



# Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance

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## New York State Budget Priorities

### FY 2021-22

#### Aid to Localities Budget, Department of Agriculture and Markets

- **PRO-DAIRY: Core Funding: \$1.201 million** allocated through the Department of Agriculture and Markets; *Executive Budget: \$1.201 million*
  - **Dairy Profit Teams: \$220,000** allocated through the Department of Agriculture and Markets; *Executive Budget: \$220,000*
  - **Dairy Advancement Program: \$700,000** allocated through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF); *Executive Budget: \$700,000*
  - **Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Program \$400,000; Executive Budget: \$0**

For over 32 years **PRO-DAIRY** has worked with dairy farmers to address agronomic, economic, and environmental challenges to enhance the overall sustainability of New York's dairy industry. New York's dairy industry is better prepared to weather the current economic storm and excel when milk prices rebound.

**Dairy Profit Teams** have assisted nearly 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.

Through support from the Environmental Protection Fund, the **Dairy Advancement Program** has assisted nearly 400 small to mid-size farms with environmental planning. The cost associated with professional planning is a barrier for many dairies, particularly those with fewer than 300 cows. The Dairy Advancement Program helps farms engage the services of business and environmental planning professionals.

**The Agriculture Environmental Stewardship (SPEAR) Program** is a new initiative focused on the management of nutrients in the biological loop of crop production, animal feed and manure recycling to the land. With increasing challenges posed by climate change and extreme rainfall events, dairy and crop farmers will need additional applied research and extension to deploy effective tools such as nutrient mass balancing.

- **Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Programs**
  - **Animal Health Surveillance & Control Program: \$5.43 million;** *Executive Budget: \$4.425 million*
  - **Quality Milk Production Program (QMPP): \$1.174 million;** *Executive Budget: \$1.174 million*

**Animal Health Surveillance & Control Program** 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.

**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: \$1,900,000;** *Executive Budget: \$800,000*

This farmer driven program has **returned over seven dollars to the State's economy for every dollar invested**. Farm profitability has been enhanced as result of this program. Fifteen-year summary: 278 projects; total investment: \$19.5 million; total return to New York's ag community: \$143 million. A key strength of NY FVI is its relentless focus on project impact and measurement.

More than 55 proposals from 25 different organizations, representing more than \$5.5 million of research requests were submitted in response to our 2020 RFP.

- **NY FarmNet: \$1,272,000**
  - **\$872,000 Core Program,** allocated through Dept. of Agriculture and Markets; *Executive Budget: \$664,00*
  - **\$400,000 Mental Health Initiative,** allocated through Office of Mental Health; *Executive Budget: \$0*

A network of 47 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 635 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.

- **Farm Labor Specialist: \$200,000; Executive Budget: \$200,000**

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. The program is especially important this year due to the significant farm labor law changes. Funding includes salary, benefits, and necessary support.

- **Agricultural Education and Outreach Programs**

- **FFA: \$842,000; Executive Budget: \$842,000**
- **Agriculture in the Classroom: \$380,000; Executive Budget: \$380,000**
- **Agricultural Educators: \$416,000; Executive Budget: \$416,000**

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.

### **Environmental Protection Fund Programs**

- **Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control: \$18 million.**

*Executive Budget: \$18 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: \$11.5 million; Executive Budget: \$11.5 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: \$1 million; Executive Budget: \$1 million**

For over 31 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 Past 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.

**These budget items** represent core programs that sustain and grow New York’s agricultural industry. The Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance recognizes that, absent these programs, New York farmers would not be able to address many of the economic and environmental challenges impacting agriculture every day. Therefore, we stand in coalition with the production sector to advocate for sufficient funding for these important programs. We appreciate the Governor’s support and encourage the legislature to fund all these programs at the recommended levels listed in bold print above.

For more information:

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