

New Hampshire
*Department of Agriculture,
Markets, and Food*

Shawn N. Jasper, Commissioner

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December 8, 2025

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

1. Authorize the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food, to enter into a grant agreement with Meredith Farm Growers LLC (VC# 172957), Meredith, NH, for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program in the amount of \$55,978.09, effective upon Governor and Council approval through May 1, 2027. **100% Federal Funds.**
2. Further authorize an advance payment in the amount of \$55,978.09 to Meredith Farm Growers LLC, Meredith, NH, in accordance with the terms of the agreement, effective upon Governor and Council approval. **100% Federal Funds.**

Funding is available in account Resilient Food Sys Infra as follows

02-18-18-180010-28710000-072-502683 – Subaward Payments	FY 26 \$55,978.09
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EXPLANATION

The Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program is a USDA funded grant program intended to serve middle-of-the-supply-chain needs to add value and provide more, new, and better markets for locally or regionally produced food.

The funds are intended to support expanded capacity for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced food products.

This project will support Meredith Farm Growers LLC, Meredith, NH, to purchase specialized food processing equipment. This project was selected by a review panel comprised of industry relevant experts and subsequently approved by USDA to be aligned with the eligibility criteria for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program.

The department has determined that the vendor is in good standing with the Secretary of State's Office, has secured the required level of insurance, and has provided evidence of authority to

execute and be bound by the contract. Documents supporting these assertions are available at the agency, for review upon request.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawn N. Jasper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "S".

Shawn N. Jasper
Commissioner

GRANT AGREEMENT

The State of New Hampshire and the Grantee hereby
Mutually agree as follows:
GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Identification and Definitions.

1.1. State Agency Name Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food		1.2. State Agency Address 1 Granite Place South, Concord, NH 03301	
1.3. Grantee Name Meredith Farm <i>MEREDITH FARM GROWERS LLC</i>		1.4. Grantee Address 48 Quarry Road, Meredith, NH 03253	
1.5. Grantee Phone # 603-279-3915	1.6. Account Number 28710000	1.7. Completion Date May 1, 2027	1.8. Grant Limitation \$ 55,878.09
1.9. Grant Officer for State Agency Jeshua Marshall		1.10. State Agency Telephone Number 603-271-3551	
If Grantee is a municipality or village district: "By signing this form we certify that we have complied with any public meeting requirement for acceptance of this grant, including if applicable RSA 31:25-b."			
1.11. Grantee Signature 1 <i>John E. Moulton</i>		1.12. Name & Title of Grantee Signor 1 JOHN E. MOULTON MANAGING MEMBER	
Grantee Signature 2 <i>MANAGING MEMBER</i>		Name & Title of Grantee Signor 2	
Grantee Signature 3		Name & Title of Grantee Signor 3	
1.13. State Agency Signature(s) <i>Shawn N. Jasper</i>		1.14. Name & Title of State Agency Signor(s) SHAWN N. JASPER, Commissioner	
1.15. Approval by Attorney General (Form, Substance and Execution) (If G & C approval required) By: <i>J. D. Lualaba</i> Assistant Attorney General, On: 12/19/2025			
1.16. Approval by Governor and Council (if applicable) By: _____ On: / /			

2. **SCOPE OF WORK:** In exchange for grant funds provided by the State of New Hampshire, acting through the Agency identified in block 1.1 (hereinafter referred to as "the State"), the Grantee identified in block 1.3 (hereinafter referred to as "the Grantee"), shall perform that work identified and more particularly described in the scope of work attached hereto as EXHIBIT B (the scope of work being hereinafter referred to as "the Project").

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11/11/2025

approval of the undertaking or carrying out of such Project, shall participate in any decision relating to this Agreement which affects his or her personal interest or the interest of any corporation, partnership, or association in which he or she is directly or indirectly interested, nor shall he or she have any personal or pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in this Agreement or the proceeds thereof.

14. **GRANTEE'S RELATION TO THE STATE.** In the performance of this Agreement the Grantee, its employees, and any subcontractors or subgrantees of the Grantee are in all respects independent contractors, and are neither agents nor employees of the State. Neither the Grantee nor any of its officers, employees, agents, members, subcontractors or subgrantees shall have authority to bind the State nor are they entitled to any of the benefits or workers' compensation or emoluments provided by the State to its employees.

15. **ASSIGNMENT AND SUBCONTRACTS.** The Grantee shall not assign or otherwise transfer any interest in this Agreement without the prior written consent of the State. None of the Project Work shall be subcontracted or subcontracted by the Grantee other than as set forth in Exhibit B without the prior written consent of the State.

