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Search the full project database: projects.sare.org/search-projects/

Full PDFs of bulletins, books, and more: northeast.sare.org/everything/

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Administrative Council has approved more than $7.1m in funding for 69 grant projects taking place across the Northeast.

Teams of farmers, researchers, educators, and industry and nonprofit representatives reviewed proposals. Northeast SARE’s Administrative Council, a governance body representing a broad constituency of the Northeast agricultural community, then made final funding allocation decisions.

The funded projects include:

35 Farmer Grants for $785K

Farmer Grants support farmers exploring new concepts in sustainable agriculture conducted through experiments, surveys, prototypes, on-farm demonstrations or other techniques.

13 Research and Education Grants for $2.9M

The Research and Education Grant program funds projects that result in gains in farmer knowledge, awareness, skills, and attitudes that are then applied to make measurable on-farm changes leading to greater sustainability.

11 Novel Approaches for Research Grants for $2.1M

The Research for Novel Approaches in Sustainable Agriculture Grant Program funds “proof of concept” applied research projects intended to confirm the benefits and/or feasibility of new practices and approaches that have high potential for adoption by farmers in the near future.

10 Professional Development Grants for $1.4M

The Northeast SARE Professional Development Grant Program funds train-the-trainer projects that develop the knowledge, awareness, skills and attitudes among the full range of service providers who work with farmers.

The following is a list of approved projects approved by state. To learn more about SARE projects search the full project database at projects.sare.org/search-projects/.

# Connecticut

## Farmer Grants

### Identifying and Selecting Wild Yeast Strains in Hard Cider

**Jeff Rogers, Rogers Orchards**

**Southington, CT $29,104**

This project investigates the effects of Geography, Fermentation Strategies and Apple Growing Conditions on the Sensory Attributes of Yeast Strains and their Implications for Commercial Apple Growers and Cider Makers.

## Research and Education Grants

### A Three-Pronged Strategy to Equitably Provide Planting Stock to Forest Farmers: Propagation Training, Seed Exchange, and Working with Wild Harvesters

**Marlyse Duguid, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies**

**New Haven, CT $246,505**

This grant will equitably increase forest botanical planting stock by: establishing R&D Nursery; leading workshops; creating a seed exchange program; collaborating with wild harvesters to sustainably source rootstock; publishing video series for propagating at-risk plants; supporting BIPOC farmers.

## Novel Approaches Grants

### Hemp Hurd Fiber: a Sustainable Substitute for Sphagnum Peat Moss in Greenhouse and Nursery Plant Production

**Jessica Lubell-Brand, University of Connecticut**

**Storrs, CT $161,414**

This project seeks to repurpose hemp hurd fiber, a byproduct of the cannabis industries, as a component of container growing media for the production of horticultural crops, to substitute for sphagnum peat moss, which is mined from bogs in an unsustainable way and contributes to global warming.

### Operationalizing Drone Imaging Technology to Detect Nutrient Deficiencies in Fruit Orchards

**Chandi Witharana, University of Connecticut**

**Storrs, CT $200,000**

Plant nutrition was recently identified as an area of interest and a source of some concern by Connecticut fruit growers. Project leaders propose a novel approach to monitor nutrient deficiencies in fruit orchards by combining drone technology and predictive modelling approaches.

# Delaware

## Farmer Grants

### Technology Boosts Rate of Gain: Evaluating the Effects of Repurposed Poultry Housing Versus Intensive Grazing for the Modern Sheep Producer

**Steven Breeding, Shepherd's Hope Farm**

**Seaford, DE $29,997**

This project aims to compare and contrast how technology can boost rate of gain for lambs raised in repurposed poultry housing versus intensive grazing pastures for the modern sheep producer. Field days will highlight RFID and advanced handling systems as well as study results.

# Massachusetts

## Farmer Grants

### Wintering Honey Bee Colonies With and Without Upper Entrances: Comparing Internal Temperature, Humidity, Food Consumption, Spring Cluster Size and Survival

**Amy Musante, Musante Farm**

**Dalton, MA $7,035**

This study compares internal temperature, humidity, food consumption, spring cluster size & survival in honey bee colonies with and without upper entrances over the winter. It will provide empirical data about the costs and benefits of this common and potentially detrimental practice.

### Maximizing Bay Scallop Seed Performance in Bottom Cage and Suspended Net Culture for Subtidal Aquaculture Farms

**Dan Martino, Martino's Seafood, LLC**

**Vineyard Haven, MA $27,202**

The team will monitor and compare growth of Bay Scallops in bottom cage culture and suspended pearl/lantern net culture to establish best practice densities and growout techniques for subtidal aquaculture farms. A final report will be issued to growers around New England.

## Professional Development Grants

### Service Provider Succession Planning Programs To Address Land Access Inequities In The Northeast

**Carmen Mouzon, The Farm School**

**Athol, MA $149,554**

30% of Northeast farmers are members of a peak subset of the baby boomer era averaging a retirement age of 65 years or more. Less than 2% of Northeast famers of Color own farmland in the region. Service providers will gain skills in succession planning strategies to address each issue simultaneously.

# Maryland

## Farmer Grants

### 2023 Weed Suppression Study and Analysis

**Elizabeth Lamb, The 6th Branch**

**Baltimore, MD $10,539**

This controlled experiment will identify the optimum non-chemical weed suppression practices for urban farms in Baltimore City and beyond. The Sixth Branch (T6B) community farming program will compare multiple organic techniques for suppressing weeds, including "ram board," "X-Board," and woodchips.

## Research and Education Grants

### Building Community and Capacity of Care Farms Benefiting People with Intellectual or Developmental Differences in the Northeast U.S.

**Woody Woodroof, Red Wiggler Community Farm**

**Clarksburg, MD $257,753**

Care Farming is the therapeutic use of farming practices for marginalized or vulnerable groups of people. By advancing the Care Farming Network (CFN), agriculture in the Northeast will be diversified by providing meaningful employment to adults with intellectual and developmental differences.

### Acres4Change Stewardship Education and Training Program

**Pertula George-Redd, Acres4Change**

**Baltimore, MD $134,483**

Acres4Change provides land and educational resources to qualifying individuals to generate income and increase economic stability through a two-year mushroom and vegetable farming and mentoring program designed to cultivate well-rounded farmers.

### Aquaponic systems, a financial and environmentally sustainable urban farming alternative in Maryland taught through peer learning groups

**Jose-Luis Izursa, University of Maryland**

**College Park, MD $183,663**

The project will advance the use of aquaponics through peer learning group methods among urban/peri-urban farmers in Maryland. Farmers will acquire knowledge and skills to design, build and manage aquaponic systems producing high value marketable products increasing quality of life for Marylanders.

### Sustaining Urban Farming: Teaching Apprentices to Think Like Farmers and Researching Urban Farmers’ Income and Quality of Life

**Margaret Morgan-Hubbard, ECO City Farms**

**Riverdale, MD $289,493**

During the year pilot and two-year project, 18-historically-underserved BFRDP graduates will be paid as apprentices for 35 weeks, learning to think like farmers and gaining confidence to work as farmers; Research whether NE urban farming is profitable, sustainable and provides a high quality of life.

## Novel Approaches Grants

### Optimizing Spring Cover Crop Management for Productivity, Soil Health and Climate Resilience

**Ray Weil, University of Maryland**

**College Park, MD $249,267**

This project will explore Spring cover crop practices to optimize soil health, productivity and farm climate resilience.

### Sustainability in Beekeeping: Improved Accuracy and Sensitivity of Sampling for the Honey Bee Parasite Varroa destructor

**David Hawthorne, University of Maryland**

**College Park, MD $145,317**

Varroa is the main threat to honey bee and beekeeper sustainability. Current methods for assessing Varroa are too little too late for effective management. Project leaders will test, fine-tune, and disseminate improved methods of measuring Varroa to improve beekeepers decision making for sustainable outcomes.

### A Comparison of Forage Production, Livestock Performance, Soil Health, and Economics Between Perennial and Perennial/Annual Combination Forage Systems

**Amanda Grev, University of Maryland**

**Keedysville, MD $99,899**

Livestock producers are increasingly interested in including annual forages along with perennials in forage systems for grass-fed livestock. This study will compare forage production, livestock performance, soil health, and economics between perennial and perennial/annual combination forage systems.

## Professional Development Grants

### Educational Support for Increasing the Acceptance of Federal Nutrition Benefits by Maryland Farmers

**Sarah Everhart, University of Maryland Francis K. Carey School of Law**

**Saint Michaels, MD $190,073**

Trained agricultural service providers will provide education to farmers on how to apply for and accept federal nutrition assistance program payments as a way to increase market access and diversify revenue streams for Maryland farmers.

