

2024 Funding Opportunities for Dairy & Crop Operations

Below is a list of organizations that offer funding that may be applicable to systems and improvements you are interested in pursuing this year. Click the link to access the full details for each specific grant opportunity. Please feel free to reach out to the UVM Extension Northwest Crops & Soils Team with questions or for assistance.

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board – Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program

VHCP Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program Water Quality Grants – Funding for investment in water quality related on-farm infrastructure. Funded projects may include manure management or feed storage construction, purchase of manure injection/no-till/feed related equipment, grazing infrastructure.

\$5,000-\$50,000 with a 1:1 match required

Apply by January 19th, 2024

<https://www.vhcb.org/viability/grants/water-quality-grants>

Vermont Working Lands Enterprise Initiative

ARPA Primary Producer Impact Grant – Funding for investments to grow and strengthen the economies, cultures, and communities of Vermont's working landscapes. Project must demonstrate a negative impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funded projects may include market & research development, infrastructure, workforce training & development.

\$50,000-\$250,000 with a 1:1 match required

Apply by January 19th, 2024

<https://workinglands.vermont.gov/grant-contract-opportunities/arpa-primary-producer-impact-grant>

Supply Chain Impact Grant – Funding for infrastructure improvements supporting increased production and/or distribution of a commodity or value-added product. Funded projects may include infrastructure improvements, leveraging of supply chain partnerships, research & design for operations, product development.

\$50,000-\$250,000 with a 1:1 match required

Apply by January 19th, 2024

<https://workinglands.vermont.gov/grant-contract-opportunities/supply-chain-impact-grants>

Business Enhancement Grant – Funding for market, research, infrastructure or workforce training and development.

\$15,000-\$50,000 with a 1:1 match required

Application likely to reopen in November 2024

[Business Enhancement Grants | Working Lands Enterprise Initiative \(vermont.gov\)](#)

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Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Pay for Performance -- Performance based payment for phosphorus reductions. Requires data entry into FarmPREP. First time enrollees are eligible for data entry payment of \$15/acre up to \$4,000 regardless of performance.

Up to \$50,000

Apply January 2nd-January 24th, 2024

[Vermont Pay for Performance Program | Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets](#)

Engineering Services & Farmstead Best Management Practices (BMP) Program – Funding for technical assistance & financial assistance for ready-to-implement water quality improvement projects. Funded projects may include engineering/water quality/state permitting consultations, laneway & stream crossings, milkhouse or silage leachate collection & treatment, manure storage or clean water diversion solutions.

Up to \$100,000.

Apply by April 1st, 2024

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/bmp>

Farm Agronomic Practice (FAP) Program – Funding for implementation of soil-based agronomic practices that improve soil quality, increase crop production, and reduce erosion or agricultural waste discharges. Funded projects may include cover crops, crop to hay or hay with nurse crop transitions, rotational grazing, conservation tillage, no-till pasture & hay land renovation, manure injection, educational activities.

Up to \$10,000/state fiscal year.

Apply by April 1st, 2024 for Spring practices

Apply by June 15th, 2024 for Rotational Grazing

Apply by August 1st, 2024 for Fall practices

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/fap>

Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP) – Funding for purchase of new or used equipment that will aid in the reduction of surface runoff of agricultural wastes, improve water quality, reduce odors from manure application, separate phosphorus from manure, mitigate greenhouse gases & reduce costs associated with manure application. Funded projects may include purchase of precision agriculture, conservation tillage, cover crop, waste management or feed management equipment.

\$30,000-\$60,000, 90% cost share

Apply by November 1st, 2024

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/ceap>

2024 Funding Opportunities for Dairy & Crop Operations

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, *continued*

Grassed Waterways & Filter Strip (GWFS) Program – Funding for technical assistance & projects that reduce soil erosion & improve soil and water quality on cropland that contributes disproportionately high levels of nutrient runoff. Funded projects may include grassed waterways and filter strips on critical source field areas.

\$500/acre, %90 cost share

Application is on a rolling basis

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/gwfs>

Farm Agronomic Practice (FAP) Training Grants – Funding for farmers attending events that further their knowledge of agricultural water quality. Funding may cover registration fees, hotel/lodging, airfare, mileage and/or relief milking and farmwork.

Up to \$2,000 per person per year.

Applications required at least 45 days prior to event

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/fap/training>

Pasture & Surface Water Fencing – Funding for technical & financial assistance to implement projects intended to improve water quality and livestock exclusion from surface waters. Funded projects may include purchase of fence & electric chargers, water source development, watering facility solutions or improved permanent water areas, and/or stream crossing, trails and walkway solutions.

\$10,000-\$15,000

Application is on a rolling basis

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/pswf>

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – Funding to compensate agricultural landowners for taking land out of production for 15 years to establish soil conservation strategies. Strategies may include forested buffer, filter strips or grassed waterway establishments, wetland restoration, livestock exclusion and alternate watering solutions.

\$415-\$1,905/acre lump sum & \$80-\$300/acre annual payments

Application is on a rolling basis

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/crep>

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

On Farm Milk Storage & Handling – Funding to support the purchase of equipment and other related costs to improve milk storage, handling, and energy efficiencies & contribute to long-term farm viability. Funded projects may include purchase of equipment to improve milk storage, handling and/or chilling efficiency or that will streamline milk pick up and improve handling for producers and processors.

\$15,000-\$50,000, 25% match required

Apply by January 18th, 2024

<https://nedairyinnovation.com/grants/on-farm-milk-storage-handling/>

2024 Funding Opportunities for Dairy & Crop Operations

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center, *continued*

Dairy Farm Improvement & Modernization Grant – Funding for projects that prioritize long-term farm viability and climate or economic resilience. Funded projects may include upgrades to outdated farm production practices, purchase of specialized equipment, technology improvements, transition to group calf housing, creating new models for collaborative/cooperative milk production, increase new/young farmer engagement projects, alternative business/ownership/management model development.

\$15,000-\$100,000, 25% match required

Application likely to reopen in fall/winter of 2024

<https://nedairyinnovation.com/grants/farm-improvement-modernization/>

USDA Rural Development

Rural Development for America Program (REAP) – Funding for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements or to purchase energy efficient equipment. Funded projects may include purchase of ventilations systems, insulation, lighting, cooling/refrigeration systems, doors and windows, and replacement of energy inefficient equipment.

Funding available for up to 50% of the total eligible project cost

Applications accepted quarterly -- next period apply by December 31st, 2023

[Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

Farmer Grant Program – Funding for farmers to explore new concepts in sustainable agriculture conducted through experiments, surveys, prototypes, on-farm demonstrations or other research and education techniques. Funded projects address issues that affect farming with long-term sustainability in mind.

\$5,000-\$30,000

Application likely to reopen in fall 2024

[Farmer Grant Program - SARE Northeast](#)

Reach out to the UVM Extension Northwest Crops & Soils Team with questions or for assistance at 802-524-6501 or by email to Amber Machia, amber.machia@uvm.edu or Susan Brouillette, susan.brouillette@uvm.edu.

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<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/nwcrops>

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