

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

September 2015



Improve Facilities While Reducing Energy Use & Costs on Your Farm

Contact the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program today!
We'll walk you through the steps to get expert assistance and funding.

Phone: 413-727-3090 • E-mail: info@massfarmenergy.com

Visit our website: www.massfarmenergy.com, submit a Request Form, and we will contact you!

Fall is Coming! Are You Ready?



Sidehill Farm, Hawley

Rural Energy For America Program (REAP) Information

Upcoming Deadlines

The next REAP deadline for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency grants and loan guarantees is October 31, 2015, for all project sizes. For more information on applying, [click here](#).

Workshops

Interested in grants for energy efficiency and renewable energy for your farm? Think about applying to REAP! The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program is conducting two information sessions about the [Rural Energy in America Program](#) this fall.

Workshops Details:

- **September 29** – 10am - 1pm, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, 101 University Drive Suite C4, Amherst, MA 01002
- **October 9** – 10am - 1pm, UMass Cranberry Station, 1 State Bog Road, East Wareham, MA 02538

Anne Correia of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will provide an overview of REAP grant guidelines and application requirements for farms, developers and grant writers interested in applying for

assistance with installing energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements. There will also be a step-by-step walkthrough of a sample application to give specific guidance to farmers and grant writers. This is intended to educate farmers, project developers and grant writers about REAP's offerings and the application process, which has recently changed.

Additionally, representatives from the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program will speak on the recent USDA RBDG grant award they received to provide technical assistance for REAP grant writing, as well as give insight on how the process will work for the upcoming REAP deadline.

We hope to see you there! To pre-register or receive further information, please contact Megan Denardo at the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program (MFEP) at 413-727-3090 or megan.denardo@cetonline.org



Gerry Palano presenting at a past MFEP solar workshop.

News

AgSTAR Website Redesign

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's AgSTAR program unveiled a new website design in June, starting with a new descriptor: AgSTAR: Biogas Recovery in the Agriculture Sector. The site features easy access to the AgSTAR database of almost 250 livestock manure digester projects, and how-to information on digester systems, permitting for codigestion and financing options. Another feature is AgSTAR's robust multilayer mapping tool that enables the user to locate anaerobic digesters using livestock waste; examine the potential for growth in the agriculture sector; identify and compare investments; find organizations related to the AgSTAR program; and compare state incentives, policies, standards and emissions. Visit the site at: www.epa.gov/agstar

DOER Announces Second Rural Electrification Program Opportunity Notice (PON)

DOER recently announced a second round of funding for assistance in “**Rural Electrification Upgrades for Renewable Energy Economic Development**”. The support is available only to businesses that are in defined “rural” regions, and only to support the cost of the electric interconnection (not the project itself). This opportunity is for renewable energy projects that meaningfully provide energy to a business, NOT stand-alone projects located in rural locations that export the bulk of the energy to the grid.

Click [this link](#) for more information, or contact Dwayne Breger if you have any questions:

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Tips for Saving Energy and Money: Low and No Energy Waterers



Although a reliable supply of drinking water for animals is critical in cold winter months, a water fountain or trough can cost up to several hundred dollars to operate since these are traditionally heated with an electric element to keep the water from freezing. One solution to this problem is energy efficient waterers, which have increased insulation to limit heat loss, reducing (or eliminating) the electricity required to keep the water from freezing. Closed waterers, where the top has a compressible lid that the animals must push down before drinking, provide an additional layer of insulation to prevent further heat loss and can be heating-element free if sized correctly to herd size and water usage. A low wattage heating element may be necessary for enclosed waterers if there is not enough turn-over of drinking water. (Water needs to keep moving through the valve and waterer to prevent freezing.)

A minimum of two to three inches of insulation is recommended for outdoor waterers, as well as locations in sheltered areas out of the wind to prevent convectional heat loss. An insulated tube shields incoming ground water from cold as it passes through the frost level and provides radiant warmth from the ground temperature. If a heating element is necessary, it is best to use a thermostatically controlled heater and adjust to just above freezing. The size of the element is not critical if it is thermostatically controlled, since it will take the same amount of energy to keep it above freezing. In either case, it will turn on and off as necessary.

If you're interested in installing energy efficient waterers on your farm, contact the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program today! Or, check out the [waterers section of our Best Management Practices](#).

Take Steps Today to Save Energy and Money! Here's how:

1. Learn about what's most applicable to your operation. Check out our [Best Management Practices](#) online.
2. Have an energy audit to determine the best, most cost-effective measures for your farm. An energy audit helps determine potential savings and worthwhile investments.
3. Install recommended efficient, cost effective measures. Begin with low and no-cost measures, and don't forget annual maintenance.
4. Get funding. Before you install measures, be sure to get information about grants and financial incentives available to help with cost effective improvements, including renewable energy.
5. Enjoy your savings!



Cooler envelope at West Parish Orchards in Westfield.

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