

Resource Guide

for New York State Farm
Owners and Operators



**Environmental
Finance
Center**
Syracuse University

About the Environmental Finance Center

The Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University facilitates the development of sustainable and resilient communities across US EPA Region 2 (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and eight tribal nations).

Located at the SyracuseCoE Center for Sustainable Community Solutions, EFC enhances the administrative and financial capacities of state and local government officials, nonprofit organizations, and private sectors to make change toward improved environmental infrastructure and quality of life.

About This Guide

This reference tool was created by the Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University, with support from USDA Rural Development, to help New York State farmers and agricultural Technical Service Providers identify available funding programs and other resources available to them.

Each funding resource is identified by the name of the funding program, the source agency or organization, and the source agency's contact information, as well as eligible applicants, funding cycles, program description and other relevant information.

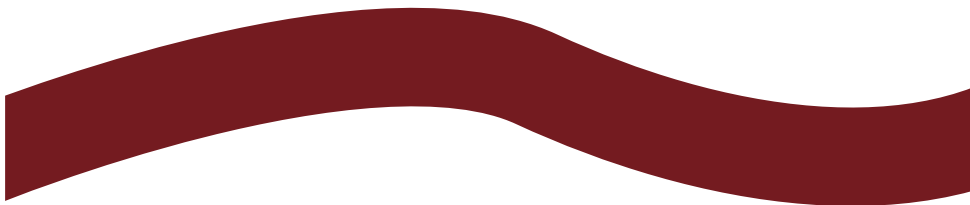


**Environmental
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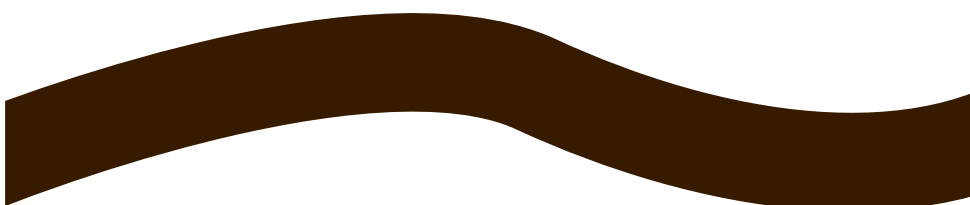
Syracuse University

The Environmental Finance Center offers educational materials and resources for farmers, municipalities and other government and non-government organizations. For more information, contact Khristina Dodson at (315) 443 - 8818 or kdodson@syracusecoe.org

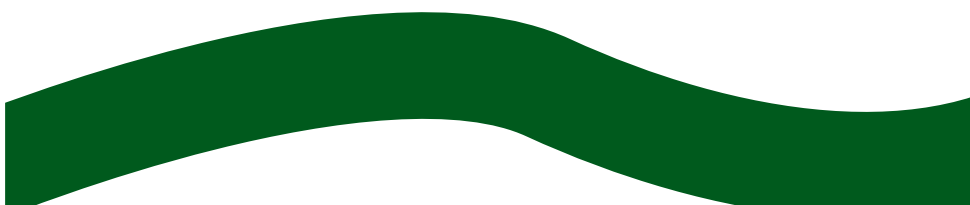
How To Use This Guide



Federal Grants, provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), appear in maroon. Each agency within USDA has its own title page with contact information, followed by programs offered by that agency.



State Grants, provided by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and others, appear in brown. Each agency has a title page with contact information, followed by programs offered by that agency.



Local Grants, provided by Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education and others, appear in green.

Disclaimer: The resources listed within this publication are supplied for informational purposes only. The list is not intended to be exhaustive and the authors make no guarantees or representations of any kind as to the content, accuracy, or completeness of the information contained herein. The authors do not endorse services and products; no such endorsements should be implied by the information listed herein.

USDA-FSA

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Farm Service Agency

About

Farm Service Agency works to equitably serve all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA is a customer-driven agency with a diverse and multi-talented work force, dedicated to achieving an economically and environmentally sound future for American Agriculture.

Programs

- Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loan
- Conservation Reserve Program
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- Debt for Nature
- Direct Ownership Loan Program
- Direct Operating Loans
- Rural Youth Loans
- Socially Disadvantaged Persons Loan
- Emergency Farm Loans
- Biomass Crop Assistance Program
- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
- Disaster Set-Aside Program
- The Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
- The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)
- The Livestock Forage Disaster Assistance Program (LFP)
- The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)
- Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Contact Information

New York State FSA Office
441 South Salina Street
Suite 536
Syracuse, NY 13202
Phone: 315-477-6300
Fax: 315-477-6323

To find the contact information for your county's Farm Service Agency office, visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loan

Funding Category

Capital/Operating

Description

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees loans to beginning farmers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial lenders. Each fiscal year, the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loan (OL) funds to beginning farmers.

Funding Amount

\$300,000-\$1,214,000

Eligible Recipients

A beginning farmer is an individual or entity who (1) has not operated a farm for more than 10 years, (2) meets the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying, (3) substantially participates in the operation, and, (4) for FO purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the median size farm in the county. (Note: all applicants for direct FO loans must have participated in the business operation of a farm for at least 3 years.) If the applicant is an entity, all members must be related by blood or marriage and all members in a corporation must be eligible beginning farmers.

Eligible Projects

See projects listed under Direct Ownership and Direct Operating Loans.

More Information

USDA-FSA: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/beginningloans11.pdf

Conservation Reserve Program

Funding Category

Conservation/Land

Description

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CRP, landowners and producers can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

To be eligible for CRP enrollment, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to close of the CRP sign-up period.

Eligible Projects

To be eligible for placement in CRP, land must be either:

- Cropland (including field margins) that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity 4 of the previous 6 crop years from 1996 to 2001, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity; or
- Certain marginal pastureland that is enrolled in the Water Bank Program or suitable for use as a riparian buffer or for similar water quality purposes.

Also, the land must be eligible and suitable for any of the following conservation practices: riparian buffers; wildlife habitat buffers; wetland buffers; filter strips; wetland restoration; grass waterways; shelterbelts; living snow fences; contour grass strips; salt tolerant vegetation; and shallow water areas for wildlife.

More Information:

USDA-FSA: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Funding Category

Conservation/Land

Description

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. CREP is an offshoot of the country's largest private-lands environmental improvement program - the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

A specific CREP project begins when a state, Indian Tribe, local government, or local non-governmental entity identifies an agriculture-related environmental issue of state or national significance. The parties and FSA then develop a project proposal to address particular environmental issues and goals.

Eligible Projects

Like CRP, CREP contracts require a 10- to 15-year commitment to keep lands out of agricultural production. CREP provides payments to participants who offer eligible land.

Cost Share / Match Amount

There is a 50% cost share requirement associated with this opportunity. State, tribal governments, or other non-federal sources provide the balance of the funds.

More Information

USDA-FSA: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Debt for Nature

Funding Category

Conservation/Land

Description

The Debt for Nature Program (DFN), also known as the Debt Cancellation Conservation Contract Program, is a unique program for eligible landowners that protects important natural resources and other sensitive areas while providing a debt management tool.

Funding Amount

The maximum amount of a borrower's FSA debt that can be canceled is calculated by considering the present market value of the farm; the borrower's FSA debt secured by real estate; and the number of acres to be covered by the contract.

