



Micro-irrigation

Massachusetts field offices

Greenfield Field Office

Serving Franklin County

55 Federal Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

413-772-0384 ext. 3

Hadley Field Office

Serving Hampden and Hampshire counties

195 Russell Street, Hadley, MA 01035

413-585-1000 ext. 3

Holden Field Office

Serving Worcester County

52 Boyden Road, Holden, MA 01520

508-829-4477 ext. 3

Pittsfield Field Office

Serving Berkshire County

78 Center St., Suite 206, Pittsfield, MA 01201

413-443-1776 ext. 3

Westford Field Office

Serving Essex, Middlesex and Suffolk counties

319 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886

978-692-1904 ext. 3

Wareham Field Office

Serving Bristol, Norfolk and Plymouth counties

8 Thatcher Lane, Suite 2, Wareham, MA 02571

508-295-5151 ext. 2

West Yarmouth Field Office

Serving Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket counties

303 Main St, Route 28, West Yarmouth, MA 02673-4661

508-771-6476 or 6518



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Massachusetts • March 2020



Micro-irrigation | pumping plants | high tunnel



United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Management Assistance

Financial assistance to manage risk



Irrigation pond | high tunnel | micro-irrigation

Massachusetts
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov



The AMA Prog

Financial assistance to manage



Pumping plant

What is AMA?

The Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA) was authorized by the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000, an amendment to the federal Crop Insurance Act. It is available in 16 states, including Massachusetts, with historically low participation in the crop insurance program to mitigate agricultural risk.

In Massachusetts, drought was identified as the highest risk factor to farmers, so AMA provides financial assistance for the development or improvement of irrigation systems on cropland.

In addition, High Tunnel Systems are offered to aid production diversification and to provide urban and suburban areas with better access to locally grown food.

Who is eligible to participate?

Agricultural producers who have an interest in a farm and have control of the land; or individuals, entities, or members of joint operations that have separate and distinct interest in the land or crop may participate. All existing cropland is eligible for enrollment.



How does AMA work?

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis. Those with the greatest environmental benefit are selected for funding. You'll sign a contract that lists each eligible practice and the payment rate you will be reimbursed once the practice is implemented. Payment schedules are posted annually online at: www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov.

You must agree to maintain the practices listed in the contract for the lifespan of the practice, which may extend beyond the end of the contract. The total AMA payments cannot exceed \$50,000 per participant for any federal fiscal year.

How do I get started?

Visit your local NRCS field office to talk with the staff about conservation opportunities on your land. A conservation planner may visit your property to inventory your natural resources and identify opportunities for conservation improvements. Together you will decide how to address your natural resource concerns.

Your decisions will be recorded in a conservation plan. Practices you select from your conservation plan will become part of your AMA application and will be ranked against other applications to compete for available funding.



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How does the selection process work?

Applications are ranked according to the natural resource concerns and the amount of conservation benefits the work will provide.

Ranking criteria for the drought mitigation pool gives priority to projects that support food production on soils with limited water holding capacity and with the least amount of water development needs.

High Tunnel ranking is primarily based on site conditions, considering slope, water drainage, sun exposure and air drainage, available water, and proximity to urban/suburban markets.

Conservation practices

Drought mitigation:

- ◆ Critical Area Planting
- ◆ Contour Buffer Strips
- ◆ Groundwater Testing
- ◆ Irrigation Pipeline
- ◆ Irrigation Reservoir
- ◆ Micro-irrigation System
- ◆ Sprinkler Irrigation System
- ◆ Pumping Plant
- ◆ Water Well

High tunnel system:

- ◆ High Tunnel System

Supporting Practices:

- ◆ Diversion
- ◆ Groundwater Testing
- ◆ Irrigation Pipeline
- ◆ Irrigation Reservoir
- ◆ Micro-irrigation System
- ◆ Pumping Plant
- ◆ Water Well