

## Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP) Application FY2023

**Purpose:** Financial assistance is available to purchase or use innovative equipment that will aid in the reduction of surface runoff of agricultural wastes to State waters, improve water quality of State waters, reduce odors from manure application, separate phosphorus from manure, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce costs to farmers.

### **Program Timeline:**

- Application Open September 1, 2022
- **Grant Applications due (or postmarked) by November 1, 2022**
- Award Notification February 1, 2023
- Equipment Purchase Required after Award Notice and before June 1, 2023

**Applicant Eligibility:** Eligible applicants include custom applicators, nonprofit organizations, phosphorus extraction equipment providers, and Vermont farms required to comply with the Required Agricultural Practices. Applicants are limited to one application per individual farm operation, organization, or entity per funding opportunity. If an applicant is requesting a precision technology component (e.g., flow meters) that is integrated with the requested equipment, it is still considered a single application.

### **Ranking Criteria:**

- ❖ **Applicant Type (8%):** Priority will be given to capital equipment to be used on multiple farm operations.
- ❖ **Geographic Area (10%):** Priority will be given in descending order based on the statute for this program - Lake Champlain Basin, Lake Memphremagog Basin, the Connecticut River Basin, and the Hudson River Basin. Projects located in the following Tactical Basins will receive priority to support achieving higher relative phosphorus reduction requirements: Missisquoi Bay, Southern Lake Champlain and Otter Creek.
- ❖ **Investment Impact (15%):** Priority will be given to applications with the lowest cost per acre and the highest percentage use on applicable cropland.
- ❖ **Viability/Risk (10%):** Priority will be given to applicants with reduced risk as assessed by AAFM.
- ❖ **Management, Experience & Impact (27%):** Priority will be given to new CEAP grant recipients, applicants meeting more than one of the CEAP purpose (description above and available online at [6 V.S.A. § 4828](#)), applicants with prior equipment and practice experience, and applicants planning to increase or expand conservation practice implementation. Priority is also awarded where applicants have assistance from qualified technical assistance providers to assist with practice implementation and adoption on their farm.
- ❖ **Supporting Materials & Consistency (10%):** Priority will be given to proposals with complete supporting documentation, including a questionnaire and quotes for the requested equipment, and consistency throughout the application and supporting documentation.
- ❖ **Innovation & Effect (20%):** Priority will be given to proposals for innovative equipment, and for the overall understood impact and likely success of the project as described in the application to meet the statutory intent of the program (description above and available online at [6 V.S.A. § 4828](#)).

**Match Requirements:** Successful applicants must provide 10% matching funds contribution. Shipping, freight and/or travel fees are not eligible for reimbursement.

**How to Apply:** Applicants are highly encouraged to apply online to ensure a timely and systematized receipt of applications. This method of submission also provides applicants with confirmation that their application has been received. You can review the application below and use it to draft your responses before submitting online. Please be aware you cannot save a partial submission and return later once you have started an online application; the content will be lost. Applications received via mail or email and postmarked by November 1, 2022, will be accepted.

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### Eligible Equipment Types and Funding Rates:

Equipment Purpose	Examples of Eligible Equipment	Funding Rates <i>Award amount may vary depending on the project type, cost and expected results.</i>
<b>Precision Agriculture</b> - to accurately and digitally observe, monitor and respond to field variability and improve nutrient management planning.	- GPS, Flow Meter & Display Unit - Manure or Yield Constituent Sensor - Precision Feed Equipment	90% cost-share up to \$25,000 per applicant
<b>Conservation Tillage</b> – To reduce the frequency or intensity of tillage operations.	- No-Till Planter - Ridge-Till - Planter Downforce	90% cost-share up to \$30,000 per applicant
<b>Cover Crop Equipment</b> – To increase or improve cover cropping implementation.	- No-Till Grain Drill - Roller Crimper	90% cost-share up to \$50,000 per applicant
<b>Waste Management</b> – To improve waste and nutrient management, nutrient application efficiency and methods.	- Injectors - Waste irrigation - Dragline system - Methane capture - Composting equipment (for compost principally produced and used on farm)	90% cost-share up to \$60,000 per applicant  <i>NOTE: A precision manure record keeping system [GPS, Flow Meter &amp; Display Unit] must be used with waste management equipment funded under the CEAP program. If applicant does not have guaranteed access to an operational precision system to use with their waste management equipment, a precision system must be included in application.</i>
<b>Feed Management</b> – To reduce impacts from silage leachate and reduce feed imports.	- Balers/Wrappers	90% cost-share up to \$50,000 per applicant

