

WEBINAR:

Urban Agriculture Resources in Massachusetts



Are you an urban farmer or interested in urban agriculture?

Please join us for this webinar and learn about federal and state programs that provide technical and financial assistance to people involved in urban agriculture in Massachusetts. Presenters will guide you through the programs and offer insight into how you can access these resources.

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 | 9:00 am to 11:00 am EDT

To register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0scepjwvHtM1p5ur-X0xp5sq6Kpg8JLc>

Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture

Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture (MEGA) is the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources' viability program for beginning farmers who aspire to develop their farms into commercially viable operations. MEGA provides business planning, technical assistance and one-to-one matching grants up to \$10,000 on a reimbursement basis for farm improvements.

→ **Melissa Adams**, Farm Viability and Agricultural Business Training Programs, Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources

MDAR's Urban Agriculture Program

The Urban Agriculture Program (UAP) supports projects designed to increase the production, processing and marketing of produce grown and sold in urban centers across the Commonwealth and allow municipal governments and non-profits to enhance the development of community gardens.

→ **Rose Arruda**, Urban Agriculture, Food Ventures and Food Trust Coordinator, Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources

USDA Conservation Assistance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps urban farmers by providing technical and financial assistance to growers in: improving soil health, increasing irrigation efficiency and water conservation, addressing weeds and pest pressure, and addressing plant health and productivity through season extension.

→ **Thomas Akin**, State Resource Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Hosted by American Farmland Trust, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Massachusetts Urban Agriculture Coalition.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to ensure equal participation, contact Heidi Ramsey, 774-345-7020, heidi.ramsey@usda.gov at least two business days prior to the meeting.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

USDA Crop Insurance, Farm Loans and Disaster Programs

The USDA Farm Service Agency Farm Programs provide many varied ways to support Farmers of all types. These include crop insurance, disaster support programs, farm storage facility loans with special support for beginning farmers, historically underserved and veteran groups.

→ **Heather Baylis**, County Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency

USDA Office of Urban Agriculture

USDA's new Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP) will be introduced and ideas, opportunities, and suggestions for developing urban agriculture program objectives and building a collaborative urban partnership will be discussed.

→ **Stuart Lee**, Management Program Analysis, USDA-NRCS Office of Outreach and Partnership Division

USDA Rural Development Programs

USDA Rural Development's Value Added Producer Grant program helps agricultural producers with the processing and/or marketing of bio-based, value-added products. The Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program supports commercial financing of urban businesses involved in agricultural food projects.

→ **Lyndon Nichols**, Area Director, USDA Rural Development

Massachusetts

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Service**

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