16. **INDEMNITY ACTIONS.** The Grantee shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the State, its officers and employees, from and against any and all losses suffered by the State, its officers and employees, and any and all claims, liabilities or penalties asserted against the State, its officers and employees, by or on behalf of any person on account of, based on, resulting from, arising out of or which may be claimed to arise out of the acts or omissions of the Grantee or subcontractors or subgrantees of the Grantee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein contained shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the State, which immunity is hereby reserved to the State.

17. **INSURANCE.**

17.1 The Grantee shall, at its own expense, obtain and maintain in force, or shall cause any subcontractor, subgrantee, or assignee performing Project Work to obtain and maintain in force, both for the benefit of the State, the following insurance:

17.1.1 Multiple-occupant commercial and employees liability insurance for all employees covered by the performance of the Project; and

17.1.2 General liability insurance against all claims (including injuries, death or property damage) in amounts not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,500,000 aggregate annual liability limit for the aggregate of all claims and \$500,000 for property damage per occurrence, including:

17.2 The policies described in subparagraph 17.1 of this paragraph shall be the standard form employed in the State of New Hampshire, issued by underwriters acceptable to the State, not approved to do business in the State of New Hampshire. Grantee shall furnish to the State, certificates of insurance for all renewal(s) of insurance required under this Agreement no later than ten (10) days prior to the expiration date of each insurance policy.

18. **WAIVER OF DEFECT.** No failure by the State to enforce any provisions hereof after any Event of Default shall be deemed a waiver of its rights with regard to that Event, or any subsequent Event. Its express waiver of any Event of Default shall be deemed a waiver of any previous Event. No such failure of waiver shall be deemed a waiver of the right of the State to enforce each and all of the provisions hereof upon any further or other default on the part of the Grantee.

19. **DELIVERY.** Any notice by a party hereto to the other party shall be deemed to have been duly delivered or given at the time of mailing by certified mail, postage prepaid, in a United States Post Office addressed to the parties at the addresses first above given.

20. **AMENDMENT.** This Agreement may be amended, waived or discharged only by an instrument in writing signed by the parties hereto and only after approval of such amendment, waiver or discharge by the Governor and Council of the State of New Hampshire, if approved by the signing State Agency.

21. **CONSTRUCTION OF AGREEMENT STANDARDS.** This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the law of the State of New Hampshire, and its binding effect and force shall be deemed to be that of the parties and their respective successors and assigns. The conditions and covenants of the "subject" blank are used only as a matter of convenience, and are not to be considered a part of this Agreement or to be used in determining the intent of the parties hereto.

22. **THIRD PARTIES.** The parties hereto do not intend to benefit any third party, and this Agreement shall not be construed to confer any such benefit.

23. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT.** This Agreement, which may be executed in a number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the parties, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings relating hereto.

24. **SPECIAL PROVISIONS.** The additional or modifying provisions set forth in Exhibit A hereto are incorporated as part of this agreement.

Seal
11/11/2025

Exhibit A, Special Provisions

A.1 If the date for commencement for Exhibit A precedes the Effective Date all services performed by the Grantee between the commencement date and the Effective Date shall be performed at the sole risk of the Grantee and in the event that this Agreement does not become effective, the State shall be under no obligation to pay the Grantee for any costs incurred or services performed.

Exhibit B, Scope of Work

B.1 The grantee shall utilize awarded Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI) funds (USDA-AMS Award #23RFSINH0012) for project titled "Moulton Farm Acquisition & Installation of Flash Freezer and Manual Cutter for Value-Added Produce Production" to purchase specialized food processing equipment as detailed in the grantee's Grant Proposal as approved by USDA, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

B.2 Outcomes shall be measured in accordance with the Expected Performance Measures section of the grantee's Grant Proposal, increasing capacity in the middle of the supply chain and economic viability of local/regional producers and processors.

