



**Agriculture
and Markets**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

RICHARD A. BALL
Commissioner

**New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program**

On-Farm Enhancement Grant Program

PROGRAM FACT SHEET

Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program

On-Farm Enhancement Grant Program

On March 12, 2015, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced plans to help boost the agricultural economy in the Southern Tier—one of the most diverse agricultural regions of the state with a large potential for growth. Under this initiative, \$25 million will help farmers increase agricultural production on farms and improve profitability.

Purpose and General Program Information

- The purpose of the program is to assist farm operators with implementing part(s) of an approved farm business or environmental plan that will increase farm production, enhance profitability and or increase environmental compatibility of the farm operation.
- Projects may be awarded in the following counties: Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Alleghany, Steuben, Schuyler, Thompsons, Chemung, Tioga, Broome, Chenango, Delaware
- Eligible farms may apply for eligible projects according to a Request for Applications (RFA) available through individual Soil and Water Conservations Districts. Applications will be accepted on a pre-defined schedule identified in the RFA. Final awards will be based upon meeting minimum criteria set forth by the Department.
- The RFA, including detailed instructions and an Application Form will be available from the following Conservation District Offices on January 19, 2016: Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Alleghany, Steuben, Schuyler, Thompsons, Chemung, Tioga, Broome, Chenango, Delaware

Eligible Applicants

- Farm operation defined as individuals, partnership, associations, cooperative, corporations, or LLCs that manage a “farm operation” as defined in section 301 of the Agriculture and Markets Law.
- Farm operations must document the receipt of Farmers’ School Property Tax Credit in 3 of the 5 years prior to submitting an application.
- Farm operations requesting funding for value-added projects must produce a minimum of 51% of the raw materials on the eligible farm operation.
- Farms operations must meet one of the following criteria with respect to the NYS Agricultural Environmental Management Program (AEM):
 - Participated in AEM within the past 3 years from the date of application.
 - Participating in AEM at the time of application.
 - Agree to participate in AEM prior to the execution of a contract to receive funding under this program.

Eligible Projects

- Projects must be critical to increasing production, enhancing profitability and or increasing environmental compatibility of the farm operation.
- Projects must implement a farm business or environmental plan or components of a plan.
- The applicable section(s) of the farm business or environmental plan should be prepared by a third party and submitted with the application for funding.
- The project must be located on land owned and operated by an Eligible Farm Operation. Projects located on rented land are not eligible.

Eligible Costs

- Include capital costs necessary to complete and eligible project.
- Examples include construction, renovation, building, structures, irrigation, drainage, environmental enhancements, fencing, trellis systems, greenhouses, permanently installed equipment, permanent root stock, and professional services.

In-eligible Costs

- Ineligible costs include, but are not limited to, land purchase or rent, machinery and equipment not part of a structure or do not require installation i.e., rolling stock, working capital, animals stock, debt, taxes, penalties, non-permanent root stock or nursery stock.

Funding level and Match Requirements

- The amount of state funding to an eligible applicant will not exceed \$100,000.
- The amount of state funding to an eligible applicant will be at least \$20,000.
- Funding requests between \$20,000 and \$50,000
 - The state will provide up to 90% of an eligible project's cost.
 - Applicants must provide at least 10% of the project's cost.
- Funding requests between \$50,001 and \$100,000
 - The state will provide up to 75% of an eligible project's cost.
 - Applicants must provide at least 25% of the project's cost.
- Eligible applicant may receive an additional \$10,000 in funding for their project upon agreeing to participate in a Department approved environmental stewardship program.
- Eligible match includes cash. Examples of cash include cash on hand, loans, notes, lines of credit, grants (other than state).

Project Duration

- All grant funds should be spent within 18 months of contract execution.

Other Requirements

- Eligible Farms must be in compliance with all federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations.
- All eligible projects must be completed consistent with all federal, state and local laws rules and regulations.

Soil and Water Contact Information: