

Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food  
 Budget Hearing  
 November 28, 2022 11:00 AM

The Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food is a small department that touches every household in the state.

The mission of the department is to support and promote agriculture and serve consumers and business for the benefit of the public health, environment and economy.

Over the past 5 years the department continued to work towards the needs and the increasing demands for its services with a limited budget and relied on revolving and dedicated funds to make up the difference while generating revenues equivalent to the full cost of the department.

Fiscal Year	General Fund Budget	Unrestricted Revenue	Revenue Excess/Deficit	Lapsed Funds	Back to General Fund
2018	\$ 2,704,720.00	\$ 3,195,231.00	\$ 490,511.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 740,511.00
2019	\$ 3,362,968.00	\$ 3,402,010.00	\$ 39,042.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 339,042.00
2020	\$ 3,198,768.00	\$ 3,268,060.00	\$ 69,292.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 569,292.00
2021	\$ 3,559,616.00	\$ 3,491,431.00	\$ (68,185.00)	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 131,815.00
2022	\$ 3,166,191.00	\$ 4,318,571.00	\$ 1,152,380.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 1,352,380.00

Over the last budget cycle the Department of Agriculture has acquired grant funding for several projects:

1. Through GOFERR / CARES Act – received \$7 million for support to New Hampshire farmers, including dairy farmers, specialty crop producers namely fruit, vegetable and ornamental plant growers, and maple producers, and other non-dairy farmers in order to ease the burden of substantial new COVID-19 related costs, lost sales and lost production support.
2. Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance – received approximately \$500,000 plus an additional \$60,000. As the lead partner in a collaboration between agricultural organizations and agencies to address issues regarding farmer stress, mental health and suicide. These funds are used to build awareness and destigmatizing farmer mental health, education for farmers and agricultural service providers, farmer wellness and support and developing resource libraries. Using print media, radio, social media and outreach through organizations as well as training service providers and support groups.
3. USDA - Local Food Purchase Assistance – received \$900,000 in funding to expand current efforts to purchase vegetables, fruit, and other produce, dairy and meat from local farmers and distribute it to NH Food Bank partner agencies wishing to participate, including homeless shelters, soup kitchens, food pantries, schools and after-school programs, senior centers and more.
4. GOFERR/ American Rescue Plant Act - NH Meat Processing Infrastructure and Training – received \$1 million. These funds will be used to address workforce needs in local food production. Meat processing professionals are critical team members in the supply chain that moves agricultural animal assets from the farm to the table. Also to address the severe capacity limitations facing small and midsize livestock producers and ensure they have places to process their products and remain in business. Labor shortages and limited availability of USDA certified processing facilities have

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impacted production of local meat, despite growing demand. During COVID, many small and midsize meat producers were completely locked out of the processing schedule starting in early 2020 with waiting lists now averaging 18 to 24 months or more.

5. USDA – Local Food for Schools – Received \$558,989 – these funds will be used in collaboration with NH Farm to School (NHF2S) and its farm, food hub, and school district partners to procure local commodity foods for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). NH has 130 School Districts that participate in the NSLP. Of the 130 school districts 44 school districts have over 40% of their student population who qualify for free and reduced meals, indicating a high percent of poverty in the community. NHDAMF will allot the 44 school districts with over 40% free and reduced school meal eligibility \$22.09 per free and reduced meal eligible student. This allotment will be in the form of a credit with a local food hub, small farm, or socially disadvantaged farm. These funds will help school districts who are not usually able to participate in farm to school purchases to be able to purchase local food and support small and socially disadvantaged farms.

Currently the department is working to establish the following positions:

1. SB 368-FN establishing a part time position for Department of Agriculture a Hearings Officer/Rules Administrator to Coordinate and oversee the adjudicative proceedings and rule making for the Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food. Analyze and interpret state laws, rules and regulations which impact the Department.
2. SB 267-FN-A establish a full time position for Plant Industry a Program Specialist IV/Invasive Species Program Coordinator to plan and develop control programs to prevent or inhibit the spread of upland invasive species. Work with a wide range of stakeholders and cooperators to identify infestations of upland invasive plants, determine effective control projects, train and provide outreach to municipalities and other partners to reduce impact to the state's environment and infrastructure.

New programs since the implementation of current budget

1. SB 267-FN-A Upland Invasive Species which establishes the position of upland invasive species program coordinator, upland invasive species remediation program and fund. To address invasive species infestations.
2. HB 1584-FN - Capital Improvement Program Grant Fund – New Hampshire state and agricultural Fairs. Funds to be used by the department to assist fairs.

