Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

GRANT PROGRAMS

VERMONT

AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS

www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov

Grant Programs at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM) - Quick View -

Information last updated: July, 2016

Program	Objective	Use	Applicant	Amount
Agricultural Fairs & Field Days Capital Project Grant	Support Vermont agricultural fairs & field days	For capital projects that support Vermont agricultural fairs & field days	Qualified Agricultural Fairs or Field Days	Dependent on legislative appropriation
Agricultural Fairs Stipend Fund Program	Support Vermont agricultural fairs & field days	For competitive exhibits, plant improvements, and general operation	Qualified Agricultural Fairs or Field Days	Dependent on legislative appropriation
Best Management Practice (BMP) Cost Share Program	Abate nonpoint source agricultural waste discharges into state waters	For on-farm improvements including manure storage; improved barnyards/runoff collection; clean water diversion; milk house waste collection & treatment; silage storm water runoff treatment, etc.	Applicant must be Vermont-based and registered with the Vermont Secretary of State	$50,000 for a single practice or $75,000 for multiple practices
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	Abate nonpoint source agricultural waste discharges into state waters	To build and maintain conservation buffers along waterways	Producer or landowner whose land is used for agriculture	N/A
Domestic Export Trade Show Assistance Grant	Expand sales opportunities for Vermont food and forestry businesses	To attend national trade shows for the purpose of research, or to exhibit & sell Vermont products	Business registered with the state of Vermont, principally producing its product in state	$2,000
Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) Program	Improve soil quality, increase crop production, and reduce erosion and agricultural waste discharges	To implement annual soil-based practices	Farmers seeking voluntary implementation of FAP practices; farmers, citizens, organizations seeking educational support	$5,000 per farm and $1,000 per educational activity
Farm to School Grant Program	Expand Farm to School programming in schools throughout Vermont	For planning and implementation of farm to school programs	Vermont school, school district, supervisory union or consortium of schools	$15,000
Milk Cooler Program	Increase student access to nutritious dairy products	For purchase of milk coolers	Vermont schools	$1,000
Mosquito Control Grants	Control of nuisance mosquitoes	To survey and control nuisance mosquito larvae in Vermont Mosquito Districts	Vermont Mosquito Control Districts (MCD)	Based on availability
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)	Enhance the competitiveness of Vermont specialty crops	To enhance the competitiveness of Vermont specialty crops including fruits, vegetables, honey, maple, hops, Christmas trees, and nursery crops	Business, organization, or individual. Projects must benefit more than one business, organization or individual.	Varies Annually
Specialty Crop Multi-State Program (SCMP)	Enhance the competitiveness of U.S. specialty crops	To address regional or national specialty crop issues including food safety; plant pests and disease; research; crop-specific issues; and marketing and promotion	Business, organization, or individual. Projects must benefit more than one business, organization or individual and be based in more than one state.	$250,000–$1,000,000
Water Quality Grants	Improve Vermont's water quality	For water quality projects initiated by VAAFM	Apply via VAAFM Request For Proposal (RFP) process	N/A
Working Lands Enterprise Fund	Enhance Vermont's communities, economy, and culture	To support agriculture and forestry projects	Applicant must be Vermont-based and registered with the Vermont Secretary of State	$5,000–$75,000

Grant Programs at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM) - Grant Descriptions -

Agricultural Fairs & Field Days Capital Projects Competitive Grants Program

Provides financial assistance to Vermont agricultural fairs and field days for capital projects.

Who can apply?

Applications are sent to all eligible fairs and field days throughout Vermont. Agricultural fairs and field days must operate a minimum of three consecutive eight-hour days per year in order to be eligible.

When are applications accepted?

Applications are accepted between October 1st and November 1st.

Maximum Award

Dependent on legislative appropriation.
Average award in 2015 was $23,000.

Cost Sharing Requirements

There is a 15% match requirement.

Contact & Additional Information

Email: Reg.Godin@vermont.gov Call: (802) 522-3648
Visit: http://go.usa.gov/c849m

Agricultural Fairs Stipend Fund Program

Provides Vermont Agricultural Fairs with financial support for competitive exhibits, plant improvements, and general operations.

Who can apply?

Qualifying Agricultural Fairs or Field Days must meet minimum selection criteria; applications are sent to all eligible fairs and field days throughout Vermont.

When are applications accepted?

