



News Release

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USDA Awards \$14,272 to New Hampshire Maple Producer through USDA REAP Grant

Funds to Purchase Reverse Osmosis Machine for Lebanon's Patch Forest

LEBANON, NH, September 15, 2020 – The Trump Administration recently announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded \$919,474 in grant funding to farmers, producers and small businesses in New Hampshire under the [Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#). Among those beneficiaries is Patch Forest LLC, which will receive a \$14,272 grant to implement a reverse osmosis machine into its sugaring operation. Patch Forest will save over half its annual fuel cost with the new equipment by reducing its on-property transportation needs.

USDA Rural Development State Director Anthony Linardos was pleased to announce the recent investment. “Renewable energy and energy efficiency are crucial in keeping New Hampshire farms productive and competitive, and this investment underscores our commitment to making these technologies available and easier to afford,” he said. “Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue, the USDA is focused on helping rural small business succeed—during the coronavirus pandemic and beyond, and well into the future.”

Patch Orchards is an 8th-generation, family-owned farm that has been producing apple and maple-sugar products for over 70 years. Patch Forest represents the farm's expansion onto nearly 1000 acres of surrounding maple forest, in which roughly 60,000 new taps will be established. The reverse osmosis machine will reduce trips between the new collection point and boiling location, thereby saving the operation an estimated 53 percent of its yearly fuel expenditure.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our [GovDelivery subscriber page](#).

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