

New Hampshire
Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food

Lorraine S. Merrill, Commissioner

November 24, 2015

The Honorable Neal M. Kurk, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court

and

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
and the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

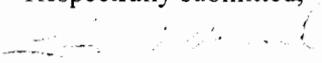
Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, retroactively authorize the Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food to amend Fiscal Committee Item #FIS 14-198, approved January 23, 2015, and Governor and Executive Council Item #33, approved February 11, 2015, by changing the end date *only* from the current end date of June 30, 2015 to a new end date of June 30, 2017 to better align with the Federal grant end date, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council approvals. No increase in funding is requested with this time extension. **100% Federal Funds.**

EXPLANATION

This request is to amend the end date only for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The request is retroactive because of an administrative oversight. The Department originally requested an end date of June 30, 2015; however, the funding for the program is available through September 29, 2017. The USDA awarded Specialty Crop Block Grants to state departments of agriculture for projects that help support specialty crop growers, including locally grown fruits and vegetables, through research, programs to increase demand, and more. The goal of the awards is to strengthen rural American communities by supporting local and regional markets and improving access to fresh, healthy, and nutritious high quality products for millions of Americans. The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, administered by AMS, is designed to enhance the markets for specialty crops like fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.

The grant award allowed the Department to fund nine specific projects. This no-cost time extension will enable the Department to enter into grant agreement with two of the remaining grantees, allowing the Department to meet all of the grant objectives.

In the event that Federal Funds are no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to continue the support of this project. It is anticipated that all of this grant funding will be fully committed and/or expended by June 30, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,


Lorraine S. Merrill
Commissioner

New Hampshire
Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food

Lorraine S. Merrill, Commissioner

October 27, 2014

The Honorable Mary Jane Wallner, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Governor Hassan and Honorable Council:

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, Division of Agricultural Development (DAMF) respectfully requests authorization to accept and expend grant funds from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in the amount of \$273,101.12 for the period of Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2015. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds to be budgeted into account as follows:

02-18-18-185010-70380000 SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT #12-SCBGP-NH-0033

OBJECT

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>
040-500800	Indirect costs	\$ 21,575.00
041-500801	Audit Fund Set aside	273.00
072-500575	Grants Federal	<u>251,253.12</u>
	Total	\$273,101.12
<u>Revenue</u>		
000-403801	Federal Funds	\$273,101.12

EXPLANATION

The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, and Division of Agricultural Development (DAMF) have been awarded a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program 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 a New Hampshire state application. USDA, AMS approved the NH State Plan and all of the included projects.

The funds from this grant will be utilized as follows:

Object Class – 040 – Indirect Cost \$21,575.00. Funds budgeted at the 8% maximum allowed by USDA AMS, for both indirect and audit costs.

Object Class – 041 – Audit Set Aside \$273.00. Funds budgeted covering the required rate.

Object Class – 072 – Grants \$251,253.12. Funds for conducting agricultural specialty crop program projects as approved by USDA, AMS.

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 cursive script, appearing to read "L. Merrill", written in black ink.

Lorraine S. Merrill
Commissioner

United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
AGREEMENT FACE SHEET

1. Accounting Code: 14142501DB62TMDC3400RTM02NH	2. Vendor I.D. (EIN): 02-6000618	3. DUNS Number: 176836583
4. Agreement Number: 14-SCBGP-NH-0033 Amendment Number:	5. Type of Instrument: Grant	6. CFDA Number: 10.170
7. Title of Agreement: New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill Activities.		
8. Objective: To solely enhance the competitiveness of New Hampshire specialty crops.		
9. Statement of Work: This agreement shall be carried out by the organizational units or officials of the Federal Agency and the Grantee in the manner and subject to the conditions provided in the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill General Awards Terms and Conditions attached hereto and made a part of this agreement.		
10. Legal Authority: Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note) of Public Law 108–465; amended under section 10010 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113-79; 7 CFR Part 1291 (published March 27, 2009; 74 FR 13313); and Section 713 of Title VII (General Provisions) of Division A of Public Law 108-7.		
11. Federal Agency (Name and Address): Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill Agricultural Marketing Service United States Department of Agriculture Washington, DC 20250	12. Grantee: New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food Concord, NH 03302	
13. Federal Agency Project Manager: John Miklozek, Acting Program Manager Telephone: (202) 720-1403 Email: John.Miklozek@ams.usda.gov	14. Grantee Project Coordinator: Gail McWilliam-Jellie, Director Telephone: (603) 271-3788 Email: gail.mcwilliam.jellie@agr.nh.gov	
15. Period of Performance: 9/30/2014 through 9/29/2017	16. Federal Agency Funding Amount: \$273,101.12	Non-Federal Matching Amount: N/A