Eligible Recipients

DFN is available to persons with Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans secured by real estate. These individuals may qualify for cancellation of a portion of their FSA indebtedness in exchange for a conservation contract with a term of 50, 30, or 10 years. The conservation contract is a voluntary legal agreement that restricts the type and amount of development that may take place on portions of the landowner's property. Contracts may be established on marginal cropland and other environmentally sensitive lands for conservation, recreation, and wildlife purposes.

Eligible Projects

- Wetlands and highly erodible lands;
- Lands containing aquatic life, endangered species, or wildlife habitat of local, regional, or national importance and lands in 100-year floodplains;
- Areas of high water quality or scenic value;
- Historic or cultural properties listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- Aquifer recharge areas of local, regional, or State importance;
- Buffer zones needed to protect proposed conservation easement areas;
- Areas within or adjacent to Federal, State, or local conservation areas.

More Information

USDA-FSA: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/debtfornature07.pdf

Direct Ownership Loan Program

Funding Category

Capital/Operating

Description

With a Direct Farm Ownership Loan, producers may purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings and other fixtures, and promote soil and water conservation.

Funding Amount

Up to \$300,000

Eligible Recipients

- Have sufficient education, training, or experience in managing and operating a farm or ranch that demonstrates the managerial ability needed to succeed in farming. For a direct farm ownership (FO) loan, the applicant must have participated in the operation of a farm or ranch for at least 3 of the last 10 years.
- Be a citizen of the United States, United States non-citizen national, or a qualified alien under applicable Federal immigration laws.
- Have the legal capacity to incur the obligations of the loan.
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere.
- Have an acceptable credit history.
- Be the operator or tenant operator of a family farm after the loan is closed. For an operating (OL) or emergency (EM) loan, the producer need only be the operator. For an FO loan, the producer must own and operate the farm.
- Not have had a previous loan which resulted in a loss to the Agency (with certain exceptions).
- Not be delinquent on any Federal debt.

Eligible Projects

Purchase of farmland, construction or repair of buildings and other fixtures, and projects that promote soil and water conservation.

More Information

USDA-FSA: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> - Search "Direct Ownership Loan Program"

Direct Operating Loans

Funding Category

Capital/Operating

Description

Direct Operating Loans may be used to purchase items such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and/or go toward other operating expenses. OL loans can also be used to pay for minor improvements to buildings, costs associated with land and water development, family subsistence, and to refinance debts under certain conditions.

Funding Amount

Up to \$300,000

Eligible Recipients

See criteria for “Direct Ownership Loan” program on previous page.

Eligible Projects:

Operating Loans may be used to purchase items such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other operating expenses. Operating Loans can also be used to pay for minor improvements to buildings, costs associated with land and water development, family subsistence, and to refinance debts under certain conditions. Loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises, which include raising earthworms, exotic birds, tropical fish, dogs, or horses for non-farm purposes (racing, pleasure or show).

More Information:

USDA-FSA: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> - Search “Direct Operating Loan”

Rural Youth Loans

Funding Category

Capital/Operating

Description

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans of up to \$5,000 to eligible individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to finance income-producing, agriculture-related projects. The project must be of modest size, educational, and initiated, developed and carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H clubs, FFA, or similar organizations.

Funding Amount

Up to \$5,000

Eligible Recipients

To qualify for a loan the applicant must:

- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements;
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people; and
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work.

Eligible Projects

These loans can finance many kinds of income-producing agricultural projects. The loan fund may be used to:

- Buy livestock, seed, equipment and supplies;
- Buy, rent or repair needed tools and equipment; and
- Pay operating expenses for the project.

More Information

USDA-FSA: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/loanyouth.pdf

Socially Disadvantaged Persons Loan

Funding Category

Capital/Operating

Description

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees loans to eligible socially disadvantaged farmers (SDA) to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Each fiscal year, the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loan (OL) funds to SDA farmers. Non-reserved funds can also be used by SDA persons. The Agency:

- Helps remove barriers that prevent full participation of SDA farmers in FSA's farm loan programs; and
- Provides information and assistance to SDA farmers to help them develop sound farm management practices, analyze problems, and plan the best use of available resources.

Funding Amount

Up to \$225,000. The maximum loan amount may not exceed 45 percent of the lesser of (a) the purchase price of the farm or ranch to be acquired; (b) the appraised value of the farm or ranch to be acquired; or (c) \$500,000.

Eligible Recipients

An SDA group is a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups consist of American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics and women.

Eligible Projects

SDA funds may be used to purchase livestock, poultry, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, fertilizer, chemicals, insurance, and other operating expenses. The funds also may be used for borrower training costs, closing costs, and to reorganize and refinance debt.

More Information:

USDA-FSA: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sdaloans1108.pdf

Emergency Farm Loans

Funding Category

Capital/Operating, Emergency/Loss

Description

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

Funding Amount

Up to \$500,000

Eligible Recipients

FSA loan requirements are different from those of other lenders. Some of the more significant differences are the following:

- Borrowers must keep acceptable farm records;
- Borrowers must operate in accordance with a farm plan they develop and agree to with local FSA staff and;
- Borrowers may be required to participate in a financial management training program and obtain crop insurance.

Eligible Projects

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

More Information

USDA-FSA: http://fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/emergency_loan_program.pdf

Biomass Crop Assistance Program

Funding Category

Energy/Biomass Crops

Description

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) provides financial assistance to owners and operators of agricultural and non-industrial private forest land who wish to establish, produce, and deliver biomass feedstocks. Matching payments may be available for the delivery of eligible material to qualified biomass conversion facilities by eligible material owners. Qualified biomass conversion facilities produce heat, power, biobased products, or advanced biofuels from biomass feedstocks. Establishment and annual payments may be available to certain producers who enter into contracts with the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to produce eligible biomass crops on contract acres within BCAP project areas.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

Eligible land for BCAP project area contracts include agricultural and non-industrial private forestland, but does not include federal or state-owned land, land that is native sod, or land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, or Grassland Reserve program.

Eligible Projects

The establishment, cultivation and harvesting of biomass for heat, power, bio-based products and biofuels. Biomass includes herbaceous crops and woody crops.

More Information:

USDA-FSA: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ener&topic=landing>

Disaster Set-Aside Program

Funding Category

Emergency/Loss

Description

When Farm Service Agency (FSA) borrowers located in designated disaster areas or contiguous (adjoining) counties are unable to make their scheduled payment on any FSA debt, FSA is authorized to consider set-aside of one payment to allow the operation to continue.

Eligible Recipients

Eligibility will primarily be determined based on the following criteria:

- As a direct result of the disaster, the borrower is unable to pay all family living and farm operating expenses, payments to other creditors, and payments to FSA;
- The borrower must have operated a farm or ranch in a county designated as a disaster area or in a contiguous county. Loans considered for DSA must be outstanding at the time of the disaster;
- The borrower must have acted in good faith and complied with written agreements with FSA;
- The borrower must be current or not more than 90 days past due on any FSA loan. No loan to be set aside may have a remaining term of less than two years. Loans must not be accelerated;
- After the DSA is done, the borrower will be current on all FSA loans;
- The borrower's FSA debt has not been restructured since the disaster;
- The amount set aside will not exceed one year's FSA payment;
- No loan may receive more than one debt set-aside unless it is later restructured;
- The borrower must be able to develop a positive cash-flow projection for the coming year.

