

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

September 2017



Save on Stupendous Studies this September!

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! It's a great time to evaluate the heating and insulation of your operation, in preparation for the fall harvest.

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

or

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



A blue ribbon winning display of produce at the Franklin County Fair in Greenfield.

News & Events

Green Your Bottom Line in Food and Beverage Businesses: September 27th

This interactive workshop will:

- Highlight case studies of food/beverage companies that have sustainability programs
- Provide the opportunity to network with your peers;
- Introduce you to free assistance available to help identify and implement improvements you can make in your facility

There is no charge for this workshop, but registration is required by noon on Tuesday, September 26th. To register, and for more details, [click here](#).

Feature on Steve's Sugar Shack

The Daily Hampshire Gazette [ran a feature](#) on the new wood-fired evaporator at [Steve's Sugar Shack](#) in Westhampton. With the help of the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program, Steve's Sugar Shack was awarded over \$33,000 in grant money from both MDAR and USDA REAP. Check out the article for more details on the sugar shack, and if you are interested in new maple sugaring equipment, contact MFEP!



Wood-fired evaporator at Steve's Sugar Shack in action.

CISA Event Calendar

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) has information about a plethora of exciting events and workshops happening in September and October on their website, including Chilifest, a series on herbalism in the Pioneer Valley, and several cooking classes. 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. Show other farmers across Massachusetts what you're doing to save energy, and help inspire others to do the same.



Apples from [Clarkdale Fruit Farms](#) in Deerfield

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 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!](#)

REAP Application Overview & Demystifying DUNS & SAM Webinar Recordings

Thinking of applying to REAP this fall, and don't know where to start? Take some time to watch the recordings of two REAP-focused webinars that MFEP hosted in August. Both can [be viewed here](#), and the Mass Farm Energy Program is available for follow-up questions.

Spotlight On: Efficient Heating



Energy efficient heating system at work in a greenhouse.

As the weather gets cooler, heat and insulation come to the forefront of everyone's minds. No matter what heating requirements your farm may have, there are efficient ways to meet them.

High efficiency heaters of many types can be used to heat barns, greenhouses, retail spaces, and any other building used for farm operations. Farms can also consider increasing insulation, investing in heat recovery or more efficient fans, and installing renewable energy systems like solar or geothermal to generate heat.

If you heat with natural gas or electricity, there may be utility rebates available to you to help upgrade your insulation and heating system. The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program also provides funding for efficiency projects that use any type of fuel, including wood, oil, and propane.

Even if you don't already have a project in mind, but feel like you could be warmer, the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program can help! We provide free walkthroughs, and can cover up to 75% of the cost of an energy audit.

If you would like an audit, or are interested in upgrading the heating on your farm, call MFEP at 413-727-3090 or email us at info@massfarmenergy.com. We will help you get started, and guide you through the process.



Be as warm as this llama! Call Mass Farm Energy Today!

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!