

STATE OF NEW YORK

1678

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 17, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. L. ROSENTHAL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to requiring the establishment of a plant-based agriculture grant program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new
2 section 16-c to read as follows:

3 § 16-c. Plant-based agriculture grant program. 1. For purposes of this
4 section, the following definitions apply:

5 (a) "Expert assistance" means assistance from an agricultural scien-
6 tist, climatologist, pedologist, horticulturist, hydrologist, or agro-
7 nomist for assessment, design, planning, and best management practices
8 of a land-use transition to plant-based agriculture.

9 (b) "Feed crop" means a crop that is grown for livestock consumption.

10 (c) "Livestock" means poultry, cattle, dairy cows, sheep, swine, goat,
11 or fish.

12 (d) "Plant-based agriculture" means any farming that uses crops for
13 growing inputs for plant-based products and does not include livestock
14 farming, dairy, or any crop production for livestock feed.

15 (e) "Program" means the plant-based agriculture grant program.

16 (f) "Technical assistance" means outreach, education, expert assist-
17 ance, legal support for contractual barriers, project planning, project
18 design, grant application assistance, buyer expertise and packaging
19 assistance, project implementation, or project reporting assistance
20 provided to a farmer to improve their successful participation in the
21 program.

22 (g) "Technical assistance provider" means organizations with demon-
23 strated technical expertise in designing and implementing agricultural
24 management practices.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (h) "Small farm" means a farm with an annual gross cash farm income of
2 less than three hundred fifty thousand dollars.

3 (i) "Midsize farm" means a farm with an annual gross cash farm income
4 between three hundred fifty thousand and nine hundred ninety-nine thou-
5 sand nine hundred ninety-nine dollars.

6 2. The department shall establish a plant-based agriculture grant
7 program to assist small and medium-sized farms transition to plant-based
8 agriculture. Such program shall, at a minimum:

9 (a) Provide grants to persons farming on small to midsize farms to
10 transition the use of the land from raising livestock or growing feed
11 crops to plant-based agriculture.

12 (b) Develop best practices for transitioning land used for raising
13 livestock or growing feed crops to plant-based agriculture.

14 (c) Provide technical assistance, in consultation with technical
15 assistance providers, to persons farming on small to midsize farms.

16 3. The department shall require an applicant for a grant to submit the
17 following to the department in the application:

18 (a) a description of any crops currently produced on the farm;

19 (b) a description of the land that will be transitioned from raising
20 livestock or growing feed crops to plant-based agriculture;

21 (c) a plan that demonstrates how the applicant will transition such
22 land to plant-based agriculture using the best practices developed by
23 the department pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision two of this
24 section;

25 (d) a description of what the farm will transition to producing using
26 plant-based agriculture;

27 (e) a projected timeline for the completion of the transition; and

28 (f) any other information the department deems necessary.

29 4. Grants shall be awarded on a competitive basis through a request
30 for proposal process which shall set forth the standards for the
31 selection process, the required project proposal format, costs eligible
32 for funding, project implementation, reporting requirements, and such
33 other provisions as the department may deem necessary or beneficial in
34 implementing the program.

35 5. The department shall require a person who receives a grant to
36 provide a report, in consultation with a technical assistance provider,
37 to the department that demonstrates that the grant recipient is transi-
38 tioning to plant-based agriculture.

39 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.