# Maine

## Farmer Grants

### Reducing Environmental Risk and Increasing Productivity on Mussel Farms

**Matthew Moretti, Bangs Island Mussels / Wild Ocean Aquaculture, LLC**

**Portland, ME $29,814**

This project will determine the best ways to maximize the effectiveness of remote (on-farm) settlement of hatchery-produced mussel seed.

### Optimizing Ginger Yields and Profit

**Erica Emery, Rustic Roots Farm**

**Farmington, ME $6,436**

This project will be a continuation of research to determine optimal ginger spacing to obtain the highest yields in weight of ginger hands as well as the development and comparison of enterprise budgets for three different spacing models.

### Expanding Organic, Ecological, Regenerative Christmas Tree Agroforestry in Maine

**Jonah Fertig-Burd, Celebration Tree Farm & Wellness Center, LLC**

**Durham, ME $20,311**

This project will share farmer experiences and research to support forest owners, farmers, and service providers to learn about and adopt regenerative, organic, ecological, and climate-smart agroforestry practices on existing commercial Christmas tree farms, organic farms, and woodlots.

### Developing Precision Oyster Farming Methods Using Environmental Data,

**Max Burtis, Ferda Farms LLC**

**Brunswick, ME $21,268**

The purpose of this project is to develop a protocol for informing oyster farm management decisions using models forced with environmental data. This will allow farmers to plan harvests, sales, and sorting schedules more effectively, and it will help farmers to lower mortality risk.

### Battery and Renewable Power for Oyster Farming

William Leathers, Maine Ocean Farms

**Brunswick, ME $29,836**

Gas generators currently power the oyster tumbler, sorter, and pressure washer on our oyster farms. The project will replace these generators with batteries recharged by solar panels and micro wind turbines to demonstrate a cleaner, quieter way to power oyster farms.

### Low Cost, High Volume Hard Clam Farm

**Adam Campbell, North Haven Oyster Co.,**

**North Haven, ME $29,250**

This project is a feasibility study for a low cost, large scale clam farm in Maine waters.

### Muka--Tree Hay as an Alternative Livestock Feed

**John O'Meara, O'Meara Family Farm**

**New Sweden, ME $10,706**

This project tests a way to economically harvest, dry, and store relatively large amounts of processed tree hay as an alternative feed for livestock. This project also tests the palatability and nutritional contents of the feed.

### Growing Bay Scallops on a Maine Oyster Farm as a Strategy to Diversify Crops and Adapt to a Warming Gulf

**Jordan Kramer, Winnegance Oyster Farm**

**Bath, ME $21,592**

In this project, Bay scallops (Argopecten irradians) will be added to a subtidal oyster farm in Maine as a crop diversification and climate adaptation strategy. Scallops will be grown in lantern nets, which will be air-dried using a novel drying float to reduce biofouling and the physical stresses of handling nets.

## Research and Education Grants

### Farm Site Permit and Lease Application Workshop Development and Implementation for Fishermen Entering Maine’s Expanding Seaweed Aquaculture Industry

**Liz MacDonald, Ocean Approved Inc.**

**Biddeford, ME $109,166**

Since 2018 fishermen have grown Maine’s farmed kelp landings from 30,000 to 973,000 lbs. However, industry growth remains slow due to lease acquisition; an application process that is complicated and multi-staged. ASF will hold workshops for farmers to secure permits to support scalable expansion.

## Novel Approaches Grants

### Transitioning Sea Farms to Clean Battery Power

**Nick Planson, The Boat Yard, LLC**

**Yarmouth, ME $200,000**

The Boat Yard proposes to build a suite of clean power solutions to transition the marine aquaculture industry off fossil fuels. Safe and reliable battery-powered alternatives will reduce operating costs, the industry’s carbon footprint, noise, and will eliminate the possibility of fuel spills.

### Proofing Mycelium-based Buoys in Aquaculture Applications,

**Alex Plowden, The Greenhorns,**

**Pembroke, ME $192,235**

Researchers in Downeast Maine develop, grow, and test prototypes of "myco buoys" made from mycelium and agricultural byproducts. This project attempts to prove the effectiveness of organic alternatives to plastic in aquaculture in an effort to reduce ocean pollution from degrading plastic flotation.