Applications are accepted between Jan. 1st & Feb. 1st.

Maximum Award

Dependent on legislative appropriation.
2015 awards ranged between $2,000-$10,000.

Contact & Additional Information

Email: Reg.Godin@vermont.gov Call: (802) 522-3648

Best Management Practice Cost Share Program

Provides financial assistance for the voluntary construction of on-farm improvements designed to abate nonpoint source agricultural waste discharges into the waters of the state.

Who can apply?

Program funds are available to farmers seeking voluntary implementation of farm improvements; projects are selected on the basis of watershed treatment priorities.

When are applications accepted?

Applications are accepted and evaluated year round.

Maximum Award

$50,000 for a single farm or $75,000 for multiple farms

Cost Sharing Requirements

Funds can be combined with federal cost share to provide a maximum of 85% of an approved project. State cost share is limited to a maximum of 35% when combined with federal cost share and up to 80% without federal cost share. Farmer covers a minimum of 15% of costs.

Contact & Additional Information

Email: AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov Call: (802) 828-2431
Visit: http://go.usa.gov/cQGkT

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Provides financial assistance to build/maintain conservation buffers along waterways to abate nonpoint source agricultural waste discharges into the waters of the state.

Who can apply?

Any producer/landowner whose land is used for agriculture.

When are applications accepted?

Applications are accepted and evaluated year round.

Maximum Award

Maximum per acre incentive rates and per acre rental rates will depend on recent land use.

Cost Sharing Requirements

Cost share to install the buffer practices is 90% from the Farm Service Agency. Remaining 10% may be covered by the US Fish and Wildlife's Partners Program.

Contact & Additional Information

Email: AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov Call: (802) 828-2431
Visit: http://go.usa.gov/c9HBG

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find additional funding opportunities and resources on our website at
http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities

The mission of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets is to facilitate, support, and encourage the growth and viability of agriculture while protecting the working landscape, human health, animal health, plant health, consumers, and the environment.

Domestic Export Trade Show Assistance Grant

Provides Vermont food and forestry businesses with funds to help identify, plan, exhibit and sell Vermont products at national trade shows.

Who can apply?

Any business registered with the state of Vermont that principally produces its ag, food or forestry product in state.

When are applications accepted?

Applications are accepted between Nov. 1st & Dec. 1st.

Maximum Award

The grants have a maximum award of $2,000.

Cost Sharing Requirements

There is 50% cash match requirement.

Contact & Additional Information

Email: Reg.Godin@vermont.gov Call: (802) 522-3648,
Visit: http://go.usa.gov/3u8aP

Farm Agronomic Practices Program

Provides financial assistance to Vermont farmers to implement annual soil-based practices that improve soil quality, increase crop production, and reduce erosion and agricultural waste discharges.

Who can apply?

Funds are available to farmers seeking voluntary implementation of farm agronomic practices. Educational and instructional activity grants are available to farmers, citizens and organizations.

When are applications accepted?

Applications accepted and evaluated year round.

Maximum Award

The maximum award in this program is $5,000 per farm and $1,000 per educational activity.

Contact & Additional Information

Email: AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov Call: 802) 828-2431,
Visit: http://go.usa.gov/c9G6C

Farm to School Grant Program

Provides financial and technical assistance to Vermont schools to plan and implement farm to school programs.

Who can apply?

Any Vermont school, school district, supervisory union or consortium of schools may apply.

When are applications accepted?

Applications accepted between October and November.

Farm to School Grant Program Cont'd

Maximum Award

$10,000

Cost Sharing Requirements

Cost sharing is preferred, but not required.

Contact & Additional Information

Email: Alexandra.Zipparo@vermont.gov Call: (802) 505-1822
Visit: http://go.usa.gov/3u8CR

Milk Cooler Program

Provides financial assistance to Vermont schools in order to increase student access to fresh, nutritious dairy products.

Who can apply?

Any Vermont school may apply.

When are applications accepted?

Applications are accepted and evaluated year round.

Maximum Award

$1,000 is available per school toward purchase of a new milk cooler. No grant payment can exceed the total cost of the cooler.

Cost Sharing Requirements

Applicants are responsible for any costs incurred above the $1,000 grant award limit.

