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

Shawn N. Jasper, Commissioner

December 19, 2025

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

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorize the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, Division of Agricultural Development (DAMF) to amend a Cooperative Project Agreement (CPA) with the University of New Hampshire (VC# 315187), Durham, NH, to evaluate genetic enhancement of squash for powdery mildew resistance, by increasing the price limitation by \$48,342.69 from \$ 61,868.31 to \$110,211.00 and by extending the completion date from April 1, 2026 to September 29, 2026, effective upon Governor and Council approval. The original Cooperative Project Agreement was approved by Governor and Council on May 1, 2024, item #74A. **100% Federal Funds** – Specialty Crop Block Grant.

Funding is available in account Specialty Crop State Grant I, as follows:

	<u>FY 26</u>
02-18-18-185010-28200000-072-500577 Grants to Schools – Federal	\$48,342.69

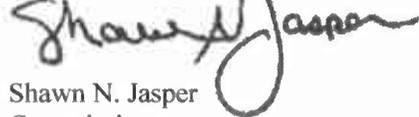
**EXPLANATION**

The addition of these funds and extension of the Project End Date will allow researchers at UNH to study cultivars for an additional growing season, thereby improving the reliability of the study results. The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (DAMF) received Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) money from the United States Department of Agriculture to fund projects that increase the competitiveness of specialty crops in New Hampshire. The projects for 23SCBPNH1200-00 were solicited through the RFP process and submitted for review by USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service as part of our state application. The proposal submitted by the University of New Hampshire was one of the projects accepted by USDA for funding as enumerated in the CPA. Squash and pumpkins (*Cucurbita* spp.) are important specialty crops for the state of New Hampshire. Growers face many challenges in producing these crops, many of which are caused by pests and disease. Powdery mildew (PM) is a major disease of squash and pumpkins. Varieties with robust genetic PM resistance reduce the use of fungicides and are especially important for organic growers who do not have as many options for disease management. Currently, the majority of commercialized squash and pumpkins rely on one primary form of genetic

resistance. Relying on one only source of genetic resistance poses a risk to NH growers. The UNH cucurbit breeding program has identified several additional sources of PM resistance. The aims of this project are to 1) better understand the nature of new PM resistance genes; 2) Develop DNA markers to enable more rapid breeding; 3) Breed resistance genes into commercially viable cultivars.

In the event that these Federal funds become 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, looping initial "S".

Shawn N. Jasper  
Commissioner

**AMENDMENT #01 to  
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

The Cooperative Project Agreement, approved by the State of New Hampshire Governor and Executive Council on 5/1/24, item # 74A, for the Project titled “**Genetic Enhancement of Squash for Powdery Mildew Resistance**,” Campus Project Director, **Christopher Hernandez**, is and all subsequent properly approved amendments are hereby modified by mutual consent of both parties for the reason(s) described below:

**Purpose of Amendment (Choose all applicable items):**

- Extend the Project Agreement and Project Period end date.
- Provide additional funding from the State for expansion of the Scope of Work under the Cooperative Project Agreement.
- Other:

**Therefore, the Cooperative Project Agreement is and/or its subsequent properly approved amendments are amended as follows (Complete only the applicable items):**

- Article A. is revised to replace the State Department name of \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ and/or USNH campus from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Article B. is revised to replace the Project End Date of **April 1, 2026** with the revised Project End Date of **September 29, 2026**, and Exhibit A, article B is revised to replace the Project Period of **April 1, 2024 – April 1, 2026** with **April 1, 2024 – September 29, 2026**.
- Article C. is amended to expand Exhibit A by including the proposal titled, “ \_\_\_\_\_ ,” dated \_\_\_\_\_.
- Article D. is amended to change the State Project Administrator to **Rebecca Ross, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food, 1 Granite Place, Suite 211, Concord, NH 03301, 603-271-8071** and/or the Campus Project Administrator to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Article E. is amended to change the State Project Director to **Rebecca Ross, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food, 1 Granite Place, Suite 211, Concord, NH 03301, 603-271-8071** and/or the Campus Project Director to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Article F. is amended to add funds in the amount of **\$48,342.69** and will read:  

Total State funds in the amount of **\$110,211** 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.
- Article F. is amended to change the cost share requirement and will read:  

Campus will cost-share \_\_\_\_\_ % of total costs during the amended term of this Project Agreement.
- Article F. is amended to change the source of Federal funds paid to Campus and will read:  

Federal funds paid to Campus under this Project Agreement as amended are from Grant/Contract/Cooperative Agreement No. \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ under CFDA# \_\_\_\_\_ . 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 **revised** Exhibit B, the content of which is incorporated herein as a part of this Project Agreement.

