



For More Information

Contact:

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How to Apply

- ❑ Print application from the website:
www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aEEP
- ❑ Call and request application be sent to you: 617-626-1739

Deadlines

Applications become available in Feb. and must be submitted by April 30th

Farmers who receive funding will be expected to install the work either using NRCS standards and specifications if appropriate, or manufacturers' guidelines.

All responses that are favorably reviewed in the initial evaluation process will require a field visit prior to funding being awarded. A field visit does not assure funding for a project.

Examples of projects eligible for funding include, **but are not limited to**, the following:

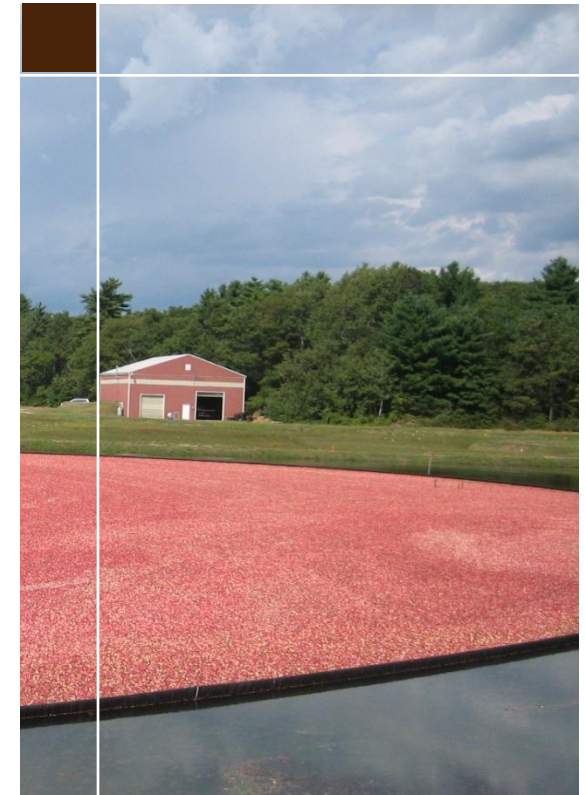
- ❑ Automated irrigation systems
- ❑ Composting bins
- ❑ Drip irrigation
- ❑ Ebb & flow benching
- ❑ Fencing
- ❑ Fuel storage containment
- ❑ Manure storage facilities
- ❑ Pesticide mixing/storage
- ❑ Water re-use projects
- ❑ Vegetated treatment strips
- ❑ Other projects that address impacts on the resource areas of concern

Funding Subject to Availability

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114
www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aEEP

Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program

Reimbursement Grant Program
Helping Agricultural Operations
Address Impacts to Natural Resources



Purpose

The Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) helps Massachusetts agricultural operations address any potential impacts on natural resources. While primarily a water quality program, AEEP will also fund practices that conserve water, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

AEEP is a reimbursement program that funds the purchase of materials. Reimbursements of up to \$25,000 are awarded on a competitive basis. Successful respondents must make a financial match of at least 10% of the total costs of the project.

AEEP partners closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS provides technical assistance in the form of conservation planning and engineering design.



Eligibility

Basic Requirements:

- ❑ Applicant must be engaged in commercial agriculture.
- ❑ There is no acreage requirement, however, projects that address significant resource concerns are more likely to receive funding.
- ❑ Responses must have proof of a written and updated NRCS Conservation Plan (greenhouse operators, flower growers, and shellfish growers are excluded from this requirement).
- ❑ Eligible shellfish growers must possess a current shellfish aquaculture license.
- ❑ Eligible stables and horse operations must have a current license.

Additional requirements can be found on the AEEP application on the webpage:
www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aeep

Evaluation

Responses are evaluated by awarding points based upon criteria. Some of the criteria may include:

- ❑ The presence or threat of direct discharges of pollutants into surface water bodies or wetlands.
- ❑ Agricultural operations located within a DEP resource protected area.
- ❑ Demonstration of increased efficiencies for water and air quality.
- ❑ Responses addressing more than one resource of concern.
- ❑ Agricultural operations with an agricultural restriction under APR.
- ❑ Agricultural operations currently participating in the Farm Viability Enhancement Program or APR Improvement Program.
- ❑ New entry farmers who have been farming less than five (5) years.

