



2026 Deer Exclusion Equipment Requests (DEER) Award

Purpose:

New in 2026, SEMAP is opening a new award program called the *Deer Exclusion Equipment Requests (DEER) Award*. The purpose of this program is in response to overwhelming requests for deer exclusion and fencing through our *TIE Award Program*. As our hard working farmers know, the increase of the deer population in SE Massachusetts and Rhode Island is becoming untenable and having a serious effect on our farms and businesses. The *DEER Award Program* aims to provide small, yet important solutions to this issue

Timeline:

The application period opens March 25, 2026 and applications are due by 5pm on April 13, 2026. Awards will be announced by April 20, 2026 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 will be up to \$1,000. This is a reimbursement-style grant and funds will be sent within 14 days of receiving receipts and proof that the fence has been installed. 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.

Eligible Applicants:

Active for-profit farmers on land in Southeastern Massachusetts (including Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth counties) or Rhode Island may apply. This new award is part of our TIE award program. If have an open TIE award from the previous year that is not complete, you are not eligible for this funding round.

Eligible Projects:

Projects should be in line with the purpose of the DEER Award. Topics and work areas *are limited to:*

- Deer/Wildlife exclusion, including fencing and other related solutions

Ineligible Expenses:

Award funds may NOT be used for:

- Any tools or equipment not related to fencing or deer/wildlife exclusion
- 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



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Project Data and Reporting Requirements:

Award recipients will be expected to share lessons learned and what did and didn't work for their project. These findings will be shared with 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.

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:

- April 13, 2026: Applications due by 5pm.
- April 20, 2026: Applicants notified and announced
- Week of April 20th 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 April 13.