

FY22-FY24 Farm Viability Enhancement Program (FVEP) Participants

All participants received business planning and other technical assistance (such as financial, succession planning, or marketing assistance) before beginning their FVEP projects. Capital grants were provided upon the placement of an agricultural covenant on each farm.

2024 Farm Viability Enhancement Program Participants

Belder Farm, Whately - \$120,000

To construct a new milk house and purchase field equipment which will modernize their milk room facilities and increase their forage quality and productivity. Belder Farm has placed their 98-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Cucurbit Farm, Acton - \$75,000

To renovate and modernize their storage packing barn to increase the energy utility and efficiency of the barn for winter operations. Cucurbit Farm has placed their 17-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Dufresne's Sugar House, Williamsburg - \$75,000

To drill a well, install energy upgrades, and purchase a farm truck to increase their farm's operational safety and energy efficiency and reliability. Dufresne's Sugar House has placed their 27-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Hicks Family Farm, Charlemont - \$120,000

To repair their hay barn, purchase farm equipment, and construct a storage barn that will improve their storage facilities and operational efficiencies. Hicks Family Farm has placed their 62-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Morning Dew Farm, Worthington - \$75,000

To build a heifer barn, upgrade their milk tank and wash system, and remodel their existing milk room which will improve the quality of livestock housing and increase milk production. Morning Dew Farm has placed their 65-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Twenty Acre Farm and Greenhouse, Hadley - \$120,000

To construct a wash-pack building that will improve their labor and processing efficiencies. Twenty Acre Farm and Greenhouse has placed their 34-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Windsor Hill Sugar House, Windsor - \$75,000

To install a concrete floor in their sugarcane house, purchase maple and hay production equipment, and purchase a farm truck which will increase their storage and production efficiencies. Windsor Hill Sugar House has placed their 77-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

2023 Farm Viability Enhancement Program Participants

Clarkdale Fruit Farms, Deerfield - \$150,000

To renovate their barn and cider house, make electrical and irrigation upgrades, and purchase equipment for more efficient management of their orchard. Clarkdale Fruit Farms has placed their 205-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 15-year term.

Florek Family Farm, Westfield - \$75,000

To construct a livestock barn that will improve the health and safety of their beef cattle herd. Florek Family Farm has placed their 42-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Grigas Dairy Farm, New Braintree - \$150,000

To construct a hay barn, replace a heifer barn roof, install fencing, and purchase a tractor to improve their farm efficiency and the health and safety of their dairy herd. Grigas Dairy Farm has placed their 332-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 15-year term.

Oak Hollow Livestock, Shelburne - \$75,000

To construct a livestock housing building and purchase livestock handling and feeding equipment to improve animal health and performance, increase productivity, and maximize labor inputs. Oak Hollow has placed their 24-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

O'Brien Farm, Orange - \$75,000

To purchase a roof-mounted solar array and headlocks for their heifer cows, which will lower their utility expenses and reduce both physical labor and feed waste from the herd. O'Brien Farm has placed their 39-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Rocking M Ranch, Granby - \$75,000

To construct an equipment and storage garage that will protect farm equipment and increase hay storage space. Rocking M Ranch has placed their 11-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Sweet Brook Beef Company, Williamstown - \$120,000

To purchase a trailer, used truck, used tractor, and perform infrastructure improvements on a future on-farm event space. The farm vehicles will allow for more efficient and robust transport of their beef herd to slaughtering facilities. Sweet Brook Beef Company has placed their 116-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

2022 Farm Viability Enhancement Program Participants

McKinstry Market Garden, Chicopee, Granby, and Hadley - \$150,000

To construct a wash pack building that will allow more space for handling and storage of farm products and materials and improvements in food safety and labor efficiencies. McKinstry Market Garden has placed their 174-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 15-year term.

Red Shirt Farm, Lanesborough - \$50,000

To construct a multi-use farm store and commercial kitchen that will increase production, sales, and food access to the surrounding community. Red Shirt Farm has placed their 9-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Sandman's Wild Blueberries, Granville - \$50,000

To purchase specialized processing equipment, improve their farm road, and complete barn renovations that will increase operational efficiencies and yields. Sandman's Wild Blueberries has placed their 100-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Souza Family Farm, Rehoboth - \$50,000

To construct an equipment storage barn to protect and extend the life of vital farm equipment. Souza Family Farm has placed their 38-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.