

## What is AMA?

### Agricultural Management Assistance

AMA is a voluntary program for agricultural producers that provides technical assistance and cost share funds to address natural resource concerns such as water conservation and quality, soil erosion, and the transition to organic farming.

In New York, AMA is available to any agricultural producer in the state. AMA Program funds will be made available to implement conservation practices relating to Prescribed Grazing Management, Erosion Control on Cropland, the Transition to Organic Production and Pest Management.

**Am I eligible?** - Agricultural producers who own or have control of cropland, hayland, pasture or other land on which crops or livestock are produced and agree to implement ~~approved conservation practices~~ are eligible for AMA.

**What practices are eligible?** - Prescribed grazing, fencing, watering facilities, animal trails and walkways, pest management, composting facilities, strip cropping, grassed waterways, critical area planting, cover crops, diversions, residue management, agrichemical mixing facilities, pasture and hayland management, buffers, water and sediment control basins, and other approved practices.

**How much funding can I receive?** - The maximum annual payment is \$50,000 per participant for AMA. The total over a multi-year contract shall not exceed \$150,000. The cost-sharing rate is 75 percent of the total eligible cost of an approved practice. Participants will be paid based upon verification of completion of the qualified practice.

**What is my contribution?** - 25% of the cost of the eligible practice. This can include in-kind contributions such as personal labor, use of personal equipment, donated labor or materials, and approved used materials.

**What are some of the contract requirements?** - You will need to enter a 3 to 10-year contract. In addition, all practices must be installed according to NRCS standards and maintained for the designated lifespan of the practice.

**Will my project get funded?** – In 2004, projects needed to be submitted by **June 4, 2004** to be ranked and then possibly funded based on an environmental/cost analysis. The highest ranking projects will be cost shared until all funds are obligated. If you submit a project after June 4, 2004 it will be considered in the next project year that funds again became available

**Where can I find more information and also find out when more funding comes available?** - Contact your local USDA - NRCS representative at:

Allegany County: David Morier 585-268-7831

Ext. 7831

Cattaraugus County: Richard Edlund 716-699-2326

Ext. 3

Chautauqua County: Rob Halbohm 716-664-2355

Ext. 115

*Submitted by Lisa Kempisty, Extension Resource Educator, CCE-Chautauqua County*

*Resource: USDA - NRCS*

## **Additional Grants Identified by tatiana Stanton**

### **USDA Rural Development Grants for Value-Added Product Development**

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/nofas/>

### **National Sheep Industry Improvement Center Loans and Grants**

<http://www.nsiic.org/loans.htm> and [http://www.nlpa.org/html/s\\_g\\_home.shtml](http://www.nlpa.org/html/s_g_home.shtml)

### **American Sheep Industry Newsletter**

<http://www.sheepusa.org/> Often mentions grants for sheep and goat producers

### **Cornell Small Farms Program**

#### **NYS Offers New Beginning Farmer Loan Program**

The New York Beginning Farmer Loan Program (NYBFLP) provides low-cost financial assistance to Beginning Farmers in New York State (NYS) for the purchase of agricultural property and equipment to help start a farming business or to facilitate inter-generational transfer of a farm business.

The NYBFLP is administered by the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), in conjunction with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM).

The assistance is in the form of tax incentives to Lenders who make loans to qualified Beginning Farmers. This allows Lenders to pass assistance on to the Beginning Farmer in the form of lower interest rates on loans. Tax-exempt Aggie Bonds are used to finance the low-interest loans. With the NYBFLP, the Beginning Farmer will save money because of the reduced interest rate paid over the term of the loan.

In order to take advantage of this program, the Beginning Farmer works together with their Lender (who is willing and able to purchase EFC's Aggie Bond to fund the Beginning Farmers loan) to arrange the terms of a loan. Loan terms include the farmers credit evaluation, security, collateral and length of loan, interest rate, etc. The loan will ultimately be the Beginning Farmers obligation to the Lender, as in a normal loan. After the terms are set, both the Beginning Farmer and the Lender jointly apply to the NYBFLP. While the NYBFLP loan maximum is \$250,000, there is no minimum NYBFLP loan amount. The maximum term of the loan is up to 40 years, as determined by the useful life of the equipment or property being financed.