Continuing efforts as the department moves forward:

1. Work to bring Weights and Measures Metrology Laboratory in compliance with the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program
2. Work with the IT Manager III, position established in HB-2 to develop and administer the animal records database per RSA 437:8-a.
3. Work with Information Technology to develop modern databases for the divisions

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4. Ensure that the regulations have been promulgated in compliance with requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act, and are in accordance with the Department's statutory authority and consistent with Department policy and administrative practice

Looking forward, the department will continue to improve programs, pursue opportunities to improve efficiencies, continue to improve on information technology, improve customer service and expand marketing and outreach programs.

The department has designed the FY 24 & 25 budget flat from FY 23 with minor increases. Appropriations have been distributed to reflect precise spending for measurement, statistics and accurate assessment of the needs of the department.



**Out of State Travel**

**Food Export Northeast Board Meeting – Approximate Cost \$1,525**

Reimbursed for annual meeting registration \$400.00

Not for profit - Provide the support U.S. companies need to enter international markets by offering export education, global connections, export strategies, and marketing financial assistance.

**Future Farmers of America (FFA) Convention and Expo – Approximate cost \$1,011**

The National FFA Convention & Expo is all about growing the next generation of leaders.

**NASDA Annual Meeting – Approximate Cost - \$1,564**

NASDA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit association which represents the elected and appointed commissioners, secretaries, and directors of the departments of agriculture in all fifty states and four U.S. territories. NASDA grows and enhances American agriculture through policy, partnerships and public engagement.

**Division of Weights and Measures**                      100% General Fund

**Major Changes to the Weights & Measure**

1. Increase in current expenses, maintenance other than building, equipment is needed to maintain State's metrology lab. This requires a carefully controlled environment (temperature, humidity, vibration) and contains expensive and somewhat delicate instrumentation that require proper setup, use, and maintenance.
2. Working towards the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) recognized by the National Institute of Standards and Technology for the State of New Hampshire Metrology Lab. At this time the state lab is being reviewed for accreditation in volumetrics. The lab is now currently working on Echelon III and the final goal is to get to Echelon I accredit; this process does take several years.
3. State's revenue will increase over time through the Metrology Laboratory Fees for testing and certification with each accreditation achieved.

**Organizational Dues**

**National Conference on Weights and Measures affiliate through National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) \$700.00**

The National Conference on Weights and Measures is a professional association of state and local weights and measures officials, federal agencies, manufacturers, retailers and consumers. NCWM has developed national weights and measures standards since 1905. Those standards are published in NIST Handbooks 44, 130 and 133 and are adopted by the states, territories, District of Columbia and Navajo Nation, bringing about national uniformity in commerce. NCWM also administers the National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) for weighing and measuring devices and the Professional Certification Program for weights and measure officials.

**Northeast Weights and Measures Association \$50.00 per person (\$200.00)**

Provide a regional forum for the discussion of all questions and problems related to the administration, regulation and the enforcement of Weights and Measures at all levels of government within NEWMA and that of the Federal Government and its various agencies.

Promoting uniform weights and measures laws, rules and regulations in the member jurisdictions Encouraging uniform weights and measures enforcement methods. Help in the development of better weighing and measuring devices.

**Equipment New / Replacement**

Replacement vehicle 2 first year

**In State Travel**

Increase in fuel and also vehicle repairs as fleet ages.

**Out of State Travel**

**Northeastern Weights and Measures Association Approximate cost \$1,060 x 2 times a year**

Provide a regional forum for the discussion of all questions and problems related to the administration, regulation and the enforcement of Weights and Measures at all levels of government within NEWMA and that of the Federal Government and its various agencies Cooperating with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Conference on Weights and Measures, the state and regional weights and measures associations and industry associations interested in the promotion of more uniform and more efficient weights and measures administration.

**National Conference on Weights and Measures Approximate cost \$2,755**

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**National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Approximate cost \$8,750**

1. Training - The 5-day OWM Volume Metrology Seminar is designed to enable metrologists to apply fundamental measurement concepts to volume calibrations. A large percentage of time is spent on hands-on measurements, applying procedures and equations discussed in the classroom. The seminar focuses on the comprehension and application of the procedures, the equations, calculations involved, and the operation of the laboratory equipment, review of publications, standards, specifications, and tolerances relevant to the measurements.
2. The Mass Metrology Seminar is a two-week, "hands-on" seminar. It incorporates approximately 30 percent lectures and 70 percent demonstrations and laboratory work in which the participant performs measurements by applying procedures and equations discussed in the classroom. The seminar focuses on the comprehension and application of the procedures, the equations, and calculations involved.
3. The 5-day Fundamentals of Metrology seminar is an intensive course that introduces participants to the concepts of measurement systems, units, good laboratory practices, data integrity, measurement uncertainty, measurement assurance, traceability, basic statistics and how they fit into a laboratory Quality Management System. Additional topics covered will include overall Laboratory Management

and specific discussions of the requirements for proficiency testing, calibration certificate generation and software verification and validation.