- Article G. is exercised to amend 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, as follows:

**Article** \_\_\_\_\_ is amended in its entirety to read as follows:  
**Article** \_\_\_\_\_ is amended in its entirety to read as follows:

- Article H. is amended such that:

- 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.

- Exhibit A is amended as attached.
- Exhibit B is amended as attached.

All other terms and conditions of the Cooperative Project Agreement remain unchanged.

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

This Amendment and all obligations of the parties hereunder shall become effective on the date the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire or other authorized officials approve this Amendment to the Cooperative Project Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following parties agree to this **Amendment #01** to the Cooperative Project Agreement.

**By An Authorized Official of:  
University of New Hampshire**

Name: Dianne Hall  
Title: Manager, Pre-Award Compliance

Signature and Date: *Dianne Hall* Digitally signed by Dianne Hall  
Date: 2025.11.24 10:10:42 AM

**By An Authorized Official of: the New  
Hampshire Office of the Attorney General**  
Name: J.D. Lavallee

Title: Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Signature and Date: *J.D. Lavallee* 1/8/2026

**By An Authorized Official of:  
State of NH Dept of Agriculture, Markets,  
and Food**

Name: Shawn N. Jasper  
Title: Commissioner, Dept of Agriculture,  
Markets, and Food

Signature and Date: *Shawn N. Jasper* 12/14/25

**By An Authorized Official of: the New  
Hampshire Governor & Executive Council**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Amendment to Exhibit A**

1. Amend Exhibit A, item B, Project Period from "April 1, 2024 – April 1, 2026" to "April 1, 2024 – September 29, 2026"
2. Amend Exhibit A, item D, Scope of Work to allow researchers to study cultivars for an additional growing season.
3. Amend Exhibit A, item F, Budget and Invoicing Instructions, by striking the budget table and replacing it with the following:

Budget Item	State Funding
Salaries & Wage	\$71,840
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	\$9,209
Travel	\$0.00
Supplies & Services	\$29,162
Equipment	\$0.00
Facilities and Admin Costs	\$0.00
Total	\$110,211

4. All other terms and conditions of the original contract shall remain the same in full force and effect as originally set forth; and
5. This amendment is subject to approval by the Governor and Executive Council.

Initials DH

Date 11/24/25

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

Shawn N. Jasper, Commissioner

April 19, 2024

74A

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

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorize the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, Division of Agricultural Development (DAMF) to enter into Cooperative Project Agreement (CPA) with the University of New Hampshire in the amount of \$61,868.31 to evaluate genetic enhancement of squash for powdery mildew resistance, effective upon Governor and Council approval through April 1, 2026. 100% Federal Funds – Specialty Crop Block Grant.

Funding is available in account, Specialty Crop State Grant I, as follows:

**02-18-18-185010-28200000 Specialty Crop State Grant I**

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>FY2024</u>
072-500577 Grants to Schools – Federal	\$61,868.31

**EXPLANATION**

The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food (DAMF) received Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) money from the United States Department of Agriculture to fund projects that increase the competitiveness of specialty crops in New Hampshire. The projects for 23SCBPNH1200-00 were solicited through the RFP process and submitted for review by USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service as part of our state application. The proposal submitted by the University of New Hampshire was one of the projects accepted by USDA for funding as enumerated in the CPA.

