Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

Programs and Services



MDAR
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

To access our homepage, scan the QR Code or visit:

mass.gov/agr

Our Mission:

The Department's mission is to cultivate a robust and equitable agricultural economy, promote a safe and resilient food system, and preserve a healthy environment for Massachusetts farmers, animals, and consumers.

Youtube

@MassDeptAgr

@MassGrown

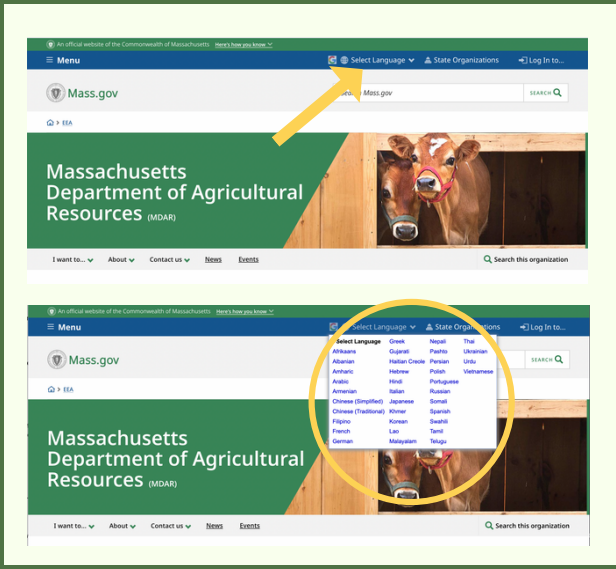
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HOW TO ACCESS TRANSLATED CONTENT:

On The Mass.gov Website:

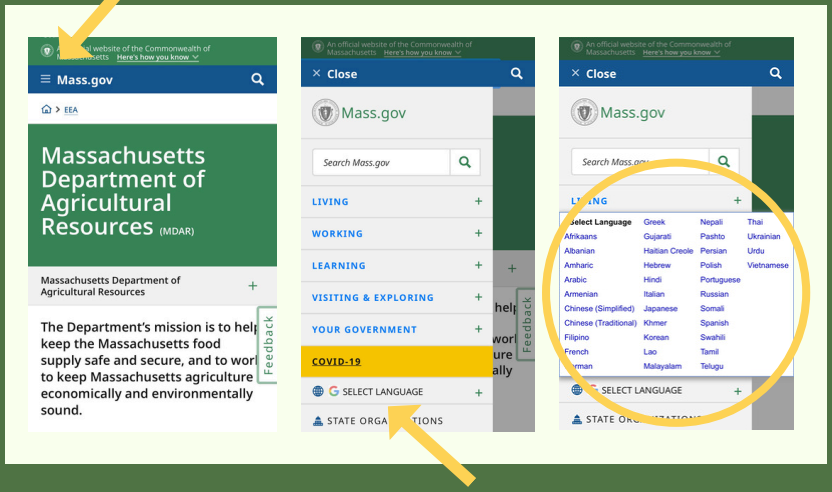
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1. Click the drop down menu titled "Select Language"
2. Choose your language from the given list



Directions for a Smartphone

1. Select the three bars in the top left corner of your screen
2. Click the drop down menu titled "Select Language"
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To Request Translation of This Handout:

www.mass.gov/forms/request-a-translation-of-an-mdar-document

This handout is translated into the following languages:

- Español (Spanish)
- Português (Portuguese)
- 简体中文 (Simplified Chinese)
- 繁體中文 (Traditional Chinese)
- Việt (Vietnamese)
- Hmoob (Hmong)
- ភាសាខ្មែរ (Khmer)
- Af Soomaali (Somali)
- Kreyòl ayisyen (Haitian Creole)
- Kriolu di Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean Creole)

Please note: Translation requests may require up to 14 business days to complete.

Did You Know That You Can Request Translation Services Through MDAR?

Learn more about how the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is advancing environmental justice efforts.