**Regional Measurement Assurance Program Approximate cost \$1,815**

Support State Weights and Measures Laboratories, dating back to the 1990s. Participants from the Southeastern Measurement Assurance Program (SEMAP), Western Regional Assurance Program (WRAP), and Northeastern Measurement Assurance Program (NEMAP) were able to gather in their regions, network, share experiences, and receive training in various metrology topics. Technical Management Concepts, Quality Management Tools, and Software Verification and Validation procedures.

**New York State Annual Training School Approximate cost \$3,590 (2 individuals)**

Training - Petroleum Quality Program, fuel pulser modifications and manipulation, Safety, package and labeling, investigations,



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<b>Division of Regulatory Services</b>	75% Federal Fund
	12% General Fund
	12% Other Fund

Fertilizer Deficiency – increase Remuneration – RSA 431:8 Plant Food Deficiency

III. All penalty payments assessed under this section shall be paid by the registrant to the commissioner within 3 months of receiving written notification from the commissioner of the penalty notice.

IV. Penalty payments received from the registrant shall be refunded to the consumer of the fertilizer which has been analyzed and found deficient, provided that the purchase is of one ton or more. Penalty payments on lots of fertilizer which have been analyzed and found deficient and whose purchaser cannot be found shall be deposited in the general fund as unrestricted revenue.

**Animal Industry**

85% General fund  
10% Agency Income  
5% Federal Fund

**Current Expense**

Increase in current expenses for Lab Services for animal health monitoring system which was a federally funded program. This program is still the responsibility of the Division of Animal Industry RSA 435; 436 with no federal funds.

**Equipment New / Replacement**

2 Vehicle replacements one each year

**In State Travel**

Increase in fuel because of the loss of grant funding for animal health monitoring system and also vehicle repairs as fleet ages.

**Out of State Travel**

**Northeast United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Approximate Cost \$2,118**

USAHA works with state and federal governments, universities, veterinarians, livestock producers, national livestock and poultry organizations, research scientists, the extension service and several foreign countries to control livestock diseases in the United States. USAHA represents all 50 states, 4 foreign countries and 34 allied groups serving health, technical and consumer markets.

**National Centers for Animal Health (NCAH) – Training - \$1,881.34 (depending on location)**

The Veterinary Biologics Program implements the provisions of the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act to ensure that the veterinary biologics available for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of animal diseases are pure, safe, potent, and effective.

**Division of Pesticide Regulation**

75% Agency Income  
15% Federal  
5% General Fund

**Equipment New / Replacement**

1 Replacement vehicle

**Organizational Dues**

**Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials \$150.00**

The Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO) is a professional association comprised of the state regulatory officials, responsible for regulating services provided by the structural pest control industry in their respective states. The Association's primary goal is to protect public health in the management of household (structural) pests performed by professional pest control companies.

**Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) \$125.00**

AAPCO is an organization of pesticide regulatory officials from states, U.S. territories, federal agencies and Canadian provinces who administer and enforce pesticide laws and regulations.

**Division of Plant Industry**

80% General Fund  
10% Federal Fund

**Organizational Dues**

**National Plant Board \$1,050**

The National Plant Board (NPB) is a non-profit organization of the plant pest regulatory agencies of each of the states, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and Guam. Member agencies must be members in good standing of the regional plant board in which their state or commonwealth is located.

**Equipment New / Replacement**

2 Vehicle replacements one each year

**Out of State Travel**

**National Plant Board Meeting - Approximate Cost - \$3,355.36 (depending on location)**

The National Plant Board (NPB) is a non-profit organization of the plant pest regulatory agencies of each of the states, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and Guam. Member agencies must be members in good standing of the regional plant board in which their state or commonwealth is located.

**Eastern Plant Board Meeting – Approximate Cost - \$3,038.98**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine Program (USDA APHIS PPQ) and the plant health agencies in each of the 50 states, regulate the shipment of nursery and greenhouse stock in an effort to minimize the spread of harmful insects, diseases, and other pests. The Federal & State Quarantine Summaries is designed as a reference tool for nursery stock growers, brokers, purchasers, and others involved in the buying, selling, and interstate transport of nursery and greenhouse plant crops.

**Western Plant Board Meeting – Approximate Cost - \$785.50**

State survey coordinators, pest survey specialists, and Customs and Border Protection, providing state updates on our latest pest topics, including but not limited to spotted lanternfly, boxwood blight, Japanese beetles, grasshopper's and much more.

