



Massachusetts Farm Energy Program November, 2014

Why Should You Contact the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program?



Calves on the Gunn Farm in Sunderland

Have You Heard?

The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program provides up to \$5000 in technical and financial assistance – and information and referrals to help you evaluate and install energy efficient and renewable energy measures that can help you:

- Save money
- Replace your old, inefficient heating system
- Install energy efficient lighting, fans, or refrigeration
- Insulate your building
- Use solar energy for your hot water or electricity
- And MORE!

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.**

News

NRCS Deadlines

The deadlines for farms applying for an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (Ag EMP) from the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are:

12/19/14

2/20/15

Applications should be submitted to your local NRCS office prior to these dates, as the listed deadlines are when all the paperwork must be submitted to the main NRCS office.

EQIP Applications

EQIP applications are accepted continually, but applicants are encouraged to apply early so that eligibility can be determined and conservation plans developed quickly.

All Agricultural Energy Management Plans & audits will be funded as they come in, so there's no need to wait. Apply now, as funding is limited!

If you have any questions, [contact your local NRCS field office.](#)



Green Energy Tour, including a roof-mounted photovoltaic system and super insulated cold storage, at Winter Moon Farm in Hadley

Commonwealth Solar Program

The Commonwealth Solar II rebate program is scheduled to permanently end soon!

As a result of higher-than-anticipated demand associated with the end of this program, the \$3 million that was initially allocated is fully subscribed... But, given that the funding depletion happened

earlier than expected, MassCEC has obtained approval for an additional \$3 million in funding to ensure the orderly close-out of the program.

This is the final funding allocation for the Commonwealth Solar II Rebate Program, which will end at the end of the fourth quarter 2014, or when the additional funds are fully reserved, whichever occurs earlier. This will enable the final funding block of the rebate program to remain open farther into the quarter, better coinciding with the Department of Energy Resources' residential solar loan program, anticipated to launch in early 2015.

In order to allow applicants to better manage the remaining funds that are available, MassCEC will immediately begin posting on their website the remaining amount of funding available on a daily basis, available at www.masscec.com/commsolar. If you have any questions, contact the MassCEC solar team at cs@masscec.com.

Tips for Saving Energy and Money: Higher Efficiency Refrigeration Systems



Cold Storage

Stay cool, stay fresh and save money with energy efficient refrigeration!

High Efficiency Refrigeration saves energy and money by cooling more effectively and maintaining the cool better. This is achieved via:

- **Energy efficient lighting**, that does not give off heat like traditional incandescent bulbs, including CFLs, CCFLs for dimmable or long life bulbs, tube fluorescents for use in coolers, storage areas, packing houses, shops, and retail spaces, and LEDs for use in cold storage due to their low BTU output and long life.
- **High efficiency fan motors**, which remove heat from the compressor more efficiently than traditional fan motors.
- **Improved insulation and heat loss design**, including gaskets on doors and openings, wall and ceiling insulation,

and foam-in-place rather than fiber insulation.

- **Heat recovery condensation control**, which utilizes heat recovered from refrigerant gas under the surface of openings and around the door seal to prevent sweating.
- **Outside air economizers**, which, in winter, use outside air for cooling instead of mechanical refrigeration.

For orchards and fruit and vegetable farms, refrigeration and lighting are major sources of energy use. Refrigeration typically uses the most energy and should be the highest priority in cutting costs, followed by lighting upgrades.

Take Steps TODAY to Save Energy and Money!

Orchards and fruit and vegetable growers, or anyone who uses refrigeration regularly, can decrease costs through energy conservation and efficiency. Here's how:

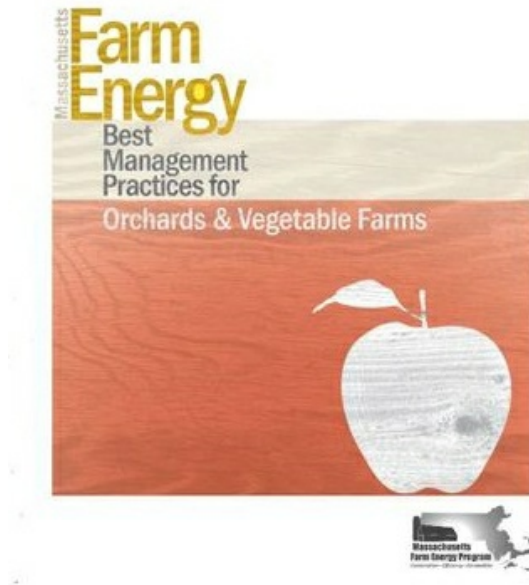
1. **Learn about best practices** – and what's most applicable to your operation. Check out our [Best Management Practices for Orchards and Vegetable Farms online](#).
2. **Have an energy audit** to determine the best, most cost-effective measures for your growing operation – based on existing conditions and equipment. An energy audit is especially recommended for older systems and seasonal operations to determine potential savings and worthwhile investments.
3. **Install recommended measures**
 - Begin with low and no-cost measures.
 - Get information about **grants and financial incentives available to help with cost-effective improvements, including renewable energy!** The good news is that there is funding to help pay for an energy audit and energy efficiency improvements!



Walk-in cooler with outside air economizer and high efficiency fans, at Mapleline Farm in Hadley

Visit the [Technical Resources section of our website](#) for more details about energy efficient refrigeration. Visit the [Energy Efficiency Tips for Farms](#) section for lots of other good information

about ways to save energy (and money!)



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