

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

May 2018



Spring is Finally Here. Celebrate with Savings!

As the weather gets warmer it's a great time to evaluate energy use on your farm, especially with respect to cooling. The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program can help you with this, or any other energy projects you have in mind.

MFEP provides grant application guidance, and 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](#)



Ferrindino Farms in Hampden

News & Events

Solar Hot Water Funding

Does your farm use hot water year round? Would you like to reduce your hot water heating costs? Solar hot water could be the answer! The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center currently has funding to cover a percentage of the cost of solar hot water installations, and federal tax credits for this type of project will decrease soon. This funding can be combined with other farm energy grants, so call the Mass Farm Energy Program at 413-727-3090 or [visit our solar hot water page](#) for more information.

CISA Event Calendar

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) has information about a plethora of exciting events and workshops happening in May and June on their website, including the 44th Annual Sheep and Woolcraft Fair in Cummington and a Beneficial Bug Tour at Nasami Farm. 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

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Grants

The MDAR grant period is now closed. If you weren't able to apply this year, the grant period will re-open in February of 2019.

Rural Energy For America Program (REAP)

The next REAP deadline for renewable energy & energy efficiency grants and loan guarantees is **October 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, email the Massachusetts 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: Red Shirt Farm



Roof Mounted Solar Electric Array at Red Shirt Farm in Lanesborough

[Red Shirt Farm](#) in Lanesborough recently installed a roof-mounted solar electric array that produces over 11,000 kWh per year. With help from Massachusetts Farm Energy Program staff, the farm applied for both state and federal grants to help cover the cost of this project.

Red Shirt was awarded \$26,000 from the MDAR Agricultural Energy Grant, as well as over \$10,000 from the USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). Together, these grants covered more than 85% of the system's total cost.

Red Shirt Farm's solar array was also recently featured (along with Square Roots Farm, whom MFEP worked

with as well) in [an article in The Berkshire Eagle](#).

If you are interested in installing solar, or applying for the Ag Energy or REAP grant programs, call MFEP at 413-727-3090 or email us at info@massfarmenergy.com. We are happy to help!

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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