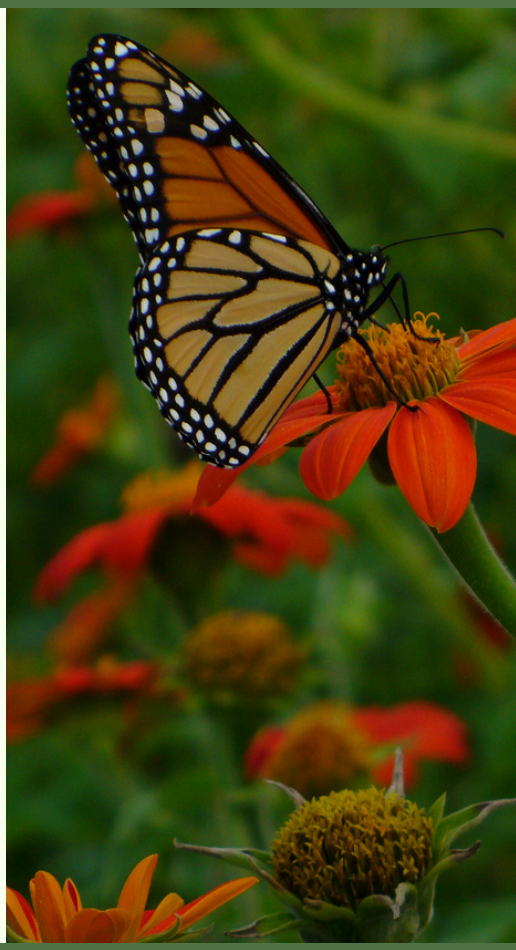
https://www.mass.gov/mdars-environmental-justice-program

WELCOME!

Our Environmental Justice Task Force created this document in an effort to increase access to the programs and services provided by MDAR. Based on the principle that all people have a right to live in and enjoy a clean and healthy environment and to be protected from environmental hazards, we strive to prioritize Environmental Justice (EJ) populations in our outreach, programs, and activities.

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Keep in Touch:

Subscribe to the Farm and Market Report:

This report is a bi-monthly newsletter which includes the Commissioner's Column, program and grant updates, workshop and educational opportunities, and more.

www.mass.gov/service-details/the-farm-and-market-report



ARE YOU A BEGINNING FARMER?

Beginning Farmer Resources:

MDAR and affiliated groups provide beginning farmer training programs, workshops and classes to help in starting an agricultural business, including:

- Ag Business Training
- Urban Farming Training
- Incubator Farm Training
- Financing and Financial Management Education
- Annual Farmer Conferences and Workshops
- ... And Much more!

www.mass.gov/info-details/beginning-farmer-resources



Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture:

Provides business planning, technical assistance and mentorship, and matching grants to beginning farmers.

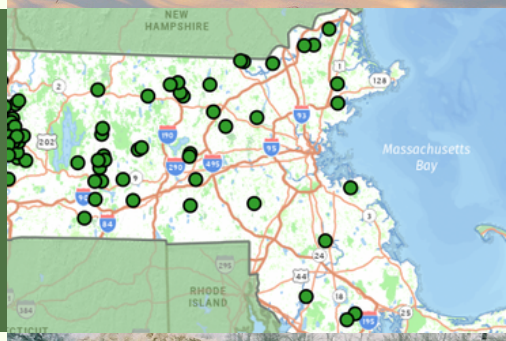
www.mass.gov/service-details/matching-enterprise-grants-for-agriculture-mega



MDAR's Programs in Action:

Check out our Grants Story at:

www.Bit.ly/MDARGrants



Check Out the Many Marketing Opportunities Available to New Farmers:

These opportunities can be found on Page 15 of this booklet!



ARE YOU A FARMER LOOKING FOR LAND ACCESS OR PROTECTION RESOURCES?





APR Program:

Offers a non-development alternative to farmers and other owners of "prime" and "state important" agricultural land who are faced with a decision regarding future use of their farms.

www.mass.gov/service-details/agricultural-preservation-restriction-apr-program-details



Stewardship Assistance and Restoration on APRs:

Helps resolve stewardship issues caused by a prior owner or natural disaster to restore active commercial farming on land that has already been protected through the APR Program.

www.mass.gov/service-details/stewardship-assistance-and-restoration-on-aprs-sara



Farm Viability Enhancement Program:

Provides business planning, technical assistance, and grants to increase farm viability in return for short-term covenants to keep the land in agricultural use.

www.mass.gov/service-details/farm-viability-enhancement-program-fvep



State-Owned Farmland Licensing Program:

Makes publicly-owned agricultural land available to farmers and others through agricultural licenses.

www.mass.gov/service-details/state-owned-farmland-licensing-program



ARE YOU LOOKING TO IMPROVE YOUR FARM?

APR Improvement Program:

Provides business planning, technical assistance, and grants to commercial farms with land that has already been protected through MDAR's APR Program.

www.mass.gov/service-details/apr-improvement-program-aip



Cranberry Bog Renovation Grant Program:

Provides reimbursement grant funding for the implementation of bog renovations that promote more efficient and environmentally sustainable bogs.

www.mass.gov/how-to/cranberry-bog-renovation-grant-program



Composting Improvement Grant Program:

Helps agricultural composters improve the overall management of their agricultural composting operations and facilitate on-farm compost use

www.mass.gov/how-to/agricultural-composting-improvement-grant-program-acip



Check out our Compost Program!

www.mass.gov/agricultural-composting-program

COULD YOUR FARM BENEFIT FROM THESE FOOD SAFETY RESOURCES?