NYS does not directly provide funds to finance the Lender loan, but uses the Lender's money from their bond purchase to pass on to the Beginning Farmer in the form of a loan that is assigned back to the Lender. NYS or EFC shall not be liable or responsible for the failure, in any way, by either the Beginning Farmer or the Lender, and EFC cannot recommend a specific Lender to the Beginning Farmer.

NYBFLP fees include a non-refundable \$150 application fee and a 1.5% loan closing fee. The minimum loan closing fee charged is \$750. Total State fees for a \$250,000 loan are \$3,900.

NYSDAMs role in the NYBFLP is to provide technical support and marketing assistance to EFC. NYBFLP may be used to purchase agricultural land and depreciable agricultural property, or to make agricultural improvements. The loan maximums under existing New York and federal laws are:

- A lifetime total of \$250,000 for agricultural land and improvements
- Of that total, \$62,500 can be for used depreciable agricultural property.

To be eligible, a Beginning Farmer:

- Must be an individual. Loans to corporations, partnerships, LLCs, etc. are ineligible under the Internal Revenue Code (IRC)
- May not have previously owned any substantial farmland, as defined in federal laws.
- Labor must be performed and management provided by the Beginning Farmer, his or her spouse/fiancé and/or minor children and Beginning Farmer may not cash rent or custom hire a majority of the field work or livestock management to be completed.

To learn more about the NYBFLP, please call 1-800-200-2200 to speak to the Beginning Farmer Project Manager at EFC. Or e-mail: [beginningfarmer@nysefc.org](mailto:beginningfarmer@nysefc.org)

### **Organic Valley Organic Transition Fund**

Purpose: Organic Valley Family of Farms, the nation's largest independent farmer-owned organic dairy cooperative, recently announced the Transition to Organic Fund, a financial assistance program for dairy farmers who are making the transition to organic.

Funding: offset the costs of transitioning to organic

Eligibility: dairy farmers who become members of the Organic Valley cooperative

Information: call the Producer Hotline at Organic Valley, tel. (888) 809-9297.

website: [www.organicvalley.coop/](http://www.organicvalley.coop/)

**Please Note:** if the application deadline for a particular grant has expired, plan ahead for next year. Generally these grants come around at about the same time each year. Check website for past applications forms and start answering questions- they often they do not change application forms or call to find out if and when grant opportunities will become available.

If you know of other grant sources that producers may apply to directly, please contact Monika Roth at the number below.

For Grant Information or Assistance, contact Monika Roth, Cornell Cooperative Extension - South Central New York Agriculture Program *servicing Chemung, Cortland, Tioga, Tompkins & Schuyler Counties*  
615 Willow Ave. Ithaca, NY 14850 607-272-2292 or email [mr55@cornell.edu](mailto:mr55@cornell.edu)

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## Federal Sources

### **USDA-SARE/Sustainable Ag - Farmer/Grower Grant**

Purpose: supports producers who want to try something new—a technique for adding value, a new crop, new marketing methods, develop and test sustainable ag practices. Supports on-farm demonstrations, marketing, adding value and other projects.

Funding: grants in the range of \$5000 maximum, capital improvements limited to \$500 of total project Eligibility: collaborate with a technical advisor (Extension, NRCS, SWCD, etc.)

Most recent application deadline: 12/7/05 - annual deadline in early December

Information: 802-656-0471 or email [nesare@zoo.uvm.edu](mailto:nesare@zoo.uvm.edu); website: [www.uvm.edu/~nesare/](http://www.uvm.edu/~nesare/)

### **USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service – Value Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant Program (VADG)**

Purpose: encourage producers of commodities to refine products to increase value – for feasibility studies, business and marketing plans, studies to establish venture.

Eligibility: independent producers or producer associations of raw commodities

Most recent application deadline: 5/06/05 – not currently available

Funding levels: up to \$150,000 per proposal

Information: call Scott Collins - 315-477-6409 or email [scott.collins@ny.usda.gov](mailto:scott.collins@ny.usda.gov)

website: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm)

### **USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service - Renewable Energy and Efficiency Program**

Purpose: help farmers and rural businesses purchase renewable energy systems and make energy improvements, create new uses for ag products and waste.

