



New England Farmers Union

A local voice at the national table

For Immediate Release:

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New England Farmers Union Receives \$202,799 Conservation Innovation Grant

SHELBURNE FALLS, MA - (August 16, 2010) - New England Farmers Union (NEFU) was recently awarded a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The grant, in the amount of \$202,799, is an investment in innovative, on-the-ground conservation technologies and approaches, with the eventual goal of wide-scale adoption to address water quality and quantity, air quality, energy conservation, and environmental markets, among other natural resource issues.

“On behalf of New England Farmers Union, I thank USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack for selecting NEFU as a recipient of a CIG,” said Annie Cheatham, NEFU president. “NEFU is working to make greenhouse gas offsets derived from regional growers and landowners available to colleges, utilities, and other companies in New England and this will certainly allow the project to move forward.”

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers CIG as part of the Agency's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Grants are awarded to state and local governments, federally-recognized Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations and individuals.

“National Farmers Union (NFU) is pleased NEFU has been selected for this grant,” said NFU President Roger Johnson. “There is a tremendous opportunity for innovative projects in New England and this grant will provide the means for local growers and landowners to participate in developing the regional offsets that they will want to pursue.”

“NEFU was able to develop this project with early funding from FarmAid,” said Cheatham. “We are also grateful for the support from not only USDA, but also Sen. Lieberman (I-Conn.); Congressmen Michaud (D-Maine) and Olver (D-Mass.); and National Farmers Union.”

A grass-roots organization with membership-driven policy, New England Farmers Union works to protect and enhance the economic well-being and quality of life of family farmers, fishermen, foresters and consumers in all six New England states. Founded in 2006, NEFU is the youngest charter member of the National Farmers Union, a 108-year-old agricultural advocacy organization based in D.C. For more information visit www.NewEnglandFarmersUnion.org.