
100 Holdsworth Way
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(413) 545-1693

The mission of the Nutrition Education Program (NEP) is to provide individuals, families and communities with the knowledge and skills that empower them to make informed choices about healthy diets, to reduce risks of foodborne illness and chronic disease, and to efficiently manage food resources that support their physiological health and economic and social well-being.

The issues addressed by NEP activities include: promotion of Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Food Guide Pyramid; prevention of chronic disease; reduction of obesity; prevention of foodborne illness; increasing awareness of food safety concerns; improvement of nutritional status of limited-resource children and adults; and increasing collaboration among nutrition education programs.

The public served through NEP programming includes limited-resource families with children; pregnant and/or parenting teens; youth and elderly. In addition it also serves professionals in community agencies and food handlers in settings such as food pantries, homeless shelters, senior meal sites, community-based group homes, and school food service units.

The purposes of the four research-based programs that make up NEP are: nutrition education for limited-resource families with young children (the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, EFNEP); nutrition education for adult and youth food stamp participants and those eligible for food stamps (the Family Nutrition Program, FNP); nutrition education and training for educators, caregivers and agency staff serving children, youth and elderly (the Nutrition and Health Program); and food safety education and training for consumers and food workers in child and elder care, school food service, and community agencies (the Food Safety Program).

APPENDICES

MDAR Staff Directory

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General Laws, , Statutes, Regulations Affecting Agriculture

GENERAL LAWS OF MASSACHUSETTS

This compilation is a reference for pertinent topics covered by the General Laws and other regulations. Text is shown for a few sections of importance; for all other references, the related text can be found at www.malegislature.gov/Laws/Search - **in the event of a question or uncertainty, please consult an attorney.**

CHAPTER 128: AGRICULTURE

Section 1. Definitions

The following words as used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context otherwise requires: öCommissionerö, the commissioner of agricultural resources. öDepartmentö, the department of agricultural resources. öDirectorö, in sections 16 to 31A, inclusive, the director of the division of regulatory services in the department of agricultural resources. öInspectorö, in sections thirty-two to thirty-eight, inclusive, the inspector of apiaries. öNursery stockö, trees, shrubs, woody plants and strawberry plants, whether wild or cultivated, and parts thereof for propagation. öRiding school operatorö, any person owning or having the custody of one or more horses which are let for hire to be ridden or driven, with or without the furnishing of riding or driving instructions. öTrusteesö, the trustees for county cooperative extension service.

Chapter 128: Section 1A. Farming, agriculture, farmer; definitions

öFarmingö or öagricultureö shall include farming in all of its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil, dairying, the production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural or horticultural commodities, the growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land, the raising of livestock including horses, the keeping of horses as a commercial enterprise, the keeping and raising of poultry, swine, cattle and other domesticated animals used for food purposes, bees, fur-bearing animals, and any forestry or lumbering operations, performed by a farmer, who is hereby defined as one engaged in agriculture or farming as herein defined, or on a farm as an incident to or in conjunction with such farming operations, including preparations for market, delivery to storage or to market or to carriers for transportation to market.

Section 2: Powers and duties of department of agriculture.

Sections 2A-2D: equine activities

Section 2E: “pick your own” and Christmas tree cutting liability

Section 8A: control of foxes and rodents

Section 8B: mink ranches

Sections 9-11: demonstration sheep farms

Sections 12-15: dairying

Sections 16-31A: plant pest control

Sections 32-38: apiaries, honey, maple syrup

Sections 38A, 38B: fairs

Sections 40-45: County Cooperative Extension Services

Sections 46-51: agricultural and horticultural societies

Sections 52-62: regulations regarding feed

Sections 63-81: regulations on fertilizer

Sections 82-101: regulations on seed

Sections 102-115: marketing agreements

CHAPTER 40A: ZONING

Section 3. Subjects which zoning may not regulate; exemptions; public hearings; temporary manufactured home residences

