



2026 SEMAP TIE Award

Purpose:

The purpose of the *Tools, Innovation, and Equipment (TIE) Award Program* is to encourage farmers and fishers to trial new equipment, implement systems that they haven't tried before, and/or solve problems faced on their farm. The proposed project should improve the farm's viability and sustainability. Award recipients will share information about their completed project with the broader agricultural community.

Timeline:

The application period opens January 9, 2026 and applications are due by 5pm on February 18, 2026. Awards will be announced by March 31st and projects should be completed by December 31, 2026. Exceptions and extensions will be considered on a case by case basis.

Award Size and Details:

Awards range from \$500 to \$3,000. This is a reimbursement-style grant and funds will be sent within 14 days of receiving receipts. Reimbursements can only be requested once the project is completed. Funds can't be spent before a contract is signed. We will consider special circumstances in which applicants require partial or complete funds up front. If you decide to pursue this option, please provide relevant context in your application.

New this Year:

We will be opening a separate awards program for deer fencing and other methods of wildlife exclusion in Spring 2026. It will be a streamlined application process with a similar award size to the TIE Awards Program. We will NOT be funding deer fencing and wildlife exclusion through the TIE Award. Also, we will only be giving 1 TIE Award to nonprofit organizations this year. If you are a commercial grower renting land from a nonprofit farm, you are considered a for-profit entity.

Eligible Applicants:

Active farmers on land or sea in Southeastern Massachusetts (including Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth counties) or Rhode Island may apply. For-profit and nonprofit entities may apply (note that we will be only giving out 1 TIE award to nonprofit entities). There is no limit to the number of awards a farm may receive across years, but in the case of a tie score, we will give preference to someone that has not previously received an award. Each farm or entity may only submit one application per funding cycle. Farms that have not completed work from a previous TIE grant must complete their current project before applying for another award.

Eligible Projects:

Projects should be in line with the purpose of the TIE Award. Topics and work areas *include but are not limited to:*

- Marketing of crops or other farm offerings
- Production, storage or distribution improvements
- Small-scale facility upgrades
- Pest, disease, and/or weed management
- Composting systems
- New crop trials
- Farm tools and equipment



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- Irrigation systems

Ineligible Expenses:

Award funds may NOT be used for:

- Wildlife exclusion (we will have a separate round of funding for deer/wildlife fencing)
- General production and operating expenses
- Labor costs or farmer time
- Large scale capital projects
- Land purchase
- Administrative costs that would exist without the project
- Costs associated with starting a farm business
- Utilities

Project Data and Reporting Requirements:

Award recipients will be expected to collect and track project-specific data, findings and lessons learned. After award notifications, SEMAP staff can assist you in determining metrics and means of data collection. These findings will then be presented to the broader agricultural community via one of the following methods: written report, video presentation, on-farm or conference workshop, interview with SEMAP staff, or any combination of these by April 2027 and preferably within 60 days of project completion. Awardees will help to amplify their presentation of findings via social media and their networks.

Project summaries may be stored on SEMAP's website, along with any available design plans and project contact information for farmers interested in replicating or adapting the project. Participating in this program is a long-term commitment to the regional agricultural community!

Award Timeline:

- February 18, 2026: Applications due by 5pm.
- March 31, 2026: Applicants notified and announced
- First week of April 2026: Contracts signed and expenses may begin
- December 31, 2026: Final project costs incurred and receipts sent to SEMAP
- By April 2027: Findings presented via written report, video presentation, on-farm workshop, interview with SEMAP staff, and/or at the Southeast New England Agriculture Conference and Trade Show.

Contact Information:

If you need help with the application or you have questions, please contact: Honey Bee (hpuder@semaponline.org) or Susan (smurray@semaponline.org). Apply at semaponline.org/farmer-resources/tie-awards via online form or mail. All applications must be received by 5pm on February 18th.