



NOFA/Mass
Northeast Organic Farming Association
Massachusetts Chapter

Growing a Healthier Future for Massachusetts

NOFA/ Massachusetts

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November 1, 2024

Thomas C. Anderson, Executive Secretary
Commission for Conservation of Soil, Water & Related Resources
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge St., 10th
Boston, MA 02114
Via email to: thomas.anderson@mass.gov

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Healthy Soils Action Plan Challenge Grant - Contract # CT-HSOILSIMPENVC126FY25
Activities Summary August – October 2024

Progress on Deliverables and Objectives

Objective 1: Development of Educational Content for Homeowners and Landscapers by developing the curriculum for 6 education vents (2 webinars, 4 in-person) to help homeowners and land care professionals integrate Healthy Soils Action Plan-identified healthy soils practices, including soil organic carbon testing, tree planting, amendments, and best management practices, into their routine activities.

The following activities have been completed in support of this objective:

- Rubén Parrilla, Education Director and Soil Tech Program Director, and Najee Quashie, Project Manager, met with staff at CT-NOFA to review existing and available educational content for land care professionals.
- Ayala Carter, Finance and Admin Director, performed coordination of project financials.

Objective 2: Educate Homeowners and Landscapers on Healthy Soils Practices by delivering 6 education events (2 webinars, 4 in-person events) with content geared to homeowners and land care professionals, and recordings made available on the NOFA/Mass YouTube channel.

The following activities have been completed in support of this objective:

- Rubén Parrilla and Najee Quashie initiated preliminary outreach and coordination with event partners regarding event timing and scheduling.

Objective 3: Create Sustainable Support for Homeowners and Landscapers Beyond the Project Duration through materials promoting NOFA/Mass' educational events geared towards homeowners and land care professionals which can be shared with the general public through local and regional media, website resource development, integration of healthy soils topics for land care professionals into upcoming NOFA conferences.

No activities were directly performed in fulfillment of this objective during this reporting period.

Northeast Organic Farming Association/Massachusetts Chapter, Inc.

Through education and advocacy NOFA/Mass promotes organic agriculture to expand the production and availability of nutritious food from living soil for the health of individuals, communities and the planet.

Implementation Schedule Progress

- We are currently on track with our implementation schedule progress, and are initiating a more thorough review of healthy soils content to develop the event curriculum in anticipation of events starting in 2025.
- Hannah McDonald, Education Events Manager, will refine event scheduling and hosting logistics for the events by January 2025.

Financial/Budget Update

State Funding Expenditures and Invoiced Funding:

| Expense Category | Total State Budget | Expenses This Period | Total State Expenses (Project Duration) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Personnel | \$26,883.56 | \$344.58 | \$344.58 |
| Fringe | \$2,688.36 | \$34.46 | \$34.46 |
| Travel | \$1,299.80 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Other | \$10,930.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| <i>Total Expenditures</i> | <i>\$41,800.00</i> | <i>\$379.03</i> | <i>\$379.03</i> |

Reimbursed Funding:

- No reimbursement funding has occurred during this period.

Matching Funding:

| Expense Category | Total Match Budget | Match This Period | Total Match(Project Duration) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Personnel | \$7,851.70 | \$59.62 | \$59.62 |
| Fringe | \$785.17 | \$5.96 | \$5.96 |
| Travel | \$1,299.80 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Other | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| <i>Total Expenditures</i> | <i>\$9,936.67</i> | <i>\$65.58</i> | <i>\$65.58</i> |

Outreach Update

- Rubén Parrill and Equity Director Ulum Pixan Athohil Sukil met with Tower Hill Botanical about event cross-promotion to increase the impact of our outreach.
- NOFA/Mass is currently coordinating with project partners Resilient Roots and Weston Nurseries on event development for 2025, and planning internally for NOFA/Mass-based webinars. Community outreach will occur once event logistics have been finalized in early 2025.

Unexpected Project Changes or Surprises

- Nothing to report.