Award Description

Goals and Guidelines:
The goal of TIE (Technology, Innovation & Excellence) Awards is to encourage local farmers to trial new equipment, implement new systems, address the challenges farmers collectively face, and share that information with the larger farming community through education and outreach. Projects will improve farm businesses’ profitability, innovation, and sustainability, as well as contribute to the knowledge of the greater farming community. The application must include a detailed level of planning and project timeline.

Duration: One year
Award size: $500 to $3000

Who Can Apply
- Active farmers on land and sea
- Businesses based in Bristol, Plymouth, Norfolk Counties (SEMAP’s region)

Types of Projects Considered
Project topics and work areas include, but are not limited to:
- Marketing of crops or other farm offerings
- Production improvements
- Pest management
- Cover crops
- Composting
- Trialing new crops
- Pollinators
- Farm tools
- Innovative, new ideas or new twist on old ideas

Funding
What TIE funding can support:
- Materials and supplies
- Lab work, travel, outreach, printing costs. (all project-specific)
- Project costs (tests, fees, publication costs, printing)
- Consultants, with prior approval

What TIE funding cannot support:
- Staff time/farmer time
- Capital costs for buildings, greenhouses, etc.
- Land purchase
- Long-term infrastructure equipment (tractors, computers)
- Administrative costs that would exist without the project
Starting a farm
Promotional monies, food, meals, utilities.

Project Data and Reporting Requirements
- Collect project-specific data/information to share.
- Convey data in writing or oral presentation or demonstration of project in use to SEMAP Membership/Audience.
- Continue to respond to inquiries about project even after completion.
- Summaries of projects will be posted on SEMAP website
- Participate in and contribute to SEMAP’s social media outreach on your project.

Award Timeline
- Applications are on a rolling acceptance November 1, 2021 to February 1, 2022
- Funds released upon submission of invoice and receipts to SEMAP.
- Most projects are one year in duration, but exceptions will be considered.

Reporting
Due within 60 days of project close.
Recipients will highlight their outcomes in at least one of the following ways:
- Presentation at Ag & Food Conference
- Article for SEMAP blog
- Farmer-to-farmer education session
- Spotlight in the Vine newsletter
- Or suggest an innovative way to communicate your project to the greater farming community.

Commitment to a specific reporting and community education strategy about your project outcomes will be required in the contract.

For more information please contact:
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