PROVISIONS

This Grant Award incorporates the following:

- The Approved State Plan, Approved Award Budget, and any amendments thereto – incorporated by reference
- \$ 316.68 is reallocated to the State Agency and shall be expended on projects in the referenced State plan. The reallocated amount is reflected in block 16. Federal Agency Funding Amount. The State Agency shall submit to the Federal Agency a written request for prior approval if the reallocated funding results in changes that require prior approval in accordance with section 8.0 of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program-Farm Bill General Awards Terms and Conditions (4/2014).
- The State Agency will complete activities outlined in the approved State plan hereby entitled New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food Fiscal Year 2014 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill Application dated, 7/3/2014
- Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill General Award Terms and Conditions (4/2014) – incorporated by reference and can be found at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDCS106965>
- 7 CFR Part 3015, 7 CFR Part 3016, 7 CFR Part 3019, and 7 CFR 3052 – incorporated by reference
- Grant funds received under this award shall supplement the expenditure of State funds in support of specialty crops grown in that State, rather than replace State funds.
- The obligation of funds may be terminated without further cause unless the grantee commences the timely drawdown of funds; initial drawdown must be made within the first year of the grant period.

FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

This agreement, subject to the provisions above, shall constitute an obligation of funds on behalf of the Government, unless amended or terminated by mutual consent of the parties in writing, or terminated by either party upon 60 days notice in writing.

17. Federal Agency Representative Approval:  ARTHUR NEAL Deputy Administrator Agricultural Marketing Service <small>Digitally signed by ARTHUR NEAL DN: cn=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=Department of Agriculture, cn=ARTHUR NEAL, 0.9.23.42.19200300.100.1.1=12001000408958 Date: 2014.09.22 15:48:32 -0400</small>	18. Grantee Representative Approval (Please Print): Name: <i>Lorraine S. Merrill</i> Title: <i>Commissioner</i>
	19. Grantee Representative Approval Signature: 
	Date: <i>10-8-14</i>

Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB Control Number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0581-0248. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0581-0248), Washington, DC 20503.

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USDA Approved New Hampshire Specialty Crop Block Grant #12-SCBGP-NH-0033 Projects for 2014

- **Promoting SNAP/ EBT Redemption at Merrimack County Winter Farmers' Markets, Merrimack County Conservation District**
- **Organic Specialty Crop Cost of Production: Assessment & Education, NOFA-NH**
- **NH Farmer's Market Association New Hampshire Public Radio Air Time, NH Farmers Market Association**
- **Specialty Crop Safety: From Field to Market, Small and Beginning Farmers of New Hampshire**
- **Table Grape Cultivars and Training Systems for New Hampshire, UNH Cooperative Extension**
- **Establishment of fertilization practices for hydroponically produced culinary herbs, UNH Cooperative Extension**
- **Creating a Farm Food Safety Toolbox, UNH Cooperative Extension**
- **Enhancing the Competitiveness of New England Specialty Crops through Regional Collaboration, Harvest New England Association**
- **Continuation of the Buy Local Agriculture Campaign partnership with NH Division of Travel & Tourism Development, Featuring Specialty Crop Promotion, NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food**