

FY23-FY25 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.

2025 Farm Viability Enhancement Program Participants

Blue Heaven Blueberry and Raspberry Farm, Middlefield - \$100,000

To install solar panels and a walk-in freezer which will reduce farm energy costs and allow the farm to produce frozen fruit for wider retail market distribution. Blue Heaven Blueberry and Raspberry Farm has placed their 26-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Chickadee Hill Farm, Rowley - \$100,000

To construct a new multi-use maintenance and storage building and install a new outdoor walk-in cooler which will increase the longevity of farm equipment and allow for greater produce storage and production. Chickadee Hill Farm has placed their 38-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

DaSilva Farm, Rehoboth - \$100,000

To construct a new livestock housing barn which will increase labor efficiency, improve work safety, and allow for greater animal capacity. DaSilva Farm has placed their 16-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Good Bunch Farm, Charlemont - \$100,000

To install deer fencing and purchase a farm vehicle which will reduce product loss and improve hauling capacity and market revenue. Good Bunch Farm has placed their 13-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Leyden Glen Farm, Bernardston - \$100,000

To construct a greenhouse-style sheep barn and purchase hay equipment and a livestock trailer which will improve the quality of animal housing and longevity of farm equipment. Leyden Glen Farm has placed their 227-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

McLaughlin Tobacco, Southwick - \$150,000

To purchase and utilize a new tractor, sprayer and tillage equipment which will improve production efficiencies and improve soil quality. McLaughlin Tobacco has placed their 59-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

Nemasket Cranberry Co., Inc., Lakeville - \$150,000

To construct a new equipment storage building which will increase farm equipment longevity and improve labor efficiencies. Nemasket Cranberry Co. has placed their 138-acre property in an agricultural covenant for a 10-year term.

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 sugarhouse, 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.