



Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance

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New York State Legislative Priorities 2022

State Budget Priorities FY 2022-2023

Aid to Localities Budget, Department of Agriculture and Markets

- **PRO-DAIRY: Core Funding: \$1.213 million; Executive Budget: \$1.213 million**
Through PRO-DAIRY, New York's dairy farmers are better prepared to address business management, agronomic, environmental, herd health, nutrient management and forage systems challenges. The core funding continues the 32-year tradition of essential programming to assure New York's dairy farmers remain economically competitive.
 - **Core Funding Request: For Advancing Climate Positive Solutions; \$250,000**
Executive Budget: \$0
The need for science-based education, to assist New York's dairy farms in achieving NY's ambitious 15 percent reduction in GHG emissions from agriculture goal by 2030 is significant. Facilitating on-farm research in GHG emissions reduction and improving stewardship and collaboration will be critical as the state moves towards a net zero economy. Dairy farms can be on the forefront of climate solutions that support a growing, thriving dairy industry.
 - **Dairy Profit Teams: \$370,000 Executive Budget: \$224,000**
Dairy Profit Teams have assisted over 250 dairy farms with strategic business planning to improve operational efficiencies, to uncover opportunity areas for improvement, and support the next generation on the farm. This program continues to serve an important need of the dairy industry.
 - **Dairy Advancement Program: \$700,000 allocated through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF); Executive Budget: \$700,000**
The Dairy Advancement Program (DAP), funded through the Environmental Protection Fund, has assisted over 400 small to mid-size dairy farms with environmental planning. The cost associated with professional planning is a barrier for many dairies, particularly those with fewer than 300 cows. The DAP helps farms engage the services of business and environmental planning professionals.
- **Farm Labor Specialist: \$400,000; Executive Budget: \$202,000**
A professional farm business / human resources cooperative extension specialist provides timely, valuable information and guidance to farmer employers throughout the state. This appropriation has enhanced the ability of farm businesses to effectively manage their human resources to assure compliance to federal and state laws and maximize employee respect within the workplace. A funding increase to \$400,000 per year is needed to expand career growth for the Hispanic farm workforce, to improve farm employee housing management, and to improve employee training and workforce availability in New York agriculture

- **Cornell Animal Welfare Programs:** Executive Budget: \$8.27 million lump sum appropriation
 - **NYS Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory: \$5.43 million**
NYS Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is a comprehensive program dedicated to improving the health of food and fiber producing animals, companion animals, sport and recreational animals, exotic animals, and wildlife. These activities protect and improve public health, promote environmental stewardship, and foster economic growth.
 - **Quality Milk Production Program (QMPP): \$1.574 million**
QMPP serves New York's dairy industry by promoting the production of high-quality milk through the control of mastitis, and the avoidance of antibiotic residues in milk through field and laboratory diagnostic evaluations and recommendations.
- **NY Farm Viability Institute: \$3.5 million; Executive Budget: \$1 million**
This program has **returned nearly seven dollars to the State's economy for every dollar invested** and farm profitability has been enhanced. Since 2005, 302 projects have completed their work and documented a total return to the ag community of \$149 million. NYFVI's investment in those projects was \$21.8 million and a key strength has been its relentless focus on project impact and measurement. Projects have included the development of IPM practices in onions, reduced tillage on vegetable farms, biological controls for pest management and the use of profitable winter forages as cover crops.
- **NY FarmNet: \$1,600,000**
 - **\$1 million Core Program**, allocated through Dept. of Agriculture and Markets; Executive Budget: \$1,000,000
 - **\$600,000 Mental Health Initiative**, allocated through Office of Mental Health; Executive Budget: \$0

A network of 46 consultants, located throughout the state, are quick to respond to farmer's requests for assistance. Professional financial and mental health consultants help farm families and businesses deal with the financial and emotional issues, characteristic of an industry under severe stress.

Last year FarmNet professionals worked with over 729 farmers on issues ranging from economic and mental health to business and estate planning. Economic stress in the dairy industry is quite high due to continued low milk prices. Between 2018 (pre-COVID 19) and 2021, farm clients showing high personal/family stress increased by 85%. During that same period, financial stress increased by 31%.

- **Agricultural Education and Outreach Programs**
 - **FFA: \$1 million; Executive Budget: \$1 million**
 - **Agriculture in the Classroom: \$500,000; Executive Budget: \$500,000**
 - **Agricultural Educators: \$500,000; Executive Budget: \$500,000**

These programs create a pipeline for the next generation of farmers, agribusinesses, food companies and industry leaders. Significant private industry support is leveraged with the public funds to maximize the success of these programs.

Capital Request: Cornell CALS Climate Adaptive Research Farms: Applied Infrastructure & Demonstration Projects

\$5M in capital funding is requested to implement a series of practices and technologies designed to showcase agro-ecological approaches to managing climate adaptation, sequestering carbon, and reducing GHG emissions on NYS owned research farms including Cornell CALS dairy teaching & research farm. Results will be visibly apparent to NY farmers seeking information and extended throughout the Cornell Cooperative Extension system. Executive budget: \$0

Environmental Protection Fund Programs

- **Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control: \$20 million.** Executive Budget: \$20 million
Essential funding for assisting New York's animal agriculture industry facing costly water quality regulations as prescribed by DEC and EPA. Farmers are stewards of soil and water resources yet comprehensive nutrient management plans can require more than what a farm business can reasonably afford. These cost sharing funds are administered through soil and water conservation districts.
- **Soil and Water Conservation Districts: \$15 million;** Executive Budget: \$15 million
Soil and Water Conservation districts are the professionals on the front lines of implementing water quality practices and programs. They have the capacity and skill set to work with the farm community to deliver critical water quality protection projects and provide needed information to farms about environmental management as required by a farm's comprehensive nutrient management plan.
- **Integrated Pest Management: \$2 million;** Executive Budget: \$2 million
For over 32 years, this nationally recognized program has provided the research and education necessary to develop and employ a "toolbox" of options that provide effective control pest control in dairy barns, crop fields, orchards, vineyards, greenhouses, farmsteads, golf courses and gardens. Reducing pest threats, protecting the environment, and protecting New Yorkers are part of the IPM Program's mission.

Integrated Pest Management is a systematic approach to managing pests that utilizes a diversity of management options to minimize health, environmental and economic risks, and impacts. These options may include biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools to prevent pest infestations or reduce them to acceptable levels.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Part RR Article VII TED Bill S.8008/ A.9008

NEAFA opposes the EPR bill as currently written.

The agricultural industry is and has been pro-sustainability for many years and have proven their commitment when it comes to being environmentally responsible. Agricultural food and beverage manufacturers not only provide foods that are healthy and nutritious, but also take a proactive environmental approach when it comes to their operations. The agriculture industry continues to develop new packaging technologies, reviewing sourcing options, seeking packaging made from renewable resources, reducing energy consumption, conserving water, and recycling or repurposing production waste in a variety of ways. The industry will continue these efforts as an ongoing priority and allocate significant capital towards the investment of these efforts.

A recent study indicated that producers would bear over \$800 million in direct costs. Requiring food and beverage manufacturers, with notoriously thin margins, to absorb these additional costs places our State's local agricultural industries at great risk and may result in more of the State's food needs to be imported. It is for this reason that other EPR programs, passed around the country, have provided exemptions for food and beverage packaging.

NEAFA is opposed to current EPR proposals as drafted. Any potential new EPR law for NYS should be required to undergo extensive stakeholder review and comment, especially including material input from the agriculture sector.

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