B.3 **Compliance.** All project work shall be managed by the grantee who shall be responsible for all project development and oversight. This includes adhering to applicable federal grant uniform administrative requirements as specified in the Code of Federal Regulations and other federal requirements as follows:

- a. Grant funds awarded to state, local, and Tribal governments; public and private colleges and universities; and non-profit organizations are subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards contained in 2 CFR part 200 and 2 CFR part 400.
- b. Grant funds awarded to federal government entities are subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements and Cost Principles for Federal Awards contained in 2 CFR part 200 and 2 CFR part 400.
- c. Grant funds awarded to For-Profit Organizations are subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements contained in 2 CFR part 200 and 2 CFR part 400, and the Cost Principles contained in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 31.2, Contracts with Commercial Organizations, codified at 48 CFR 31.2.
- d. Recipients are responsible for the consistent application of the Federal regulations to the RFSI grant funds including the USDA AMS General Terms and Conditions and the RFSI Program Specific Terms and Conditions.
- e. The CFR is accessible on the National Archives and Records Administration website and in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations at www.ecfr.gov.

B.4 **Prior Approval Requirements:** To make any changes to proposed equipment purchases, the grantee must submit a written request detailing the desired changes and obtain written approval from the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (DAMF). Certain changes may also require approvals from the US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service and/or Governor and Executive Council.

*DEW
11/14/2025*

B.5 **Reporting/Monitoring:** The grantee will submit documentation to DAMF confirming the purchase of eligible equipment as detailed in the grantee's Grant Proposal as approved by USDA. The grantee is required to submit an Annual Performance Report (template provided by USDA-AMS) during each year of the project. Grantee is also subject to monitoring site visits from DAMF and/or University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension staff.

B.6 **Records:** Record retention and accessibility is governed by 2 CFR 200.333 and 200.337. The grantee must retain financial records, project records, and supporting documents for a period of three years from the date the Grant Agreement is closed

Exhibit C, Payment

C.1 The State shall disburse a maximum of \$55,978.09 for the purposes of the project described in Exhibit B as an advance disbursement.

C.2 **Payment Process:** In order to receive payment, Grantee must first be registered with the New Hampshire Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for a State of New Hampshire vendor number. If Grantee already has a vendor number and supplied it to DAMF, initial payment will be made once we receive Governor and Council approval. If Grantee does not already have a vendor number, registration is available at:

<http://dam.das.nh.gov/vendorregistration/RegistrationList.asp?l=welcome.asp>

C.3 **Method of Disbursement:** Payment by the State shall be completed by check or Electronic Funds Transfer ("EFT") in accordance with the vendor registration.

[Handwritten signature]
11/1/2015

State of New Hampshire

Department of State

CERTIFICATE

I, David M. Scanlan, Secretary of State of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that MEREDITH FARM GROWERS, LLC is a New Hampshire Limited Liability Company registered to transact business in New Hampshire on November 13, 2025. I further certify that all fees and documents required by the Secretary of State's office have been received and is in good standing as far as this office is concerned.

Business ID: 453907

Certificate Number: 0007328682



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,
I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed
the Seal of the State of New Hampshire,
this 11th day of November A.D. 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Scanlan", is written over a faint circular stamp.

David M. Scanlan
Secretary of State

(Limited partnership, Limited liability professional partnership or LLC)

Certificate of Authority # 3

Limited Partnership or LLC Certification of Authority

I, JOHN E. MOULTON, hereby certify that I am the sole Partner, Member or
(Name)
Manager and the sole officer of MEREDITH FARMWORKS LLC limited liability partnership
(Name of Partnership or LLC)

under RSA 304-B, a limited liability professional partnership under RSA 304-D, or a limited liability company under RSA 304-C.

I certify that I am authorized to bind the partnership or LLC. I further certify that it is understood that the State of New Hampshire will rely on this certificate as evidence that the person listed above currently occupies the position indicated and that they have full authority to bind the partnership or LLC and that this authorization shall remain valid for thirty (30) days from the date of this Corporate Resolution.

DATED: 11/11/2025

ATTEST: John E. Moulton
(Name & Title)



Agricultural Marketing Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The RFSI Equipment-Only Grant Proposal should include a project narrative that describes the overall scope of the project and how it aligns with the program goals and priorities. Applicants must attach documentation to substantiate the costs of each piece of equipment, which can include contracts, catalog pricing, or binding quotes provided by license commercial entities.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Organization Name:	Meredith Farm Growers LLC, DBA Moulton Farm
MEI:	[REDACTED]
Phone Number:	603-279-3915
Email Address:	info@moultonfarm.com

Physical Address

Street:	18 Quarry Rd
City:	Meredith
State:	New Hampshire
Zip:	03253

Mailing Address (if different from above)

Street:	Same
City:	
State:	
Zip:	

PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT

List the person who will be the main contact for any correspondence and is responsible for signing any documentation should the grant be awarded.