**Regional Invasive Species & Climate Change – Approximate Cost - \$106**

Invasive species and climate change represent two of the five major global change threats to ecosystems. An emerging initiative of the Northeast Climate Science Center aims to develop management-relevant research to improve invasive species management in the face of climate change. Through working groups, information sharing and targeted research, this project addresses the information needs of invasive species managers in the context of climate change. RISCC Management is collaboratively led by the Department of Interior Northeast

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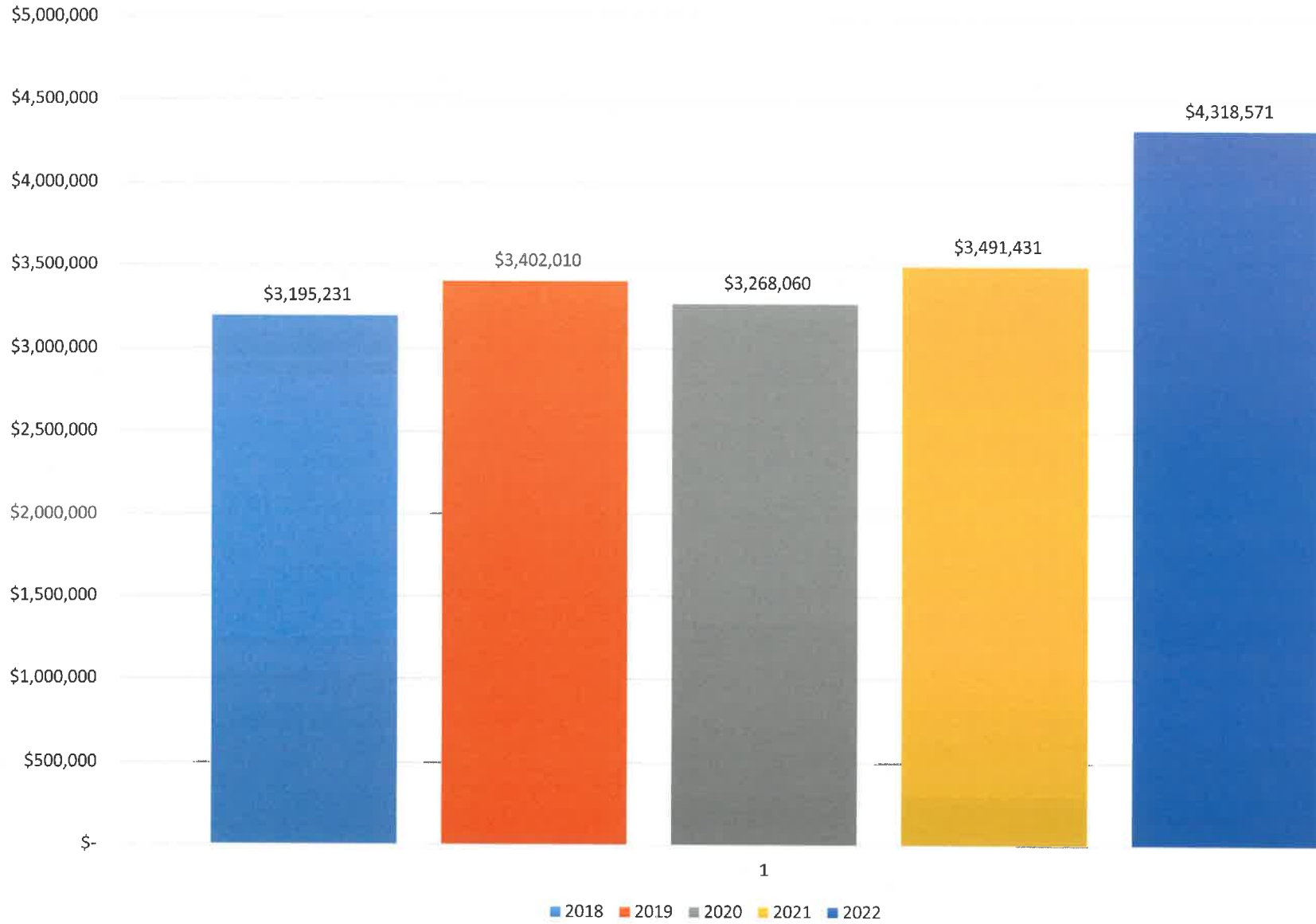
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Climate Science Center, the New York Invasive Species Research Institute, and the University of Massachusetts to address the question “How can we manage for upcoming biological invasions in the light of climate change?”



## Department of Agriculture Markets & Food Unrestricted Revenue FY 2018 - 2022



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