**Ineligible Equipment:** The following types of equipment are not eligible to receive CEAP funds:

- Frac Tanks
- Manure Tankers
- Manure Pumps
- Solid Manure Spreaders or Broadcast Manure Spreaders
- Tractors
- Subsoiler and Ripsower for use on one individual farm
- Field Tillage equipment that results in full width tillage or soil inversion

*If you need assistance applying, please call 802-622-4098 to schedule an appointment for assistance, or find a service provider near you.*



**VERMONT**

AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS

Water Quality Division  
 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901  
 [phone] (802) 622-4098 [fax] (802) 828-1410  
 [email] [AGR.WaterQuality@Vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.WaterQuality@Vermont.gov)  
 [web] [agriculture.vermont.gov/ceap](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/ceap)

**Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP) Application FY2023**

<b>1) Legal Business Name:</b>												
<b>2) Mailing Address –</b>												
<b>Town, State Zip code:</b>												
<b>3) Phone Number:</b>												
<b>4) Full name of Legal Signatory:</b>												
<b>5) Email Address of Legal Signatory:</b>												
<b>6) Type of Operation (select one):</b>					Custom Applicator		Group of Farmers		Organization			
					Individual Farmer		Phosphorus Extraction Equipment Provider		Other			
<b>7) Farm Operation Size (select one):</b>					LFO		MFO		CSFO		SFO	
<b>8) End Date of Federal Business Tax Year:</b>												
<b>9) What is your Unique Entity ID # (UEI)?</b>												
<p>A UEI is a 12-character alphanumeric ID assigned to an entity by SAM.gov. Existing registered entities can find their Unique Entity ID by logging into their SAM.gov account online. New entities can get their Unique Entity ID at SAM.gov by creating an account and requesting a UEI to be assigned to their entity or by registering their entity. Please note that an Employer Identification Number (EIN) is required for requesting a UEI. Please ensure your entity is listed as 'public' and searchable by State Government employees when you complete this process. Technical Assistance for this process is available through the VT Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC). You can contact PTAC at (802) 828-5237.</p>												
<b>10) Select the watershed basin location where you will use this equipment:</b>					Lake Champlain Basin				Lake Memphremagog Basin			
					Connecticut River Basin				Hudson River Basin			
<b>11) If you are in the Lake Champlain watershed, select the tactical basin watershed(s) in which you manage fields. See the <a href="#">Vermont Tactical Basins</a> for a map.</b>					Missisquoi Bay		Southern Lake Champlain			Otter Creek		
					Winooski		Northern Lake Champlain			Lamoille		
					Not applicable / I am not sure							
<b>12) Requested Equipment Category &amp; Purpose: Select Only One.</b> See Program Details for funding caps, and ensure your selection is reflective of the primary equipment you are requesting. VAAFM reserves the right to re-categorize your application as applicable based on review of your requested equipment.												
Precision Agriculture – To accurately and digitally observe, monitor, and respond to field variability and improve nutrient management planning.												
Conservation Tillage – To reduce the frequency or intensity of tillage operations												
Cover Crop Equipment – To increase cover cropping or improve cover cropping implementation.												
Waste Management – To improve waste and nutrient management, nutrient application efficiency and methods.												
Feed Management – To reduce impacts from silage leachate and reduce feed imports.												

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**13) Requested Equipment Details and Cost:**

Please ensure that the attached quote(s) incorporate all equipment listed and remember that shipping or freight costs are not eligible for financial assistance. If an applicant is requesting a precision technology component (e.g., flow meter, display and GPS Unit) that is integrated with the requested equipment, it is still considered a single application. Please note, a precision manure record keeping system [GPS, Flow Meter & Display Unit] must be used with waste management equipment funded under the CEAP program. If applicant does not have guaranteed access to an operational precision system to use with their waste management equipment, a precision system must be included in application.

<b>EQUIPMENT</b> (e.g., Manure Injector)	
<b>MAKE/MODEL</b> (e.g., 20' Zimmerman Red Viper Gen 3)	
<b>EQUIPMENT USE</b> (e.g., Manure Injection)	
If applicable, list the <b>precision technology components</b> requested with this equipment: (e.g., Flow meter, display, and GPS Unit)	
<b>TOTAL COST</b> (e.g., \$55,000)	

**14) How many acres in Vermont do you commit to use the equipment in each of the following seasons?** Please note that the figures you include will be performance measures in your grant if selected for funding. This means you may be required to repay funds if you do not meet the acreage goals you provide in this application. These figures cannot be altered after application submission.

