

# Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

January 2017



## New Year, New Funding is Here!

The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program has funds to help farms cover audits, energy efficiency projects, and select renewable energy projects. Contact us for more information, or to get started

now! The colder months are the perfect time to assess your energy use and determine which grants are best for your farm.

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

or

Visit our website: [www.massfarmenergy.com](http://www.massfarmenergy.com) and submit a [Request Form](#)



Solar Thermal Array at Smith's Country Cheese in Winchendon

## News & Events

### **A New REAP Funding Cycle Has Begun!**

The Rural Energy for America Program, or REAP, provides grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. The upcoming REAP deadline is March 31, 2017, and the time is ripe for REAP! For more information on applying [click](#)

[here](#), and if you would like help with your application, or to talk to the Mass Farm Energy Program about REAP, call 413-727-3790.

### **Send Us Your Photos!**

Would you like to see your farm featured in our newsletter? Send us your pictures, especially of any projects you've done or actions you've taken to increase energy efficiency, and you could see them here! Pictures can be sent to [megan.denardo@cetonline.org](mailto:megan.denardo@cetonline.org). Show other farmers across Massachusetts what you're doing to save energy, and help inspire others to do the same!

### **CISA Events**

CISA is hosting a plethora of exciting events and workshops in January and February, including a webinar on Understanding Farm Animal Welfare Certifications and several Winter Fares! For the full list and more details, [visit their events page](#).

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## **Grant Information & Deadlines**

### **Rural Energy For America Program (REAP)**

The next REAP deadline for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency grants and loan guarantees is **March 31, 2017**. For more information on applying, [click here](#). This process can take several weeks, so it's never too early to begin!

### **REAP Application Assistance**

Need help with your REAP application? The [Massachusetts Farm Energy Program](#) is able 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!](#)

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## **Spotlight on: New Massachusetts Farm Energy Program Funding**



John Lebeaux, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, speaking about the Mass Farm Energy Program. "Our number one mission is to help commercial agriculture in Massachusetts."

New funding from the United States Department of Agriculture will support the work of the MFEP. The USDA has awarded a \$33,000 Rural Business Development Grant to MFEP, which will be used to provide information, funding assistance, and technical assistance to farms that wish to improve their energy efficiency and reduce operating costs.

The funding was announced by MDAR Commissioner John Lebeaux on January 6 at [Smith's Country Cheese](#) in Winchendon. In 2016, Smith's installed a solar thermal array with funding from the the USDA's REAP and NRCS programs, MDAR's Agricultural Energy Grant Program, and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. This solar thermal array helps the farm save \$3,368 in energy costs annually, and reduces energy use by 1,300 gallons of oil each year.

Smith's was recently purchased by Allie and Jake Catlin from longtime original owner Dave Smith, an early adopter of many sustainable practices. The cheese making operation produces award-winning cheeses of all varieties, and the farm features many energy producing and saving technologies, including a photovoltaic system, inverters to convert generated DC current into AC current, and the latest technology in power management and monitoring.

To learn more about the grant award, Otter River Farm, or the solar thermal system, [click here to read the full press release](#).

If your farm has a project in mind, is in need of an energy audit, or would like help identifying potential funding sources or writing applications, call the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program at 413-727-3090. You could even see your own smiling face in a future newsletter!



From Left to Right: Megan Denardo (CET), Peter Grealish (National Grid), Liz Budd (CET), Representative Jon Zlotnick, President John Majercak (CET), Dave Smith (former owner of Smith's Country Cheese), Lorenzo Macaluso (CET), Senator Anne Gobi, Scott Soares (USDA), Gerry Palano (MDAR), Jason Wentworth (MDAR), Commissioner John Lebeaux (MDAR), Jake and Allie Catlin (new Smith's Country Cheese owners)

### 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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