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New Hampshire
Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food

Shawn N. Jasper, Commissioner

September 23, 2021

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Requested Action

Authorize New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, Division Agricultural Development (DAMF) to enter into a Cooperative Project Agreement with the University of New Hampshire in the amount of $462,948 for the State of New Hampshire Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN)-Collaborating to Address and Reduce Farmer Mental Health and Stress, effective upon Governor and Council approval through August 31, 2022. 100% Federal Funds.

These Federal Funds are budgeted in the existing account, **02-18-18-185010-13740000,** Farm/Ranch Stress Assist. as follows:

Account		FY 2022	Totals
102-500731	Contracts for program Services	$462,948	$462,948

Explanation

The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, Division Agricultural Development (DAMF) wishes to enter into a Cooperative Project Agreement with the University of New Hampshire to address some primary root causes of farmer stress, mental health, and suicide. NH FRSAN project consists of five organizations who collaboratively developed the program and these groups will work with additional organizations and vendors who will provide services to NH farmers. The main program topics are 1) Building awareness and destigmatizing farmer mental health, 2) Education for farmers and agricultural service providers, 3) Farmer wellness and support, and 4) Developing resource libraries.

On-line and in-person events, podcasts, videos, print materials and counseling opportunities will address major drivers of farmer stress including farm family dynamics, farm labor, crisis management, farm financial, legal, conflict management, and stress management.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn N. Jasper
Commissioner

Office of Commissioner 25 Capitol Street PO Box 2042 Concord, NH 03302-2042
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TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

COOPERATIVE PROJECT AGREEMENT
between the
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS AND FOOD**
and the
University of New Hampshire of the UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

A. This Cooperative Project Agreement (hereinafter "Project Agreement") is entered into by the State of New Hampshire, **Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food**, (hereinafter "State"), and the University System of New Hampshire, acting through **University of New Hampshire**, (hereinafter "Campus"), for the purpose of undertaking a project of mutual interest. This Cooperative Project shall be carried out under the terms and conditions of the Master Agreement for Cooperative Projects between the State of New Hampshire and the University System of New Hampshire dated November 13, 2002, except as may be modified herein.

B. This Project Agreement and all obligations of the parties hereunder shall become effective on the date the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire approve this Project Agreement ("Effective date") and shall end on 8/3/22. If the provision of services by Campus precedes the Effective date, all services performed by Campus shall be performed at the sole risk of Campus and in the event that this Project Agreement does not become effective, State shall be under no obligation to pay Campus for costs incurred or services performed; however, if this Project Agreement becomes effective, all costs incurred prior to the Effective date that would otherwise be allowable shall be paid under the terms of this Project Agreement.

C. The work to be performed under the terms of this Project Agreement is described in the proposal identified below and attached to this document as Exhibit A, the content of which is incorporated herein as a part of this Project Agreement.

Project Title: **State of NH Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network-Collaborating to Address and Reduce Farmer Mental Health and Stress**

D. The Following Individuals are designated as Project Administrators. These Project Administrators shall be responsible for the business aspects of this Project Agreement and all invoices, payments, project amendments and related correspondence shall be directed to the individuals so designated.

State Project Administrator	**Campus Project Administrator**
Name: Gail McWilliam Jellie	Name: Kimberly Becker
Address: NH Dept.Ag.,Markets & Food PO Box 204 Concord, NH 03302-2042	Address: University of New Hampshire Sponsored Programs Administration 51 College Rd. Durham, NH 03824-2620
Phone: 603-271-3551	Phone: 603-358-2443

E. The Following Individuals are designated as Project Directors. These Project Directors shall be responsible for the technical leadership and conduct of the project. All progress reports, completion reports and related correspondence shall be directed to the individuals so designated.

State Project Director	**Campus Project Director**
Name: Gail McWilliam Jellie	Name: Seth Wilner
Address: NH Dept.Ag.,Markets & Food PO Box 204 Concord, NH 03302-2042	Address: University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Taylor Hall, College Road Durham, NH 03824-2620
Phone: 603-271-3551	Phone:

Campus Authorized Official KJ
Date 9/20/21

F. Total State funds in the amount of **$462,948** have been allotted and are available for payment of allowable costs incurred under this Project Agreement. State will not reimburse Campus for costs exceeding the amount specified in this paragraph.

Check if applicable

☐ Campus will cost-share 0 % of total costs during the term of this Project Agreement.

☒ Federal funds paid to Campus under this Project Agreement are from Grant/Contract/Cooperative Agreement No. from under CFDA# **10.500**. Federal regulations required to be passed through to Campus as part of this Project Agreement, and in accordance with the Master Agreement for Cooperative Projects between the State of New Hampshire and the University System of New Hampshire dated November 13, 2002, are attached to this document as Exhibit B, the content of which is incorporated herein as a part of this Project Agreement.

G. Check if applicable

☐ Article(s) of the Master Agreement for Cooperative Projects between the State of New Hampshire and the University System of New Hampshire dated November 13, 2002 is/are hereby amended to read:

H. ☒ State has chosen **not to take** possession of equipment purchased under this Project Agreement.

☐ State has chosen **to take** possession of equipment purchased under this Project Agreement and will issue instructions for the disposition of such equipment within 90 days of the Project Agreement's end-date. Any expenses incurred by Campus in carrying out State's requested disposition will be fully reimbursed by State.

This Project Agreement and the Master Agreement constitute the entire agreement between State and Campus regarding this Cooperative Project, and supersede and replace any previously existing arrangements, oral or written; all changes herein must be made by written amendment and executed for the parties by their authorized officials.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the University System of New Hampshire, acting through the **University of New Hampshire** and the State of New Hampshire, have executed this Project Agreement.

