

## Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP) Application: FY2021

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, and reduce costs to farmers when they apply manure or implement a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).

### GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE (OR POSTMARKED) BY NOVEMBER 2, 2020

**Eligible applicants include custom applicators, nonprofit organizations, and farms. Applicants are limited to one application per individual farm operation, organization, or entity.**

**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 Status (8%): First priority will be given to capital equipment to be used on multiple farm sites.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Investment Impact (15%): Priority will be given to applications with the lowest cost per acre and the highest percent of use on applicable cropland.
- ❖ Viability/Risk (8%): Priority will be given to applicants with reduced risk as assessed by AAFCM.
- ❖ Management, Experience & Impact (24%): Priority will be given to new recipients, farms resolving water quality concerns, and applicants with prior experience with requested equipment and/or conservation practice.
- ❖ Equipment Innovation (15%): Priority will be given to proposals for innovative equipment.
- ❖ Supporting Materials, Consistency and Program Intent (20%): Priority will be given to applications with complete supporting documentation, including a questionnaire and quotes for the requested equipment, and consistency of the supporting documentation with application responses and the statutory intent of the program (description above and available online at [6 V.S.A. § 4828](#)).

Equipment Type	Examples of Eligible Equipment	Funding Rates <i>All recipients must pay 10% of the total eligible equipment cost, (shipping/freight fees are not eligible for reimbursement cost).</i>
<b>Precision Agricultural Equipment</b> <i>(Educational training on equipment or technology use required if awarded)</i>	- GPS, Flow Meter & Display Unit -Hydraulic Downforce -Autosteer	90% cost-share up to \$25,000 per applicant
<b>Conservation Tillage Equipment</b>	-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)
<b>Cover Crop and Field Improvement Equipment</b>	-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)
<b>Manure* and Feed** Management Equipment</b>	-Injectors* -Irrigation* -Dragline system* -Balers/Wrappers**	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)

\*Manure 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

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**GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE (OR POSTMARKED) BY NOVEMBER 1, 2020**

**1) Equipment Type: SELECT ONLY ONE** (See Program Details for funding caps)

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Cover Crop Management and Field Improvement</b> | <b>Conservation Tillage</b>  |
| <b>Manure/Silage Management</b>                    | <b>Precision Agriculture</b> |

**2) 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**

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

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lake Champlain Basin    | Lake Memphremagog Basin |
| Connecticut River Basin | Hudson River Basin      |

**3) Please include the following items with your completed and signed application:**

- a) 1-page questionnaire regarding your application for CEAP and the requested equipment. This is required for a complete application.
- b) Quote/s for the requested equipment: What are the estimated costs for the requested equipment and installation, (and shipping or freight costs which are not eligible for financial assistance), and where do you plan to purchase it from?

*Letter/s of support are optional to submit and should add pertinent information about your application if submitted. Please refrain from including letters of support which may clearly be biased in their support of your application, e.g. from an entity or individual financially benefitting from your application or grant award.*

**4) Requested Equipment: Applicants are limited to one CEAP application per individual farm operation.** Applications **may** include more than one piece of equipment only when the second piece of equipment is intended to be used with the first piece as one discrete system, such as a precision agriculture component e.g. hydraulic downforce with a no till planter. See program details for more information on funding caps. Please ensure that the attached quote incorporates all equipment listed and remember that shipping or freight costs are not eligible for financial assistance.

EQUIPMENT	MAKE/MODEL	EQUIPMENT USE	COST
<i>Example: No-Till Planter</i>	<i>John Deer 7200</i>	<i>Reduced Tillage</i>	<i>\$55,000</i>

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

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**6) How many acres 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 don't meet the acreage goals you provide in this application. <b>These figures cannot be altered after application submission.</b>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025

**7) Complete the crop information below for planned equipment use:**

Crop Type for Equipment Use (e.g. Corn)	Total Crop Acres on Farm (e.g. 400 acres corn on farm)

- 8) If awarded would this be you/your operation's first CEAP grant? YES      NO
- 9) Have you/operator ever operated *this type of equipment* before? YES      NO
- 10) Have you installed or hired out *this conservation practice* on your farm in the past? YES      NO
- i) If yes to question 10, how many acres last year?
- 11) Do you have access to technical assistance to assist you with the implementation of this practice? YES      NO
- 12) 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.)
- 13) Would this equipment assist in resolving an active water quality concern? YES      NO
- 14) Do you rent or own all of the acreage included in your application? YES      NO
- 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

Please read and initial below to indicate you understand the requirements for the Capital Equipment Assistance Program and application.	<b>INITIAL HERE</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.	
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.	
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.	
I hereby authorize the Natural Resources Conservation Service to release information to the Agency concerning the location (including tract and field numbers) and the extent of cropland (including crop history for current year and acreage planted by field listed on this application) for purposes of conservation practice tracking. This information will remain privacy protected by the Agency as per a signed agreement between the USDA and the Agency.	

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

## Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP) Application: FY2021

### 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 either your questionnaire or letter/personal statement is submitted at the time of application. Don't forget to enclose a reputable quote (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.

1. Please provide an overview of your farming operation.
2. How would the requested equipment fit into your existing farm management?
3. What water quality concern/issue are you addressing? *and/or* How would this improve water quality on your farm?
4. How did you approximate the acreage you plan to use the equipment on?
5. Are you currently receiving state/federal/private assistance for the practice from another program? Please explain.
6. Are there any parts of the equipment/system that have been previously funded under state/federal or private grants? Please explain.