

The Honorable Robert W. Spear

Commissioner
Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
#28 State House Station
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Base Grant: \$500,000
Specialty Crop Grant: \$880,000
Total Grant: \$1,380,000

Competitive Grants:

Various Commodity Groups, \$820,000.
Competitive grants were focused on research, market promotion, and new technology adoption. Eighteen grants were distributed to major commodity groups (potatoes, blueberries, beef, dairy, poultry, horticulture, apples, and maple) and many other smaller organizations.

Fruit & Vegetable Price & Yield Study:

Maine Dept. of Agriculture/USDA-NASS, \$37,000.
The Department contracted with the USDA-NASS to conduct a 5 year survey of price and yield for 28 fruit and vegetable commodities that are not currently tracked. The data is critical for economic evaluations and to assist with grower eligibility for federal disaster relief programs.

Agricultural Waste Management:

Maine Department of Agriculture, \$64,000.
Composting of slaughterhouse waste was researched. Three farm operations were given grants to purchase equipment and begin to receive slaughterhouse waste and animal carcasses. The University of Maine also received funds to set up an on-going composting research project.

Market Promotion and Development:

Maine Department of Agriculture, \$202,000.
Funds were allocated for market promotion and market development activities. An innovative project placed collateral material at the Tourist Information Center in Kittery, Maine to promote Maine's agritourism, farmers' markets, and agriculture fairs.

Trade Show Participation:

Various Organizations, \$50,000.
Grants allowed Maine's specialty food businesses to attend domestic & international trade shows. The State of Maine was represented at a total of eleven industry events or shows that resulted in heightened public awareness of the variety and abundance of local foods.

Agricultural Water Use:

Maine Department of Agriculture, \$160,000.
A review of water use was completed, including establishment of a water use advisory committee, a statewide survey of agricultural water use, and support for development of a water management program. Over 60 farms were evaluated using an automated water budgeting program during the first year.

Complete List of Maine Block Grant Projects:

Commodity Group Grants:

- Maine Potato Board, \$150,000.
- Maine Wild Blueberry Association, \$110,000.
- Maine Beef Industry Council, \$37,700.
- Maine Dairy Industry Association, \$44,000.
- Maine State Pomological Society, \$50,000.
- Maine Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, \$160,000.
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, \$28,000.
- Maine Maple Producers Association, \$21,000.
- Maine Deer and Elk Farmers Association, \$15,000.
- Maine Ornamental Horticulture Association, \$43,000.
- Maine Poultry Producers Association, \$24,200.
- Agricultural Bargaining Council, \$30,000.
- Bangor/Brewer Farmers Market, \$5,400.
- Bath Farmers Market, \$5,100.
- Maine Compost School, \$64,000.
- Maine Agriculture in the Classroom, \$7,000.
- Future Farmers of America, \$3,000.
- University of Maine Cooperative Extension, \$26,400.
- Supermarket Promotion, \$8000.

Trade Show Activities:

- Boston Seafood Show, \$2000.
- NASFT/ Chicago Fancy Food Show, \$6,500.
- New England Products Trade Show, \$10,000.
- Maine Restaurant and Lodging Expo, \$465.
- Maine Deer and Elk Farmers Conference, \$2000.
- Maine Agri-Women Conference, \$500.

Continued...

**TRADE SHOW
ACTIVITIES:**

Continued...

Maine Convention and Visitors Bureau, \$5000.
Maine Potato Board/ PMA Show, \$10,000.
Maine Apple Day Event, \$5000.
Maine Humanities Council, \$3600.
Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Annual Meeting, \$500.
Food Export USA, \$5640.

Marketing Activities:

Displays, inserts, TV spots, signage, other advertising for "buy local" campaign, \$175,350.
Harvest New England Program, \$10,000.
Consumer Survey, \$6500.
Maine Children's Museum display, \$2000.
Northern New England Passenger Rail Event, \$1000.
Maine Small Business Development Center Anniversary, \$1000.
Maine Cheese Guild Strategic Planning, \$8,680.

Education and Outreach Activities:

Right to Farm Law, \$5000.
Food Safety / Portable Scanners, \$25,000.
GMO Conference, \$3324.