

Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP) Description

Purpose: Funds are 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, mitigate greenhouse gases, and reduce costs to farmers.

Program Timeline:

- Application opens September 15 of each year
- **Grant Applications are due (or postmarked) by November 1** of each year.
- Award Notification by February 1 (3 months after application)
- Equipment Purchase after Award Notification and before June 1.

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 business entity per funding opportunity.

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

Ranking Criteria:

Priority will be given to applications which demonstrate the following (in decreasing order of priority):

- **Water Quality & Climate Investment Impact:** Priority will be given to equipment with a greater expected positive impact on state water quality and climate goals, as assessed by AAFM and defined in the program purpose (from [6 V.S.A. § 4828](#)). This supports equipment with lower costs per acre of practice implementation, use of equipment on multiple farm operations, and possibility for increased acreage or quality of practices. Priority will also be given for innovative equipment or equipment that will support research on new practices or equipment for use in Vermont.
- **Long-term & Effective Adoption:** Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate lower risk and higher likelihood of long-term & effective adoption, as assessed by AAFM. This priority supports applicants with experience with practice & the equipment, implementation support from technical assistance advisors, higher percent adoption on applicable cropland, and past history of compliance with grant requirements and reporting.
- **Geographic Area:** Based on program statute, priority will be first given to projects in Missisquoi Bay, Southern Lake Champlain and Otter Creek tactical basins, and then in descending order the rest of the Lake Champlain Basin, Lake Memphremagog, Connecticut River, and the Hudson River.
- **New Applicants:** Priority will be given to applicants who have not previously received CEAP grants.

How to Apply:

Ensure that your application includes all required components: 1) a complete **Application**, 2) a complete **Questionnaire**, and 3) at least one reputable **Quote(s)**. Letters of support are optional.

Incomplete Applications will NOT be considered.

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>
Precision Agriculture - to accurately and digitally observe, monitor and respond to field variability and improve nutrient management planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GPS, Flow Meter & Display Unit - Manure or Yield Constituent Sensor - Precision Feed Equipment 	90% cost-share up to \$25,000 per applicant
Conservation Tillage – To reduce the frequency or intensity of tillage operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No-Till Planter - No Till Grain Drill primarily for reseeding pastures or hayland - Planter Downforce 	90% cost-share up to \$30,000 per applicant
Cover Crop Equipment – To increase or improve cover cropping implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No-Till Grain Drill primarily for planting cover crop - Roller Crimper 	90% cost-share up to \$50,000 per applicant
Waste Management – To improve waste and nutrient management, nutrient application efficiency and methods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 90% cost-share up to \$100,000 per custom applicator, group of farmers, or nonprofit organization. <i>NOTE: A precision manure record keeping system [GPS, Flow Meter & Display Unit] must be used 100% of the time with CEAP waste management equipment. If applicant does not have guaranteed access to an operational precision system to use with funded equipment, a precision system must be included in application.</i>
Feed Management – To reduce impacts from silage leachate and reduce feed imports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Balers/Wrappers to enable feed bunk decommissioning 	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 or Manure Pumps
- Solid Manure Spreaders or Broadcast Manure Spreaders
- Tractors
- Equipment that performs full width tillage, deep tillage, or soil inversion

*Exceptions may be considered for nonprofit organizations performing agricultural research, with compelling justification.

If you need assistance applying, please call 802-522-4655 to schedule an appointment for assistance, or visit <https://www.vacd.org/contact-nrcds/> to find a service provider near you.

Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP) Application

1) Business/ Farm Name:			
2) Business Mailing Address (Town, State & Zip code):			
3) Phone Number:			
4) Full name of Legal Signatory: <small>(Individual authorized to sign on behalf of the business)</small>			
5) Email Address of Legal Signatory:			
6) Type of Operation (select one):	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/> Group of Farmers	<input type="checkbox"/> Custom Applicator
	<input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> P Extraction Equipment Provider	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
7) Farm Operation Size (select one):	<input type="checkbox"/> SFO	<input type="checkbox"/> CSFO	<input type="checkbox"/> MFO <input type="checkbox"/> LFO
8) End Date of Federal Business Tax Year: <small>(Typically December 31)</small>			
9) Primary Farm Product:			
10) Select the major watershed(s) where you plan to use this equipment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Champlain	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Memphremagog	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut River	<input type="checkbox"/> Hudson River	
11) If you are in the Lake Champlain watershed, select the tactical basin watershed(s) in which you plan to use this equipment. See the Vermont Tactical Basins for a map.	<input type="checkbox"/> Missisquoi Bay	<input type="checkbox"/> Southern Lake Champlain	<input type="checkbox"/> Otter Creek
	<input type="checkbox"/> Winooski	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Lake Champlain	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamoille
	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable / I am not sure		
12) If you would like us to include an additional farm contact or service provider (TSP, UVM Extension, Conservation District staff member, or other) on correspondence related to your grant or reporting, please include their information here.			
Name:	Email:		

13) Requested Equipment Category & Purpose: Select Only ONE.

VAAFM reserves the right to re-categorize your application based on review of your requested equipment.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Precision Agriculture – To accurately and digitally observe, monitor, and respond to field variability and improve nutrient management planning.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation Tillage – To reduce the frequency or intensity of tillage operations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cover Crop Equipment – To increase cover cropping or improve cover cropping implementation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Waste Management – To improve waste and nutrient management, nutrient application efficiency and methods.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feed Management – To reduce impacts from silage leachate and reduce feed imports.