## Professional Development Grants

### Supporting Farm Transition Planning and Access in New England

**Tricia Rouleau, Maine Farmland Trust**

**Belfast, ME $149,181**

To address the critical statewide need for succession planning on Maine farms and to broaden farmland access, fifteen staff at Maine Farmland Trust will receive in-depth training to provide succession planning assistance to its Network of over 500 farms, covering 68,000 acres across Maine.

# New Hampshire

## Research and Education Grants

### Northeast Kiwiberries: Jumpstarting a Regional Industry via Participatory Evaluation of Advanced Breeding Selections

**Iago Hale, University of New Hampshire**

**Durham, NH $226,392**

Through guided on-farm evaluation of advanced selections from UNH's breeding program, a cohort of 40 trained farmers will integrate kiwiberries into their production systems, help identify superior varieties for the Northeast, and seed a regional community of practice for this emerging crop.

### Viable Working Farmlands: Succession Planning Advising and Education for New England Farmers

**Shemariah Blum-Evitts, Land For Good**

**Keene, NH $166,171**

Through interactive, peer-to-peer learning opportunities and individualized advising, Land For Good and collaborators will support farmers throughout New England to successfully plan the transfer of their farm business, real estate, and/or other farm assets to successors as viable working farmlands.

## Novel Approaches Grants

### Capturing Sunlight: Using Row Orientation to Maximize Photosynthesis, Soil Moisture, and Weed Suppression in Cover Crop-Based Systems

**Natalie Lounsbury, University of New Hampshire**

**Durham, NH $248,033**

This project will quantify the effects of row orientation (east-west vs. north-south) on yields, interseeded cover crop performance, soil moisture conservation, and weed suppression in soybeans and corn. Best management practices for row orientation in different cropping systems will be defined.

# New Jersey

## Farmer Grants

### Evaluation of Elevated Rack Height to Control Biofouling on an Intertidal Oyster Farm: Efficacy and Economics

**Lisa Calvo, Sweet Amalia Oyster Farm**

**Newfield, NJ $20,088**

The efficacy of elevated rack height in controlling mud worm (Polydora sp.) biofouling on an intertidal oyster farm will be evaluated. Production costs associated with growing oysters at standard (15”) and elevated (25” and 30”) rack heights will be compared using an economic model.

### Cost-Benefit Analysis of Using a Recirculating Fertigation System as an Alternative to Conventional Drain-to-Waste for Container Food Crop Production

**Kate Dix, Estell Farms**

**Estell Manor, NJ $29,713**

A recirculating fertigation system is compared to conventional drain-to-waste practices as a means of hydroponic food crop production. The study examines whether a recirculating system provides a cost effective, suitable and sustainable alternative to conventional drain-to-waste methodology.

### Testing Practical Bird Deterrents for Floating Oyster Aquaculture

**Scott Lennox, Barnegat Oyster Holdings**

**Barnegat, NJ $29,332**

Three independent oyster farms from different areas of New Jersey will field test off-the-shelf solutions for deterring birds from roosting on floating aquaculture gear. Our project will provide information on effective solutions, to comply with urgent state regulations for bird deterrent plans.

### Evaluating On Farm Leaf Composting Methods and the Impacts of Composted Leaves on Germination and Weed Suppression in Rye, Corn and Pumpkins

**Bradley Burke, Longmeadow Farm**

**Hope, NJ $24,916**

This project will assess the management of municipal leaves on farm, comparing the economics of unturned and aerated leaf piles and field incorporation of those materials. Process economics will be assessed, as well as impact on germination and weed suppression on both cover crops and cash crops.

# New York

## Farmer Grants

### Deaf New American Farm

**Monu Chhetri, Deaf New American Advocacy Inc**

**Liverpool, NY $30,000**

Deaf New American farm aims to empower and engage the Deaf New Americans (Immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers that are Deaf) through agricultural farming. The grant will be used to perform day-to-day farm activities including the farmer's education, leadership, and life skills enhancement.

### Assessing the Socioeconomic and Environmental Impact of a Multi-Farm CSA for Urban Growers and City Residents in Buffalo, NY

**Mayda Pozantides, Groundwork Market Garden**

**Buffalo, NY $29,853**

The project seeks to measure the social, economic, and environmental impacts of creating and implementing a multi-farm Community Support Agriculture (CSA) program for both farmers and consumers in Buffalo, NY.

