



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

Dear Farmers,

As Governor, I have seen firsthand just how vital of a role New Hampshire's agriculture industry plays in our state's economy, food supply, tourism industry, and the well-being of our citizens. That is exactly why we worked to ensure that following last year's brutal cold snap, late freeze, and overabundance of rain, we provide you with relief as quickly as possible. New Hampshire is wasting no time.

The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food is pleased to announce the Crop Loss Program will begin accepting applications on Friday, March 1, 2024. The \$8 Million program, developed in collaboration with staff from UNH Cooperative Extension, is designed to help New Hampshire Farmers who suffered significant crop losses as a result of extreme weather in 2023.

Surveys conducted by Cooperative Extension following the inclement weather found that fruit growers lost virtually all their peach crops due to extremely low temperatures. That loss was followed by a late freeze which destroyed a significant portion of the state's apple crop. Farms then saw additional losses throughout the growing season due to an overabundance of rain. Many of you shared that your land often looked more like a pond than growing fields.

While this program will not make whole the losses you faced, we hope that it will provide the resources needed to jumpstart the 2024 growing season. Many of you have followed potential legislation that would have provided aid. We have heard your concerns that aid is needed immediately. By repurposing APRA Funding, this program will bypass delays and provide relief to farms almost immediately.

The program will be open to any farm that suffered at least a 30% loss of any commodity, had a gross farm income of at least \$30,000 in the previous three years, and has neither closed nor is currently in bankruptcy. Awards will be made in a timely fashion to allow farms to purchase supplies ahead of the upcoming growing season.

Applications will be reviewed weekly to expedite the award of aid. All applications must be received by May 15th, at which time the total losses will be evaluated. Additional payments may be made if funding allows. In no case will any farm's payments exceed their loss, which will include a reasonable allowance for an owner-operator's labor.

The Crop Loss Program application can be completed by visiting www.agriculture.nh.gov. Individuals with questions can contact the Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food at 603-271-3551.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor
State of New Hampshire

Shawn N. Jasper
Commissioner
Department of Agriculture, Markets, & Food