Eligible Projects

When the county in which a borrower farms, or a contiguous county, is designated as a disaster area by the president or secretary of agriculture, farmers presently indebted to FSA will be notified of the availability of the Disaster Set-Aside Program (DSA).

More Information:

USDA-FSA: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/debt_set_aside11.pdf

Emergency Conservation Program

Funding Category

Emergency/Loss

Description

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

County FSA committees determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damage, taking into account the type and extent of damage. For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would:

- impair or endanger the land;
- materially affect the land's productive capacity;
- represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area; and
- be so costly to repair that Federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

Conservation problems existing prior to the applicable disaster are ineligible for ECP assistance.

Eligible Projects

To rehabilitate farmland, ECP program participants may implement emergency conservation practices, such as:

- remove debris;
- restore fences and conservation structures; and
- provide water for livestock in drought situations.

Other conservation measures may be authorized by county FSA committees.

More Information

USDA-FSA: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=ecp>

The Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program

Funding Category

Emergency/Loss

Description

USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

Funding Amount

Up to \$100,000

Eligible Recipients

Landowners, tenants or sharecroppers who share in the risk of producing an eligible crop. The average nonfarm adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation of the eligible producer cannot exceed \$500,000 to be eligible for NAP.

Eligible Projects

To be eligible for NAP, crops must be noninsurable and commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available, and must be any of the following: crops grown for food; crops planted and grown for livestock consumption, including, but not limited to grain and forage crops, including native forage; crops grown for fiber, such as cotton and flax (except for trees); crops grown in a controlled environment, such as mushrooms and floriculture; specialty crops, such as honey and maple sap; value loss crops, such as aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng, ornamental nursery and turfgrass sod; sea oats and sea grass; and seed crops where the propagation stock is produced for sale as seed stock for other eligible NAP crop production. An eligible natural disaster includes: damaging weather, such as drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes; an adverse natural occurrence, such as earthquake or flood; or a condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as heat, disease or insect infestation.

More Information

USDA-FSA: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=nap>

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments

Funding Category

Emergency/Loss

Description

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program is authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) to provide assistance to producers suffering crop losses due to natural disasters. SURE is available for crop losses due to natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011.

Funding Amount

Up to \$10,000

Eligible Recipients

To receive SURE payments, an eligible producer must have a qualifying loss. The producer must also have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, if available, from the Farm Service Agency.

Eligible Projects

An eligible producer must have a qualifying loss. A qualifying loss means at least a 10 percent production loss affecting one crop of economic significance due to a disaster on a farm in a disaster county. Producers outside a declared disaster county, but with production losses greater than or equal to 50 percent of the normal production on the farm (expected revenue for all crops on the farm), also qualify for SURE.

More Information

USDA-FSA: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=sure>

Tree Assistance Program

Funding Category

Emergency/Loss

Description

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Tree Assistance Program (TAP) provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters occurring on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. TAP was authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill and is funded through the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund.

Funding Amount

Up to \$100,000

Eligible Recipients

To qualify for TAP, orchardists and nursery tree growers must:

- suffer qualifying tree, bush or vine losses in excess of 15 percent (adjusted for normal mortality) from an eligible natural disaster for the individual stand;
- have owned the eligible trees, bushes and vines when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which eligible trees, bushes and vines are planted;
- replace eligible trees, bushes and vines within 12 months from the date the application is approved.

Eligible Projects

Eligible trees, bushes and vines are those from which an annual crop is produced for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

More Information

USDA-FSA: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=tap>

The Emergency Forest Restoration Program

Funding Category

Emergency/Loss

Description

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land in order to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster. Funding for EFRP is appropriated by Congress.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

To be eligible for EFRP, NIPF land must:

- Have existing tree cover (or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster occurred and is suitable for growing trees); and,
- Be owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, or other private legal entity, that has definitive decision-making authority over the land.

In addition, the natural disaster must have resulted in damage that if untreated would:

- Impair or endanger the natural resources on the land; and,
- Materially affect future use of the land.

Eligible Projects

To restore NIPF, EFRP program participants may implement emergency forest restoration practices, including emergency measures:

- Necessary to repair damage caused by a natural disaster to natural resources on nonindustrial private forest land; and
- Restore forest health and forest related resources on the land.

More Information

USDA-FSA: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=efrp>

Livestock Forage Disaster Assistance Program

Funding Category

Emergency/Loss

Description

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing. The grazing losses must be due to a qualifying drought condition during the normal grazing period for the county. The grazing losses must have occurred after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

Producers must own, cash or share lease, or be a contract grower of covered livestock during the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire and provide pastureland or grazing land for covered livestock that is:

- Physically located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county or;
- Rangeland managed by a federal agency for which the otherwise eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the agency from grazing the normally permitted livestock because of a qualifying fire.

Eligible Projects

FSA will calculate LFP payments for an eligible livestock producer for grazing losses because of a qualifying drought equal to 1, 2, or 3 times the LFP monthly payment rate. The LFP monthly payment rate for drought is equal to 60 percent of the lesser of the monthly feed cost.

More Information

USDA-FSA: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=lfp>

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program

Funding Category

Emergency/Loss

Description

Provides Emergency relief to producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disaster such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program.

Funding Amount

Up to \$100,000

Eligible Recipients

Producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish are eligible for ELAP if they have losses due to adverse weather and other conditions such as blizzards and wildfires that are not covered under LFP, LIP, and SURE.

Eligible Projects

ELAP payments for various losses depending upon the type of producer, the type of loss, the cause of the loss, and the location of the loss.

More Information

USDA-FSA: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=elap>

Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program

Funding Category

Conservation/Land

Description

Haying and grazing of CRP acreage is authorized under certain conditions to improve the quality and performance of the CRP cover or to provide emergency relief to livestock producers due to certain natural disasters. There are two types of haying and grazing authorization: managed and emergency.

Eligible Recipients

CRP participants with eligible land requirements and haying/grazing needs.

Eligible Projects

Acreage eligible for managed or emergency haying and grazing includes acreage devoted to the following practices: CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP10, CP18B, and CP18C. Under managed or state committee-authorized haying or grazing, eligible acreage may be hayed for a single period of 90 days or grazed for a single period up to 120 days or for two 60-day periods.

Acreage ineligible for managed or emergency haying and grazing includes acreage devoted to:

- Useful life easements;
- Land within 100 feet of a stream or other permanent water body;
- The following practices: CP3, CP3A, CP4, CP4A, CP5, CP5A, CP6, CP7, CP8, CP8A, CP9, CP11, CP12, CP13A, CP13B, CP13C, CP13D, CP14, CP15, CP15A, CP16, CP16A, CP17, CP17A, CP18, CP18A, CP19, CP20, CP21, CP22, CP23, CP24, CP25, CP26, CP27, CP28, CP29, and CP30.

More Information

USDA-FSA: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp-eg>

USDA-RD

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Development

About

USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Through its programs, USDA-RD touches rural America in many ways.

