



News Release

Contact:
Kevin Lambert
(802) 828-6080
Kevin.Lambert@usda.gov

USDA Awards \$20,000 REAP Grant to Vermont Maple Producer

Investment to Increase Output, Efficiency of Ridge Line Maple Works in Morrisville with Reverse Osmosis

JEFFERSONVILLE, VT, September 15, 2020 – The Trump Administration recently announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded \$772,881 in grant funding to farmers, producers and small businesses in Vermont under the [Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#). Ridge Line Maple Works of Jeffersonville is among this year’s REAP grant recipients and will receive \$20,000 to integrate a reverse osmosis system into its sugaring operation. The investment will save the company an estimated \$17,000 annually— roughly 83 percent of its energy costs.

USDA Rural Development State Director Anthony Linardos was pleased to announce the recent investment. “For Vermont farmers and producers, energy efficiencies and renewable energy systems are essential for staying competitive and productive,” he said. “By making today’s energy technology more affordable for small businesses like Ridge Line Maple Works, President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue are providing a way for them to succeed and grow during the coronavirus pandemic and well into the future.”

Ridgeline Maple Works began operation in 2014 with 1600 taps. With the recent acquisition of new land, the company expanded to 7600 taps, enough to produce an estimated 3500 gallons of maple syrup which it distributes to a wholesale buyer. The reverse osmosis machine will take harvested maple sap from two percent sugar concentration up to 20 percent, significantly cutting energy costs and employee time at the boiler.

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](#).

#

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.