Name:	John E. Moulton
Title:	Managing Member, Meredith Farm Growers LLC
Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
Email Address:	info@moultonfarm.com

DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES INDEX

Using the [Distressed Communities Index Map](#), provide the community distress score for the county(ies) benefiting from your project.

Note: U.S. Territories are not required to submit Distressed Communities Index data.

Click the + or - button to add or remove items as needed.

FOR EXAMPLE:

County 1: Enter County name

Distress Score 1: Enter County Distress Score

County 2: Enter County name

Distress Score 2: Enter County Distress Score

+	County	Distress Score
-	Belknap	Comfortable (32.1)
-		

TYPE OF APPLICANT

Select applicant type:

Agricultural producers or processors, or groups of agricultural products and processors.

For-profit entities operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, or distribution of targeted agricultural products, whose activities are primarily focused for the benefit of local and regional producers, and that meet the eligibility requirements of the SBA small business size standards are eligible. For more information on these size standards, please visit [SBA's Size Standards webpage](#). For a quick check on whether your business qualifies, please use the [Size Standards Tool](#).

Nonprofit organizations operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural products

Local government entities operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural products

Tribal governments operating middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural products.

Institutions such as schools, universities, or hospitals bringing producers together to establish cooperative or shared infrastructure or invest in equipment that will benefit multiple producers middle-of-the-supply-chain activities such as processing, aggregation, distribution of targeted agricultural product.

PROJECT TITLE

Provide a descriptive project title in 15 words or less in the space below.

Moulton Farm acquisition & installation of flash freezer and manual cutter for value added produce production.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Include a project summary of 250 words or less suitable for dissemination to the public. A Project Summary provides a very brief (one sentence, if possible) description of your project. A Project Summary includes:

1. The name of the applicant organization that if awarded a grant will establish an agreement or contractual relationship with the State Applicant to lead and execute the project,
2. The project's purpose, deliverables, and expected outcomes and
3. A description of the general tasks/activities to be completed during the project period to fulfill this goal

The purpose of this project is to ensure safe and adequate storage of foods preserved by freezing. To fulfill this stated objective, Meredith Farm Growers LLC will oversee the design, acquisition, and provide the facility to house a new energy efficient blast chiller freezer and manual cutter.

The purpose will be to store and preserve by freezing fruits and vegetables from Moulton Farm as well as partner farms that supply products to the farm. This preservation practice will enable participating farms to utilize and benefit from heavy production periods to advance the availability of local food stuffs into the slower or non-producing (growing) seasons making available local food to the farms or processing in the farm's commercial kitchen.

John Moulton, managing member of Meredith Farm Growers LLC will oversee the construction of the blast freezer unit and cutter. Drawing from years of experience on similar projects, John will rely on the services of previously utilized suppliers, HVAC contractor, and electrician to bring the project to completion. All suppliers and trades professionals have been briefed and will be ready to deliver their components to the project. To implement and deploy the additional task of preservation, there will be an increase in the number of hours required for field harvest, wash house preparation, and final pack out. The estimated number of FTE hours required could be 30.5 per week during the season.

PROJECT PURPOSE

OPERATIONS IDENTIFIER

Provide where within the Middle of the Supply Chain the requested equipment be used:

- Processing
- Aggregation
- Distribution
- Value Added Production

Other

TYPE OF AGRICULTUREAL FOOD PRODUCTS PROCESSED WITH THE EQUIPMENT?

<input type="button" value="Remove Product Row"/>		<input type="button" value="Add Product Row"/>
#	Product Type	
1	Blueberry	
2	Strawberry	
3	Snap Beans	
4	Broccoli	
5	Cauliflower	
6	Sweet Corn	
7	Shell/Snap Pea	

#	Product Type
8	Squash

SCOPE OF WORK

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CURRENT BUSINESS OPERATIONS INCLUDING SERVICES BEING OFFERED IN THE GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS AREA.

Meredith Farm Growers LLC is doing business as Moulton Farm. The farm is an experienced 70-acre grower of fresh fruits and vegetables, commercial kitchen operator, hydroponic and ornamental greenhouse producer retailing and wholesaling the farms own production and products from multiple partner farms through a very busy on site farm market in Meredith, NH. Certainly, the farm can be identified as a food hub for the northern Lakes Region Area. Local and regional residents, partner farms, restaurants, food banks, school "Got Lunch" programs, and nonprofit food distribution groups all benefit from the farm's production.

Every day the farm process hundreds of pounds of fresh produce through it's modern processing facility. The produce is cleaned, washed, packed and prepared for resale or shipping. Some product also enters the food chain through value added processing in the farms commercial kitchen. Some product is also processed and stored for future sales.