USDA-RD financial programs support such essential public facilities and services as water and sewer systems, housing, health clinics, emergency service facilities and electric and telephone service. The agency promotes economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools. Additionally, the agency offers technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their operations. USDA-RD provides technical assistance to help communities undertake community empowerment programs.

Programs

- Farm Labor Housing Loans and Grants
- Value-Added Producer Grants
- Rural Energy for America Program - Renewable Energy System and Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loan and Grant Program

Contact Information

USDA Rural Development
The Galleries of Syracuse
441 South Salina Street, Suite 357
Syracuse, NY 13202-2541
(315)-477-6435

To find the contact information for your county's Rural Development office, visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

Farm Labor Housing Loans and Grants

Funding Category

Capital/Operating

Description

Farm Labor Housing Loans and Grants provide low cost financing for the development of affordable rental housing for both year-round and migrant “domestic farm laborers” and their households. These programs may be used to build, buy, improve, or repair farm labor housing, and provide related facilities such as on-site child care centers.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

Individual farm owner, family farm partnership, family farm corporation, or an association of farmers.

Eligible Projects

Farm Labor Housing Loans and Grants are provided to buy, build, improve, or repair housing for farm laborers, including persons whose income is earned in aquaculture (fish and oyster farms) and those engaged in on-farm processing. Funds may be used to purchase a site or a leasehold interest in a site; to construct housing, day care facilities, or community rooms; to pay fees to purchase durable household furnishings; and to pay construction loan interest.

Cost Share/Match Amount

33-year term; full amortized at one percent interest.

More Information

USDA-RD: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

Value-Added Producer Grants

Funding Category

Marketing

Description

The Value-Added Producer Grants help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of bio-based value-added products. The goal of the grant is to expand markets for, and increase financial returns to, the agricultural producer-owners of the value-added venture.

Funding Amount

\$100,000 to \$300,000

Eligible Recipients

Independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

Eligible Projects

Grants may be used for (1) Planning activities needed to establish a viable value-added marketing opportunity for an agricultural product (e.g. conduct a feasibility study, develop a business plan, develop a marketing plan); or (2) acquire working capital to operate a value-added business venture that will allow producers to better compete in domestic and international markets.

More Information

USDA-RD: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_VAPG_Grants.html

Rural Energy for America Program

Funding Category

Energy/Biomass Crops, Capital/Operating

Description

The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) provides financial assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase, install, and construct renewable energy systems; make energy efficiency improvements to non-residential buildings and facilities; and participate in energy audits, renewable energy development assistance, and feasibility studies.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

Rural small businesses and agricultural producers.

Eligible Projects

Renewable energy (renewable biomass, anaerobic digesters, geothermal for electric generation, geothermal for direct use, hydroelectric (30 megawatts or less), hydrogen, small and large wind, small and large solar and ocean (including tidal, wave, current, and thermal) and energy efficiency projects must meet the following conditions:

- The loan/grant must go towards the purchase of a renewable energy system or to make energy efficiency improvements, technology is pre-commercial or commercially available, replicable, has technical merit;
- A rural small business must be located in a rural area, though an agriculture producer may be located in a rural or non-rural area;
- The applicant must be the owner of the project and control the revenues, expenses, operations, and maintenance of the project;
- Sites must be controlled by the agricultural producer or small business for the financing term of any associated loans or loan guarantees; and,
- The project must have satisfactory sources of revenue, for the life of the project, that will be used for the operation, management, maintenance, and debt service of the project.

More Information

USDA-RD: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_ReapResEei.html

USDA-AMS

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture - Agricultural Marketing Service

About

The Agricultural Marketing Service includes five commodity programs: Dairy, Fruit and Vegetable, Livestock and Seed, Poultry, and Cotton and Tobacco. The programs provide standardization, grading and market news services for those commodities. They enforce such Federal Laws as the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act and the Federal Seed Act. AMS commodity programs also oversee marketing agreements and orders, administer research and promotion programs, and purchase commodities for Federal food programs.

AMS is part of the Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) mission area. MRP agencies facilitate the domestic and international marketing of U.S. agricultural products and ensure the health and care of animals and plants. MRP agencies are active participants in setting national and international standards.

Programs

- NYS Good Agriculture Practices/Good Handling Assistance Certification Program
- Pride of NY Buy Local Advertising Program
- NYS Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Contact Information

New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets
Division of Food Safety & Inspection
GAP/GHP Certification Assistance Program
10B Airline Drive
Albany, New York 12235
Phone: 518-457-2090
Fax: 518-485-8986

NYS Good Agriculture Practices/Good Handling Assistance Certification Program

Funding Category

Capital/Operating

Description

The Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices (GAP&GHP) audit verification program focuses on best agricultural practices to verify that farms are producing, and packers are handling and storing fruits and vegetables in the safest manner possible to minimize risks of microbial food safety hazards.

Funding Amount

Up to \$750

Eligible Recipients

Specialty crop industries in the State of New York are eligible to apply for this grant program.

Eligible Projects

The USDA's GAP&GHP Program is broken down into three major sections:

- Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) which examines farm practices;
- Good Handling Practices (GHP) which concentrates on packing facilities, storage facilities and wholesale distribution centers; and,
- Food Defense protocols utilized throughout the food chain.

USDA also provides oversight for commodity specific audits performed to satisfy the requirements of the Leafy Green Marketing Agreement, the California Tomato Growers Cooperative, the mushroom industry, government purchase and of many large retail organizations. USDA also performs audits utilizing the newly developed GAP Harmonized Standards.

More Information

USDA-AMS: www.agriculture.ny.gov/AD/GAP/GAP_Certification.pdf

Pride of NY Buy Local Advertising Program

Funding Category

Marketing

Description

Pride of NY members who produce specialty crops are eligible for up to \$5,000 for TV or radio ads or promotional materials. This is a cooperative advertising program and applicants must pay half the cost of advertising.

Funding Amount

Up to \$5,000

Eligible Recipients

Pride of NY members who produce specialty crops.

Eligible Projects

TV or radio ads or promotional materials regarding specialty crops

More Information

USDA-AMS: <http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/RFPS.html>

NYS Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Funding Category

Capital/Operating

Description

The NYS Specialty Crop Block Grant Program increases the competitiveness of specialty crops and encourages efficiency, partnerships, innovation, and new markets. The RFP includes many areas of focus including: packaging/labeling, environmental quality, distribution, education and outreach, food safety, food security, marketing and promotion, product development, plant health and international trade.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

Non-profits, for profits, individuals, educational institutions, and government, however, individuals and businesses must partner with others.

Eligible Projects

Support initiatives that:

- Increase nutritional knowledge and specialty crop consumption;
- Improve efficiency within the distribution system and reduce costs;
- Promote the development of good agricultural, handling and manufacturing practices while encouraging audit fund cost-sharing for small farmers, packers and processors;
- Support research through standard and green initiatives;
- Enhance food safety;
- Develop new/improved seed varieties and specialty crops;
- Control pests and diseases;
- Create organic and sustainable production practices;
- Establish local and regional fresh food systems; and,
- Expand food access in underserved/food desert communities.

More Information

USDA-AMS: <http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/slide/SpecialtyCrop.html>

Tim Pezzolesi, specialtycrops@agmkt.state.ny.us

USDA-NIFA

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture - National Institute of Food and Agriculture

About

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), part of the executive branch of the Federal Government. Congress created NIFA through the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. NIFA replaced the former Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), which had been in existence since 1994. NIFA is one of four USDA agencies that make up its Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area.

