



## AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTION (APR)

# TRAINING, GRANTS & FUNDING

### Training

MDAR offers training for beginning and experienced farmers in Massachusetts. Two current courses include:

- **Exploring the Small Farm Dream** – a course for those thinking about or in the planning stages of starting their own farm to generate income
- **Growing Your Farm Business** – a planning course to help established farmers develop a business plan and financial projections for their farm business

More information is available at [www.mass.gov/service-details/agricultural-business-training-program-abtp](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/agricultural-business-training-program-abtp).

### Technical Assistance

Technical assistance is available to all farms including APR farms. Contact the appropriate staff listed for assistance.

### Funding

All MDAR grants and funding programs require an application and are subject to available funding. The asterisk (\*) notes two grants that are only available for APR farms. All other funding programs are available to APR and non-APR farms except the Farm Viability Enhancement Program\*\*. Find complete descriptions and updates at [www.mass.gov/apr](http://www.mass.gov/apr) at "Agricultural Grants and Financial Assistance".

#### APR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (AIP)\*

*Business planning assistance and grants for infrastructure improvements to help sustain active commercial farming on land already protected by the APR Program*

Diego.Irizarry-Gerould@mass.gov  
857.248.1671

#### AG-ENERGY GRANT

*Projects for renewable energy or energy efficiency*

Gerald.Palano@mass.gov  
617.626.1706

#### AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE RESILIENCE & EFFICIENCIES (ACRE)

*Climate/economic resilience, and MA Food Plan projects*

Laura.Maul@mass.gov 617.626.1739

#### AGRICULTURAL COMPOSTING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

*Assistance with agricultural composting management*

Sean.Bowen@mass.gov  
617.626.1724

#### AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT (AEEP)

*Conservation practices that prevent direct impacts on water quality, and ensure efficient use of water*

Laura.Maul@mass.gov  
617.626.1739

#### AGRICULTURAL FOOD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (AFSIP)

*Supports agricultural operation efforts to reduce food safety risks*

Laura.Maul@mass.gov  
617.626.1739

#### DAIRY FARMER TAX CREDIT

*Offers state tax credit to help offset cyclical downturns in milk prices*

Myron.Inglis@mass.gov  
617.626.1711

#### FARM ENERGY DISCOUNT PROGRAM

*10% discounts on electricity and natural gas bills for agriculture-eligible entities*

Joao.Tavares@mass.gov  
617.626.1719

# TRAINING, GRANTS & FUNDING

## FARM VIABILITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (FVEP)\*\*

*For non-APR farmer technical and business planning assistance to expand, upgrade and modernize existing operations*

Melissa.L.Adams@mass.gov  
413.726.2001

## FOOD TRUST PROGRAM

*Increases local/healthy food access for the nutritionally underserved*

Rose.Arruda@mass.gov  
617.626.1849

## FOOD VENTURES

*Initiatives for low/moderate income areas, Gateway Cities, and rural areas*

Rose.Arruda@mass.gov  
617.626.1849

## MATCHING ENTERPRISE GRANTS FOR AGRICULTURE (MEGA)

*Business planning assistance and matching grants for farm improvements for beginning farmers between 1 and 6 years in business*

Jessica.Camp@mass.gov  
617.823.0871

## ORGANIC COST SHARE

*Reimburses certified organic farmers and food processors up to 75% of organic certification costs*

Keri.Cornman@mass.gov  
617.626.1777

## STATE-OWNED FARMLAND LICENSING

*Land can be licensed for 5-year periods to farmers for farming*

Barbara.Hopson@mass.gov  
413.726.2003

## STEWARDSHIP ASSISTANCE AND RESTORATION ON APRS PROGRAM (SARA)\*

*Protects resources on APR properties*

Julie.Weiss@mass.gov  
617.913.5317

## Farm Viability Enhancement Program (FVEP)\*\*

This program provides business planning and technical assistance to help established farms identify strategies to increase farm viability such as: new or expanded enterprises, increased productivity, marketing, and or environmental sustainability. Participants selected to participate in the program may be offered grant funds in return for signing an agricultural covenant on the farm property to keep it in agricultural use for a 10 or 15-year term. Eligible uses of funds are: capital projects on the farm such as constructing barns, farm stands or agricultural buildings, modernizing equipment, or improving food processing capacity.

The FVEP can be a stepping stone to the APR program. It includes a temporary restriction that requires farming on the land. The FVEP is also useful for farms that do not meet APR criteria - due to soil type, farm size and other requirements - but would benefit from improvements.