2023 SEMAP TIE Award

Goals and Guidelines:

The goal of the *Technology, Innovation, and Excellence (TIE) Award Program* is to encourage farmers and fishers to trial new equipment, implement new systems, and address the challenges producers collectively face; later, award recipients will **share that information with the broader agricultural community**. Projects should improve farm businesses' profitability and sustainability, as well as contribute to collective food systems knowledge.

Duration:

Project duration is up to 8 months. Awards will be announced at the end of February 2023 and projects should be completed by October 31, 2023. Exceptions and extensions will be considered.

Award Size and Details:

Awards range from $500 to $3,000. This is historically a reimbursement-style grant and funds will be sent within 10 days of receiving receipts. This year, we will consider special circumstances where 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 farmers, on land or sea, who are based in Bristol, Plymouth, or Norfolk counties of Massachusetts may apply. Non-profit and for-profit entities may apply. Preference will be given to those who have not previously received a TIE award, but there is no limit to the number of awards one entity may receive.

Eligible Projects:

Projects should be innovative; new ideas or new twists on existing ideas will be considered. Topics and work areas include but are not limited to:

- Marketing of crops or other farm offerings
- Production improvements
- Pest management
- Cover crops
- Composting
- Pollinators
- New crop trials
- Farm tools

Eligible Expenses:

Award funds may be used for:

- Materials and supplies
- Fees for lab testing, shipping, printing, travel, and other project-related expenses
- Marketing and outreach costs
- Consultant fees (with prior approval)
- Shipping and handling costs

Ineligible Expenses:

Award funds may NOT be used for:

- Labor costs or farmer time
- Land purchase
- Capital costs for typical, non-innovative buildings & equipment like greenhouses, tractors, computers, etc.
- Administrative costs that would exist without the project
- Costs associated with starting a farm
- Utilities

Project Data and Reporting Requirements:

Award recipients will be expected to collect and track project-specific data and findings. These findings will then be presented to the broader agricultural community via written report, video presentation, on-farm workshop, or any combination of these within the calendar year 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 will be stored on SEMAP's website, along with 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 1, 2023: Applications due
- February 26, 2023: Applicants notified and announced at SEMAP's Agriculture & Food Conference
- Mid-March 2023: Contracts signed and expenses may begin
- October 31, 2023: Final project costs incurred and receipts sent to SEMAP
- December 31, 2023: Findings presented via written report, video presentation, and/or on-farm workshop

Contact Information:

Please submit questions by Tuesday, January 24, 2023. Direct questions to: info@semaponline.org or (781) 908-4466. Apply at semaponline.org/tieawards via online form or mail.