Squash and pumpkins (*Cucurbita* spp.) are important specialty crops for the state of New Hampshire. Growers face many challenges in producing these crops, many of which are caused by pests and disease. Powdery mildew (PM) is a major disease of squash and pumpkins. Varieties with robust genetic PM resistance reduce the use of fungicides and are especially important for organic growers who do not have as many options for disease management. Currently, the majority of commercialized squash and pumpkins rely on one primary form of genetic resistance. Relying on one only source of genetic resistance poses a risk to NH growers. The UNH cucurbit breeding program has identified several addition sources of PM resistance. The aims of this project are to 1) better understand the nature of new PM resistance genes; 2) Develop DNA markers to enable more rapid breeding; 3) Breed resistance genes into commercially viable cultivars. In the event that these Federal funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn N. Jasper  
Commissioner

**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 4/1/26. 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: Genetic Enhancement of Squash for Powdery Mildew Resistance**

- 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**

Name: Joshua Marshall  
Address: NH Dept Agriculture, Markets & Food  
P.O. Box 2042  
Concord, NH 03302-2042  
Phone: 603-271-3688

**Campus Project Administrator**

Name: Dianne Hall  
Address: University of New Hampshire  
Sponsored Programs Administration  
51 College Rd  
Durham, NH 03824  
Phone: 603-862-1942

- 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**

Name: Joshua Marshall  
Address: NH Dept Agriculture, Markets & Food  
P.O. Box 2042  
Concord, NH 03302-2042  
Phone: 603-271-3688

**Campus Project Director**

Name: Christopher Hernandez  
Address: UNH Agriculture, Nutrition &  
Food Systems  
Kendall Hall Rm. 422  
Durham, NH 03824  
Phone: 603-862-1368

F. Total State funds in the amount of \$61,868.31 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 % 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. 23SCBPNH1200-00 from AMS/USDA under CFDA# 10.170. 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, Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food have executed this Project Agreement.

By An Authorized Official of:  
University of New Hampshire

Name: Karen M. Jensen

Title: Director, Pre-Award

Signature and Date: Karen Jensen Digitally signed by Karen Jensen  
Date: 2024.03.11 11:18:29  
UTC

By An Authorized Official of: the New  
Hampshire Office of the Attorney General  
Name: Sheri Phillips

Title: Assistant Attorney General

Signature and Date: Sheri Phillips 4/18/2024

By An Authorized Official of:  
Department of Agriculture, Markets and  
Food

Name: Shawn N. Jasper

Title: Commissioner

Signature and Date: Shawn N. Jasper 3/11/24

By An Authorized Official of: the New  
Hampshire Governor & Executive Council  
Name:

Title:

Signature and Date:

## EXHIBIT A

- A. Project Title:** Genetic Enhancement of Squash for Powdery Mildew Resistance
- B. Project Period:** April 1, 2024-April 1, 2026
- C. Objectives:** Objective 1: Evaluate the nature of two new PM resistances: Pm and Pm-A. Specifically, what level of control do these sources give and what parts of the plant do they protect?  
Objective 2: Develop DNA markers for the different PM resistance sources.  
Objective 3: Make new PM lines available to companies for commercialization.  
Objective 4: Collaborate with companies and attend grower meetings to inform growers of the PM resistances provided by new cultivars.
- D. Scope of Work:** Squash and pumpkins (*Cucurbita* spp.) are important specialty crops for the state of New Hampshire. Growers face many challenges in producing these crops, many of which are caused by pests and disease. Powdery mildew (PM), is a major disease of squash and pumpkins. Varieties with robust genetic PM resistance reduce the use of fungicides, and are especially important for organic growers who do not have as many options for disease management. Currently, the majority of commercialized squash and pumpkins rely on one primary form of genetic resistance. Relying on one only source of genetic resistance poses a risk to NH growers. The UNH cucurbit breeding program has identified several addition sources of PM resistance. The aims of this project are to 1) better understand the nature of new PM resistance genes; 2) Develop DNA markers to enable more rapid breeding; 3) Breed resistance genes into commercially viable cultivars.
- E. Deliverables Schedule:** Annual reports on project activity due in December of 2024 and 2025. Final printed and digital report due by December 10, 2026
- F. Budget and Invoicing Instructions:** 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 as shown below. 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.

Budget Item	State Funding
1. Salaries & Wage	\$40,187.00
2. Fringe Benefits	\$5,248.00
3. Travel	\$0
4. Supplies and Services	\$16,433.31
5. Equipment	\$0
6. Facilities and Admin Costs	\$0
Total	\$61,868.31

## 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 Uniform Guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in lieu of Circulars listed in paragraph above. .