

2023 Farm Viability Enhancement Program (FVEP) Participants

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

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 205 acres 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 42 acres 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 332 acres 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 24 acres 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 39 acres 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 11.5 acres 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 116 acres 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 174 acres 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 9.7 acres 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 100 acres 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 38 acres in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

2021 Farm Viability Enhancement Program Participants

Chockalog Farm, Uxbridge - \$50,000

To construct a farm store that will sell farm products. Chockalog Farm has placed 33.4 acres in an agricultural covenant for a 5-year term.

Clesson River Farm, Buckland - \$150,000

To purchase a manure collector, a conveyer feed system, and install a barn addition that will increase milk yields and improve animal capacity and comfort. Clesson River Farm has placed 327.7 acres in an agricultural covenant for a 15-year term.

Cournoyer Vegetable Farm, Paxton - \$100,000

To construct a new agricultural building that will result in increased vegetable storage capacity, product quality, and labor efficiencies. Cournoyer Vegetable Farm has placed 64.5 acres in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Honey Pot Hill Orchards, Stow - \$150,000

To construct a new Pick-Your-Own building, a new machinery repair and storage building, and purchase new cider equipment that will improve storage, revenue, and customer experience. Honey Pot Hill Orchards has placed 159.7 acres in an agricultural covenant for a 15-year term.

Ioka Valley Farm, Hancock - \$150,000

To purchase maple tapping equipment and a pumphouse that will increase maple syrup production and storage capacity. Ioka Valley Farm has placed 258.7 acres in an agricultural covenant for a 15-year term.

Maple Forks Farm, Clarksburg - \$50,000

To develop a farm kitchen that will produce new value-added products. Many Forks Farm has placed 7.6 acres in an agricultural covenant for a 5-year term.

Pine Island Farm, Sheffield - \$150,000

To purchase a combine harvester, corn head, and hammermill that will process feed more efficiently and reduce costs. Pine Island Farm has placed 229 acres in an agricultural covenant for a 15-year term.

Sunrise Farms, Colrain - \$100,000

To purchase a used skidder, a new truck, and maple equipment upgrades to increase production and sales of maple and wood products. Sunrise Farms has placed 401.7 acres in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Vollinger Farm, Northampton - \$50,000

To purchase a mower, a bale wrapper, and barn restoration to improve forage quality and storage. Vollinger Farm has placed 89.7 acres in an agricultural covenant for a 5-year term.