

# Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

July 2017



## Hot Weather, Hot Dogs, and Hot Savings this July!

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! Summer is a great time to evaluate the energy used on your farm for cooling, and prepare for the fall harvest.

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](#)



Members of the New England Farm Energy Collaborative (NEFEC) listen to Dr. Stephen Herbert speak about the work he does with dual use solar at the [UMass Amherst Crop and Animal Research and Education Center](#) in South Deerfield. NEFEC Members visited the center as part of their annual gathering on June 27th. For more pictures and information about the gathering and the farms toured, check out [this link!](#)

## News & Events

### **[Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\) Application Overview & Demystifying DUNS & SAM Workshops](#)**

The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program will be hosting two REAP-focused workshops in August. The REAP Application Overview Workshop will provide an outline of REAP grant guidelines and application requirements, while the Demystifying DUNS & SAM Workshop will walk through the processes for

obtaining these numbers step by step, with time afterwards for individual help.

Both workshops will be held at EcoBuilding Bargains (83 Warwick St. Springfield) and via webinar. Exact times and webinar link to follow. The Application Overview Workshop will be on **Tuesday, August 22nd**, and the Demystifying DUNS & SAM Workshop will be on **Tuesday, August 29th**.

To pre-register, sign up to receive the webinar link, or for more information, please contact Megan Denardo at the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program at 413-727-3090 or [megan.denardo@cetonline.org](mailto:megan.denardo@cetonline.org).

We hope to see you there!

### **CISA Event Calendar**

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) has information about a plethora of exciting events and workshops happening in July and August on their website, including a beneficial bugs workshop, a series on herbalism, and several farm-to-table dinners. For the full list and more details, [visit the CISA Events Calendar](#).

### **Photo Call**

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.



Carrots in energy efficient cold storage at [Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in Lincoln.

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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 **October 31, 2017**. For more information on applying, [click here](#). If you have questions about whether or not REAP is a good fit for your project, e-mail the Mass Farm Energy Program at [info@massfarmenergy.com](mailto:info@massfarmenergy.com) for more details.

### **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. REAP applications can be submitted any time, so [contact us now!](#)

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## Spotlight On: Little Brook Farm



Roof mounted solar electric array at Little Brook Farm in Sunderland.

[Little Brook Farm](#) in Sunderland installed a solar electric array this past spring produces over 15,000 kWh every year! This project was made possible through the collaboration of Kristen Whittle, Farm Owner, [Northeast Solar](#), and the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program.

With help from MFEP, Kristen applied to, and was awarded grants from, both the MDAR Agricultural Energy Program and the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). The two grants combined contributed to provide Little Brook Farm with just over half the total cost of the system.



Kristen Whittle, her donkey, and Tilly and Gemma the border collies in front of the solar array at Little Brook Farm in Sunderland.

Little Brook Farm also took advantage of the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program's audit funding, applying to have MFEP cover 75% of the cost of the engineering audit they required to apply for the MDAR grant. This same audit also identified ideas for energy efficiency upgrades that could be made on the farm.

If you would like an audit, or are interested in solar for your farm, call MFEP at 413-727-3090 or email us at [info@massfarmenergy.com](mailto:info@massfarmenergy.com). We will help you get started, and guide you through the process.



Zach Swan of Northeast Solar pets a goat at Little Brook Farm in Sunderland.

### **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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You are receiving this e-mail because you have requested more information about or are interested in energy efficiency and renewable energy on Massachusetts farms.

**Our mailing address is:**

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