

Tompkins County Ag Funding Resources

Updated Fall 2020

Tompkins County Ag Funding Resources, updated 2020

Note: many funding sources use similar grant funding cycles year to year. Please check the linked websites for the most up to date information.

NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets

- The Farmland Protection Planning Grants (FPPG) Program helps county and local governments plan for the future of agriculture in their areas and develop farmland protection plans to identify land or areas proposed to be protected and describe activities, programs, and strategies intended to be used to promote continued agricultural use.
<https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/farmland-protection-planning-grants-program>
- The Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (FPIG) Program provides financial assistance to counties, municipalities, soil and water conservation districts, and land trusts to enable them to implement farmland protection activities consistent with local agricultural and farmland protection plans. The most frequently funded activity is the purchase of development rights (PDR) on individual farms. However, FPIG may also award funding to enable other implementation activities, such as amendments to local laws affecting agriculture, option agreements (which lead to PDR), and covering the transaction costs of donated agricultural conservation easements.
<https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/farmland-protection-implementation-grants-program>

In Tompkins County, our county Department of Planning and Sustainability regularly applies for FPPG and FPIG grants. Please reach out to the department if you think your agricultural land could benefit from programs funded by FPPG or FPIG.

<https://www2.tompkinscountyny.gov/planning>

Soil and Water Conservation District and the State Soil & Water Conservation Committee

https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/soil-water-conservation-committee?utm_medium=301&utm_source=www.nys-soilandwater.org

- [NYS DEC Environmental Protection Fund](#) (examples: Purchasing land for the NYS Forest Preserve, Conserving farmland, Restoring habitat, Controlling invasive species)
- [Agriculture Environmental Management \(AEM\)](#) The goal of the implementation of **AEM Plans on NYS G&C farms** is to assist growers in producing products using the highest environmental standards in order to protect and improve New York's natural resources, including the water quality of its ocean and Great Lakes. Maximum award is \$50,000.00/farm, limit one per farm.

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Soil and Water Conservation District, State Soil & Water Conservation Committee continued

- [Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement and Control \(AgNPS\)](#)
- [Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning](#)
- [Climate Resilient Farming \(CRS\)](#)
- The [Source Water Buffer Program](#) funds the purchase of conservation easements and projects that establish riparian buffers on farmland that borders critical water sources. The program will cost share up to 75%, the purchase of perpetual conservation easements or 50-year term conservation easements. Funds may also be used to install or enhance vegetated or forested buffers within the easement area. Funds available on rolling basis until exhausted.
- [Ecosystem Based Management \(EMB\)](#)
- [Irrigation and Water Management](#) Funds available to support the implementation of **high-efficiency agricultural irrigation water management systems**. This Request for Proposals is intended to provide financial assistance to implement improvements to existing agricultural irrigation systems that result in the conservation of water resources, improvements to nutrient management strategies and crop production yields, while safeguarding natural resources. Maximum award is \$50,000.00/farm, limit one per farm.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/>

- [Agricultural Management Assistance \(AMA\)](#)
AMA helps agricultural producers use conservation to manage risk and solve natural resource issues through natural resources conservation. NRCS administers the AMA conservation provisions while the Agricultural Marketing Service and the Risk Management Agency implement other provisions under AMA.
AMA provides financial assistance up to 75 percent of the cost of installing conservation practices. Total AMA payments shall not exceed \$50,000 per participant for any fiscal year.
- [Conservation Innovation Grants \(CIG\)](#)
Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) are competitive grants that drive public and private sector innovation in resource conservation. CIG projects inspire creative problem solving that boosts production on farms, ranches, and private forests - ultimately, they improve water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat.

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) continued

- [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#)
The CSP helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.
- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#)
The EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against increasing weather volatility. Some practices that can be covered by EQIP grants include:
 - Cover Crops
 - Forest Stand Improvement
 - Prescribed Grazing
 - Irrigation
 - High Tunnels
 - Energy Use
 - Testing Innovative Practices

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The fiscal year for FSA stretches from October 1st through September 30th. This means that FSA is allotted money from the federal government on October 1st and has until September 30th of the following year to award loans with this money. However, if they dole out all of the money before the next funding cycle can begin, a situation can arise where FSA doesn't have money to fulfill loans. During that time, FSA will continue to accept loan applications and grant or deny loans, but they can't actually release any money until the new fiscal year starts on October 1st. Understanding this, borrowers may have the best success approaching FSA for loans earlier in the fiscal year—in October or November. However, borrowers can apply for loans even when the loan program is out of money. Once funding is replenished, the approved loan will be funded in the order it was received.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/index>

