

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

July 2018



Beat the Heat with a Savings Treat!

Summer is a great time to evaluate energy use on your farm, especially with respect to cold storage for the upcoming fall harvest. 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](#)



Energy Efficient Refrigeration at Two Friends Farm in Attleboro. This project was completed with the help of an MDAR Special Projects Grant.

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 August on their website, including a screening of the film *Forgotten Farms*, and a Native Botanical Cyanotype Print Workshop. 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 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**. This round is reserved for projects costing \$80,000 or less, and the maximum grant that can be applied for is \$20,000. 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: Valley Malt



In-process roof mounted solar electric array at Valley Malt in Hadley

[Valley Malt](#), a grower of grain and maker of malt in Hadley, recently installed a roof-mounted solar electric array that produces over 16,000 kWh per year. With help from Massachusetts Farm Energy Program staff, the farm applied for a state grant to help cover the cost of this project.

Valley Malt was awarded \$22,000 from the MDAR Agricultural Energy Grant, which covered about half of the system's total cost. The farm also applied for a federal REAP grant, the awardees of which have not yet been announced.

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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