

# MFEP November 2015

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## Massachusetts Farm Energy Program November 2015



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### Don't Freeze Out Funding This Winter!

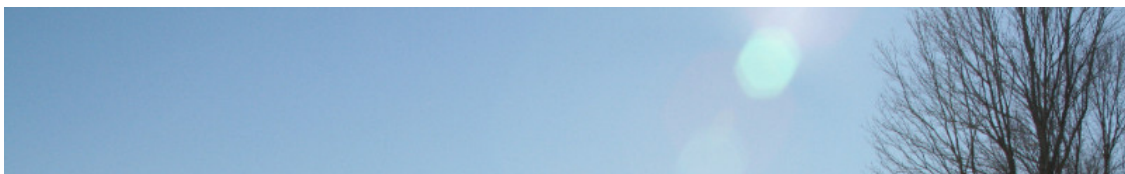
As the the colder weather sets in, consider what can be done while the ground waits to thaw. The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program is able to provide up to 75% of the cost of an energy audit. Audits are good for five years, and required for many grants.

Request yours now!

Phone: 413-727-3090 • E-mail: [info@massfarmenergy.com](mailto:info@massfarmenergy.com)

or

Visit our website: [www.massfarmenergy.com](http://www.massfarmenergy.com), submit a Request Form, and we will contact you!





Winter at Dickinson Farm, Granby

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## Rural Energy For America Program (REAP) Information

### Upcoming Deadlines

The next REAP deadline for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency grants and loan guarantees is April 30, 2016 for all project sizes. For more information on applying, [click here](#).

### REAP Application Assistance

Need help preparing your REAP application? The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program is able to provide it! Our program recently received a grant to help farms prepare their REAP applications, at no cost. But don't wait until the deadline approaches; REAP applications can be submitted any time, so contact us now!

## News & Events

### **MFBF Annual Meeting**

December 3 - 4, 2015

The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's 96th Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Middlesex County Farm Bureau. The 2015 meeting will be held on December 3rd & 4th at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Framingham, MA. For more information, please visit [this link](#).

### **Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) Winter Conference**

January 16, 2016

Join NOFA at Worcester State University for their annual one-day conference, which features 70 workshops and exhibitors, keynote speech with Ben Burkett, family farmer and coordinator of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, and more! For schedule and registration information, please visit [this link](#).

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## Tips for Saving Energy and Money: Efficient Heating



Gas-fired unit heater

As winter sets in, heat comes to the forefront of everyone's minds. No matter what heating requirements your farm may have, there are several types of heaters that can be used to meet them efficiently.

The standard unit heaters found on most farms have thermal efficiencies between 70–80%, but seasonal efficiency may be even lower due to the use of heated air for combustion or heated air escaping out of the flue when the heater is not firing. Comparatively, high efficiency gas unit heaters have an efficiency of 90% or greater; some are available in condensing type units that have an extra heat exchanger, which increases efficiency by about 10%.

There are several different types of high efficiency unit heaters, and prices vary based on the size of the unit and the manufacturer. Payback for a unit heater retrofit usually ranges from 1.6 to 4 years, and payback for a gas unit heater retrofit could be less than one or two heating seasons. Contact the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program today to get started on your heating project!





Example of an energy efficient heating system at work in a greenhouse

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### 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!

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