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New Hampshire
Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food

Shawn N. Jasper, Commissioner

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January 24, 2024

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court and

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, the Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, requests authorization to accept and expend funds in the amount of \$8,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) for the Emergency Crop Relief and Operations Program, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through September 30, 2024. This is an allowable use of ARPA SFRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(C) for provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue.

100% Federal Funds.

Funds are to be budgeted in FY2024 in the following account:

02-018-018-180010-NEWXXXX, ARPA Emergency Crop Relief		FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2024
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	Current Modified Budget	BUDGET REQUEST	Revised Budget
040 - 501587	Indirect Cost	\$0	\$75,000	\$75,000
041 - 500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000
072 - 502627	Grant - Federal - Discretionary	\$0	\$7,917,000	\$7,917,000
Total Expense		\$0	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000
000-400338-16	Federal Funds	\$0	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000
Total Funding		\$0	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000

⁽¹⁾ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602GS1801A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602GS1801Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

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EXPLANATION

Emergency Crop Relief and Operations Program - \$8,000,000 is requested for the purpose of providing one-time emergency assistance to agricultural operations that experienced significant crop loss due to frosts, freezes, or significant weather-related events between January 1 and November 1 of 2023. UNH Extension conducted a survey of growers to understand the financial impacts of these weather events to New Hampshire's agricultural industry. 70 fruit growers representing over 1,000 acres reported nearly \$10,000,000 in estimated crop loss due to frost and freeze events. Vegetable producers representing over 1,000 acres reported crop loss values over \$3,000,000 due to effects of excessive rainfall and flooding. Forage crop producers reported revenue losses of just over \$2,000,000. The Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (DAMF) will establish guidance and a grant application process based on the following criteria for applicants upon approval by Governor and Council:

- Shall be principally located in New Hampshire;
- The events for which relief is sought must have occurred within New Hampshire's borders;
- Have been in operation since at least January 1, 2022;
- Experienced a loss of gross receipts from 2022 to 2023;
- Experienced a minimum of 30 percent total planted acreage crop loss from one or more of the 2023 weather events, as defined by DAMF;
- Have total 2022 gross receipts of at least \$30,000; and
- Have not permanently closed or currently in bankruptcy.

Funds are budgeted as follows:

Class 040 – Indirect Costs – to recover central services

Class 041 – Audit Fund Set-Aside - .001 of federal funds payable to DAS for audit fees per RSA124:16

Class 072 – Grants - Federal – Discretionary – for disbursing out Federal Funds for emergency revenue loss relief to agricultural operations as described in the explanation

In the event that Federal Funds are no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn N. Jasper
Commissioner