### Dairy Sheep Herd Evaluation Tool: a Guide to Functional Type Assessment for Dairy Sheep Producers

**Bee Tolman, Meadowood Farms,**

**Cazenovia, NY $24,647**

This project will develop a pictorial guide for functional type assessment of dairy sheep, with example illustrations and descriptions of functional type traits, scorecard for recording individual animals, and how-to video.

### The Open Source Orchard Project

**Josh Bailey, KC Bailey Orchards**

**Williamson, NY $30,000**

The Open Source Orchard Project is a collaboration between KC Bailey Orchards, Inc. and the Purdue Open Ag Technologies and Systems (OATS) Center to build out and test open source solutions at a commercial farm level in the Northeast, delivering R&D for critical digital agriculture infrastructure.

### Mobile Seed Processing Trailer

**Jean-Paul Courtens, Philia Farm**

**Johnstown, NY $27,837**

An enclosed trailer with equipment to process dry seeded crops will be designed and built, then made available to commercial seed growers and seed keepers throughout the Northeast in cooperation with an ongoing seed training for 65 commercial growers and 30 Indigenous seed keepers.

### Carbon Sequestration in Glacial Sand Soils in Haying, Cropping, and Soil Building Practices

**Ian Magnus, Pitney Meadows Community Farm**

**Saratoga Springs, NY $27,843**

This project aims to experimentally determine the most effective way to increase soil carbon and biology through the use of green manure cover crops and compost on a sand soil in haying, cropping and soil building practices. Measure the rate at which crops draw down soil Carbon in haying and cropping practices.

### Outreach Programs for Chinese Community to Access Culturally Relevant Foods Through Local CSA Models

**Christina Chan, Choy Division**

**Warwick, NY $15,322**

Choy Division and Gentle Time Farm are will investigate barriers Asian community in NYC, especially Asian families, elders, and low-income folks, face when accessing culturally relevant foods through CSA models.

## Research and Education Grants

### Building Community Capacity to Increase Agroforestry Tree Planting through Participatory Listening Sessions, Training, and Peer-to-Peer Networks

**Steve and Elizabeth Gabriel, Wellspring Forest Farm LLC**

**Trumansburg, NY $248,180**

Farmer knowledge and skills with tree planting increase in peer-to-peer networks that engage in listening sessions, curriculum creation, and training. 16 farms plant 5,000 trees with cost support. Research determines cost-effective methods using mycorrhizal fungi to improve tree seedling growth.

### Elevating Weed Seedbank Management with Tailored Recommendations and New Tactics

**Bryan Brown, Cornell University**

**Geneva, NY $249,977**

This project will help farmers deplete their weed seedbanks based on the biology of the species present. This will increase profitability of all types of farms in New York by improving yields and reducing weed management expenditure.

## Novel Approaches Grants

### Determining if Beneficial Fungi Increase Tree Growth and Reduce the Need for Fertilization and Irrigation of Newly Planted Apple Trees.

**Michael Basedow, Cornell University Cooperative Extension**

**Plattsburgh, NY $194,377**

This project will evaluate if inoculating apple trees with beneficial fungi at multiple time points in the nursery and orchard improves tree survival, growth, nutrient uptake, and decreases water stress. The project will also evaluate if inoculated trees can be treated with fewer nutrient and irrigation inputs.

## Professional Development Grants

### Implementation of Improved Nutrient Requirement and Supply Predictions to Reduce the Environmental Impact of Dairy Production in the Northeast US

**Mike Van Amburgh, Cornell University**

**Ithaca, NY $150,000**

The objective is to develop training materials and programs in the Northeast US for the CNCPS for nutritionists and other professionals who serve the regional dairy industry in order to reduce nitrogen feeding and manure excretion and improve the profitability of the dairy industry.

### Using “Tag-Team Training” to Foster Education Program Sustainability Among Organizations Teaching Risk Management for Northeastern Farmers

**Bonnie Collins, Cornell Cooperative Extension**

**Oneida County, Oriskany, NY $123,249**

Producers require ongoing training and technical assistance while organizations struggle to hire/retain educators. To reduce the effects of staff shortages/turnover on both organizations and farms, “Tag-Team-Training” will help educators train from within and foster education program sustainability.

# Pennsylvania

## Farmer Grants

### Ramp Sustainability Trial: Replanting Root Plates

**Steven Schwartz, Farmer**

**Equinunk, PA $20,169**

The project will explore improving ramp (Allium tricoccum) populations by investigating the sustainability of replanting ramp root plates after the leaves and bulb have been harvested and processed. Planting root plates may allow ramps to be established in new habitats and improving existing plots.