14) Requested Equipment Details and Cost:

EQUIPMENT (e.g., Manure Injector)	
MAKE/MODEL (e.g., 20' Zimmerman Red Viper Gen 3)	
INTENDED PRACTICE (e.g., Manure Injection)	
If waste management equipment, list the additional precision technology requested with this application (e.g., Flow meter, Display, and GPS Unit).	
TOTAL EQUIPMENT COST (e.g., \$55,000). Please exclude freight.	

Please remember:

- You must attach **quote(s)** that include all equipment requested and explain the "total equipment cost" (excluding shipping or freight) listed above.
- Shipping or freight costs are not eligible for financial assistance.
- 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 record keeping system to use with their waste management equipment, a precision system must be included in application.

15) What Crop Type(s) do you intend to use this equipment on? (e.g. Pasture, Corn & Soy, Hay)	
16) How many Total Acres of these crop(s) do you typically grow each year?	

17) **How many acres in Vermont do you commit to use the equipment each year of use?** 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.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5

19) If awarded, would this be your operation's first CEAP grant?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
20) Have you or the planned equipment operator ever operated this type of equipment before?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
21) Has this conservation practice been installed on your farm in the past?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, how many acres of the practice last year?	
If yes, will this equipment improve the quality of conservation practice installed or the quantity of the conservation practice installed? (if both, select both options)	<input type="checkbox"/> Better quality <input type="checkbox"/> More acres
22) Do you intend to use technical assistance (e.g. TSP, UVM Extension, Conservation District) to assist you with the implementation of this practice on your farm?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Please read and initial to indicate you understand the requirements for the Capital Equipment Assistance Program and application.	INITIAL HERE
<p>I acknowledge that my application will not be considered complete without the following attachments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CEAP Application 2. Complete Questionnaire 3. One or more 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 requested equipment. 	
<p>I understand that equipment cannot be purchased prior to an executed grant agreement.</p>	
<p>I understand that CEAP will reimburse up to 90% of the cost of the equipment or the grant cap, whichever is lower, and that shipping/freight costs are excluded.</p>	
<p>CEAP is a reimbursement-style grant program. I understand that I will have to purchase the equipment upfront (with my own funds or funds borrowed from a financial institution) and that reimbursement from the state may take up to 60 days from the time that equipment has arrived on my farm and I have submitted proof of purchase to the state. Consequently, I affirm that I have backing from a financial institution or other matching funds to pay for the equipment upfront and to ultimately cover the 10% or more of the equipment cost that will not be reimbursed by CEAP.</p>	
<p>I affirm that funded equipment will not be used for purposes other than the explicit purposes supported by the CEAP program, as laid out in 6 V.S.A. § 4828, and that if a waste management system is purchased with CEAP funds, a GPS, Display, and Flowmeter will be used with it at all times pursuant to grant requirements.</p>	
<p>I understand that acceptance of this grant award gives authority for random checks of appropriate equipment use by the Agency and that breach of grant agreements may affect my eligibility for Agency cost-share programs.</p>	

Signature: _____

Date: _____

***** **Grant Applications are due by November 1.** *****

Ensure that your submission includes the following REQUIRED components:

- ✓ This Application & Questionnaire **all questions should be complete!*
- ✓ 1-2 reputable quotes for all relevant equipment

Submit to: AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov or VAAFM CEAP Program // 116 State St. // Montpelier VT 05620

Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP) Questionnaire

Please provide a written response to the following questionnaire. 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 completed and submitted with your application and quotes for the requested equipment.

1. Please provide an overview of your farming operation.
2. Please describe the specific type/model of equipment requested. *For example, for manure injection toolbars, does it operate with a disk, shank, shallow slot, etc.? Does it provide full surface closure at the time of injection?*
3. How will this requested equipment meet the program purpose, e.g. improve water quality or mitigate greenhouse gases? Please describe.
4. How would this equipment increase the acreage and/or quality of conservation practices you install? Would it make the installation of conservation practices easier, more convenient, or less costly? Please explain.

To learn more and apply: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/ceap>

Questions? Contact the Water Quality Division
AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov | (802) 522-4655

5. On the application, you committed to using the equipment on a certain number of acres each season for the next five years. How did you calculate that commitment? If it includes acreage on other farms, how did you estimate that use and do you have existing relationships with those farms? *Note: we recommend a conservative estimate, especially if you are expecting to use the equipment on other farms, as you will be held to that commitment.*

6. Are you currently receiving state/federal/private funding for the conservation practice or have any parts of the equipment/system that have been previously funded under state/federal or private grants? Please explain.

7. If you have received CEAP grants before, did you acquire the equipment under a reasonable timeframe, meet or mostly meet your acreage goals, and deliver annual reporting in a timely manner? Please justify.

8. IF applying for Cover Crop, Reseeding or Conservation Tillage equipment, fill out the appropriate section(s) of the following table to indicate how your intended management after the purchase of the CEAP equipment compares to your current management.

Leave this table blank if these practices are not relevant to your equipment.

Practice	Acres last year	Acres planned next year if awarded CEAP grant
Broadcast Cover Crop		
Drilled Cover Crop		
Perennial Seedings		
No-Till Pasture and Hayland Renovation		
Conventional Tillage (annual crops)		
Minimum/ Reduced Till (annual crops)		
No-Till (annual crops)		

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11. Use this space to expand on any additional information that you wish to provide about your application or to continue any responses that you did not have space to answer on the prior pages.

To complete your application, attach at least one QUOTE for the requested equipment and submit to AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov or VAAFMEAP Program // 116 State St. // Montpelier VT 05620.

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