Produce Safety Program:

Provides grower education, on-farm technical assistance, and conducts regulatory inspections and voluntary audits.

www.mass.gov/produce-safety-program



Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program:

Works to improve produce and aquaculture operation safety to minimize the risks of microbial contamination and food-borne illnesses.

www.mass.gov/how-to/agricultural-food-safety-improvement-program-afsip



Commonwealth Quality Program (CQP):

Provides certification to farmers that employ certain food safety standards that minimize the risk of microbial contamination and food-borne illnesses.

www.mass.gov/service-details/commonwealth-quality-program-cqp



ARE YOU A FARMER LOOKING FOR REBATE PROGRAMS, CREDITS, OR INCENTIVES?

Organic Cost Share:

Reimburses certified organic farmers and food processors up to 50% ($500 maximum) of the total certification cost.

www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-the-organic-certification-cost-share-program



Farm Energy Discount Program:

Provides discounts on electricity and natural gas bills of 10% to eligible entities engaged in production agriculture.

www.mass.gov/farm-energy-discount-program



Dairy Farmer Tax Credit Program:

Intended to offset downturns in milk prices paid to dairy farmers.

www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-to-the-dairy-farmer-tax-credit-program



Cranberry Bog Renovation Tax Credit Program:

Provides an offset of 25% of the cost of renovating cranberry bogs in Massachusetts, up to a $100,000 credit.

www.mass.gov/info-details/cranberry-bog-renovation-tax-credit-program



Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) Retrofit Program:

Rebates 70% of the cost of purchasing and installing the Rollover Protective Structure.

www.ropsr4u.org/



ARE YOU A FARMER LOOKING TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF YOUR FARM?





Climate Smart Agricultural Program:

Helps the agricultural sector adapt to climate change, by reducing and mitigating its effects.

www.mass.gov/how-to/how-to-apply-to-the-climate-smart-agriculture-program



Urban Agriculture:

Promotes strategies to address food insecurity and to increase access to fresh, local produce in urban neighborhoods with a high concentration of low-moderate income residents.

www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-the-urban-agriculture-program



Food Security Infrastructure Grant:

Funds capital projects for farmers, fishers and other food system entities to strengthen the local food supply chain through expanded food production, strengthening middle of the supply chain, increasing food access and emergency preparedness.

www.mass.gov/info-details/food-security-infrastructure-grant-program



Best Management Practices:

Includes a variety of guidance documents which provide farmers and producers with the latest information to benefit their operation.

www.mass.gov/service-details/agricultural-best-management-practices-bmps



Looking For a Complete List of Grants?

MDAR has a wide variety of grants available to farmers, including grants related to land preservation, environmental conservation, energy efficiency and business planning.

www.mass.gov/guides/agricultural-grants-and-financial-assistance-programs



ARE YOU A FARMER LOOKING FOR ANIMAL-BASED SERVICES?

Avian Influenza/Biosecurity Resources:

Provides up to date information on Avian Influenza as well as an online reporting form and biosecurity recommendations.

www.mass.gov/service-details/avian-influenza



Poultry Program:

Provides information on the benefits of local poultry and poultry products as well as resources regarding sick or dead bird reporting, biosecurity recommendations, and Poultry Dealers and Transporter Licenses.

www.mass.gov/service-details/poultry-program



Shelter and Rescue Program:

Provides the public with a list of licensed shelters and rescues.

www.mass.gov/animal-shelter-and-rescue-program



Animal Imports and Livestock Markets:

Provides information regarding animal regulations, import restrictions, import exemptions, and health fair and show rules.

www.mass.gov/info-details/animal-imports-and-livestock-markets





Dairy Program:

Provides information surrounding dairy related grants, inspection services, the Mass Dairy Promotion Board, and much more.

www.mass.gov/dairy-services

Check out our Dairy Tax Credit Program on Page 8!



Equine Program:

Provides information on breeding programs, animal disease updates and equine-related licensing.

www.mass.gov/equine-programs



Mass Animal Fund:

Provides free spay/neuter/vaccination resources to Commonwealth cats and dogs in need and provides free training to Animal Control Officers.

www.mass.gov/animalfund



Rabies Program:

Provides information on rabies regulation, education, and surveillance. Rabies is a very serious viral disease that affects the brain and spinal cord of mammals.

www.mass.gov/rabies-control-program



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR APIARY OR OTHER PLANT RELATED RESOURCES?