Eligible projects: systems that generate energy from wind, solar, biomass, geothermal sources, energy efficiency improvements-upgrade equipment or processes

Eligibility: producers and businesses in city/town with population under 50,000; 50% gross income from farm production; business with fewer than 500 employees and \$20 million in receipts

Most recent application deadline: 7/30/04 – not currently available

Funding levels: up to 25% of project costs, maximum grant was \$250,000 for energy efficiency; up to \$500,000 for renewable energy (could apply for both for a max of \$750,000)

Information: call Scott Collins - 315-477-6409 or email [scott.collins@ny.usda.gov](mailto:scott.collins@ny.usda.gov)

website: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmland/](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmland/)

### **USDA NRCS – Farm Bill Initiatives for Conservation Practices**

Purpose: The 2002 Farm Bill authorized several new initiatives geared at land conservation and water quality protection.

Information: find out what is available by contacting your county or regional USDA Service Center. Websites:

[www.nrcs.usda.gov/NY](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/NY) or [www.fsa.usda.gov/NY](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/NY)

### **IPM Partnership Grants for the Northeast Proposals**

Purpose: projects that apply to individual growers might include: IPM tactics, crop profiles, and pest management plans. Funding is mainly geared towards developing state networks, working groups, publications and emerging issues.

Eligibility: Private individuals, public and private institutions or organizations, businesses, and commodity groups are encouraged to apply.

Most recent application deadline: 1/21/05 – check on availability for 2006

Information: Northeastern Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Center - Request Applications on the Center's web page at [http://northeastipm.org/about\\_fund.cfm](http://northeastipm.org/about_fund.cfm), where it can be downloaded in various formats. For more information contact John Ayers at 814-865-7776; email [jea@psu.edu](mailto:jea@psu.edu)

### **Organic Farming Research Foundation**

P.O. Box 440, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

Purpose: research into organic farming methods, dissemination of results

Eligibility: projects must involve farmers or can be submitted by farmers

Funding: modest proposals encouraged; under \$10,000; matching funds encouraged but not required

Most recent application deadline: 12/15/05

Information: 831-426-6606; email: [research@ofrf.org](mailto:research@ofrf.org); website: [www.ofrf.org](http://www.ofrf.org)

Applicants: Municipalities with a population under 50,000 must submit application on behalf of the farm Funding: Loans for production agriculture and agribusiness development/expansion for a project that will result in job creation; projects are expected to generate one full time job per \$7,500 funds provided

Application: open deadline, apply any time; work with your municipality to prepare pre-application, followed by interview with Ag & Markets

Information: 518-457-2713; website: [www.agmkt.state.ny.us](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us)

### **NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets – Pride of NY Cooperative Promotional Projects**

Purpose: for costs directly associated with the development of cooperative advertising or promotion of NY farm and food products.

Eligibility: Pride of NY program member

Funding: up to \$15,000 matching funds

Most recent application deadline: 9/27/04 - not currently available

Information: Call for a Pride of NY participation agreement - 518-457-7229 or 800-554-4501; email: [sue.santamarina@agmkt.state.ny.us](mailto:sue.santamarina@agmkt.state.ny.us); website: [www.agmkt.state.ny.us](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us)

### **NYS DEC Water Quality Improvement Projects**

Purpose: implement management programs, plans or projects including non-point source abatement and control (ag & non-ag), aquatic habitat restoration and pollution prevention.

Eligibility: Municipalities & SWCD's

Information: 518-485-7728 or contact your county SWCD for info on local funds

### **NYSERDA-New York State Energy Research and Development Authority Programs**

Purpose: Several programs offer incentives and loans for farm-waste management; improved energy efficiency; solar and wind generation; and innovative business practices for energy use.

