

### **Funding Available to Start a Dairy Profit Team**

The New York Farm Viability Institute is now accepting applications from dairy farmers for grants to help start a Dairy Profit Team. A Profit Team is a group of professionals, selected by the farmer, who meet regularly to discuss that specific farm, with the goal of making the business more successful. NYFVI can reimburse farmers for 80% of the consulting expenses of the team, up to \$2,500, if a farmer holds a minimum of seven meetings over a maximum 15-month period. Dairy farmers who have created Profit Teams in previous funding cycles have reported significant gains in productivity, efficiency, and profitability. Information about selecting team members and a team facilitator, setting goals, and tools that teams can use are all available on the NYFVI website. The Dairy Profit Team grant application is also available on the NYFVI Dairy Profit Team page. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For additional information, contact Kristin Cleveland, Profit Team Program Coordinator, [atkleveland@nyfvi.org](mailto:atkleveland@nyfvi.org) or 315-453-3823 X 103.

### **AgrAbility- Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities**

Deadline: June 4th

The AgrAbility program increases the likelihood that farmers, ranchers, farm workers and farm family members with disabilities will experience success in agricultural production. The program supports projects between State Cooperative Extension System and private non-profit disability organizations who work in partnership to provide agricultural education and assistance directed at accommodating disability in farm operations for individuals with disabilities, and their families, who engage in farming and farm-related occupations. Information on eligibility and how to apply can be found here.

### **Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program**

Deadline: June 12th

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 appropriated \$75 million for FY 2009 to FY 2012 to develop and offer education, training, outreach and mentoring programs to enhance the sustainability of the next generation of farmers. The Agriculture Act of 2014 has provided an additional \$20 million per year for 2014 through 2018. Applicants for this funding should be a collaborative, State, tribal, local, or regionally-based network or partnership of public or private entities, which may include: state cooperative extension service; community-based and nongovernmental organization; college or university (including institutions awarding associate degrees); or any other appropriate partner. For more information about the grant, eligibility, and upcoming webinars that will further explain the funding: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/beginningfarmersandranchers.cfm>.

### **Farmers' Market and Local Foods Promotion Program**

Deadline: June 20th

This new program, administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), makes \$30 million available annually to farmers markets, other direct producer-to-consumer venues, and other businesses in the local food supply chain. Under this program, \$15 million is now available for marketing and promotional support specifically for local food businesses, including food hubs, delivery and aggregation businesses, and processing and storage facilities along the

local food supply chain, while \$15 million is for marketing support for farmers markets and other direct to consumer outlets. More information about how to apply is available on the AMS website. Applications are due June 20, 2014.

### **USDA Rural Energy for America Program**

Deadline: July 7th

USDA is seeking applications from rural small businesses and agricultural producers for funding to make energy-efficiency improvements or to install renewable-energy systems. For fiscal year 2014, USDA plans to award up to \$12.3 million in grants and \$57.8 million in loan guarantees through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). Requests for grants may not exceed 25% of a project's cost. Applications for grants or combined grants and loans are due by July 7th, while applications for loan guarantees are due by July 31th. For more informatio

### **USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Grants**

Deadline: Rolling

Application Materials: [Guidelines](#)

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is offering a series of grants in various ag-related areas. Funding will be used to develop management practices, technologies, and tools for farmers, ranchers, forest owners and managers, public decision makers, public and private managers, and citizens to improve water resource quantity and quality. These grants will link social, economic, and behavioral sciences with traditional biophysical sciences and engineering to address regional-scale issues with shared hydrological processes and meteorological and basin characteristics. [For more information on the series of grants, please visit http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri.html.](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri.html)

### **NYSERDA Agricultural Energy Efficiency Program**

Deadline: December 1, 2015

First come, first serve basis until funds run out

Application Materials: [NYSERDA Agricultural Energy PDF](#), [Terms of Conditions](#), [Summary](#)

NYSERDA offers assistance to identify and implement electric and natural gas energy efficiency measures for eligible farms and on-farm producers, including but not limited to: orchards, greenhouses, vegetables, vineyards, grain dryers, and poultry/egg. Farms must be a customer of a New York State investor-owned utility and contribute to the System Benefits Charge (SBC). Please check your farm's current utility bills. Through the Agriculture Energy Efficiency Program you can request an energy audit, project implementation services, or both. NYSERDA will assign a FlexTech Consultant to perform an energy audit at no cost for audits up to \$2,500. For more complex energy audits, exceeding \$2,500, cost-sharing by the applicant will be required.

[nyserdera.ny.gov/BusinessAreas/Energy-Efficiency-and-Renewable-Programs](http://nyserdera.ny.gov/BusinessAreas/Energy-Efficiency-and-Renewable-Programs)

### **Whole Foods Market: Local Loan Producer Program**

Now Accepting Applications

Application Materials: [Summary](#)

Whole Foods Market is committed to the concept of fresh, healthy, local foods. Since the beginning, we have remained committed to supporting local products and the people who supply them. In addition to

featuring local products in our stores, we're putting our money where our mouths are by providing up to \$10 million in low-interest loans to independent local farmers and food artisans

[wholefoodsmarket.com/mission-values/caring-communities/local-producer-loan-program](http://wholefoodsmarket.com/mission-values/caring-communities/local-producer-loan-program)

### **NCRS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

Deadline: October 18, 2013

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to eligible agricultural producers who are willing to address priority environmental issues by implementing conservation practices. It is administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. It offers financial assistance for practices which address soil erosion, water quality and habitat degradation. Practices implemented through EQIP include strip cropping, grassed waterways and manure storage facilities. Focus areas within the EQIP program include soil health, livestock waste, habitat, forestry and grazing.

[nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ny/programs/financial/eqip/](http://nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ny/programs/financial/eqip/)

### **NCRS Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**

Deadline: October 18, 2013

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to help participants develop fish and wildlife habitat on private agricultural land, non-industrial private forest land, and Indian land. Landowners with eligible agricultural lands including cropland, grassland, pasture, and other land determined by NRCS to be suitable for wildlife habitat development are eligible to apply. Applicants must meet eligibility for Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) certification and be in compliance with the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985 as amended. It helps participants restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat in grassland and shrubland areas.

[nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ny/programs/financial/whip/](http://nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ny/programs/financial/whip/)

### **Organic Certification Reimbursement**

Deadline: October 31, 2013

Application Materials: [Organic Certification Reimbursement](#)

Organic farmers and processors are eligible for a reimbursement of 75% of their annual certification fee costs not to exceed \$750. The certification must be conducted by an organization accredited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The reimbursement program is for farmers receiving their initial certification or renewing their certification for the period of October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.

[agriculture.ny.gov/AP/Organic/reimbursement.html](http://agriculture.ny.gov/AP/Organic/reimbursement.html)

### **Whole Kids Foundation: School Garden Grant Program**

Deadline: October 31, 2013

Application Materials: Visit the Foundation's website to complete the online application

The Whole Kids Foundation is dedicated to supporting schools and inspiring families to improve children's nutrition and wellness. The Foundation's School Garden Grant Program provides support to K-12 schools and nonprofit organizations to the U.S. and Canada that are developing or currently maintaining a school garden project that will help children engage with fresh fruits and vegetables. Grants of \$2,000 are provided for garden projects at any stage of development- planning, construction, or operation.

[wholekidsfoundation.org/schools/programs/school-garden-grant-program](http://wholekidsfoundation.org/schools/programs/school-garden-grant-program)

### **USDA Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI)**

Deadline: November 12, 2013

RCDI awards grants up to \$300,000 to develop the capacity and ability of nonprofit organizations, low-income rural communities, or federally recognized tribes to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development in rural areas. Applications are due November 12, 2013. Click here for more information about program requirements.

[grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=rural%20community](http://grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=rural%20community)

### **Northeast SARE Partnership Grants**

Deadline for 2014: November 13, 2013

Application Materials: SARE Partnership Grants 2014

Partnership Grants are reserved for agricultural service providers--extension staff, nonprofits, consultants, state departments of agriculture, and others working in the agricultural community--who want to conduct on-farm demonstrations, research, marketing, and other projects with farmers as active cooperators. The Partnership guidelines have been expanded to incorporate proposals that used to be submitted under the Sustainable Community Grant.

[nesare.org/Grants/Get-a-Grant/Partnership-Grant](http://nesare.org/Grants/Get-a-Grant/Partnership-Grant)

Farm Credit East: Northeast Agricultural Enhancement Grant

Deadline, December 1, 2013

Application Materials:

Each year, Northeast agricultural credit associations and CoBank award grants to help organizations promote awareness of agriculture in the 6 New England states, New York and New Jersey. Funds are provided as part of the Northeast Farm Credit AgEnhancement program, an ongoing educational campaign that supports programs, projects, events, and other activities that promote and strengthen agriculture, forest products or commercial fishing industries in the region.

[farmcrediteast.com/en/Industry-Support/AgEnhancement-Grants.aspx](http://farmcrediteast.com/en/Industry-Support/AgEnhancement-Grants.aspx)

Northeast SARE Farmer Grants

Deadline for 2014: December 2, 2013

Application Materials: SARE Farmer Grants 2014

Farmer Grants are for commercial producers who have an innovative idea they want to test using a field trial, on-farm demonstration, marketing initiative, or other technique. A technical advisor--often an extension agent, crop consultant, or other service professional--must also be involved. Projects should seek results other farmers can use, and all projects must have the potential to add to our knowledge about effective sustainable practices

[nesare.org/Grants/Get-a-Grant/Farmer-Grant](http://nesare.org/Grants/Get-a-Grant/Farmer-Grant)

## The Cora L. Brooks Foundation Clean Water Grant

Deadline: January 10, 2014

Application Materials: Guidelines

Since 1999, the Foundation has provided grants for the purpose of environmental conservation, restoration or education within the watersheds of the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers, with particular emphasis on environmental protection issues relating to clean water and water related ecologies. Non-profit organizations should request an application by December 16, 2013.

[foundationoffices.org](http://foundationoffices.org)

## NYSERDA Agricultural Energy Efficiency Program

Deadline: December 1, 2015

First come, first serve basis until funds run out

Application Materials: [NYSERDA Agricultural Energy PDF](#), [Terms of Conditions](#), [Summary](#)

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[nyserdera.ny.gov/BusinessAreas/Energy-Efficiency-and-Renewable-Programs](http://nyserdera.ny.gov/BusinessAreas/Energy-Efficiency-and-Renewable-Programs)