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE SPECIFIC NEED THAT THE REQUESTED EQUIPMENT WILL ADDRESS.

The flash freezer will allow for an economical way to prepare to store products to later be sold in frozen form or processed in commercial kitchens. Product will come from partner farms as well as Moulton Farm. Countless examples can be identified; strawberries frozen to be processed for jams, whole kernel corn for shepherds pie, individual packets of peas and beans for fall and winter sales...the list is endless. This translates to being able to preserve local production during the peak of the growing season, when weather conditions may and will bring about excess production.

During this heavy production season it's difficult to efficiently prepare a finished product because of such heavy farm labor demands. The efficiency and food safe handling that the flash freezer will insure, will help to prevent farm produce from spoiling, by storing in frozen form, product for use later in value added production.

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE IMPACT THIS EQUIPMENT WILL HAVE ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL PRODUCERS, MARKET OUTLETS, AND MORE.

Meredith Farm Growers DBA Moulton Farm operates an established and diversified fruit and vegetable farm. The farm depends on its own production as well as sourcing products from over forty local farms and food processors. The farm offers and supplies produce to over 15 outlets in the area including school to lunch programs, food banks, and restaurants. The impact of this equipment will be to increase, through production or acquisition of food stuffs, the availability of product farther down the food supply system than just the fresh harvest period.

[Empty box]

ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL PRODUCERS IMPACTED.

9

DOES THIS PROJECT DIRECTLY BENEFIT:

Check box for all that apply below

- Underserved farmers and ranchers?
- New and beginning farmers and ranchers?
- Veteran Producers?
- Processors or other middle-of-the-supply businesses owned by socially disadvantaged individuals?

EXPECTED PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The outcomes and performance measures below provide a framework that allows grant recipients to track and evaluate project activities. Please provide expected numbers based on the projects scope of work. Select N/A if not applicable to the specific project.

OUTCOME 2: CAPACITY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN FOR LOCAL/REGIONAL FOOD PRODUCTS			
Indicator	Description	Expected Numbers	N/A
2.3	Number of processing equipment units purchased and installed:	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.5	Number of aggregation, storage, distribution equipment units purchased and installed:	1	<input type="checkbox"/>

OUTCOME 3: INCREASE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF LOCAL/REGIONAL PRODUCERS AND PROCESSORS			
Indicator	Description	Expected Numbers	N/A
3.2	Number of local/regional agricultural producers who benefited from the new or improved processing/aggregation/storage or distribution capacity:	9	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Number of new local/regional products processed, aggregated, stored or distributed:	8	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.4	Number of new value-added products developed:	8	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Number of new market-outlets established:	1	<input type="checkbox"/>

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Please be sure to list and justify all expenses to be covered. If applicable, ensure that you have included Critical Resources and Infrastructure letter(s) to support the application information.

EQUIPMENT

Describe any special purpose equipment to be purchased under the grant. "Special purpose equipment" such as such as, canners, hulling processors, reverse osmosis systems, egg packing machines, flotation tanks, roasters, or other processing equipment, packing and labeling equipment, or delivery vehicles

+	#	Equipment Item	Purchase Price	Acquisition Date	Funds Requested
-		HGW-Manual Cutter with associated equipment and cutting tools	\$31625.07	10/01/2025	\$31,625.07
-		Flash Freezer, Infrico USA Model No. IBC-ABT201 C	\$24353.02	10/01/2025	\$24,353.02
Equipment Subtotal					\$55,978.09

EQUIPMENT JUSTIFICATION

For each Equipment item listed in the above table describe how this equipment will be used to achieve the objectives and outcomes of the project. Add more equipment by copying and pasting the existing listing or delete equipment that isn't necessary.

FOR EXAMPLE:
 Equipment 1: Description and justification
 Equipment 2: Description and justification

Most all produce growers are challenged with varying weather conditions and climate changes that result in crop shortages or very heavy yields with short harvest windows. Either event can affect revenue, profit margins or result in wasted food. The New Hampshire climate tends to limit the period of production of fruits and vegetables to a few months leaving local food supplies relatively unavailable for many more months. Through the action of processing and freezing, local food production can be preserved to enter the food supply stream at various levels and alternate times other than just the fresh harvest period.

***Applicants must submit documentation to substantiate the costs of each piece of equipment, which can include contracts, catalog pricing, or binding quotes provided by license commercial entities.**