The USDA-REE agencies provide federal leadership in creating and disseminating knowledge spanning the biological, physical, and social sciences related to agricultural research, economic analysis, statistics, extension, and higher education.

NIFA's unique mission is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities by supporting research, education, and extension programs in the Land-Grant University System and other partner organizations. NIFA doesn't perform actual research, education, and extension but rather helps fund it at the state and local level and provides program leadership in these areas.

Programs

- Community Food Projects Grant Program
- Small Business Innovation Research Grants

Contact Information

United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 2201
Washington, DC 20250-2201
Phone: 202-720-4423

To find contact information for your county's cooperative extension, visit:
http://cce.cornell.edu/learnAbout/Pages/Local_Offices.aspx

Community Food Projects Grant Program

Funding Category

Capital/Operating

Description

The Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program (CFPCGP) has existed since 1996 as a program to fight food insecurity through developing community food projects that help promote the self-sufficiency of low-income communities. Community Food Projects bring the whole food system together to assess strengths, establish linkages, and create systems that improve the self-reliance of communities.

Funding Amount

\$10,000 to \$300,000

Eligible Recipients

Private nonprofit entities that need a one-time federal assistance to establish and carry out multipurpose community food projects.

Eligible Projects

- Meet the needs of low-income people by increasing their access to fresher, more nutritious food supplies.
- Increase the ability of communities to provide for their own food needs.
- Promote responses to local food, farm, and nutrition issues.
- Meet specific state, local, or neighborhood food and agricultural needs for infrastructure improvement and development.
- Plan for long-term solutions.
- Create innovative marketing activities that mutually benefit agricultural producers and low-income consumers.

More Information

USDA-NIFA: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/food/in_focus/hunger_if_competitive.html

The non-profit Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC) offers free assistance to help develop a successful proposal. CFSC will sponsor up to 75 minutes of one-on-one assistance per grant applicant at no cost.

http://www.foodsecurity.org/cfp_help.html

Small Business Innovation Research Grants

Funding Category

Capital/Operating, Research

Description

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program at USDA makes competitively awarded grants to qualified small businesses to support high quality, advanced concepts research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefit if successful. The objectives of the SBIR Program are to:

- stimulate technological innovations in the private sector;
- strengthen the role of small businesses in meeting Federal research and development needs;
- increase private sector commercialization of innovations derived from USDA-supported research and development efforts; and
- foster and encourage participation by women-owned and socially and economically disadvantaged small business firms in technological innovations.

Funding Amount

\$100,000 to \$500,000

Eligible Recipients

Applicants must qualify as a small business concern for R/R&D purposes at the time of award. In addition, the primary employment of the project director (PD) must be with the small business concern at the time of award and during the conduct of the proposed research.

Eligible Projects

Topic areas include forests and related resources, plant production and protection – biology or engineering, animal production and protection, soil and water resources, food science and nutrition, rural development, aquaculture, biofuels and biobased products, and small mid size farms.

More Information

USDA-NIFA: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/sbir.cfm>

USDA-NRCS

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service

About

Originally established by Congress in 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), NRCS has expanded to become a conservation leader for all natural resources, ensuring private lands are conserved, restored, and more resilient to environmental challenges, like climate change.

Seventy percent of the land in the United States is privately owned, making stewardship by private landowners absolutely critical to the health of our Nation's environment. NRCS works with landowners through conservation planning and assistance designed to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals that result in productive lands and healthy ecosystems.

Programs

- Agricultural Management Assistance
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)
- Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

Contact Information

USDA-NRCS State Office
441 South Salina Street, Suite 354
Syracuse, New York 13202-2450

Dianna Power, Program Manager: AMA, CBWI, EQIP, WHIP
Phone: 315-477-6508
Email: dianna.power@ny.usda.gov

Sarah Kron, NRCS NY Project Manager
Phone: 845-883-7162 ext 3
E-mail: sarah.kron@ny.usda.gov

Use the following link to find the contact information for your county's NRCS office: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

Agricultural Management Assistance

Funding Category

Capital/Operating

Description

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) provides cost share assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farming operations.

Funding Amount

Up to \$50,000

Eligible Recipients

Applicants must own or control the land within an identified AMA State and comply with adjusted gross income limitation provisions.

Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland, non-industrial forestland, and other private land that produces crops or livestock where risk may be mitigated through operation diversification or change in resource conservation practices.

Eligible Projects

- Construction or improvement of water management structures or irrigation structures;
- Plant trees for windbreaks or to improve water quality; and,
- Mitigate risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices including soil erosion control, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming.

More Information

USDA-NRCS: <http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ama/index.html>

Conservation Stewardship Program

Funding Category

Conservation/Land

Description

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations. CSP is a new voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to encourage producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. CSP provides opportunities to both recognize excellent stewards and deliver valuable new conservation.

Funding Amount

CSP payments to a person or legal entity may not exceed \$40,000 in any year and \$200,000 during any 5-year period.

Eligible Recipients

CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands, as well as non-industrial private forest lands in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Caribbean and Pacific Islands Areas. The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land, and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

Applicants must:

- Be the operator of record in the USDA farm records management system for the eligible land being offered for enrollment;
- Have documented control of the land; and,
- Include the eligible land in their entire operation as represented for other USDA programs.

Eligible Projects

Many projects are eligible regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location. Please visit website for a list of conservation practices. <http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/practices/index.html>

More Information

USDA-NRCS: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp/csp.html

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Funding Category

Conservation/Land

Description

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) develops contracts with agricultural producers to implement conservation practices to address environmental natural resource problems. Payments are made to producers once conservation practices are completed according to NRCS requirements.

Funding Amount

Up to \$300,000

Eligible Recipients

Persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production and owners of non-industrial private forestland are eligible for the program. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, private non-industrial forestland, and other farm or ranch lands. Applicants must: be an agricultural producer; be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions of the Farm Bill; and develop an EQIP plan of operations. If an EQIP contract includes an animal waste storage or treatment facility, the participant must implement a comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP). If an EQIP plan of operations addresses non-industrial private forestland, the participant must implement a forest management plan.

Eligible Projects

Water conservation or irrigation efficiency applications that will reduce water use or projects where the producer agrees not to use any associated water savings to bring new land under irrigation production. Assistance to organic production operations will be based on producers agreeing to develop and carry out organic system plans.

More Information

USDA-NRCS: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>

Wetland Reserve Program

Funding Category

Conservation/Land

Description

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program. Its purpose is to preserve, protect, and restore the nation's valuable wetlands. Wetland protection will improve wildlife and migratory bird habitat, improve water quality, and provide flood water retention, ground water recharge, open space, and aesthetic values. The NRCS provides technical help and financial assistance.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

Local landowners and organizations who wish to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection.

Eligible Projects

To be eligible, land must be restorable to wetland conditions. Eligible lands include wetlands farmed under natural conditions, farmed wetlands, prior converted cropland, commenced converted wetlands, farmed wetlands pasture, stream corridors, and land substantially altered by flooding.

