

Capital Equipment Assistance Program

Purpose: Financial assistance is available for innovative equipment that will aid in the reduction of surface runoff of agricultural wastes to State waters, improve water quality of State waters, reduce odors from manure application, separate phosphorus from manure, mitigate greenhouse gases, and reduce costs to farmers.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include custom applicators, nonprofit organizations, phosphorus extraction equipment providers, and Vermont farms required to comply with the Required Agricultural Practices. Applicants are limited to one application per individual farm operation, organization, or business entity per funding opportunity.

Match Requirements: Grantee must provide 10% of project cost, not including shipping, freight and/or travel fees.



Ranking Criteria:

- **Water Quality & Climate Investment Impact:** Priority will be given to equipment with a greater expected positive impact on state water quality and climate goals, as assessed by AAFM and defined in the program purpose (from [6 V.S.A. § 4828](#)). This includes equipment with lower costs per acre of practice implementation and equipment used on multiple farm operations. Priority will also be given for innovative equipment or equipment that will support agronomic research.
- **Long-term & Effective Adoption:** Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate lower risk and higher likelihood of long-term & effective adoption, as assessed by AAFM. This includes applicants with experience with practice/the equipment, implementation support from technical assistance advisors, higher percent adoption on applicable cropland, and past history of compliance with grant requirements and reporting.
- **Geographic Area:** Based on program statute, priority will be given to projects in Missisquoi Bay, Southern Lake Champlain and Otter Creek tactical basins, and then in descending order the rest of the Lake Champlain Basin, Lake Memphremagog, Connecticut River, and the Hudson River.
- **New Applicants:** Priority will be given to applicants who have not previously received CEAP grants.

How to Apply: Ensure that your application includes a complete Application, a complete Questionnaire, and at least one reputable Quote(s). Letters of support are optional. Incomplete Applications (applications missing a quote or questionnaire) will NOT be considered.

Visit <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/ceap> to learn more and apply.

If you need assistance applying, visit <https://www.vacd.org/contact-nrcds/> or contact 802-522-4655 to be put in touch with a service provider near you.

Eligible Equipment Types and Funding Rates:

Equipment Purpose	Example: Eligible Equipment	Anticipated Funding Rates
Precision Agriculture - to accurately and digitally observe, monitor and respond to field variability and improve nutrient management planning.	- GPS, Flow Meter & Display Unit - Manure or Yield Constituent Sensor - Precision Feed Equipment	90% cost-share up to \$25,000 per applicant
Conservation Tillage – To reduce the frequency or intensity of tillage operations.	- No-Till Planter - No Till Grain Drill primarily for reseeding pastures or hayland - Planter Downforce	90% cost-share up to \$30,000 per applicant
Cover Crop Equipment – To increase or improve cover cropping implementation.	- No-Till Grain Drill primarily for planting cover crop - Roller Crimper	90% cost-share up to \$50,000 per applicant
Waste Management – To improve waste and nutrient management, nutrient application efficiency and methods.	- Injectors - Waste irrigation - Dragline system - Methane capture - Composting equipment for compost principally produced and used on farm	90% cost-share up to \$60,000 per applicant 90% cost-share up to \$100,000 per custom applicator, group of farmers, or nonprofit organization. <i>NOTE: A precision manure record keeping system [GPS, Flow Meter & Display Unit] must be used with CEAP waste management equipment. If applicant does not have guaranteed access to an operational precision system, one must be included in application.</i>
Feed Management – To reduce impacts from silage leachate and reduce feed imports.	- Balers/Wrappers to enable feed bunk decommissioning	90% cost-share up to \$50,000 per applicant

Ineligible Equipment: The following types of equipment are not eligible* to receive CEAP funds:

- Frac Tanks, Manure Tankers or Manure Pumps
- Solid Manure Spreaders or Broadcast Manure Spreaders
- Tractors
- Equipment that performs full width tillage, deep tillage, or soil inversion

*Exceptions may be considered for nonprofit organizations performing agricultural research, with compelling justification.

To learn more and apply: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/ceap>

Questions? Contact the Water Quality Division
AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov | (802) 522-4655