By An Authorized Official of:
University of New Hampshire
Name: Karen M. Jensen
Title: Sponsored Programs Administration, Director Pre-award
Signature and Date: Karen Jensen 9/20/21

By An Authorized Official of:
NH Dept.Agr., Markets & Food
Name: Shawn N. Jasper
Title: Commissioner
Signature and Date: 9/28/21

By An Authorized Official of: the New Hampshire Office of the Attorney General
Name: Stacie M. Moeser
Title: Attorney
Signature and Date: /s/ Stacie M. Moeser 10/01/21

By An Authorized Official of: the New Hampshire Governor & Executive Council
Name:
Title:
Signature and Date:

Campus Authorized Official KJ
Date 9/20/21

EXHIBIT A

A. **Project Title:** State of NH Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network-Collaborating to Address and Reduce Farmer Mental Health and Stress

B. **Project Period:** 09/01/2021 - 08/31/22

C. **Objectives:** Our New Hampshire FRSAN project is exemplified by collaboration between agricultural organizations and agencies to address some primary root causes of farmer stress, mental health, and suicide. Five organizations collaboratively developed this program, with seven additional agricultural organizations participating, as well as vendors who will provide services to NH farmers. The Co-PDs and program coordinator will oversee the implementation of our four program branches: 1) Building awareness and destigmatizing farmer mental health, 2) Education for farmers and agricultural service providers, 3) Farmer wellness and support, and 4) Developing resource libraries. Social Media, local and regional print media, local radio, and direct farmer outreach will provide information to the agricultural community about mental health and will educate this community about how farmers can access the resources available through this project. Special efforts will be made to reach BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities. Multi-modal educational outputs will build skills for farmers and agricultural service providers. On-line and in-person events, podcasts, videos, and print materials will address major drivers of farmer stress including farm family dynamics, farm labor, crisis management, farm financial, legal, conflict management, and stress management. Mental health, legal, financial, and credit counseling services will be accessible through registered vendors. Farmer-to-farmer support groups will provide support addressing root cause issues around mental health and stress. Resource libraries consisting of information developed through this project, as well as existing resources, will be housed on websites of NH Department of Agriculture, UNH Cooperative Extension and NH Farm Bureau.

D. **Scope of Work:** See below

D. **Deliverables Schedule:** Raising Awareness of Farmer Mental Health Topics and Available Resources To Assist
Information shared about Farmer Mental Health, Suicide and Available Resources to assist the NH ag community

Print media
- 4 local ag publications
- 7 regional ag publications

Radio
- 5 stations resulting in statewide coverage

Social Media
- Multiplatform effort focused on farmers

Outreach to ag organizations
- 10 presentations to major ag organizations

Outreach to BIPOC/LGBTQ+ farmers

Campus Authorized Official KJ
Date 9/20/21

Training And Support Groups

Training for Farmers

- Farm family communications
- Methods for reducing stress
- Managing farm labor
- Farm Crisis Management
- Electronic Record Keeping
- Creating and using financial statements
- Financially informed decision making
- Peer-to-peer support groups

Training for Ag Service Providers

- Recognizing signs of stress
- De-escalating conflict
- Engaging in difficult conversations
- When to call a professional
- Building legal resilience
- Understanding common farm legal issues
- Meeting the needs of BIPOC/Queer farmers

Direct Farmer Support

Farming Wellness Support

Direct support to farmers thru vendors to enable them to access:

- Mental health
- Crisis assistance
- Financial analysis
- Tax resolution
- Succession planning
- Legal assistance & consults
- Root cause crisis assessment
- Farmer-to-farmer outreach

Resources and Resource Library

Easily, anonymously, accessible, web-based resources for farmers and ag service providers

- Podcasts
- Tip sheets
- Articles
- Videos
- Calculators

Project Management and Oversite

Two staff will interface with multiple partners and service providers to ensure project implementation and quality assurance

- UNHCE - Seth Wilner
- UNHCE - 0.5 FTE Coordinator
- Computer

Campus Authorized Official KJ
Date 9/20/21

F. Budget and Invoicing Instructions:

Budget Items	State Funding	Cost Sharing (if required)	Total
1. Salaries & Wages	56,611	0	56,611
2. Employee Fringe Benefits	11,773	0	11,773
3. Travel	0	0	0
4. Supplies and Services	299,035	0	299,035
5. Equipment	0	0	0
6. Facilities & Admin Costs	95,529	0	95,529
Subtotals	462,948	0	462,948
In Kind Contribution		0	0
Total Project Costs:			462,948

Campus will submit invoices to State on regular Campus invoice forms no more frequently than monthly and no less frequently than quarterly. Invoices will be based on actual project expenses incurred during the invoicing period, and shall show current and cumulative expenses by major cost categories. State will pay Campus within 30 days of receipt of each invoice. Campus will submit its final invoice not later than 60 days after the Project Period end date.

Campus Authorized Official KJ
Date 9/20/21

EXHIBIT B

This Project Agreement is funded under a Grant/Contract/Cooperative Agreement to State from the Federal sponsor specified in Project Agreement article F. All applicable requirements, regulations, provisions, terms and conditions of this Federal Grant/Contract/Cooperative Agreement are hereby adopted in full force and effect to the relationship between State and Campus, except that wherever such requirements, regulations, provisions and terms and conditions differ for INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, the appropriate requirements should be substituted (e.g., OMB Circulars A-21 and A-110, rather than OMB Circulars A-87 and A-102). References to Contractor or Recipient in the Federal language will be taken to mean Campus; references to the Government or Federal Awarding Agency will be taken to mean Government/Federal Awarding Agency or State or both, as appropriate.

Special Federal provisions are listed here: ☐ None or **X Uniform Guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in lieu of Circulars listed in paragraph above.** .

Campus Authorized Official KJ
Date 9/20/21