

New Hampshire
Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food

Lorraine S. Merrill, Commissioner

May 20, 2015

Her Excellency Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
And the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Hassan and Honorable Council:

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, Division of Agricultural Development (DAMF) to enter into an agreement with the University of New Hampshire (vendor code # 177867 loc 46) for the period from Governor and Council approval to September 30, 2017 in the amount of \$19,434.00 to conduct research to evaluate hardy table grape cultivars and training systems suitable for New Hampshire production. 100% Federal Funds – Specialty Crop Block Grant.

Funding is available in account, SCBG 0033, as follows with the authority to adjust encumbrances in each of the State fiscal years through the Budget Office if needed and justified, pending FY 16 & 17 budget approval.

Funding is available as follows: **02-18-18-185010-70380000 Specialty Crop Block Grant, #14-SCBGP-NH-0033**

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
072-500577 Grants to Schools – Federal	\$15,000	\$4,000	\$434	\$19,434

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 nine specific projects. The projects 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.

Prior to this request the fiscal year actual cumulative total of funds provided to University of New Hampshire is \$20,542.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Lorraine S. Merrill
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 **9/30/17**. 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: **Table Grape Cultivars and Training Systems for New Hampshire**

- 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: Gail McWilliams-Jellie
 Address: State of New Hampshire
Dept. Agriculture, Markets and Food
25 Capitol Street, P.O. Box 2042
Concord, NH 03302
 Phone: (603) 271-3788

Campus Project Administrator

Name: Dianne Hall
 Address: University of New Hampshire
Sponsored Programs Administration
51 College Rd. Rm 116
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: Gail McWilliams-Jellie
 Address: State of New Hampshire
Dept. Agriculture, Markets and Food
25 Capitol Street, P.O. Box 2042
Concord, NH 03302
 Phone: (603) 271-3788

Campus Project Director

Name: Dr. Becky Sideman
 Address: Univeristy of New Hampshire
38 Academic Way
G48 Spaulding Hall
Durham, NH 03824
 Phone: (603) 862-3203

Campus Authorized Official KJ
 Date 4/17/15

F. Total State funds in the amount of \$19,434.00 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. **14-SCBGP-NH-0033** from **U.S. Department of Agriculture** 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.

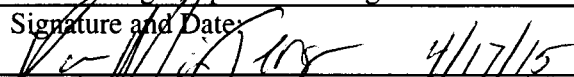
State has chosen **to take** possession of equipment purchased under this Project Agreement and will issue instructions for the disposition of such equipment within 90 days of the Project Agreement's end-date. Any expenses incurred by Campus in carrying out State's requested disposition will be fully 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.

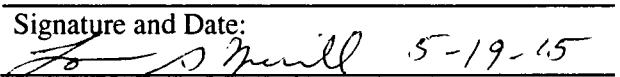
**By An Authorized Official of:
University of New Hampshire**

Name: Karen M. Jensen
Title: Manager, Sponsored Programs Administration

Signature and Date:  4/17/15

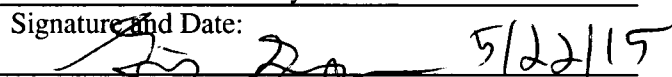
**By An Authorized Official of:
Dept of Agriculture, Markets and Foods**

Name: Lorraine S. Merrill
Title: Commissioner

Signature and Date:  5-19-15

**By An Authorized Official of: the New
Hampshire Office of the Attorney General**

Name: ~~Rosemary Wiant~~ Brian Burman
Title: Assitant Attorney General

Signature and Date:  5/22/15

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

Name: _____
Title: _____

Signature and Date: _____

Campus Authorized Official KS
Date 4/17/15

EXHIBIT A

- A. Project Title:** Table Grape Cultivars and Training Systems for New Hampshire
- B. Project Period:** Upon approval of Governor and Executive Council through 9/30/2017
- C. Objectives:** To identify table grape cultivars adapted to New Hampshire, determine the optimum training system for these cultivars, and develop an enterprise budget for table grape production in NH.
- D. Scope of Work:** The project will evaluate eight table grape cultivars under three training systems: vertical-shoot positioning or VSP (which features very short trunks, two lateral canes, and training each year's growth upwards between three pairs of catch wires), top-wire cordon or TWC (where a tall trunk has two lateral canes about 6' high, and each year's growth and fruits hang downward), and the modified Munson or MM (similar to the TWC, except that the trunk is 4' high, and each new year's growth is supported outwards and away from fruit to increase light exposure). To evaluate adaptability to each system, and to evaluate overall performance of each cultivar, several variables will be evaluated annually, including bud survival, incidence of diseases, plant vigor, yields, fruit quality, and maintenance time required. This project builds directly upon the results of the successful SARE Farmer Grant FNE10-692 (Seedless table grape variety evaluation grown on VSP training system).