Funding: varies with program

Most recent application deadline: dates vary with program

Information: 518-862-1090; toll free 800-NYSERDA or check [www.nyserda.org](http://www.nyserda.org) - look at current funding opportunities for project descriptions and who to contact for details

### **NYS Funding for Organic Certification**

Purpose: reimburse producers and handlers for a portion of their annual organic certification renewal costs (program administered by NY Ag & Markets on behalf of USDA)

Eligibility: organic producers meeting federal organic standard; must complete NY's Organic Certification Reimbursement Application Form

Most recent application deadline: open funding

Funding levels: 75% reimbursement up to a maximum of \$500

Information: Ag & Markets - 800-554-4501 or 518-457-2195

website: [www.ams.usda.gov/nop](http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop) - National Organic Program information

Forms can be downloaded from: [www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AP/agservices/OrganicApp.pdf](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AP/agservices/OrganicApp.pdf)

# Grant Opportunities for Farmers

## Prepared by Monika Roth, Tompkins County Extension Educator

### New York State Sources

#### **NYS Barns Restoration & Preservation Program**

Purpose: A matching grant program for the restoration and preservation of agricultural buildings, including barns, sheds and silos, that were constructed at least fifty (50) years prior to the date of the grant application, and in need of repair.

Eligibility: farm buildings-barns, sheds, silos 50 years +, stabilization work and painting to retain structural integrity, cosmetic work to convert to non-farm use not permitted.

The applicant must have a significant ownership interest in the property.

Selection criteria: active agricultural use, emergency repair needed, visible from main roads, unique structure, tourism interest

Funding: up to \$50,000 \$50,000 for barns at least 60 feet long x 30 feet wide; \$50,000 maximum for multiple barns or outbuildings, and a maximum award of \$35,000 for barns smaller than 60 feet long x 30 feet wide per applicant, applicant provides 10-50 % match in cash, labor, materials or services

Most recent application deadline: 12/16/05

Information: Contact regional NYS Parks office for information: in Central NY: 315-492-1756; Finger Lakes: 607-387-7041; website: [www.nysparks.state.ny.us/grants/](http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/grants/)

#### **NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets - Farmland Viability Program**

Purpose: Funds to help develop farmland viability business plan or assist with project implementation to improve overall farm profitability, improve environmental management-including CMNP-CAFO plan development, increase efficiency, facilitate expansion, value-added production, further processing of ag products, marketing and promotional activities.

Eligibility: individuals, partnerships, association, cooperative, and corporations eligible to receive ag assessment with demonstrated need

Funding: matching grants up to \$20,000 (75% provided by state: 25% provided by farm business - 20% is this cash, balance in-kind)

Most recent application deadline: 6/28/05 - not currently available

Information: 518-457-2713; website: [www.agmkt.state.ny.us](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us)

#### **NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets – Food and Agriculture Industry Research & Development Grant Program (FAID)**

Purpose: fund demonstration projects, feasibility analyses, applied research projects with near term application involving new or alternative technologies, practices or organizational arrangements, which stimulate agriculture development and economic activity

Eligibility: private or public agencies, organizations, businesses, industry, educational institutions, government and individuals

Funding: 50% match up to maximum of \$60,000 (match can be cash, in-kind services, other resources)

Most recent application deadline: 12/6/05

Information: 518-457-2713; website: [www.agmkt.state.ny.us](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us)

#### **NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets – Agriculture & Farmland Protection Projects**

Purpose: state assistance for purchase of agricultural conservation easements

Eligibility: Counties or municipalities with approved Ag & Farmland Protection – Farmers should contact county/town government (Planning departments or Cooperative Extension) if interested in selling development rights. Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board approval required.

Funding: No cap, State 75%, Local 25%

Most recent application deadline: 1/23/06

Information: 518-457-2713; website: [www.agmkt.state.ny.us](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us)

#### **NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets – Grow NY Enterprise Program**

Purpose: Funding for farm business development and expansion. Funds can be used for financing of machinery and equipment, building construction, working capital or real property acquisition; business development and marketing assistance is available along with project financing.

Eligible businesses: Emerging or expanding farm enterprises

**A collection of grant opportunities collected by  
various Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Educators for sheep and goat farmers in NY**