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## **2013 Application and Guidelines for Exhibiting in the MA State Building**

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) invites Massachusetts organizations and businesses to apply for the purpose of showcasing Massachusetts agriculture, commerce, culture, food and tourism through informational, educational, promotional and retail exhibits in the Massachusetts Building at the [Eastern States Exposition](#) located in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

**Dates for the 2013 Big E are September 13 – September 29, 2013**

Details and Application: [www.mass.gov/eea/docs/agr/fairs/ma-building-exhibitor-application.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/agr/fairs/ma-building-exhibitor-application.pdf)

### **Save the Dates: One Day Options to Exhibit**

**Massachusetts Day** – Thursday, September 19

**Harvest New England Day** – Friday, September 27

Updates will be posted at MA Building webpage: [www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/markets/fairs/massachusetts-building.html](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/markets/fairs/massachusetts-building.html).

Questions, contact: Mary Jordan, [Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us](mailto:Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us), 617-626-1750, or Howie Vinton, [Howard.Vinton@state.ma.us](mailto:Howard.Vinton@state.ma.us), 617-626-1803.

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## **The Great Outdoors Blog**



The Great Outdoors blog is a joint effort from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and its agencies, the Department of Agricultural Resources, Department of Fish & Game, Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Office of Law Enforcement. We would like your input on The Great Outdoors blog in order to better serve you, and provide you with the most relevant information. It should take 1-2 minutes to complete.

Please take our survey about The Great Outdoors Blog, at: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/FFCMJF2](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FFCMJF2) Thank you for your response!

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## Something to Smile About During Tax Time! Opportunity to Help Animals

Now, Something to Smile About During Tax Time! - your 2012 tax form gives you the opportunity to help animals.

The Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund is part of a new law that took effect on October 31, 2012. Massachusetts residents may now check off a donation on Line 32f of their 2012 tax return; contributions to this fund will:

- Help reduce the number of homeless cats and dogs by spaying/ neutering and vaccinating animals in shelters and animal control facilities
- Assist families who would not otherwise be able to afford these services for their pets
- Provide training to municipal animal control officers so that they can safely and effectively protect animals and people in their communities



The text of the authorizing statute can be found here: [www.malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2012/Chapter193](http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2012/Chapter193).

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## USDA Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP) Application Deadline April 30

It is that time of year once again for REAP. The FY 2013 Notice for REAP has been posted in the Federal Register / Vol. 78, No. 61 / Friday, March 29, 2013 / Notices/page 19183. Application Deadline for the Renewable Energy and EE grants, as well as feasibility studies is April 30, 2013. The application deadline for the guaranteed loans only is July 15, 2013.

Nationwide there is \$10.4 million in grant funding and \$43.4 million in guaranteed loan funding available this year. This will result in small grant allocations for each state, approximately about \$75K-\$100K for each MA, RI and CT in this USDA regional area. The regional USDA RD jurisdiction goal will be to spend all state allocation in the less than \$20K grant request category & to make 1 guaranteed loan per state due to a priority set aside in funding for these categories.

### Grant & Loans may be used for:

1. The purchase & installation of renewable systems
2. To make energy efficiency improvements
3. Feasibility studies.
- 4- REAP applicant must qualify as a small business or a farmer.
- 5- Small business must be located in an eligible rural area. Farmers are excluded from this rural location requirement.

For more information please contact: Anne Correia, Area Specialist, Energy Coordinator, Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture 15 Cranberry Highway, West Wareham, MA 02576, 508-295-5151 ext 3, [Anne.Correia@ma.usda.gov](mailto:Anne.Correia@ma.usda.gov) , [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov).



## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Agriculture Photo Contest

Photographers who enjoy capturing images of the Bay State's farms and farm and horticultural products are invited to enter the 2013 Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar Photo Contest. Winning entries will be published in the 2014 Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar. The contest and calendar are sponsored by [Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc.](#), [Massachusetts Farm to School Project](#) and the [Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources \(MDAR\)](#).

We are seeking photos that represent the traditional (**maple sugaring, cranberries, dairy cows, flowers/plants, fall fruits, farmers and farm families**), as well as the new and dynamic, such as on-farm renewable energy systems and urban agriculture. View last year's winners [here](#).

Winning photographers will be credited in the calendar and will be invited to a ceremony at the Eastern States Exposition ([The Big E](#)) in West Springfield this September (tickets to the fair included). Winning photos will be featured on MDAR's homepage during the corresponding month. [Click here for Entry Form](#). Deadline June 1, 2013.

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Bookmark Events/Workshops: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/events/>

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MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Agricultural Markets, Animal Health, and Crop and Pest Services – MDAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth's agricultural community to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit MDAR's website at [mass.gov/agr](http://mass.gov/agr), and/or follow at [twitter.com/MDARCommish](https://twitter.com/MDARCommish).