### Is Climate Controlled Storage of Honey Bee Colonies During Winter an Economically Viable Option for Pennsylvania Beekeepers?

**Mark Gingrich, Gingrich Apiaries, LLC**

**Dover, PA $29,261**

This project will evaluate the benefits and economic viability of climate controlled storage of overwintering honey bees, as compared to traditional outdoor overwintering of colonies, at four locations in Pennsylvania.

### Adapting Brazilian Syntropic Farming Practices to Integrated High-Conservation-Value Nut Tree Species in Pennsylvania

**Andrew Phillips, Homefields Inc.**

**Millersville, PA $26,918**

This farm seeks to adapt Brazilian Syntropic farming methods in establishing nut trees of significant conservation value. This project will evaluate disease resistance and vigor of these species and will provide food crops as well as seeds and scion for propagation.

### Adding Value and Reducing Food Loss for Small-Farm Seed Growers

**Amirah Mitchell, Sistah Seeds**

**Emmaus, PA $24,070**

This project will investigate the economic viability of creating added-value products from the edible by-products of wet seed processing. The project aims to reduce on-farm food loss while creating additional income streams for seed producers.

### Profitably and Sustainably Converting Underutilized Forested Areas to Fertile Perennial Silvopasture Systems Using Swine

**Charles Lafferty, Skyline Pastures**

**Mohrsville, PA $11,533**

This project will develop template to establish rotational paddocks for pigs in wooded areas. Pigs will disturb soil, spread fertility through manure, and clear out undesirable vegetation. Create silvopasture- plant fodder trees on the edges and over-seed the area with pasture mix. Conduct soil sampling for analysis.

## Research and Education Grants

### The Northeast Arugula Team (NEAT): Evaluation and mitigation of limitations to profitability for Arugula and Brassica Leafy Green production.

**Carolee Bull, The Pennsylvania State University**

**University Park, PA $237,756**

Producer identified goals for this project include optimizing brassica leafy greens/arugula production for mixed vegetable producers through evaluation of genetic resistance to and other management strategies for bacterial blight, flea beetles and bolting, and in person and remote outreach.

## Novel Approaches Grants

### Interseeding Cover Crops into Corn to Extend the Grazing Season and Improve Soil Health

**Kathy Soder, USDA-ARS**

**University Park, PA $196,104**

Interseeding annual forages into corn for cover crops can provide added grazing opportunities. This project will evaluate mixtures of forages planted into standing corn grazing for grazing. Results will provide farmers with strategies to reduce fertilizer inputs and increase grazing opportunities.

### Maximizing the Effectiveness of Cover Crop Rolling/Crimping for Improved Weed Suppression in No-Till Organic Systems

**Madhav Dhakal, Rodale Institute**

**Kutztown, PA $199,999**

The project intends to investigate the effect of cover crop rolling/crimping patterns on weed suppressive effect of cereal rye, hairy vetch, and crimson clover mulch in no-till organic sweet corn and fiber-hemp crop production, demonstrate results at farmers' fields and educate farmers.

## Professional Development Grants

### SilvoPro: A Training Program for Silvopasture Professionals

**Austin Unruh, Trees For Graziers**

**Morgantown, PA $135,320**

There is a growing need for professionals who can assist farmers in planning and implementing silvopasture systems. SilvoPro will be the first training program of its kind to equip silvopasture professionals with the necessary insight and skills.

### Improving the Sustainability of Family Farms Through Increased Understanding of the Effects of Medicaid on Farm Assets

**Darlene Livingston, Pennsylvania Farm Link, Inc.**

**Harrisburg, PA $38,560**

Ag professionals will learn about long-term care expenses and related asset planning strategies to ensure farms are not encumbered by Medicaid liens. Through increased understanding of the five-year look back and its impact, consultants will provide accurate, higher quality guidance to farmers.

# Rhode Island

## Farmer Grants

### Diversified & Profitable: Overcoming Challenges of Winter Mortality in Bay Scallop Culturing to Meet Increasing Demand Left by Wild Fishery Decline

**Dan Torre, Aquidneck Island Oyster Company**

**Wakefield, RI $12,042**

This study aims to investigate nursery and winter strategies of bay scallops to maximize growth rates and reduce mortality, enabling a valuable single season crop. Results will elucidate current bottlenecks in bay scallop culturing and demonstrate methods of success to share with other growers.