More Information

USDA-NRCS: <http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/>

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Funding Category

Capital/Operating

Description

The Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and rangeland in agricultural uses. Working through existing programs, USDA partners with State, tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements or other interests in land from landowners. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value of the conservation easement.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

State, tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations.

Eligible Projects

To qualify, farmland must:

- Be part of a pending offer from a State, tribe, or local farmland protection program;
- Be privately owned ;
- Have a conservation plan for highly erodible land;
- Be large enough to sustain agricultural production;
- Be accessible to markets for what the land produces;
- Have adequate infrastructure and agricultural support services; and,
- Have surrounding parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production.

More Information

USDA-NRCS: <http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp/>

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Funding Category

Conservation/Land

Description

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to help participants develop fish and wildlife habitat on private agricultural land, non-industrial private forest land, and Indian land.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

Landowners with eligible agricultural lands including cropland, grassland, pasture, and other land determined by NRCS to be suitable for wildlife habitat development are eligible to apply. Applicants must meet eligibility for Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) certification and be in compliance with the highly Erodible Land and wetland Provisions of the Food security Act of 1985 as amended.

Eligible Projects

WHIP in New York will have two focus areas: enhancing early successional wildlife habitat with shrubland and establishing and enhancing grassland habitat for declining bird species, pollinators, and other grassland wildlife species. Examples of eligible practices include planting of new wildlife seedings, management activities like mowing and fertilizing, prescribed burning, early successional clearings to enhance shrubland habitat.

More Information

USDA-NRCS: <http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/index.html>

NYSDAM

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

About

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Market's (NYSDAM) mission is to foster a competitive food and agriculture industry that benefits producers and consumers alike. Agriculture makes up one-quarter of the State's land area and contributes immensely to the quality of life in New York State by generating economic activity and producing wholesome products to nourish our families. NYSDAM works diligently to promote a viable agricultural industry, foster agricultural environmental stewardship, and safeguard our food supply.

Programs

- NYS Funding for Organic Certification
- Grow NY Enterprise Program
- Agriculture & Farmland Protection Grant Projects

Contact Information

New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets
Division of Agricultural Protection and Development
Organic Development and Assistance
10B Airline Drive
Albany, New York 12235
Phone: 518-457-2090
Fax: 518-485-8986

NYS Funding for Organic Certification

Funding Category

Marketing

Description

This funding offers reimbursement for newly certified producers and processors, or existing producers and processors renewing their organic certification. Reimbursement amounts of 75 percent of the annual certification fee costs not to exceed \$750.

Funding Amount

Up to \$750

Eligible Recipients

Producers who renew or newly establish their organic certification.

Eligible Projects

A USDA accredited certifying agency must do the certification.

More Information:

NYSDAM: <http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/Organic/reimbursement.html>

Grow NY Enterprise Program

Funding Category

Marketing, Capital/Operating

Description

The Grow NY Enterprise Program, a joint Governor's initiative of the Governor's Office for Small Cities (GOSC), Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC), and the Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYS DAM), dedicates \$3 million to increase the demand for and expand the use of New York's agriculture and forest products. The primary objective of the program is to provide funds to local governments who in turn use the dollars to assist qualifying businesses who undertake activities resulting in the creation or retention of job opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons.

Funding Amount

\$100,000 to \$750,000

Eligible Recipients

Municipalities under 50,000 people and counties with an un-incorporated population of under 200,000 people apply on behalf of farm enterprise. Must have other funding in place. Job creation required: 1 job per \$15,000 invested.

Eligible Projects

Projects must benefit the local community and provide full-time employment for low- and moderate-income persons. Businesses may use the grant to fund a portion of the project they wish to undertake. Financing of machinery and equipment, building construction, working capital or real property acquisition are all eligible uses.

More Information

NYS DAM: <http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/GNYRFP.html>

Tim Pezzolesi, Tim.pezzolesi@agmkt.state.ny.us

Agriculture & Farmland Protection Grant Projects

Funding Category

Capital/Operating

Description

Two matching grant programs focused on farmland protection. One assists county governments in developing agricultural and farmland protection plans to maintain the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry and its supporting land base; the other assists local governments in implementing their farmland protection plans and has focused on preserving the land base by purchasing the development rights on farms using a legal document called a conservation easement. The purchase of development rights (PDR) can help where the benefits and protections available through agricultural districting and other planning tools may not be sufficient to overcome local development pressure and other issues affecting farmland.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

Counties or municipalities with approved Ag & Farmland Protection – farmers should contact county/town government if interested in the sale of development rights.

Eligible Projects

State assistance payments are available for counties to cover up to 50 percent of the costs to develop agricultural and farmland protection plans. State assistance payments are available to counties or municipalities to cover up to 75 percent of the total costs for implementation activities to protect viable farmland.

More Information

NYS/DAM: <http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agsservices/farmprotect.html>

NYSDEC

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

About

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was created to combine in a single agency all state programs designed to protect and enhance the environment.

Mission: "To conserve, improve and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being."

DEC's goal is to achieve this mission through the simultaneous pursuit of environmental quality, public health, economic prosperity and social well-being, including environmental justice and the empowerment of individuals to participate in environmental decisions that affect their lives.

Programs

- Water Quality Improvement Project Program

Contact Information

NYSDEC

Division of Water

Bureau of Program Resources

625 Broadway

Albany, NY 12233-3507

Phone: 518-402-8267

dowinfo@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Water Quality Improvement Project Program

Funding Category

Conservation/Land

Description

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) supports water quality improvements through the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Statewide Grant Program. The WQIP program is a competitive, reimbursement grant program that directs funds from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund to projects that reduce polluted runoff, improve water quality and restore habitat in New York's water bodies.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

Municipalities (villages, towns & cities), Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Not for Profit Corporations (in some cases).

Eligible Projects

The five basic types of projects eligible for funding:

- Municipal Wastewater Treatment;
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s);
- Nonagricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control;
- Aquatic Habitat Restoration; and,
- Water Quality Management.

More Information

NYSDEC: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>

NYSERDA

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

About

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is a public benefit corporation that aims to help New York meet its energy goals: reducing energy consumption, promoting the use of renewable energy sources, and protecting the environment.

NYSERDA strives to facilitate change through the widespread development and use of innovative technologies to improve the State's energy, economic, and environmental wellbeing. In fulfilling its mission, NYSERDA's workforce reflects its public service orientation, placing a premium on objective analysis and collaboration, as well as reaching out to solicit multiple perspectives and share information. NYSERDA is committed to public service, striving to be a model of efficiency and effectiveness, while remaining flexible and responsive to its customers' needs. NYSERDA's programs and services provide a vehicle for the State to work collaboratively with businesses, academia, industry, the federal government, environmental community, public interest groups, and energy market participants. Through these collaborations, NYSERDA seeks to develop a diversified energy supply portfolio, improve market mechanisms, and facilitate the introduction and adoption of advanced technologies that will help New Yorkers plan for and respond to uncertainties in energy markets.

Programs

- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects and Programs

Contact Information

NYSERDA

17 Columbia Circle

Albany, NY 12203

www.nyserda.ny.gov

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects and Programs

Funding Category

Energy/Biomass Crops, Capital/Operating

Description

NYSERDA will provide financial and technical assistance for commercial and industrial sector energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

NYS industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities, state and local governments, not-for-profit and private institutions, public and private K-12 schools, colleges and universities, health care facilities, and other non-residential customers.