- Available Farm Loans
 - [Farm Operating Loans](#)
 - [Microloan Programs](#)
 - [Farm Ownership Loans](#)
 - [Guaranteed Farm Loans](#)

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USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) continued

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- Targeted Farm Loans
 - [Youth Loans](#)
 - [Minority and Women Farmers and Ranchers](#)
 - [Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loans](#)
- Specialty Loans
 - [Emergency Farm Loans](#)
 - [Native American Tribal Loans](#)
- Conservation Programs
 - [Conservation Reserve Program](#)
 - [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#)
 - [CRP Grasslands](#)
 - [Emergency Conservation Program](#)
 - [Emergency Forest Restoration Program \(EFRP\)](#)
 - [Farmable Wetlands Program](#)
 - [Grassland Reserve Program](#)
 - [“Grassroots” Source Water Protection Program](#)
 - [Transition Incentives Program](#)

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA):

Agriculture Programs and resources:

- Advancing Agricultural Energy Technologies Program (NYSERDA) - opportunities to demonstrate emerging clean energy technologies and practices that provide benefits to farms
- [Agriculture Energy Audit Program \(NYSERDA\)](#) - Offers technical assistance to identify energy efficiency measures for eligible farms and on-farm producers, including but not limited to: dairies, orchards, greenhouses, vegetables, vineyards, grain dryers, and poultry/egg.

<https://www.nyserra.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Agriculture-Energy-Audit>

NYSERDA will assign Flexible Technical Assistance (FlexTech) Program Consultants to perform energy audits for eligible farms.

- Anaerobic Digester Gas-to-Electricity Systems Program (NYSERDA) - incentives for owners of existing farm-related anaerobic digestion systems that demonstrate replicable business models or strategies to achieve commercial operation

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New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) continued

- [Agri-business Program \(National Grid\)](#)- incentives for upstate New York customers who upgrade to energy-efficient equipment or operational expansion plans.
 - Tel. 855-236-7052, email: energysavings@nationalgrid.com

Examples include:

- (plate-coolers (pre-coolers)
- heat recovery units for hot water (incentivized with electric hot water heaters)
- chillers
- scroll refrigeration compressors
- processing equipment for dairy/fruit/vegetable operations
- milk or water transfer pumps with variable speed drives (VSD)
- ventilation fans with VSD
- LED lights (interior or exterior)

Utilities: Residential Agriculture Discount (RAD) Program

If you are a customer of National Grid or NYSEG for example, you may be eligible to receive a monthly discount on your electricity delivery bill.

This discount is possible through funding from the New York Power Authority's (NYPA) ReCharge NY program for NYSEG's Residential Agricultural Discount (RAD) program.

NYSEG: [NYSEG Residential Ag Discount Program](#) and [NYSEG RAD Application](#)

National Grid: [National Grid Residential Ag Discount Program](#) and [National Grid RAD Application](#)

Sustainable Tompkins

Offers mini-grants for a wide variety of initiatives improve the quality of life of residents by building capacity, resilience, and leadership through collaborative projects.

<https://sustainabletompkins.org/>

Farm Viability Institute

FVI typically solicits proposals in the fall and awards grants in April. <https://nyfvi.org/>

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Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

<https://northeast.sare.org/>

Farmer grants: cycle open: Due: Nov 17, 2020. Funds can be used to conduct the research project including paying farmers for their time, for project-related materials, for project costs like consulting fees or soil tests, and any communications or outreach expenses associated with telling others about project results. This grant program is not meant to help start or expand farm businesses. Farmer Grant funds cannot be used for capital costs associated with building a barn, greenhouse, or other major farm fixture, nor can funds be used to start a farm, purchase durable equipment like tractors or computers, or for any utility, telephone, or other costs that



would be there in the absence of the project.

Partnership grants: (farmers and ag professionals) next cycle open Winter 2021, due approximately in April 2021, check SARE website for exact dates

Research & Education Grants: (pre-proposal due July 23, 2020 and application due Oct 20, 2020; **Research for Novel Approaches:** pre-proposal due. **Professional development grants:** (ie train the trainer etc) pre-proposal due July 23, 2020, due Oct 20, 2020.

Cornell Small Farms

[Grant Opportunities for Farmers](#) (New York State and Federal Sources)

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