

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

March 2019



Save More Than Daylight This Spring!

The days are an hour longer now, which means you have even more time to save energy! The spring grant season is also in full swing, so read on for more details.

The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program (MFEP) provides grant application guidance, and has funds to help farms cover audits and 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](#)



Roof mounted solar electric array at Maybrook Farm in Pittsfield. Keep reading for more information on this project!

News & Events

[MFEP Grant Webinar](#)

Thinking of applying for the USDA's REAP grant or MDAR's Agricultural Energy Grant, but don't know where to start? A great place to begin is by watching a recording of the webinar hosted by the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program last month. For both grants, the webinar covers what you'll need to apply, deadlines, grant amounts, scoring criteria, and much more! The recording can be [viewed here](#), and if you would like to review the slideshow used, please email megan.denardo@cetonline.org.

[CISA Event Calendar](#)

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) has information about a plethora of exciting events and workshops happening in March and April on their website, including an Introduction to Backyard Beekeeping, and a workshop on Social and Economic Justice on the Farm. For the full list and more details, [visit the CISA Events Calendar](#).

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 this funding can be combined with other farm energy grants. Federal tax credits for this type of project will decrease soon, so call the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program at 413-727-3090 or [visit our solar hot water page](#) for more information.

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 application period for [MDAR's Agricultural Energy Grant](#) will re-open in just a few weeks. If you are interested in applying for this grant, contact the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program at 413-727-3090 for more information or to be placed on the list to be notified when the applications are posted.

Rural Energy For America Program (REAP)

The next REAP deadline for renewable energy & energy efficiency grants and loan guarantees is **April 1, 2019**. This round is unrestricted, and open to projects of all sizes. For more information on applying, [click here](#). If you have questions about the REAP grant, email the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program at info@massfarmenergy.com.

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: Maybrook Farm



Roof mounted solar electric array at Maybrook Farm in Pittsfield.

Maybrook Farm in Pittsfield produces market lambs, replacement ewes, and hay, with a goal of expanding to include chickens within the next few years. With the help of the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program, Maybrook was able to install a 7,347 kWh solar electric array to help offset their energy use. This array prevents over 5 tons of CO₂ from going into the atmosphere each year, and also saves the farm more than \$1200 annually.

With help from the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program (MFEP), Maybrook Farm secured an MDAR grant that covered around half the cost of this project. MFEP also helped the farm with the audit required for applying to the MDAR grant.

If you are interested in having an audit done, installing solar, or applying for an MDAR grant, contact the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program at 413-727-3090, or 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 the 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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