Section 3. No zoning ordinance or by-law shall regulate or restrict the use of materials, or methods of construction of structures regulated by the state building code, nor shall any such ordinance or by-law prohibit, unreasonably regulate, or require a special permit for the use of land for the primary purpose of commercial agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture, horticulture, floriculture or viticulture, nor prohibit, unreasonably regulate or require a special permit for the use, expansion, reconstruction or construction of structures thereon for the primary purpose of commercial agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture, horticulture, floriculture or viticulture, including those facilities for the sale of produce, wine and dairy products, provided that either during the months of June, July, August and September of each year or during the harvest season of the primary crop raised on land of the owner or lessee, 25 per cent of such products for sale, based on either gross sales dollars or volume, have been produced by the owner or lessee of the land on which the facility is located, or at least 25 per cent of such products for sale, based on either gross annual sales or annual volume, have been produced by the owner or lessee of the land on which the facility is located and at least an additional 50 per cent of such products for sale, based upon either gross annual sales or annual volume, have been produced in Massachusetts on land other than that on which the facility is located, used for the primary purpose of commercial agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture, horticulture, floriculture or viticulture, whether by the owner or lessee of the land on which the facility is located or by another, except that all such activities may be limited to parcels of 5 acres or more in area not zoned for agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture, horticulture, floriculture or viticulture. For such purposes, land divided by a public or private way or a waterway shall be construed as 1 parcel. No zoning ordinance or by-law shall exempt land or structures from flood plain or wetlands regulations established pursuant to the General Laws. For the purposes of this section, the term "agriculture" shall be as defined in section 1A of chapter 128, and the term horticulture shall include the growing and keeping of nursery stock and the sale thereof. Said nursery stock shall be considered to be produced by the owner or lessee of the land if it is nourished, maintained and managed while on the premises.

CHAPTER 90: MOTOR VEHICLES AND AIRCRAFT

Section 9. Operation of unregistered or improperly equipped motor vehicles, tractors, trailers, etc.

No person shall operate, push, draw or tow any motor vehicle or trailer, and the owner or custodian of such a vehicle shall not permit the same to be operated, pushed, drawn or towed upon or to remain upon any way except as authorized by section three, unless such vehicle is registered in accordance with this chapter and carries its register number displayed as provided in section six, and, in the case of a motor vehicle, is equipped as provided in section seven. A motor vehicle which is being towed or drawn by a motor vehicle designed to draw or tow such vehicles need not be so registered if (a) the towing vehicle is properly registered and displays a valid repair plate issued pursuant to section five, (b) said towing vehicle maintains insurance which also provides coverage for the motor vehicle being towed, and (c) said towing vehicle has been issued a certificate by the department of telecommunications and energy pursuant to paragraph (b) of section three of chapter one hundred and fifty-nine B. A tractor, trailer or truck may be operated without such registration upon any way for a distance not exceeding one-half mile, if said tractor, trailer or truck is used exclusively for agricultural purposes, or between one-half mile and two miles if said tractor, trailer or truck is used exclusively for agricultural purposes and the owner thereof maintains in full force a policy of liability insurance which conforms to the provisions of section one hundred and thirteen A of chapter one hundred and seventy-five or for a distance not exceeding three hundred yards, if such tractor, trailer or truck is used for industrial purposes other than agricultural purposes, for the purpose of going from property owned or occupied by the owner of such tractor, trailer or truck to other property so owned or occupied. A new automobile being delivered to a dealer by means of a tractor and trailer may be unloaded on a public way and driven by the person so delivering or his agents or servants without such registration to a dealer's premises over a public way for a distance not exceeding three hundred feet provided that the person so delivering, with respect to such new automobile, shall have filed with the registrar a motor vehicle liability policy or bond in compliance with the provisions of this chapter. A motor vehicle designed for the carrying of golf clubs and not more than four persons may be operated without such registration upon any way if such motor vehicle is being used solely for the purpose of going from one part of the property of said golf course, provided that the owner of such motor vehicle shall have filed with the registrar a public liability policy or bond providing for the payment of damages to any person to the amount provided by section thirty-four A due to injuries sustained as a result of the operation of such vehicle. A motor vehicle owned by a cemetery may be operated without such registration upon any way if such motor vehicle is being used solely for the purpose of going from one part of the property of a cemetery to another part of the property of said cemetery, provided that such vehicle shall not travel more than one mile on any public way and the owner of such motor vehicle shall have filed with the registrar a public liability policy or bond providing for the payment of damages to any person to the amount provided by section thirty-four A due to injuries sustained as a result of the operation of such vehicle. An earth-moving vehicle used exclusively for the building, repair and maintenance of highways which exceed the dimensions or weight limits imposed by section nineteen and the weight limits imposed by section thirty of chapter eighty-five may be operated without such registration for a distance not exceeding three hundred yards on any way adjacent to any highway or toll road being constructed, relocated or improved under contract with the commonwealth or any agency or political subdivision thereof or by a public instrumentality, provided that a permit authorizing the operation of such a vehicle in excess of the stated weight or dimension limits has been issued by the commissioner of highways or the board or officer having charge of such way, and provided that such earth-moving vehicle shall be operated under such permit only when directed by an officer authorized to direct traffic at the location where such earth-moving vehicle is being operated. The operation of such an earth-moving vehicle shall conform to any terms or conditions set forth in such permit, and any person to whom any such permit is issued shall provide indemnity for his operation by means of a motor vehicle liability policy or bond conforming to the requirements of this chapter and shall furnish a certificate conforming to the requirements of section thirty-four A with each such application for a permit. Violation of this section shall not be deemed to render the motor vehicle or trailer a nuisance or any person a trespasser upon a way and shall not constitute a defense to, or prevent a recovery in, an action of tort for injuries suffered by a person, or for the death of a person,

