

Press Release



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Maine's Largest Broccoli Producer Goes Green with Energy Efficiency

Augusta, MAINE (June 27, 2005) – As the largest broccoli producer east of the Mississippi, Smith's Farm in Presque Isle relies heavily on its refrigeration unit to ensure its farm fresh produce gets to market. After experiencing problems with the refrigeration unit last year, Jason Barnes, the farm's comptroller, researched options and chose the Efficiency Maine Business Program (EMBP) to help with the new equipment installations.

A total of three types of system installations were completed: new refrigeration systems for two coolers used for product storage; a ventilation system in the potato storage unit; and an energy efficient lighting system in the warehouse.

Smith's Farm received \$25,897.50 in cash incentives from EMBP in September of 2004, and Barnes stated they are prepared for the 2005 season's upcoming high volume.

"The new equipment is giving us peace of mind," remarked Comptroller Jason Barnes. He added that while they don't have year-to-year comparison data, anecdotally he reports the cooling units are holding temperatures much more efficiently.

Working with Smith's Farm on the energy efficient installations were Efficiency Maine Program Allies, these are vendors and contractors that work with Efficiency Maine to promote and install energy efficient electric equipment that meet program guidelines. Information about the Efficiency Maine Program is available by phone, 1-866-376-2463 or on the Web at www.energymaine.com.

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The Business Program is one of several programs offered by Efficiency Maine, which is a statewide effort to promote efficient electric use, help lower overall electricity costs for Maine ratepayers, and improve Maine's environment. Efficiency Maine is funded by electricity consumers and administered by the Maine Public Utilities Commission.