



Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) Drought Funding 2017

& Agricultural Climate Resiliency and Efficiencies (ACRE) Grant

Department of Agricultural Resources





Division of Agricultural Conservation and Technical Assistance



Agricultural Land Protection

APR Program
Stewardship Assistance and Restoration for APRS (SARA)



Farm Viability Programs

Farm Viability Enhancement Program
APR Improvement Program (AIP)
Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture (MEGA)
Ag Business Planning Courses



Renewable Energy/ Energy Efficiency

Ag Energy Special Project Grant
Ag Energy Grant
Mass Farm Energy Program
Farm Energy Discount Program



Environmental Protection

Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP)
AEEP-Drought Program (AEEP-Drought)
Agricultural Climate Resiliency and Efficiencies (ACRE) Program



Food Safety

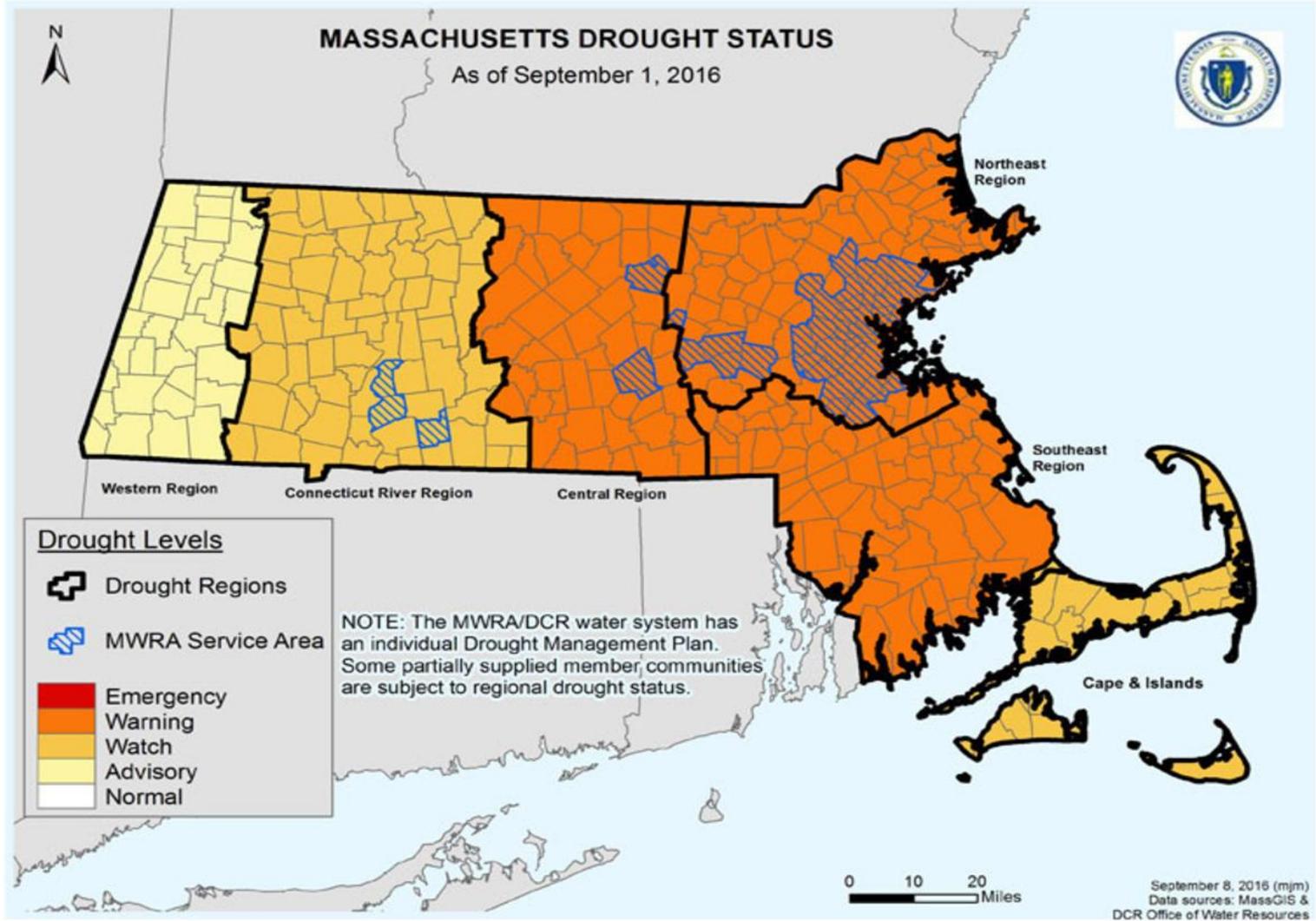
Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program (AFSIP)