Choice of training system is critical to success with a vineyard. Training systems affect not only the potential yields and quality of the grape crop, but also labor requirements and ease of management, the degree to which vines are predisposed to winter injury, light interception by fruits and foliage, and more. Training systems are often selected based on growth habit and performance of varieties in a given site. The cold-hardy table grape cultivars tend to be vigorous, with a more trailing growth habit than the cold-hardy wine grapes grown in NH, and as such, are likely suited to different training systems than those which predominate in wine grape production.

Potential Impact

The intended beneficiaries of this project include producers currently growing grapes, and current growers of other fruit crops and entirely new growers. The results will be most relevant for those parts of NH and northern New England in USDA hardiness zone 5B and warmer, which corresponds to approximately the southern half of NH. It is estimated that 200 producers at varying scales could benefit from knowledge of table grape production in NH that will be produced by this project. Quantifying the establishment costs, labor, performance and yields for the region will help producers make informed decisions prior to investment in vineyard infrastructure.

Expected Measurable Outcomes

Goal: Current and prospective NH table grape growers will learn which table grape cultivars are best adapted to NH, and which training systems that are best suited (most effective, least laborious) for use with these cultivars.

Pre- and post-workshop surveys will be used to assess learning outcomes at outreach events. Project results will be presented at workshops and on-farm twilight meetings. Target: At least 100 growers

will attend workshops and meetings where results are presented, and at least 75% of the growers that attend will have a gain of knowledge as a result of these meetings.

A suite of outreach publications will be produced, and access to these documents will be tracked through standard web analytics. Target: It is expected that at least 50 growers annually will access the published research reports. Preliminary variety trial report: Based primarily on the results from SARE project FNE10-692, a fact sheet describing preliminary results and variety recommendations will be prepared and distributed to growers.

Recommended Table Grapes Varieties & Training Systems: The preliminary report will be expanded after the current project results are available, at the conclusion of the current project. Version one of this publication will be posted at the conclusion of this project, and it will continue to be refined and updated in subsequent years.

Table grape enterprise budget. Depending on yield data from 3-year old and older vines, the enterprise budget will be produced after year 3 of the current project, after the conclusion of the project.

Table grape growers will be surveyed at the start and end of the project to determine which cultivars and training systems are being used. It is estimate that fewer than five (5) commercial table grape plantings currently exist in NH. Surveys will be distributed through UNHCE electronic mailing lists and in person through farm visits and contacts at grower workshops. Target: It is estimated that at least 5 growers will establish table grape plantings with the intent to sell fruit during the next two years.

Performance Monitoring Plan

Performance Monitoring will include a combination of learning assessment at face-to-face meetings, web analytics to track electronic publication access, and traditional surveys will be used to measure growers' access to and use of the project results.

Long-Term Goals

Establishing a vineyard is a long-term endeavor, and the project will continue to be monitored over a 5 to 7 year period. Throughout this time period, monitoring will include long-term performance of the cultivars, environmental variables, and peer-reviewed journal articles to disseminate the results more widely among the scientific community. Continued support will be sought for long-term annual pruning, data collection and data analysis.

E. Deliverables Schedule:

Project Activity 1: Conduct preliminary grower survey, Plant vineyard, Prepare preliminary variety fact sheet

Who: Extension Professor and Specialist, Extension Field Specialist, Assistants

When Accomplished: August 2015

Project Activity 2: Establish trellis

Who: Extension Professor and Specialist, Assistants

When Accomplished: December 2015

Project Activity 3: Year one training, assess bud hardiness

Who: Extension Professor and Specialist, Extension Field Specialist

When Accomplished: April 2016

Project Activity4: Plant vigor assessment

Who: Extension Professor and Specialist

When Accomplished: July 2016

Project Activity 5: Year two training, bud hardiness assessment

Pruning demonstration

Who: Extension Professor and Specialist, Extension Field Specialist

When Accomplished: April 2017

Project Activity 6: Plant vigor, yield, fruit quality assessment

Twilight meeting

Who: Extension Professor and Specialist, Extension Field Specialist

When Accomplished: July-September 2017

Project Activity 7 Prepare initial variety & training system research report

Who: Extension Professor and Specialist

When Accomplished: September 2017

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. State will pay Campus within 30 days of receipt of each invoice. Campus will submit its final invoice not later than 30 days after the Project Period end date.

Budget Items	State Funding	Cost Sharing	Total
1. Salaries & Wages	\$8,556	0	\$8,556
2. Employee Fringe Benefits	\$2,703	0	\$2,703
3. Travel	\$ 646	0	\$ 646
4. Supplies and Services	\$7,529	0	\$7,529
5. Equipment	0	0	0
6. Facilities & Admin Costs	0	0	0
Total Project Costs:			\$19,434

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 **Upon completion of the project, the contractor shall submit a written report of the project outcomes per federal reporting guidelines for the SCBG program. Guidelines will be provided to the Grantee.**