

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

November 2017



Warm Your Wallet this Winter!

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

413-727-3090 • info@massfarmenergy.com

or

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



Massachusetts Grown painted pumpkin at The Big E in Springfield

News & Events

[CISA Event Calendar](#)

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) has information about a plethora of exciting events and workshops happening in November and December on their website, including a seed exchange and a wreath making event. 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.

Grant Information & Deadlines

Agricultural Climate Resiliency & Efficiencies (ACRE) Program

The ACRE program is a reimbursement grant program that funds projects that address the agricultural sector's vulnerability to climate change. Reimbursement grants of up to \$50,000 will be awarded on a competitive basis, and the deadline is December 5th. For more information about eligible producers and projects, [click here](#).

Rural Energy For America Program (REAP)

The next REAP deadline for renewable energy and energy efficiency grants, and loan guarantees is **March 31, 2018**. 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!](#)

Spotlight On: Honey Pot Farm



Solar Electric array at Honey Pot Farm in Hatfield.

Honey Pot Farm in Hatfield, a vegetable grower, recently installed a ground mounted solar electric array that produces more than 10,000 kWh of electricity per year. This array covers half the farm's electric usage, and saves them over \$1,000 per year!

With help from MFEP staff, Honey Pot Farm successfully applied for both the MDAR Agricultural Energy Grant and the USDA's REAP Grant. MFEP staff worked closely with both Honey Pot Farm and their solar contractor to make the applications as strong as possible, including several in-person meetings. Together these two grants awarded the farm over \$27,000, which covered 60% of the cost of the array.

If you are interested in installing solar on your farm, for electricity or hot water, call MFEP at 413-727-3090

or email us at info@massfarmenergy.com. We can help you find a solar contractor, determine which grants are the best fit, help you apply for them, and guide you through the process from beginning to end.



Solar electric array at Honey Pot Farm in Hatfield.

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!