

Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP) Application FY2022

General Equipment

Financial assistance is available for new or 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, or reduce costs to farmers when they apply manure or implement a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).

Program Timeline:

- Application Open September 1, 2021
- **GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE (OR POSTMARKED) BY NOVEMBER 1, 2021**
- Award Notification February 1, 2022
- Equipment Purchase Required after Award Notice and before June 1, 2022

Applicant Eligibility: Eligible applicants include custom applicators, nonprofit organizations, 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 you have applied in the past and not been awarded a grant agreement, you are still eligible to reapply under a new funding opportunity.

Ranking Criteria: Please note that the Agency intends to provide funding in a fair and honest way that firstly complies with the law funding this program, which prioritizes equipment used on multiple farms and/or in certain geographic watersheds, and secondly balances the need for farms of all sizes to receive assistance through this financial assistance program with the need to meet state nutrient reduction targets.

- ❖ **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. Additional priority will be assigned to applications that also offer co-benefits for climate change mitigation.
- ❖ **Viability/Risk (12%):** Priority will be given to applicants with reduced risk as assessed by AAFM.
- ❖ **Management, Experience & Water Quality Impact (25%):** Priority will be given to new CEAP grant recipients, farms mitigating water quality concerns, and 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 & Impact (15%):** 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, 2021 will be accepted as well.

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Eligible Equipment Types and Funding Rates:

Equipment Type	Examples of Eligible Equipment	Funding Rates
Precision Agricultural Equipment <i>(Educational training on equipment or technology use required if awarded)</i>	- GPS, Flow Meter & Display Unit - Manure or Harvest Constituent Sensor	90% cost-share up to \$25,000 per applicant
Conservation Tillage Equipment	- No-Till Corn Planter - Ridge-Till	90% cost-share up to \$10,000 per applicant, OR (90% cost-share up to \$20,000 only if applying for equipment AND precision agriculture component to be used in conjunction with equipment)
Cover Crop Equipment	- No-Till Grain Drill - Roller Crimper	90% cost-share up to \$40,000 per applicant, OR (90% cost-share up to \$50,000 only if applying for equipment AND precision agriculture component to be used in conjunction with equipment)
Waste Management Equipment*	- Injectors* - Irrigation* - Dragline system*	90% cost-share up to \$50,000 per applicant, OR (90% cost-share up to \$60,000 only if applying for equipment AND precision agriculture component to be used in conjunction with equipment)
Silage Management Equipment**	- Balers/Wrappers**	90% cost-share up to \$50,000 per applicant
Other Innovative Conservation Equipment	- Other Equipment <i>Applications may be assigned to this category based on staff review of applications and inability to compare with other categories.</i>	90% cost-share up to \$50,000 per applicant <i>Award amount may vary depending on the project type, cost and expected results.</i>

*Waste management equipment only eligible for funding if precision manure record keeping system [GPS, Flow Meter & Display Unit] are included in application, or operational unit exists on farm to be used in conjunction with proposed equipment.

**Feed management equipment eligible only as an alternative to leachate management improvement as least cost alternative, and will require VAAFM Engineer site visit to ensure eligibility

Ineligible Equipment: While the table above details examples of eligible 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
- Field Tillage Equipment including Vertical Tillage
- Silage Baler or Wrapper equipment eligible only as an alternative to leachate management improvement as least cost alternative, and will require VAAFM Engineer site visit to ensure eligibility

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

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GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE (OR POSTMARKED) BY NOVEMBER 1, 2021

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.

Please note that letter/s of support are optional to submit and if submitted should add pertinent, and additional information about your application. Please refrain from including letters of support which may clearly be biased in their support of your application.

1) Applicant Information:

Applicant's Individual Name _____ **Phone** (____) _____ - _____

Business Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Town, State ZIP _____

Email _____

Type of Operation (select one):

Custom Applicator	Group of Farmers	Organization
Individual Farmer	Phosphorus Extraction Equipment Provider	Other

Farm Operation Size (select one): **LFO** **MFO** **CSFO** **SFO**

Preferred Method of Signing Documents: Email Mail E-Signature

Select the watershed basin location where you will use this equipment:

Lake Champlain Basin	Lake Memphremagog Basin
Connecticut River Basin	Hudson River Basin

If you are located in the Lake Champlain watershed, select the tactical basin watershed(s) in which you manage fields. See the [Vermont Tactical Basins](#) for a map.