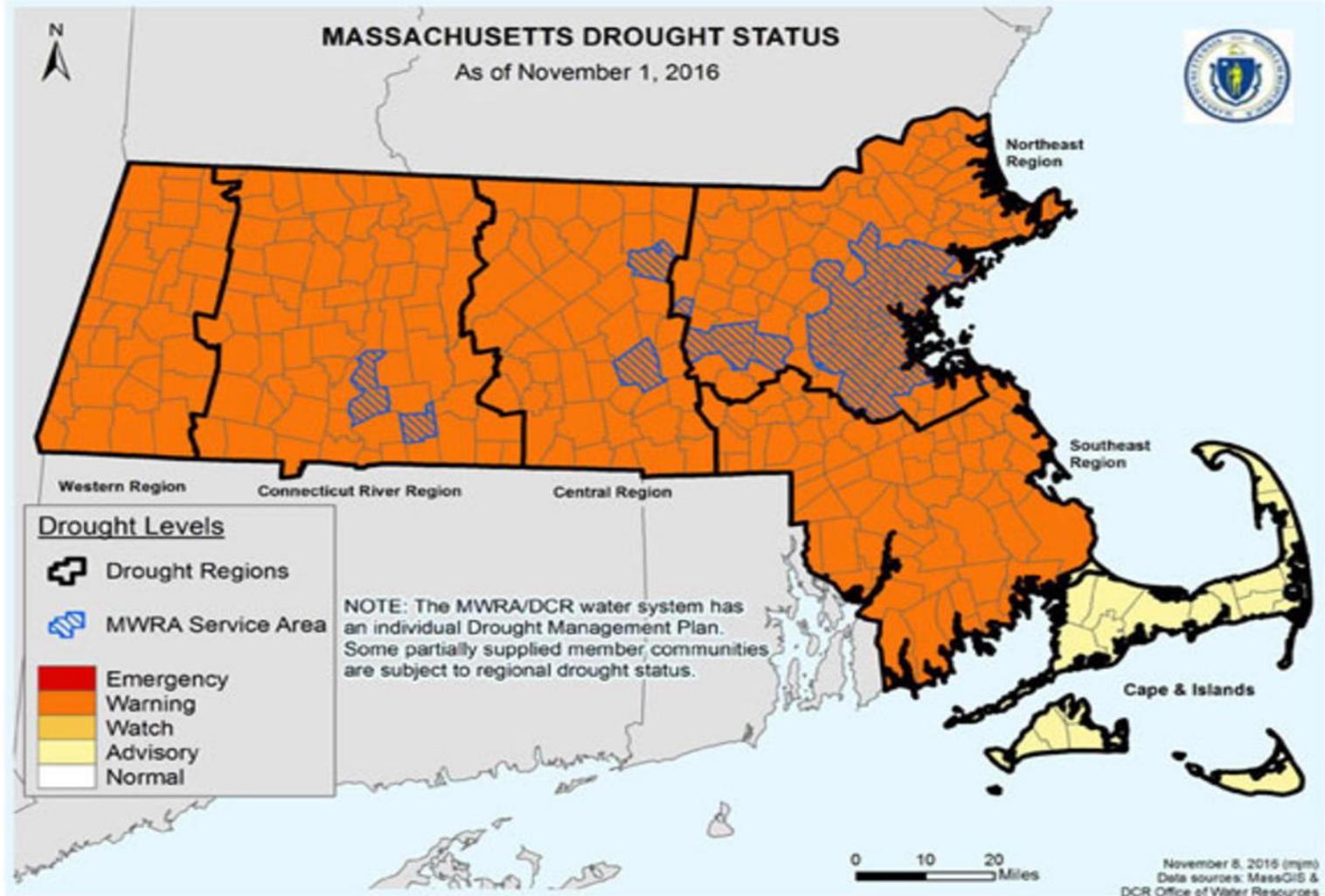


Urban Agriculture

Urban Agriculture Grant
Food Ventures Grant
(Urban and Rural Communities)
Massachusetts Food Trust

Drought Status as of September 2016





- Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) – DROUGHT
- To help Massachusetts farmers work through and recover from the drought of 2016 and prepare for future droughts.
- Open to all farms engaged in commercial agriculture.
- Overall funding of \$250,000.
- Provides up to 85% of total project costs up to a maximum award of \$25,000 for materials and labor.
- RFR issued in late November with a Jan 6 deadline
- 52 responses totaling \$822,000

- Located in a drought warning area as of 10/1/2016.
- Demonstration of increased efficiencies for water conservation projects. List estimated water savings over current use.
- Applicants with a demonstrated crop loss in the 2016 growing season that can detail and quantify how the installation of their proposed practice will help to prevent such loss in the event of future droughts will receive additional points.
- Applicants who have proof of a written and updated (within the last five years) MA Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Plan will receive higher consideration for their project proposal.
- Projects that show a clearly thought out timeframe for implementation and the ability to complete the project on or before June 30, 2017.