or for damage to property, unless such violation by the person injured or killed or sustaining the damage was in fact a proximate cause of such injury, death or damage, but violation of this section shall be deemed evidence of negligence on the part of the violator. A motor vehicle or trailer shall be deemed to be registered in accordance with this chapter notwithstanding any mistake in so much of the description thereof contained in the application for registration or in the certificate required to be filed under section thirty-four B as relates to the type of such vehicle or trailer or to the identifying number or numbers required by the registrar or any mistake in the statement of residence of the applicant contained in said application or certificate. A person convicted of a violation of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars for the first offense and not more than one thousand dollars for any subsequent offense.

CHAPTER 111: PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

Section 125A. Review of order adjudging the operation of a farm to be a nuisance

If, in the opinion of the board of health, a farm or the operation thereof constitutes a nuisance, any action taken by said board to abate or cause to be abated said nuisance under sections one hundred and twenty-two, one hundred and twenty-three and one hundred and twenty-five shall, notwithstanding any provisions thereof to the contrary, be subject to the provisions of this section; provided, however, that the odor from the normal maintenance of livestock or the spreading of manure upon agricultural and horticultural or farming lands, or noise from livestock or farm equipment used in normal, generally acceptable farming procedures or from plowing or cultivation operations upon agricultural and horticultural or farming lands shall not be deemed to constitute a nuisance.

In the case of any such nuisance a written notice of an order to abate the same within ten days after receipt of such notice shall first be given as provided in section one hundred and twenty-four. If no petition for review is filed as herein provided, or upon final order of the court, said board may then proceed as provided in said sections one hundred and twenty-two, one hundred and twenty-three and one hundred and twenty-five, or in the order of the court. If the owner or operator of said farm within said ten days shall file a petition for a review of such order in the district court for the district in which the farm lies, the operation of said order shall be suspended, pending the order of the court. Upon the filing of such petition the court shall give notice thereof to said board, shall hear all pertinent evidence and determine the facts, and upon the facts as so determined review said order and affirm, annul, alter or modify the same as justice may require. The parties shall have the same rights of appeal on questions of law as in other civil cases in the district courts.

