

Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs Program (SARA)

The Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs (SARA) helps resolve stewardship issues caused by a prior owner to restore active commercial farming on land that has already been protected through the Department's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. Funds may be used for materials and contracted labor or equipment rental costs to clear or reclaim inactive fields that are out of production at no fault of the current owner. Examples of eligible projects include clearing vegetation, stabilizing soil loss, correcting drainage issues, cutting back grown in field edges, or reseeding or applying soil or crop amendments to inactive cropland or pastureland in order to bring it back into production. Grant funds of up to \$35,000 are available on a cost reimbursement basis with a 15% match of total project costs required by the farm participant.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/stewardship-assistance-and-restoration-on-aprs-sara>

Contact: Julie Weiss SARA Grant Coordinator Julie.Weiss@mass.gov Cell: (617) 913-5317

Statistics

Completed through FY 2022

- ▶ 48 Awards Granted
- ▶ \$905,019 in Funding
- ▶ At least 130 Acres Pasture or Cropland Restored
- ▶ At least 4.0 Miles of Farm Access Roads Restored

Project Eligibility

- ▶ Clear/Reclaim Inactive Fields
- ▶ Pulling Rocks/Stumps
- ▶ Applying Soil Amendments
- ▶ Clean Up Debris
- ▶ Restore Farm Access Roads
- ▶ Address Drainage Issues
- ▶ Restore Resources Affected by Natural Disasters
- ▶ Restore Resources Affected by Third Party

Allowable Expenses

- ▶ Contracted Labor
- ▶ Equipment Rental
- ▶ Purchase of Necessary Materials