## Research and Education Grants

### Got Worms? Breeding for Parasite Resistance to Ensure the Sustainability and Resilience of Small Ruminant Operations

**Katherine Petersson, University of Rhode Island**

**Kingston, RI $318,874**

This project will provide new SR producers with information, support, and guidance on IPM control practices with a focus on adoption of the use of genetic selection for identification of parasite resistant breeding stock, improving the profitability, sustainability and resilience of SR operations.

# Vermont

## Farmer Grants

### Monitoring and Management of Plum Curculio in Apple Using Odor-baited Trap Trees

**Casey Darrow, Green Mountain Orchards**

**Putney, VT $5,610**

This project tests the practicality of using odor-baited 'trap trees' over the entire orchard border to intercept immigrating plum curculio beetle adults (a major apple pest in the Northeast) in an 85-acre apple orchard, as part of an orchard-wide full-season pest management program.

### Establishment and Evaluation of Deep-Rooted Perennial Cup Plant and Gamagrass as a Corn Silage Alternative in Dairy Systems

**Scott Cleveland, Cleveland Farm**

**Wells, VT $21,898**

A cohort of four dairy farmers develop a strategy to achieve quality and yield comparable to corn silage with diverse deep-rooted perennial native species cup plant (Silphium perfoliatum) and Eastern gamagrass (Tripsacum dactyloides) in a forb-based understory of clover, plantain and trefoil.

### Farmer to Farmer Agroforestry Guidebook for the Northeast

**Elodie Eid, Yellowbud Farm**

**Chester, VT $30,000**

This project will compile peer to peer information surrounding agroforestry and the adoption of resilient and productive tree crops in the northeast. Includes a guidebook, case studies, and additional resources.

### Development of a Small-batch Malt System to Identify New Vermont-grown Barley Varieties to Malt for Vermont’s High-value Craft Beer and Spirits Sector

**Rob Hunter, Vermont Malthouse**

**Charlotte, VT $28,464**

The project will develop a small-batch malting system to establish a consistent feedback loop for field-to-pour tests of Vermont-grown barley varieties malted for the high-value brewery and spirits sector. Speeding increased market access for farmers and strengthening a sustainable VT grain economy.

## Research and Education Grants

### Evaluation of Delayed Potato Planting for the Management of Insect and Disease Incidence on Northeastern Diversified Farms

**Victor Izzo, University of Vermont**

**Burlington, VT $188,658**

An evaluation of the potential effect(s) of delayed crop planting on the incidence and severity of insect and disease outbreaks in potato crops and the potential agronomic and economic trade-offs associated with implementing a delayed potato planting practice on Northeastern farms.

## Professional Development Grants

### Agronomic Principles for Hayland and Pasture Management Education Program and The Forage & Grazing TA Professional Development Cohort

**Andrew May, University of Vermont Extension, Center for Sustainable Agriculture**

**Burlington, VT $149,039**

This project creates educational experiences for agronomic practices of hayland and pasture management and peer to peer learning for New England technical service providers. Improved technical assistance about forage production will help farmers produce nutritious, viable, and regenerative feed.

# West Virginia

## Farmer Grants

### Off Grid Heating and Cooling for Greenhouses

**Audra O'Dell, Random Rabbit LLC**

**Bridgeport, WV $30,000**

This project intends to demonstrate the effectiveness of off grid heating and cooling for greenhouse production by integrating a thermal mass rocket stove and an Amish ice box through sharing a stratification chamber that is thermally coupled with raised bed to heat and cool the plants’ root zone.

## Professional Development Grants

### Agritourism and Land Use: Good Neighbors and Good Business for Rural Resilience

**Jodi Richmond, WVU Extension - Mercer County Commission**

**Princeton, WV $149,900**

This project will train 300 service providers and utilize them to advise 1500 agritourism operators in the liability of their operation, risk management coverage and zoning issues. The long-term impact of the program will be increasing the profitability and sustainability of Agritourism operations.

### Value-Added Coaching Program for WV Agricultural Service Providers

**Jennifer Totten, Future Generations University**

**Franklin, WV $149,999**

The Value-Added Coaching Program for WV Agricultural Service Providers trains service providers to coach product makers based on current WV value-added regulatory guidelines and includes a comprehensive education, training, and service provider coaching component.

Northeast SARE serves Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.