- 52 responses totaling \$822,000
- 18 Projects funded – totaling \$250,000
- Range from \$3,200 to \$25,000
- Types of Farms Funded:
 - 8 Cranberry Farms,
 - 5 Produce Farms
 - 2 Greenhouses,
 - 1 Dairy Farm,
 - 1 Tree Farm,
 - 1 Christmas Tree Farm

Trickle Irrigation/ Rainwater Capture Cistern



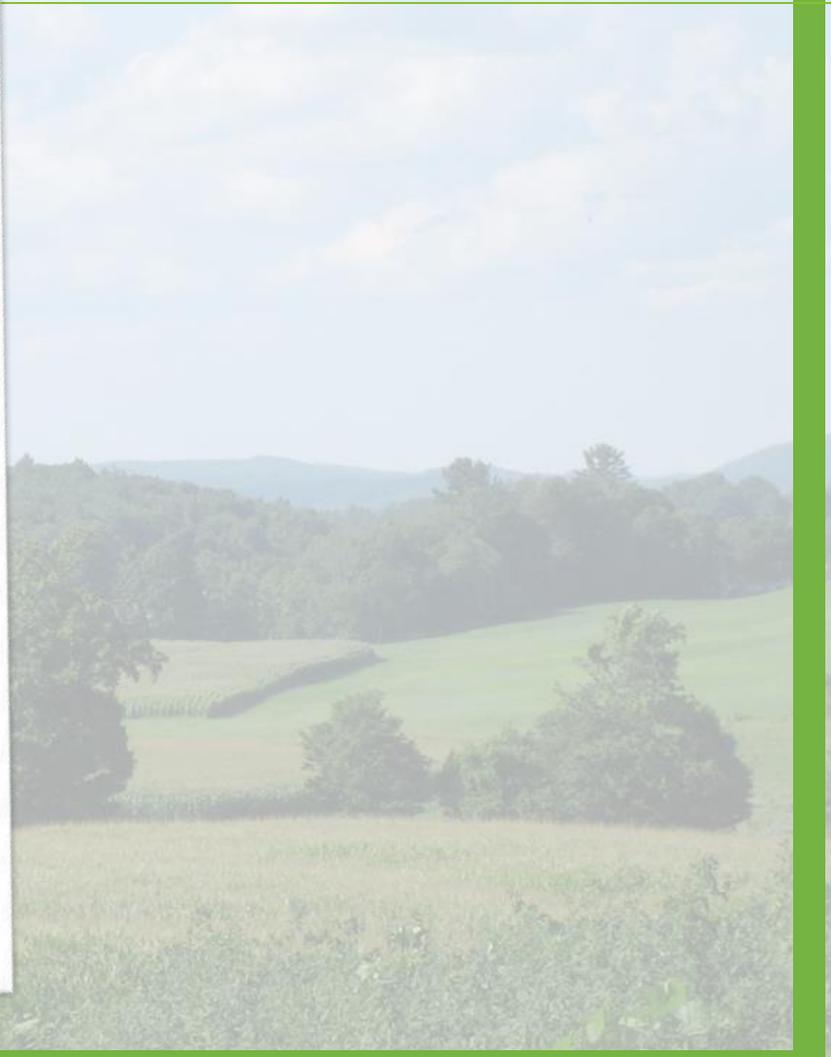




Auto irrigation systems



Rainwater Capture Cisterns



- Applications Available - Feb 2018
- Deadline for Responses - April 2018
- Awards - July 2018

- Address ag sector's vulnerability to climate change, improve economic resiliency and advance the goals identified in the Massachusetts Local Action Food Plan
- Total funding of \$500,000
- Maximum funding up to \$50,000 per project and 80% of project costs
- 38 applicants requesting \$1.2m

- Soil Health: No till equipment
- Water Management: Irrigation engine replacement, solar irrigation, soil moisture sensors, auto irrigation systems, agricultural pond repair/ retrofit, water collection and re-use, ware supply wells
- Energy Resiliency: Solar water pumping systems, battery storage for existing PV systems

- Capacity to decrease GHG emissions, which must be estimated and/or described in detail.
- Project increases farm resiliency to changing climate impacts.
- Proposal addresses risks due to climate change (increased flooding, more frequent droughts, more severe storms, and overall increased precipitation) and proposes methods of reducing their negative impact on the farm operation and local environment.
- The project is cost effective relative to greenhouse gas mitigation and/or adaptation benefits.
- Project identifies other environmental benefits including soil conservation, water quality improvements, and/or increase in biodiversity.
- Project outlines a plan for any on-going operation and maintenance and/or any periodic replacement needs and how they will be accomplished to ensure project longevity.

Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program
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