



Internship Position Description

Position Number: 17
Program Name: Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program
Location/Address: Remotely

THIS POSITION IS UNPAID

Brief Description of Internship Position:

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) APR program was the first Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) programs in the nation, leading the way on the idea that state governments can and should assist in the protection of at-risk farmland. MDAR's APR program also pioneered the use of a number of farmland protection techniques that have been adopted nationwide. The APR program is now experiencing a time of expansion and transition, with a strategic plan in the works and a planned statewide Farmland Action plan. This position will be tasked with researching other successful PACE programs across the country and surveying their staff members. Using a predetermined list of issues/topics (see summary list below), the intern will compile information on successful PACE programs in other states, come up with a list of interview questions and, in cooperation with APR Program staff interview representatives from each of the PACE programs researched. The intern will compile and summarize the results. The information gathered will assist the APR program in planning for the future in the way that we run our program and the techniques that we use to most effectively and successfully protect and manage farmland. This position is within the MDAR Division of Agricultural Conservation and Technical Assistance.

Description of Duties and Responsibilities:

- Compile inventory of PACE Programs and farmland protection and stewardship methods used within each, including:
 - Priority Determinations/Mission/Goals
 - Restrictions
 - Allowed uses
 - Enforcement strategies
 - Program Funding structure
 - Challenges to Acquisition
 - Challenges to Stewardship
 - Grant programs offered
 - Interest in a PACE program list-serve.
- Interview contacts at each state PACE program identified on the above listed topics.
- Develop a summary of best practices based on findings.
- Take part in the statewide farmland action planning process if timing allows.
- Take part in the APR Program strategic planning process if timing allows.
- Interact with staff and farmers as needed.



Preferred Knowledge and Skills:

- Analytical skills and familiarity with survey formats, such as Google or Survey Monkey, and spreadsheets.
- Strong communication skills, both verbal and written.
- An interest in agriculture and/or working lands protection.
- A background in agriculture and/or planning would be helpful, but not necessary.

Hours per week:

Approximately 14 hours per week June 7, 2021 – August 20, 2021. Days/week are flexible and a week or two off for vacation is expected.

Other relevant information:

<https://www.mass.gov/agricultural-preservation-restriction-apr-program>