



Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

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Baker-Polito Administration Awards Grants for Environmental Projects at Massachusetts Farms

BOSTON – November 12, 2015 – The Baker-Polito Administration, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), today awarded 23 grants totaling \$300,000 to Massachusetts farmers for the installation of conservation practices that prevent or mitigate direct impacts on water and air quality and ensure efficient use of water.

“A vibrant agricultural community in Massachusetts is essential to building healthy communities and a stronger economy across the Commonwealth,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “These grants help Commonwealth farmers improve their bottom line and become more competitive while also improving the environment.”

“The Baker-Polito Administration is committed to supporting our agricultural industry and ensuring safe, environmentally-friendly local food production,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Matthew Beaton**. “This grant program helps Massachusetts' farm community become more sustainable, improves water and air quality, and protects public health.”

Through MDAR's Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP), funding was provided to farms across the Commonwealth for various projects, including the installation of automated irrigations systems and tailwater recovery for cranberry operations, manure storage and fencing.

“The Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program is a valuable tool to help our Massachusetts farmers implement environmentally responsible practices,” **said MDAR Commissioner John Lebeaux**. “I congratulate these recipients who have each shown a commitment to improving Massachusetts' environment and conserving our natural resources.”

AEEP funds projects that improve water quality, promote water conservation and improve air quality. Selected farmers are reimbursed for the approved costs of materials and labor up to \$25,000.

AEEP is one of several programs within DAR's Division of Agricultural Conservation and Technical Assistance (DACTA), whose mission is to advance the conservation and utilization of agricultural resources through preservation, environmental stewardship, technology, technical assistance and education in order to enhance the viability of agricultural enterprises and safeguard natural resources. AEEP has funded over 500 projects statewide since 1999, providing growers and producers over \$5.9 million dollars to help address environmental concerns on their farms.

The following farms received grants:

Farm Name	Site City	Project Type	Award
Almeida Farms	Rehoboth	Double Wall Fuel Tank	\$10,000.00
Slocum Gibbs Cranberry Co., Inc.	Carver	Automated Irrigation Systems; Tailwater Recovery	\$25,000.00
Bay-Breeze, Inc.	Westport	Four Stroke Outboard Engine	\$9,000.00
Ferry Farm	Rehoboth	Manure Storage	\$15,000.00
Pine Hill Orchards	Colrain	Irrigation	\$8,000.00
Rock Village Cranberry Co.	Middleboro	Automated Irrigation System	\$2,300.00
Blackstone Valley Farm	Northbridge	Fencing	\$9,000.00
Schultz Farm & Flo's Farm Stand	Rutland	Irrigation	\$20,000.00
De Sousa & Sons Dairy Farm	Rehoboth	Manure Storage	\$15,000.00
Martino's Seafood	Oak Bluffs	Aquaculture Project	\$1,700.00
2 Friends Farm	Attleboro	Ebb & Flow Benching	\$20,000.00
Handy Cranberry Trust	Cataumet	Automated Irrigation Systems	\$7,500.00
Nor'East Hydroseeding, Inc. - Rock Village Bog	Middleboro	Irrigation Pump; Automated Irrigation System	\$13,000.00
Grace Hill Farm	Cumington	Manure Storage	\$10,000.00
Harju Bog Management, Inc.	Halifax	Tailwater Recovery System	\$20,000.00
Baker Farm, LLC	Swansea	Manure Management	\$20,000.00
The Edible Yard c/o Wildlands Trust	Plymouth	Irrigation Well	\$10,000.00
Nemasket Cranberry Co., Inc.	Lakeville	Tailwater Recovery System	\$20,000.00
L&C Cranberry Corporation	Kingston	Automated Irrigation System	\$7,500.00
Salmi Bogs	Carver	Tailwater Recovery	\$20,000.00

“Over the past two years, 2 Friends Farm has been at the forefront of redefining the agricultural community in Attleboro,” **said State Senator Richard Ross (R-Wrentham)**. “I thank the Baker-Polito Administration for this critical funding that will go a long way to support this flourishing local business and encourage responsible farming practices that are environmentally friendly and preserve our state’s resources.”

“These grants represent important investments in more sustainable and environmentally responsible agricultural practices throughout the Commonwealth,” **said State Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington)**. “Our farms will be stronger and more economically viable with these funds, and I applaud the ingenuity, vision, and hard work of the farmers who will benefit.”

“The AEEP program is exactly what is needed to keep agriculture flourishing in the Commonwealth,” **said State Representative Susan Williams Gifford (R-Wareham)**. “I am

delighted to see this program directly benefitting some of my constituent growers and applaud Governor Baker and his administration for their understanding of this important issue.”

“It is vitally important to support our farmers,” said **Senate President Pro Tempore Marc R. Pacheco (D-Taunton)**. “They provide folks throughout the Commonwealth and beyond with good, wholesome food; it is only right that they are given the tools necessary to implement the most environmentally friendly practices. I commend these farmers for their dedication to conserving the environment and continuing to respect our land, air and water. The work they do is essential.”

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DAR’s mission is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Agricultural Markets, Animal Health, and Crop and Pest Services – DAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth’s agricultural community to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture’s role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit DAR’s website at www.mass.gov/agr, and/or follow at twitter.com/mdarcommish.

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