Eligible Projects

- Existing Facilities Program - financial incentives to offset capital costs of cost effective energy efficiency projects that reduce electric and natural gas consumption in existing commercial and industrial buildings.
- New Construction Program - provides assistance when incorporating energy-efficiency measures into the design, construction, and operation of new and substantially renovated buildings.
- Flex Tech Program - provides eligible facilities with information on a cost-shared basis to help customers make informed energy decisions. The Flex Tech program offers Farm Energy Audits, funding up to \$1,500.
- Industrial and Process Efficiency Program - incentives are provided to offset the costs of projects focused on increasing productivity, increasing process efficiency, reducing waste, and reducing electricity consumption on a per unit of production basis.
- Anaerobic Digester Gas to Electricity Projects
- On-Site (Small) Wind System Incentive Program
- Solar – Electric (PV) System Incentive Program

More Information

NYSERDA: <http://www.nyserda.org/Programs/Agricultural/default.asp>

NYS Soil & Water

New York State Soil & Water Conservation

About

The New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee is composed of voting and advisory members who represent a wide range of agricultural, environmental and other interests. The broad range of interests represented on the Committee allows it to carry out its work through a network of partnerships between state, federal and local agencies, as well as citizen interests and the private sector.

The mission of the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee is to develop and oversee implementation of an effective soil and water conservation and agricultural nonpoint source water quality program for the State of New York that is implemented primarily through county Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Programs

- Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)

Contact Information

NYS Soil & Water
Conservation Committee
1 Winners Circle
Albany, NY 12235
Phone: 518-457-3738
barb.silvestri@agmkt.state.ny.us

Agricultural Environmental Management

Funding Category

Conservation/Land

Description

AEM is a voluntary, incentive-based program that helps farmers make common-sense, cost-effective and science-based decisions to help meet business objectives while protecting and conserving the State's natural resources. Farmers work with local AEM resource professionals to develop comprehensive farm plans using a tiered process:

- Tier 1 – Inventory current activities, future plans and potential environmental concerns.
- Tier 2 – Document current land stewardship; assess and prioritize areas of concern.
- Tier 3 – Develop conservation plans addressing concerns and opportunities tailored to farm goals.
- Tier 4 – Implement plans utilizing available financial, educational and technical assistance.
- Tier 5 – Evaluate to ensure the protection of the environment and farm viability.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

Farmers and Farm owners

Eligible Projects

Contact the Soil and Water Conservation District or Committee; there are many potential projects.

More Information

NYS Soil & Water: <http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/SoilWater/aem/index.html>

Northeast SARE

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

About

Northeast SARE is a regional program of the national SARE program, which is part of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, or NIFA.

SARE grants fund research and education projects exploring:

- On-farm renewable energy
- Pest and weed management
- Pastured livestock & rotational grazing
- No-till and conservation tillage
- Nutrient management
- Agroforestry
- Marketing
- Sustainable communities
- Systems research
- Crop and livestock diversity

Since 1988, SARE has funded more than 4,800 projects with grants for farmers, ranchers, extension agents and educators, researchers, nonprofits, students, communities and others.

Programs

- Farmer Grants
- Partnership Grants
- Sustainable Community Grants
- Graduate Student Grants
- Professional Development Grants
- Research and Education Grants

Contact Information

Northeast SARE
655 Spear St.
University of Vermont
Burlington, VT 05405-0107
Phone: 802-656-0471
www.nesare.org

Farmer Grants

Funding Category

Capital/Operating, Conservation/Land, Marketing, Research

Description

The goal of the Farmer Grants program is to develop, refine, and demonstrate new sustainable techniques and to explore innovative ideas developed by farmers across the region. Farmer grants projects should seek new knowledge that other farmers can use and should address questions that are directly linked to improved profits, better stewardship, and stronger rural communities.

Funding Amount

Up to \$15,000

Eligible Recipients

Applicant must be a farmer in the Northeast SARE region. Applicant need not be farming full time, but the operation should have an established crop or animal product that is sold on a regular basis. Institutional and incorporated farms may apply, but the primary activity of that farm must be to produce and sell food under the kinds of economic constraints that affect commercial growers.

Eligible Projects

Farmer Grants funds can be used to explore new marketing and production techniques, pest management, cover crops, composting, agroforestry, new crop trials, bee health and alternative pollinators, new tool development, and a very broad range of other topics that improve profitability, stewardship, and the rural community. Projects must test a genuinely new idea, offer a new twist on an old one, and show evidence of careful planning. Funds can be used to pay farmers for their time, for project-related materials, for project costs like consulting fees or soil tests, and for any communications or outreach expenses associated with telling others about project results.

More Information

Northeast SARE: <http://nesare.org/get/farmers/>

Partnership Grants

Funding Category

Research

Description

The purpose of the Partnership Grants program is to support agricultural service providers who work directly with farmers to do on-farm demonstrations, research, marketing, and other projects that will add to our understanding of sustainable agriculture.

Funding Amount

\$15,000

Eligible Recipients

Agricultural service providers - extension staff, nonprofits, consultants, state departments of agriculture, and others working in the agricultural community. In addition, applicant must be currently working with farmers and the farmers cooperating in the project must be willing to submit a letter with the grant application that indicates their commitment to the project and outlines the duties they will perform. If the project involves field experiments, they must take place on working farms. Preference is given to projects involving two or more farms, and to projects with a strong outreach component.

Eligible Projects

Partnership projects can address a variety of topics, including the development of beneficial insect habitat, alternative crops or animals, practices that make use of biological cycles for improved soil, plant, and pest management, marketing, adding value, grazing, energy, tool or technology development, agroforestry, farm management, farm labor, or water quality. Proposals should be relevant to farming and sustainability issues in the Northeast, and should offer both research and outreach so that results will be available to the wider farm community.

More Information

Northeast SARE: <http://nesare.org/get/partnership/>

Sustainable Community Grants

Funding Category

Capital/Operating

Description

Sustainable Community Grants make a direct connection between community revitalization and farming. Projects must address specific key issues such as farm finance, marketing, land use, water use, enterprise development, value-added product development, or other delineated topic areas. Applicant must be affiliated with Cooperative Extension, a municipality, a state department of agriculture, a college or university, a community organization, or other institutional entity

Funding Amount

\$15,000

Eligible Recipients

Sustainable Community Grants are primarily for agriculturally oriented agencies (Cooperative Extensions, Natural Resource Conservation District or comparable entities), and community development groups that have the capacity and experience to foster sustainable agricultural economic development. Other institutions and organizations - a farming cooperative or a town planning board, for example - may also apply, provided there is sufficient expertise in sustainable agricultural enterprise development.

All eligible organizations must be linked to a definable town, township, watershed, county, or other delineated area, and should be established, credible, and able to draw on this community and its farmers for participation and support.

Eligible Projects

Proposals must address key issues such as finance, marketing, land use, water use, enterprise development, value-added activities, and labor.