Apiary Services:

Provides support (including apiary inspections) to honey beekeepers, pesticide applicators, farmers and more.

www.mass.gov/apiary-program-honey-bees

CONTACT: bees@mass.gov

508-281-6784





Prohibited Plant List:

See the full list of invasive plants prohibited from import, sale, or propagation in Massachusetts.

www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-prohibited-plant-list

Report an Invasive Pest:

Report an invasive pest, plant, or plant disease.

https://massnrc.org/pests/pestreports.htm



Plant Nutrient Management:

Provides information regarding regulations for turfs and lawns, agricultural land, and water supply protection areas.

www.mass.gov/service-details/plant-nutrient-management

Nursery and Plant Inspections:

Provides information regarding annual licensing and inspections for all growers and sellers.

www.mass.gov/nursery-and-plant-inspections

Hemp Services:

The Hemp Program offers licensing and enforcement for the production and processing of hemp.

www.mass.gov/industrial-hemp-program





ARE YOU LOOKING FOR RESOURCES RELATED TO PESTICIDE USE?

Pesticide Sales and Use Reporting:

Provides resources for farmers looking to report their annual pesticide reports.

CONTACT:

pestexamlicense@mass.gov

www.mass.gov/how-to/pesticide-sales-and-use-reporting



Pesticide Storage and Disposal:

Provides guidance and resources for the Storage, Mixing and Loading of Pesticides.

www.mass.gov/service-details/pesticide-storage-and-disposal

Pesticide Program Publications:

www.mass.gov/lists/pesticide-program-publications

To file a pesticide related complaint, please call the Enforcement Hotline at 617-626-1781

Pesticide Examination and Licensing:

Pesticide applicators and pesticide dealers can apply for pesticide exams and licensing through the EEA ePlace Portal.

www.mass.gov/pesticide-examination-and-licensing



ARE YOU A FARMER LOOKING FOR MARKET OPPORTUNITIES?





Farmers' Market Support:

Provides support for both those looking to sell their product at existing farmers' markets and those looking to start and run farmers' markets.

www.mass.gov/farmers-market-program

Attract new customers and support access to fresh, local foods through SNAP and HIP by selecting "Become a SNAP/HIP Retailer" on the above website.

Starting or Growing your Food and Farm Business:

Provides resources to help you start and grow your own food business.

www.mass.gov/value-added-food-products

Find "Exploring your Small Farm Dream" and "Growing your Farm Business" Courses:

https://www.mass.gov/info-details/agricultural-business-training-program-abtp

Agricultural Signage:

Find applications to request highway signage and more.

www.mass.gov/agricultural-directional-signage-program

MassGrown Exchange:

This business-to-business platform allows farmers, fishers, food buyers, and ag-related businesses to connect, exchange, and find products and services.

www.mass.gov/service-details/massgrown-exchange

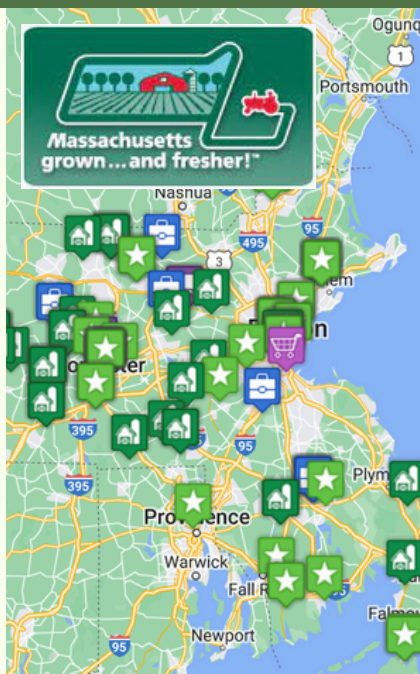
MassGrown Map:

Are you a retail or pick-your-own farm? Be sure you are included on our mobile friendly map that sees close to 300,000 views a year.

massnrc.org/farmlocator/map.aspx

To sign up for the map and see what MassGrown marketing materials we offer:

www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-grown-and-fresher-logo-and-marketing-materials



LOOKING FOR FURTHER SUPPORT?

Complete List of Programs and Services:

See an A-Z list of all MDAR's programs and services.

https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mdar-a-to-z-search-index

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

www.mass.gov/service-details/agricultural-community-mental-health-wellness-program-overview

Self-Identification for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

By maintaining a database of socially-disadvantaged farmers and producers, MDAR seeks to enhance communication and ensure equal access to Department opportunities.

www.mass.gov/forms/self-identify-as-a-socially-disadvantaged-farmer-or-producer

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA):

Provides leadership and resources related to food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, and nutrition.

usda.gov

UMass Fruit and Vegetable Team:

Provides technical assistance, crop and pest management consultations, field trials and support services including pest identification, disease diagnostics and hot water seed treatment.

ag.umass.edu/vegetable

Subscribe to their newsletter!

ag.umass.edu/vegetable/newsletters

Contact:
(413) 577-3976
umassveg@umass.edu



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