

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

May 2019



May Flowers (and Grants) Have Arrived!

The spring grant season concludes at the end of this month, so read on to learn how you can take advantage of all available funding for your farm's projects.

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](#)



In-progress ground mounted solar electric array at Pleasant Lake Farm in Harwich. 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! 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. Another webinar will be hosted in the fall, in advance of the October REAP deadline.

[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 45th Annual Massachusetts Sheep & Woolcraft Fair, and a class on Wildflowers of New England. 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

If you would like to see your farm featured in our newsletter, send us your pictures! We are especially interested in any projects you've done or actions you've taken to increase energy efficiency. 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 is open! This year, the application has been combined with the [Agricultural Climate Resiliency & Efficiencies \(ACRE\)](#) Program. If you are interested in applying for this grant, contact the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program at 413-727-3090 for more information or application assistance. The deadline for submission is May 31, 2019.

Rural Energy For America Program (REAP)

The next REAP deadline for renewable energy & energy efficiency grants and loan guarantees is **October 31, 2019**. This round is restricted, and open to projects costing \$80,000 or less. 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: Pleasant Lake Farm



Ground mounted solar electric array at Pleasant Lake Farm in Harwich.

[Pleasant Lake Farm](#) in Harwich is a certified organic farm that grows a variety of produce and flowers. With the help of the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program, Pleasant Lake was able to install a 14,000 kWh solar electric array to help offset their energy use. This array saves the farm more than \$2,900, and prevents over 9 tons of CO₂ from going into the atmosphere, annually.

With help and funding from the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program (MFEP), Pleasant Lake Farm had an energy audit, which allowed them to apply for MDAR's Ag Energy grant. This grant covered just under half the cost of the project.

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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