Contact & Additional Information

Email: Alexandra.Zipparo@vermont.gov Call: (802) 505-1822

Mosquito Control Grants

Provides state financial assistance to Vermont Mosquito Control Districts for voluntary survey and control of nuisance mosquito larvae within these districts.

Who can apply?

Vermont Mosquito Control Districts may apply.

When are applications accepted?

Applications are accepted and evaluated year round.

Maximum Award

Based on available funding and demonstrated need.

Cost Sharing Requirements

Applicant districts are required to demonstrate a 25% match, which may be met through actual cash contribution or through in-kind services, including adulticide application or the purchase of capital equipment for mosquito control.

Contact & Additional Information

Email: AGR.PlantIndustry@vermont.gov
Call: (802) 828-2431 Visit: http://go.usa.gov/3u8cw

"Vermonters are deeply connected to the land, and many enjoy a close relationship with agriculture. Today, more than ever, consumers across the country are interested in the 'who, what, why, and how' of where their food comes from, and Vermont answers these questions in compelling, innovative, and sustainable ways."

– Vermont Agriculture Secretary Chuck Ross

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Provides funds to enhance the competitiveness of Vermont specialty crops including fruits and vegetables, honey, maple, hops, Christmas trees and nursery crops.

Who can apply?

Any business, organization, or individual may apply, but projects must demonstrate measurable benefits to more than one business, organization or individual.

When are applications accepted?

Applications are generally accepted each winter, after VAAFM issues a Request For Proposals (RFP).

Maximum Award

Awards are not capped; successful proposals are generally awarded between $10,000 and $30,000 per project year. Projects can be up to three years in length.

Cost Sharing Requirements

Applications must show matching funds of at least 50%.

Contact & Additional Information

Email: Kristina.Sweet@vermont.gov Call: (802) 522-7811
Visit: http://go.usa.gov/3u8YQ

Specialty Crop Multi-State Program

Provides funds to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through collaborative, multi-state projects that address regional or national-level specialty crop issues including food safety; plant pests and disease; research; crop-specific issues; and marketing and promotion.

Who can apply?

Any business, organization, or individual may apply. Projects must demonstrate measurable benefits to more than one business, organization or individual, and project partners must be based in more than one state.

When are applications accepted?

We expect AMS to announce the next request for applications in the summer or fall of 2016.

Maximum Award

Proposals can request between $250,000 and $1,000,000.

Contact & Additional Information

Email: Kristina.Sweet@vermont.gov Call: (802) 522-7811
Visit: http://go.usa.gov/ckFXR

Water Quality Grants

Provides financial assistance to organizations to improve Vermont's water quality, targeting specific locations or practices. Projects are initiated by VAAFM and may be awarded directly to an entity or applied for through a Request For Proposals (RFP) opportunity.

Who can apply?

Projects are initiated by VAAFM and may be awarded directly to an entity or applied for through a Request For Proposal (RFP) opportunity.

Maximum Award

Payments are based on performance measures established within individual grant agreements.

Contact & Additional Information

Email: AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov Call: (802) 828-2431
Visit: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality

Working Lands Enterprise Fund

Provides funds to support agriculture and forestry projects that enhance Vermont's communities, economy, and culture.

Who can apply?

Primary applicant must be based in Vermont and registered with the Vermont Secretary of State at the time of full application submission.

When are applications accepted?

Applications are accepted in the fall, after the VAAFM issues a Request For Proposals (RFP).

Maximum Award

1. Proposals for Business Investments can request between $5,000–$50,000.
2. Proposals for Service Provider Investments can request between $15,000–$75,000.

Cost Sharing Requirements

1. Business Investment budgets must show at least a 1-to-1 match. At least 50% of this match must be cash; the rest may be in-kind.
2. Service Provider Investments require a 100% (1-to-1) cash or in-kind match of total requested funds.

Contact & Additional Information

Email: Working.Lands@vermont.gov Call: (802) 585-9072 or (802)522-3132 Visit: http://workinglands.vermont.gov

DEFINITIONS

Cost Sharing and Match

These terms are used to describe a requirement or condition that a minimum amount of funding for a proposed project originates from another source.

In-Kind Match

In-kind contributions may include personnel time; use of existing equipment or facilities; and waived or unrecovered indirect (administration) costs.

Cash Match

"Cash match" is real cash contributed to a project, such as cash contributed by an organization; equipment purchased; personnel to be hired; or paying for a brochure.

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