PROMOTING CLEAN FARM-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

ABBIE HASENFUS

URI 2019 FARM ENERGY FELLOW

OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES



FARM-ENERGY FELLOW: PURPOSE

- Educate RI farmers about incentive opportunities for...
 - renewable energy systems
 - energy efficiency improvements
- Fine-Tuning Effective Outreach Strategies
 - Helping farmers Save Energy, Money, and the Environm



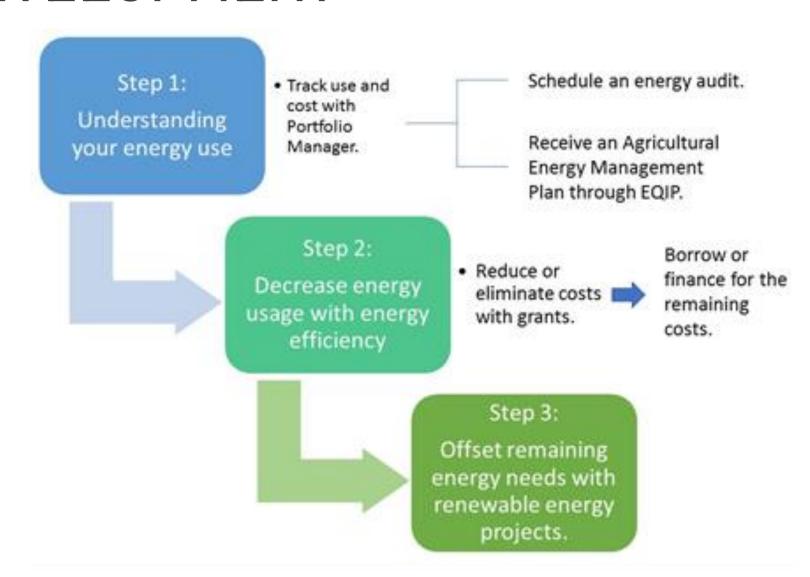
GETTING STARTED...

- Compiled list of all RI farmers markets
- 23 farmers markets held on weekdays
- 13 farmers markets held on weekends
- Goal: Attend every weekday farmers market before the end of season



FLYER DEVELOPMENT

BEFORE...



AFTER

STEP 1: TRACK ENERGY USE WITH EPA PORTFOLIO MANAGER

STEP 3: OFFSET USE WITH RENEWABLES

In partnership with:

- RI Office of Energy Resources
- URI Cooperative Extension
 - National Grid
 - EERMC

STEP 2: REDUCE USE WITH EFFICIENCY

Financial Incentives:

- RI AgEP grant
- C-PACE financing
- FEDERAL tax credit
- · REF grant or REG tariff
- USDA REAP grant & loan

FEEP Incentives:

- USDA REAP grant & loan
- C-PACE financing
- EQIP energy plan & reimbursement
- RI AgEP grant



GOING TO FARMERS MARKETS!

- Recorded all findings in a large spreadsheet
 - Farm name
 - farm location
 - handouts distributed
 - social media information
 - additional notes about follow-up, if necessary
- Met with the owners of over 50 Farms across RI



SOCIAL MEDIA: BUILDING A LASTING NETWORK

- 179 followers on Instagram
- Instagram and Facebook accounts are linked,
 - posts share between platforms



HOW DOES FARMER'S DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION INFLUENCE OUTREACH STRATEGY?

Age

Phone vs Email

Gender

Social Media vs. Paper Flyers

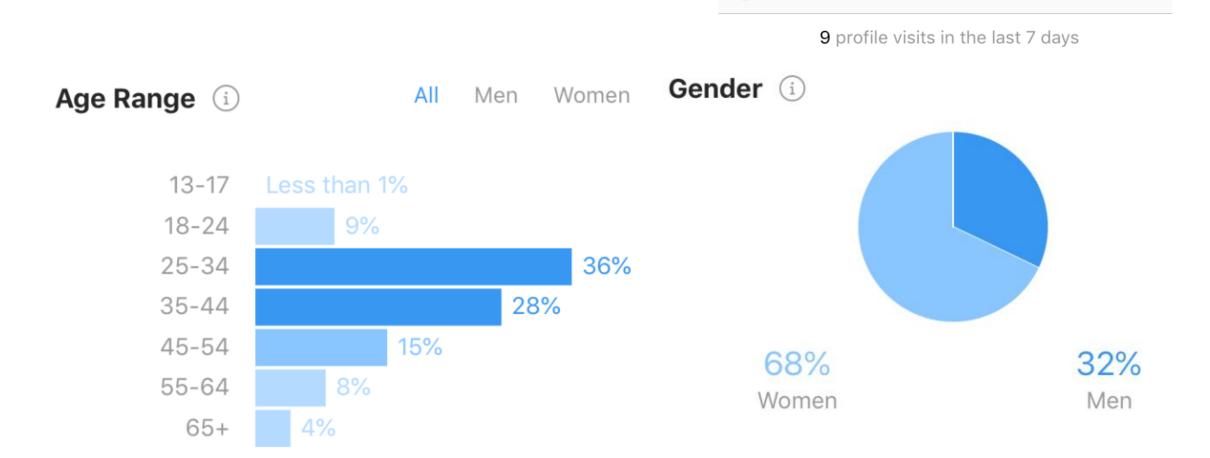
Location

Leased
Farmland
vs
Owned
Farmland

FOLLOWER'S DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

5

rifarmenergyresources 1



ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUTURE FRAMEWORK FOR CONTINUING OUTREACH

- Resources I created that help establish this framework:
 - 1. Flyers
 - 2. Farmers Market Schedule
 - 3. Farm-Energy Resource Guide
 - 4. Farmers Market Statistics
 - 5. Social Media Accounts
 - 6. Newsletter & Video Interviews

