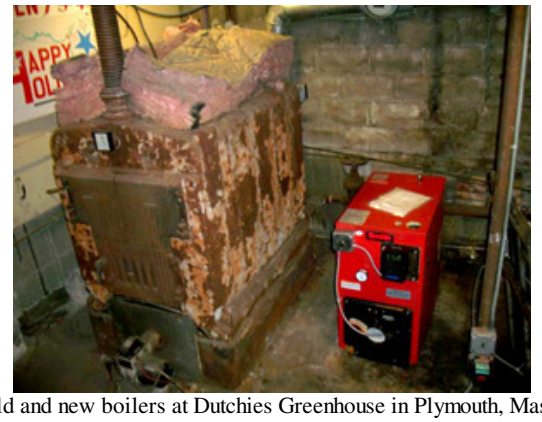
Massachusetts Farm Energy Program
August, 2014

Why Contact the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program?



Old and new boilers at Dutchies Greenhouse in Plymouth, Mass.

Are You A Farm Interested In...

- Saving money?
- Replacing an old, inefficient heating system?
- Installing energy efficient lighting, fans or motors?
- Insulating your building?
- Using solar energy for your hot water or electricity?

CONTACT the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program staff TODAY! We'll walk you through the steps to get EXPERT ASSISTANCE and FUNDING too!

Call 413-727-3090
E-mail us at info@massfarmenergy.com
OR
Visit our website: www.massfarmenergy.com, submit a Request Form and **WE will contact YOU**.

Solar panels on barn roof

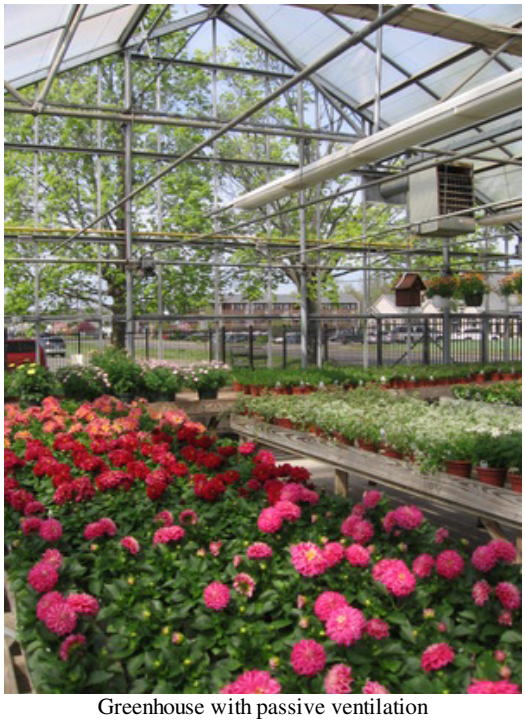
Have You Heard?
Food Safety Grant Program Applications are Due August 20

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is inviting applications from agricultural operations for the Department's **Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program (AFSIP)**

- The purpose of AFSIP is to support produce and aquaculture operations in implementing enhanced food safety measures, to help reduce food safety risks and minimize microbial contamination and food-borne illnesses – and thus helping operations maintain or increase their market access.
- AFSIP is a competitive, reimbursement grant program that funds projects up to $20,000 or 75% of project costs.
- This round of funding has an application deadline of August 20, 2014 and projects must be completed by June 30, 2015.
- AFSIP grant applications are available at www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/about/divisions/afsip.html.

Summer Tips for Saving Energy and Money

Passive Ventilation for Greenhouses


Greenhouse with passive ventilation

Did you know that growers operating greenhouses in the summertime - when ventilation is a constant need – are able to **cut energy costs by replacing mechanical ventilation with natural air exchange?**

Natural Ventilation
Natural ventilation uses wall and roof openings in both rigid and film-glazed greenhouses for air circulation and exchange, rather than motorized fans. This set-up relies on pressure differences created by wind and temperature gradients. Sidewall ventilation may be sufficient, or a combination of sidewall and roof ventilation can be used to maximize airflow. It is not recommended to use roof ventilation alone.

Energy Savings and Payback
Natural ventilation may pay for itself in as little as four years. Energy and cost savings are maximized when:

1. Little or no mechanical ventilation is used to supplement natural ventilation
2. Natural ventilation is designed into new greenhouses rather than installed as a retrofit

Greenhouse with passive roof ventilation

Visit our website for more detail about Passive Ventilation for Greenhouses. Visit the Energy Efficiency Tips for Farms section of our Massachusetts Farm Energy website for lots of other good information about ways to save energy (and money!)