

STATE OF NEW YORK

9656

IN SENATE

May 16, 2024

Introduced by Sen. BRISPORT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed 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.

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

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

LBD05753-01-3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.