OTHER STATUTES: www.mass.gov/agr/legal/statutes/index.htm

Chapter 129: Animal Health

Chapter 40L: Agricultural Incentive Areas

**Chapter 184: General Provisions Relative to Real Property
(includes Agricultural Preservation Areas – APR's)**

Chapter 61A: Assessment and Taxation of Agricultural and Horticultural Land

Chapter 184: General Provisions relative to Real Property (includes Conservation Easement Restrictions)

Chapter 79: Eminent Domain (agricultural limitation)

Section 5B. No property used for agriculture or farming as defined in section one A of chapter one hundred and twenty-eight shall be taken without the consent of the owner thereof, nor shall an easement be taken on such property without such consent, except after a hearing by the board at which such owner shall be entitled to be heard and allowed to introduce evidence that other land not used for agriculture or farming, as so defined, and without occupied buildings situated thereon is available for the public use for which it is intended to take his property. If such evidence is introduced and accepted by the board as valid, the board shall exempt said property from the taking. The provisions of this section shall not apply to takings in behalf of the commonwealth, takings for highway purposes, nor to takings authorized by the department of telecommunications and energy, except that in such takings notices of hearings required by section seventy-two of chapter one hundred and sixty-four shall be sent to all interested parties

Chapter 40A: Zoning (includes limitations on local government regulation/zoning)

Chapter 243: Actions on Private Nuisances (includes right-to-farm, generally accepted agricultural & management practices)

Chapter 20: Department of Food and Agriculture

Chapter 132B: Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES (MDAR) REGULATIONS www.mass.gov/agr/legal/regs/index.htm

ANIMALS

330 CMR 10.00 Prevention of the Spread of Rabies

330 CMR 3.00 Importation of Dogs

330 CMR 4.00 Cattle

330 CMR 5.00 Poultry

330 CMR 11.00 Swine

330 CMR 8.00 Apiary Inspection

330 CMR 16.00 Horses

330 CMR 20.00 Guard Dog

330 CMR 12.00 Licensing and Operation of Pet Shops

FAIRS

330 CMR 7.00 Fairs

FARM PRODUCTS/PLANT INDUSTRIES; PET FOOD & FEED

330 CMR 13.00 Pet Food

330 CMR 14.00 Manufacture, Sale & Distribution of Commercial Food other than Pet Food

FERTILIZER/LIME/COMPOST

330 CMR 15.00 Commercial Fertilizer & Lime

330 CMR 25.00 Agricultural Composting Program

SEEDS, PLANTS, VEGETABLES

330 CMR 6.00 Seeds, Apples, Potatoes

330 CMR 9.00 Plant Quarantine

MILK

330 CMR 27.00 Standards & Sanitation Requirements for Grade A Raw Milk

330 CMR 28.00 Milk and Milk Products

331 CMR 7.00 Determination of Milk Fat Content in Milk or Cream

330 CMR 21.00 Supervision of Milk Pricing and Supply

LAND USE

330 CMR 18.00 Land Use

PESTICIDES

333 CMR Pesticide Board

333 CMR 2.00 General Description

333 CMR 3.00 Conduct of Business by the Pesticide Board and the Subcommittee

333 CMR 4.00 Advisory Councils to the Pesticide Board

333 CMR 7.00 State Experimental Use Permits

333 CMR 8.00 Registration of Pesticide Products

333 CMR 9.00 Licensing of Pesticide Dealers

333 CMR 10.00 Standard Requirements & Procedures for the Certification & Licensing of Pesticide Applicators

333 CMR 11.00 Standards for the Implementation of the Integrated Pest Management Techniques & Rights of Way Maintenance Plans

333 CMR 12.00 Prevention of Non-Point Source Contamination of Drinking Water Supplies

333 CMR 13.00 Standards, Requirements and Procedures for the Application of Pesticides