Missisquoi Bay	Winooski	Not applicable
Southern Lake Champlain	Northern Lake Champlain	I am not sure.
Otter Creek	Lamoille	

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2) **Requested Equipment Type: SELECT ONLY ONE** (See Program Details for funding caps, and ensure your selection is reflective of the primary or main equipment you are requesting. VAAFMM reserves the right to re-categorize your application as applicable based on review of your requested equipment.)

Cover Crop Management

Conservation Tillage

Waste Management

Silage Management

Precision Agriculture

Other Innovative Conservation Equipment

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

See program details for more information on funding caps. Please ensure that the attached quote(s) incorporates all equipment listed and remember that shipping or freight costs are not eligible for financial assistance.

EQUIPMENT	MAKE/MODEL	EQUIPMENT USE	TOTAL COST
<i>Example: Manure Injector</i>	<i>20' Zimmerman Red Viper Gen 3</i>	<i>Manure Injection</i>	<i>\$55,000</i>

4) **Are you requesting additional funding for a precision agricultural component to be used in conjunction with the proposed equipment system?** YES NO

5) **Cost of Requested Precision Agriculture Equipment:** If yes to #4 above, please complete and note that Precision agriculture component must be used with requested equipment listed in 3.

EQUIPMENT	MAKE/MODEL	EQUIPMENT USE	TOTAL COST
<i>Example: GPS & Display, and Flow Meter</i>	<i>AgLeader 6000 GPS/Display, Khrono FlowMeter</i>	<i>Precision Manure Application & Record Keeping</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>

6) **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.	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026

7) Of the acreage listed above, what percentage do you rent or own?

8) Of the acreage listed above, what percentage do you anticipate being hired to manage/install (custom work)?

9) **Complete the crop information below for the planned equipment use based on all rented, owned, and hired/managed acres:**

Crop Type for Equipment Use <i>(e.g. Corn and Soy)</i>	Total Crop Acres on Farm <i>(e.g. 400 acres corn and soy on farm)</i>

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- 10) If awarded would this be your operation's first CEAP grant? YES NO
- 11) Have you or the planned equipment operator ever operated *this type of equipment* before? YES NO
- 12) Have you installed or hired out *this conservation practice* on your farm in the past? If yes, how many acres last year? YES - _____ acres NO
- 13) Do you have access to technical assistance to assist you with the implementation of this practice on your farm? YES NO
- 14) 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). _____
- 15) 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

<i>Please read and initial below to indicate you understand the requirements for the Capital Equipment Assistance Program and application.</i>	INITIAL HERE
<i>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>	
<i>Applicants approved for funding must submit detailed annual reports, which must include detailed maps, stating and documenting use of the equipment each year for three (3) years in order to account for the nutrient reductions occurring as a result of state financial assistance for this equipment.</i>	
<i>Equipment cannot be purchased prior to a fully executed grant agreement.</i>	
<i>Use of funded equipment must be for the explicit purposes as explained in 6 V.S.A. § 4828.</i>	
<i>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.</i>	

Signature _____ Date _____

Please remember to enclose the following with your completed application:

1. Complete Questionnaire
2. 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.

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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/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. What **water quality concern/issue** are you addressing and/or how would this equipment **improve water quality**?
4. What **equipment do you currently use**, and how would the requested equipment **improve or fit into your existing farm management**? Would this equipment make the installation of conservation practices easier, more convenient, or less costly for your operation?
5. How, if at all, would acquiring this equipment **increase the acreage or quality of conservation practices** installed by your operation?
6. How did you **approximate the total acreage** you plan to use the equipment on (Question 7 of Application – “Performance Goals”)? Please detail your calculations.
7. Are you currently receiving **state/federal/private assistance** 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 Waste Management category, 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 2021	Acres to be Implemented in 2022+ 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				