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Senator Gobi Announces ACRE Grants Awarded to Help Farmers Mitigate Their Impacts on Climate Change

BOSTON – Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) joined the Baker-Polito Administration in announcing \$1,000,000 in grants to 40 Massachusetts agricultural operations to install practices that help mitigate their impacts on climate change and also adapt to changing climate conditions.

The Agricultural Climate Resiliency & Efficiencies (ACRE) Program is a competitive grant program that allows agricultural operations to address on their farms. The ACRE Program is part of the Baker-Polito Administration’s Executive Order 569, “Establishing an Integrated Climate Change Strategy for the Commonwealth.” Executive Order 569 is an integrated strategy to continue reducing emissions under the Global Warming Solutions Act, build resiliency in cities and towns, and direct new efforts to work across state government in each Executive Office.

The Program is also intended to help address general goals of the Massachusetts Local Action Food Plan including improving soil health, protect water resources, increase energy efficiency and promote renewable energy, as well as ensure food safety.

In its second year, the Agricultural Climate Resiliency & Efficiencies (ACRE) Program provides incentives to Massachusetts agricultural operations for practices that help farmers mitigate their impacts on climate change and while also improving economic resiliency on their farms. By providing financial incentives to Massachusetts growers for practices that that work towards improving soil health, reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and sequestering carbon, Massachusetts farms will work towards the first objective of mitigating climate change. The Program will also provide financial incentives to allow agricultural operations to proactively address risks and strengthen their economic and environmental resiliency as outlined in the Massachusetts Local Action Food Plan.

“We all benefit when our local farms are successful,” remarked Senator Gobi. “These grants help with sustainability while benefitting the soil and climate. I especially congratulate the farms and farmers in my district including, Ashland, Clover Hill, Many Hands and Signal Rock Farm and appreciate the ongoing support of MDAR.”

“ACRES is a key new program within the Department that is intended to position farmers to manage their operations in a time of increasing climate variability,” **said Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux.** “We are excited to be adding this program to our suite of funding programs to help address farmer’s needs for the future.”

The following local agricultural operations are receiving grants through the ACRE program:

- **Barre** – Many Hands Organic Farm has been awarded \$1,600 to purchase no-till equipment for their farm.
- **Charlton** – Signal Rock Farm has been awarded \$15,760 to purchase no-till equipment for use on their farm.
- **Gilbertville** – Clover Hill Farm has been awarded \$26,720 to purchase no-till equipment for use on their farm.
- **New Braintree** – Ashland Farm has been awarded \$20,320 for the purchase of no-till equipment to be used on their farm.

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