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027

<b>15) Of the acreage listed above, what percentage do you rent or own?</b>	
<b>16) Complete the crop information below for the planned equipment use based on all rented, owned, and hired/managed acres:</b>	
<b>Crop Type for Equipment Use</b> <i>(e.g. Corn and Soy)</i>	
<b>Total Crop Acres on Farm</b> <i>(e.g. 400 acres corn and soy on farm)</i>	
<b>19) If awarded would this be your operation's first CEAP grant?</b>	Yes      No
<b>20) Have you or the planned equipment operator ever operated this type of equipment before?</b>	Yes      No
<b>21) Have you installed or hired out this conservation practice on your farm in the past? If yes, how many acres last year?</b>	Yes      No
<b>22) Do you have access to technical assistance to assist you with the implementation of this practice on your farm?</b>	Yes      No

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<b>23)</b> Please list the name or organization of anyone you are currently working with regarding this application (e.g., agricultural service provider such as UVM Extension or Conservation District).	
Name:	Email:
<b>24)</b> CEAP is a reimbursement-style grant program. If awarded, you will have to purchase the equipment and submit documentation for reimbursement. Do you have backing from a financial institution or other matching funds to purchase 100% of the equipment, then receive up to 90% cost share reimbursement, and still pay out of pocket for 10% or more of the equipment cost?	Yes
	No
<b>Please read and initial below to indicate you understand the requirements for the Capital Equipment Assistance Program and application.</b>	
This application must be fully completed, signed, and submitted to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, hereby referred to as the Agency, for eligibility. I acknowledge that a full and <b>completed application includes this application form and the following attachments:</b>	<b>INITIAL HERE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Complete Questionnaire</li> <li>b. 1-2 reputable quote/s (reputable meaning from an organization or source that is clearly proficient with assigning cost to equipment systems, or a standard or acceptable source of information) for the equipment you would purchase with this funding.</li> </ul>	
Applicants approved for funding must submit detailed annual reports, which include detailed maps and document use of the equipment each year for first three (3) seasons of use in order to account for the nutrient reductions occurring as a result of state financial assistance for this equipment.	
Equipment cannot be purchased prior to a fully executed grant agreement.	
Use of funded equipment must be for the explicit purposes as explained in 6 V.S.A. § 4828.	
Acceptance of this grant award gives authority for random checks of appropriate equipment use by the Agency and breach of grant agreements may affect your eligibility for Agency cost-share programs.	

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**A complete application must include the following items:**

1. 1-page questionnaire regarding your application for CEAP and the requested equipment. This is required for a complete application.
2. 1-2 Quotes for the requested equipment that detail the estimated costs for the requested equipment and installation, (and shipping or freight costs which are not eligible for financial assistance), and where you plan to purchase it from. Providing more than one quote is highly recommended.
3. **Optional** - Letter/s of support are optional to submit and if submitted should add pertinent, additional information about your application. Please refrain from including letters of support which may clearly be biased in their support of your application.

**Grant Applications due (or postmarked) by November 1, 2022.**

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**Questionnaire:** Please provide a written response to the following questions. These will help reviewers better understand your application and the potential impact of this grant award. If you prefer to attach a letter or document responding to these questions, that is acceptable. Please ensure that your questionnaire is submitted at the time of application.

1. Please provide an overview of your farming operation.
2. Please describe the type and model of equipment requested. *For example, for manure injection toolbars, does it operate with a disk, shank, shallow slot, etc., and does it provide full surface closure at the time of injection?*
3. How does this requested equipment address the various purposes of the CEAP Program which include reduction of surface runoff of agricultural wastes to State waters, improve water quality of State waters, reduce odors from manure application, separate phosphorus from manure, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce costs to farmers?
4. How would the requested equipment improve or fit into your existing farm management? For example, what equipment do you currently use to install the practices that the requested equipment supports? Would the requested equipment make the installation of conservation practices easier, more convenient, or less costly for your operation?
5. How, if at all, would acquiring the requested equipment increase the acreage or quality of conservation practices installed by your operation?
6. How did you estimate the total acreage you plan to use the equipment for each season (Question 14 of Application – “Performance Goals”)? Please detail your calculations.
7. Are you currently receiving state/federal/private funding for the practice or have any parts of the equipment/system that have been previously funded under state/federal or private grants? Please explain.
8. If applying for Cover Crop, Conservation Tillage, or Manure Injection, please fill out the appropriate section of the following table to indicate how your operation’s intended management after the purchase of the CEAP equipment compares to your current management. Please do not fill in this table for practices that are not relevant to your application category.

Equipment Type	Practice	Crop Type	Total Crop Acres on Farm	Acres Implemented in 2022	Acres to be Implemented in 2023+ if awarded
Cover Crop Management	Broadcast Cover Crop				
	Drilled Cover Crop				
	Perennial Seedings				
	Pasture and Hayland Renovation				
Conservation Tillage	Conventional Tillage				
	Minimum/ Reduced Till				
	No-Till				
Waste Management	Manure Injection				