

Unpaid Internship Position

Position Number: 7
Position Title: Agricultural Sustainability Intern - AGR
Location: West Springfield, MA - Remotely
Duration: January 21 – April 4, 2025

Brief Description of Internship Position:

The Division of Agricultural Conservation and Technical Assistance mission is to provide funding and deliver services to preserve working agricultural lands and improve agricultural stewardship and use of natural resources; promote energy efficiency and use of renewable energy; and ensure economic competitiveness and profitability. The Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program is a voluntary program that enables farmers to access the financial value of their land without needing to sell it. Through federal, state, and local funds, the Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources can pay farmland owners the difference between the “fair market value” and the “agricultural value” of their farms in exchange for a permanent deed restriction to retain the land for farming. This helps to preserve the land for future generations and to maintain affordable and accessible farmland for aspiring and experienced farmers. The Intern reports to The Western Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program Planner. This internship is an opportunity to learn the basics of farmland protection in Massachusetts..

Description of Duties and Responsibilities:

The Agricultural Sustainability Intern will work 10-15 hours a week. Educational Opportunities and Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Familiarization with MDAR’s APR Program. Upon completion of this internship the candidate should be able to: - Read and understand APR documents. - Complete registry searches. - Understand how to use Survey123 to collect field data. - Understand policies and regulations governing the APR program. - Understand the basics of restriction monitoring.
2. Prepare a report and presentation on stewardship techniques of neighboring states with farmland preservation programs: - Prepare a report on the stewardship of preserved agricultural lands in Massachusetts and other New England States. - Interview staff from these programs to glean information on stewardship practices and their pain points/ best practices.

Preferred Knowledge and Skills:

Minimum Qualifications Required

- Strong communication and writing skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Ability to read, understand, and relay relevant information in an engaging and easy-to-understand manner to agency staff.
- An interest in Agriculture and Conservation.
- If the candidate is in Western Massachusetts there is the opportunity to join the Stewardship Planner on farm visits.

Hours per week: 15



Training & Outreach
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

EOEEA 2025 Winter/Spring Internship Program