



Mass Farm Energy Program **S E R V I C E S** for Farmers

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE . . . to help farmers leverage funds

The Mass Farm Energy Program (MFEP) is helping farmers determine what energy efficiency and renewable energy funding is most appropriate to their circumstances. The MFEP helps farmers access:

- The Massachusetts Farm Energy Discount Program of MDAR
- Electric and gas public utility energy conservation & efficiency programs
- The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's Renewable Energy Trust Initiatives
- The USDA/Rural Development Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) and Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)
- MDAR's Ag Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP)

GRANT WRITING ASSISTANCE . . . to help farmers apply for the USDA/Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

The 2008 Farm Bill provides funding for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements to farmers and rural small businesses, administered through USDA/Rural Development. The MFEP with support from the MA Woodlands Institute and Rural Development will provide grant writing assistance for applications to the USDA-Rural Development's Section 9007: Rural Energy for America Program (formerly called the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program). Energy audits or renewable energy assessments should be completed before the USDA application period starts, which is expected in March 2009.

Apply now for MFEP grant writing assistance at http://www.Berkshirepioneeracd.org/mfep/forms/grant_writing_req.php

AUDITS & INCENTIVES PROGRAM . . . to help farmers save energy

MFEP will provide energy audits, renewable energy assessments, and/or provide financial incentives for implementation of audit recommendations, including those recommended by public utility programs. **Higher priority will be given to farmers with less access to other audits and incentives programs.** MFEP audits, assessments, and consultations will be paid at 75% with the applicant responsible for the remaining 25%. Based on energy savings, incentives of up to \$7500 will be provided for implementation. Although emphasis is on energy conservation and efficiency, there will be some funding opportunities for renewable energy projects, especially those projects that are not eligible for other programs. The intent of the audits and incentives program is to encourage farmers to implement at least 50% of the recommended measures. **The MFEP seeks applications from farmers across Massachusetts interested in participating in the program.** The MFEP will make referrals to existing audit and incentive programs, provide "targeted" energy audits and/or renewable energy assessments, and provide financial incentives for implementation of audit recommendations. See <http://www.berkshirepioneeracd.org/mfep/energy.php> for complete information and to apply.

MA Farm Energy Program at <http://www.berkshirepioneeracd.org/mfep>

The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program is a two-year statewide pilot program that receives funding and technical support from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. The program is administered by the Berkshire-Pioneer Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. and the Patriot Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

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