

2019–2020 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) PROGRAM

Program Purpose: Technical and financial assistance for on-farm improvements and structural conservation practices to improve water quality such as manure storage, barnyard runoff collection, laneway development, stream crossings and more.

Eligible Applicants: Vermont farmers

Webpage: agriculture.vermont.gov/bmp

Contact: (802) 828-2431



CAPITAL EQUIPMENT ASSISTANT PROGRAM (CEAP)

Program Purpose: Financial assistance for new or innovative equipment that will aid in the reduction of surface runoff of agricultural wastes to state waters, improve water quality, reduce odors from manure application, separate phosphorus from manure, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce costs to farmers when they apply manure.

Eligible Applicants: Vermont farmers, custom applicators, businesses, non-profit organizations, and phosphorus extraction equipment providers

Webpage: agriculture.vermont.gov/ceap

Contact: (802) 828-2431



CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

Program Purpose: To reduce sediment runoff and improve water quality by removing land from agricultural production and establishing vegetative buffers.

Eligible Applicants: To be eligible for the CREP program, the applicant must have owned or operated the land for 12 months prior to enrollment. Land must be in agricultural use and adjacent to a perennial stream or river that lacks vegetative buffers and have agricultural-related water quality impacts.

Webpage: agriculture.vermont.gov/crep

Contact: (802) 461-3814



FAIRS & FIELD DAYS: CAPITAL & OPERATIONAL GRANT

Program Purpose: Grants for 20-year capital improvement funding and operational stipends to fairs and field days that meet the statutory requirements.

Eligible Applicants: Fairs and field days that meet the statutory requirements. Capital projects must relate to Vermont agricultural fairs and field days

Webpage: agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/fairs

Contact: (802) 505-1661



FARM AGRONOMIC PRACTICE (FAP) PROGRAM

Program Purpose: To implement soil based agronomic practices that improve soil and water quality as well as to support educational or instructional activities to improve soil health and water quality.

Eligible Applicants: Vermont farmers

Webpage: agriculture.vermont.gov/fap

Contact: (802) 828-2431



FARM TO EARLY CHILDHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

Program Purpose: Grants reimburse early childhood programs for purchasing infrastructure to improve their food programs and/or farm to early care programs.

Eligible Applicants: Vermont-based early care providers that are registered or licensed through the Vermont Department for Children and Families

Webpage: agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/earlychildhood

Contact: agr.farmtoschool@vermont.gov or (802) 585-9186



FARM TO SCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD: CHILD NUTRITION GRANTS

Program Purpose: Financial and technical assistance to help schools and early childhood programs develop or expand farm to school and farm to early childhood programs.

Eligible Applicants: Registered or licensed early care provider or consortium of early care providers; independent schools; supervisory union or educational district on behalf of a public school or consortium of schools

Webpage: agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/childnutrition

Contact: agr.farmtoschool@vermont.gov or (802) 585-9186



LOCAL FOOD MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Program Purpose: Grants to increase Vermont producers' access to institutional and wholesale markets, promote consumption of local food, and encourage scaling up through new market development opportunities.

Eligible Applicants: Applicants whose proposals address market access in Vermont institutions, defined as colleges and universities, early childcare and pre-K-12 schools, hospitals, nursing homes, correctional facilities, and wholesale markets, including grocery stores, independent retail, and co-ops

Webpage: agriculture.vermont.gov/localfoodmarketdevelopment

Contact: (802) 585-9186



ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE PROGRAM

Program Purpose: Funding assistance for organic producers and handlers of agricultural products who have received organic certification through a USDA-accredited certifying agent.

Eligible Applicants: Certified organic producers and handlers who have paid certification fees to become newly certified or re-certified for specific scopes under the National Organic Program (NOP).

Webpage: agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/organiccostshare

Contact: (802) 828-3567



PRODUCE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS GRANTS

Program Purpose: Grants to help Vermont produce growers implement on-farm food safety practices, transition to compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, and meet market demands for on-farm food safety.

Eligible Applicants: Farms that are subject to the FSMA Produce Safety Rule. Farms must grow, harvest, pack or hold "covered produce" as defined by the Produce Safety Rule and have annual produce sales of greater than \$25,000.

Webpage: agriculture.vermont.gov/producesafetygrants

Contact: agr.fsma@vermont.gov or (802) 585-6225



SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Program Purpose: Grants to enhance the competitiveness of Vermont specialty crops including fruits and vegetables, herbs and spices, Christmas trees, floriculture and nursery crops, honey, hops, maple, and mushrooms.

Eligible Applicants: Any business, organization, or individual may apply. Projects must benefit more than one specialty crop business, organization, or individual to be eligible for funding.

Webpage: agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/specialtycrop

Contact: agr.specialtycrops@vermont.gov or (802) 585-6225



TRADE SHOW ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Program Purpose: Grants provide Vermont food and forestry businesses with funds to help identify, plan, exhibit, and sell their Vermont products at out-of-state trade shows.

Eligible Applicants: Vermont based producers, processors, and woodworkers who meet the following criteria:

- Business is registered with the Vermont Secretary of State and has been in business for over one (1) year, with an address indicating that they perform substantial functions in Vermont.
- Product contains at least 50% Vermont agricultural and forest content/ingredients (excluding water and packaging).
- Business has three (3) or more retail/wholesale accounts.

Webpage: agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/tradeshow

Contact: (802) 505-5413



WORKING LANDS ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE

Program Purpose: The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative supports innovative entrepreneurs at the forefront of Vermont's Working Lands economy through technical and financial assistance to help growing businesses thrive. The program provides grants for investments in Vermont's farm, food, forest economies.

Eligible Applicants: Vermont farm, food, and forest businesses as well as Vermont service providers for farm, food, and forest businesses

Project Types: Projects may include, but are not limited to:

Infrastructure: project specific planning, permitting, and/or engineering/architectural plans; purchase and/or construction of physical assets (i.e., building and equipment costs)

Marketing: accessing new markets and securing new customers, including institutional and wholesale market expansion

Research and Development: testing new systems or technologies or developing innovative solutions

Website: workinglands.vermont.gov

Contact: working.lands@vermont.gov or (802) 622-4477