More Information

Northeast SARE: <http://nesare.org/get/sustainable-community/>

Graduate Student Grants

Funding Category

Capital/Operating, Research

Description

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program offers grant funds so that graduate students can conduct research on topics specific to sustainable agriculture under the supervision of a faculty advisor. Proposals for these grant funds should address issues of current or potential importance to Northeast farmers, farm support professionals such as NRCS staff and Cooperative Extension, and agricultural researchers.

Funding Amount

\$15,000

Eligible Recipients

This grant is open to graduate students enrolled at an accredited college, university, or veterinary school in the Northeast region. To qualify, you must have a faculty advisor who will endorse the proposal, oversee the research, and act as the official principal investigator.

Eligible Projects

Successful Graduate Student Grant proposals will address inquiries in sustainable agriculture that are important to farmers, Cooperative Extension staff, and agricultural researchers. Awards may encompass a wide range of topics including, but not limited to: cropping systems, pest management, livestock health, farm energy production, farm labor, soil quality, and the marketing of local food.

More Information

Northeast SARE: <http://nesare.org/get/graduate-students/>

Professional Development Grants

Funding Category

Capital/Operating, Conservation/Land

Description

Northeast SARE Professional Development grants build the knowledge base and educational infrastructure so that Cooperative Extension educators and other agricultural professionals can get and use the knowledge they need to help farmers move toward greater sustainability.

Funding Amount

\$60,000 - \$200,000

Eligible Recipients

Anyone can apply for a Professional Development grant, but applicants should have direct and substantial experience delivering agricultural education to extension and other agricultural service providers. Professional Development projects draw on scientific and pedagogic expertise, and all applicants should demonstrate a firm grasp of current barriers and issues in sustainable agriculture.

Eligible Projects

Professional Development projects can cover a wide range of topics - recently SARE has funded training in ecological weed management, labor, whole-farm nutrient planning, tillage, season extension, carbon trading, and the needs of new farmers, among other things. In the course of these projects SARE funds have also been used to produce books, videos, webcasts, and other media tools to improve participants' understanding of sustainable techniques.

More Information

Northeast SARE: <http://nesare.org/get/professional-development/>

Research and Education Grants

Funding Category

Capital/Operating, Research

Description

Northeast SARE seeks proposals for research, education and on-farm demonstration projects, and the emphasis is on projects that lead directly to improved farming practices and an enhanced quality of life for farmers and rural communities. Projects must involve farmers and other stakeholders in planning, implementing, and evaluating a potential project; we also fund projects where research, Cooperative Extension, and education are closely linked.

Funding Amount

Varies

Eligible Recipients

Anyone can apply for a Research and Education grant, but applicants should have experience doing agricultural research, preferably research in cooperation with commercial farmers and applied research that will translate quickly into improved practices on the ground. All applicants must demonstrate a firm grasp of current barriers and issues in sustainable agriculture.

Eligible Projects

Research and Education projects can cover a wide range of topics - recently SARE has funded cover crop trials, farm-based energy, new approaches to livestock health, nutrient management and recycling, agritourism, and new directions in integrated crop and pest management, among other things. In the course of these projects SARE funds have also been used to produce books, videos, webcasts, and other media tools to improve participants' understanding of sustainable techniques.

More Information

Northeast SARE: <http://nesare.org/get/research-and-education/>



Technical Assistance Providers

The technical assistants listed below are an excellent resource for more information about agriculture funding and other resources.

American Farmland Trust

American Farmland Trust is the nation's leading conservation organization dedicated to saving America's farm and ranch land, promoting environmentally sound farming practices and supporting a sustainable future for farms. As the vital link among farmers, conservationists and policy-makers, we're focused on ensuring the availability of the land that provides fresh food, a healthy environment and lasting rural landscapes.

American Farmland Trust
New York State Office
112 Spring St., Ste 207
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518-581-0078
info@farmland.org
www.farmland.org

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) links the research and extension efforts at Cornell University, CU Agricultural Experiment Station in Ithaca, and the NYS Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, NY, across New York State to provide the knowledge necessary to maximize the value of our agricultural and natural resources to benefit the quality of life for individuals, families and communities. CCE offers agricultural programs and resources targeting diverse audiences in areas of dairy and livestock production; field crops and nutrient management; fruits, grapes, and vegetables; and farm business management, economics, and policy.

To locate a CCE office near you, please visit:
www.cce.cornell.edu/learnAbout/Pages/Local_Offices.aspx
www.cce.cornell.edu

New York Association of Conservation Districts, Inc.

Incorporated in 1958, the New York Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (NYACD) provides education and information on conservation, orderly development and wise use of the state's natural resources. The Association, a non-governmental, non-partisan, volunteer organization, represents the county Soil and Water Conservation Districts. NYACD implements programs that encourage proactive, cooperative alliances with others to promote environmental stewardship and sustainability. Consistent with our dedication to natural resource management, NYACD provides advocacy and representation of our members at the state, regional and national levels.

New York Association of Conservation Districts, Inc
245 Hartley Rd
Amsterdam, NY 12010
518-857-0060
NYACD@nycap.rr.com
www.nyacd.org

New York Farm Bureau

The mission of New York Farm Bureau is "To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture." Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, volunteer organization financed and controlled by member families for the purpose of solving economic and public policy issues challenging the agricultural industry. Farm Bureau's "grassroots" policy development process continues to ensure that the organization represents the majority position of its membership. Policy development begins at the county level with problem identification and culminates at the New York Farm Bureau Annual Meeting with resolutions addressing the issues.

New York Farm Bureau
159 Wolf Road
P.O. Box 5330
Albany, NY 12205
Phone: 518-436-8495
Toll-Free: 800-342-4143
Fax: 518-431-5656
www.nyfb.org

New York Farm Viability Institute

The New York Farm Viability Institute is a farmer-led nonprofit group that awards grant funds for applied research and outreach education projects that help farms increase profits and provide models for other farms. The Institute works with all farms, reflecting the diversity of farm sizes, sectors, commodities, production practices, and locations in New York State. The Institute works to foster a vibrant agriculture business sector in New York by supporting applied research, outreach education, information transfer, adoption of technology, business planning and market analysis. The New York Farm Viability Institute promotes practical solutions to challenges facing New York's farms.

New York Farm Viability Institute
159 Dwight Park Circle
Suite 104
Syracuse, NY 13209
315-453-382
info@nyfvi.org
www.nyfvi.org

Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York

NOFA-NY, Inc is an organization of consumers, gardeners, and farmers working together to create a sustainable regional food system which is ecologically sound and economically viable. Through demonstration and educational opportunities, we promote land stewardship, organic food production, and local marketing. NOFA-NY brings consumers and farmers closer together to make high quality food available to all people.

NOFA-NY, Inc
249 Highland Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620
Phone: 585-271-1979
Fax: 585-271-7166
info@nofany.org
www.nofany.org

Watershed Agricultural Council

The Watershed Agricultural Council works with farm and forest landowners in the New York City Watershed region to protect water quality on behalf of nine million New York residents. The Council uses Whole Farms Plans, Forest Management Plans, and Conservation Easements to help farmers, forest professionals and private landholders address water pollution concerns on properties located in the Croton and Catskill/Delaware watersheds.

Watershed Agricultural Council
33195 State Highway 10
Walton, NY 13856
tel: 607-865-7790
fax: 607-865-4932
NY Relay Service:
1-800-662-1220
info@nycwatershed.org
www.nycwatershed.org





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