

Agriculture

Listed in alphabetical order by organization

Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Maine-based Organic Nutraceuticals Development, Wiscasset, Maine -- \$1,000,000

This project would expand and accelerate the research, scientific verification, establishment of standards, and manufacturing of organically grown antioxidant-rich foods in Maine. These foods have the potential to provide medical or health benefits, including the prevention/treatment of diseases, such as diabetes, Alzheimer's, and Esophageal, colon, lung and skin cancer. This research would provide an opportunity for addressing national health issues.

Maine Dairy Initiative, \$1,000,000

Funds would go toward supporting long term stability and economic development for Maine dairy farms.

New England Invasive Plant Center, \$500,000

The New England Invasive Plant Center was initiated in 2006 through a grant from USDA-CSREES. The University of Connecticut, the University of Vermont, and the University of Maine request funds to establish a multi-state, interdisciplinary program to develop effective technologies to address problems caused by invasive plants that are economically and environmentally damaging to New England and to the nation.

Northern Maine Development Corporation, Aroostook Partnership for Progress and Empowerment Zone Governance, Caribou, Maine -- \$500,000

The USDA Rural Development Program designated a large portion of Aroostook County, Maine, as a Round III Empowerment Zone in January 2002. The empowerment zone program was created in the early 1990s by the federal government to aid distressed communities by providing opportunities for growth and revitalization. As a Round III Empowerment Zone, Aroostook County is able to secure critical funds to address Northern Maine's outmigration. Funds are used to develop and implement the region's long-term strategic plan to (1) support business success; (2) educate and train the workforce; (3) improve health and social services; and (4) balance development with environmental protection.

University of Maine, Construction of facilities for the USDA-ARS National Cold Water Marine Aquaculture Center in Orono, Maine -- \$5,000,000

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service is working to build a national finfish aquaculture research center in Franklin and Orono, Maine. Construction on the USDA facility in Franklin was completed in 2007 and ongoing work is focused on Atlantic salmon genetics. Funds would go toward design and begin construction of the Aquaculture Research facility in Orono, which will provide biosecure laboratories for disease and genetic research to develop fish species suitable for aquaculture production in U.S. waters. Currently, there is no national facility for pathogen testing.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Potato Integrated Pest Management program, Late Blight, Orono, Maine -- \$600,000

The Integrated Pest Management program produces data that helps scientists track potential pest outbreaks and provide potato growers and industry professionals with current information on

specific and timely treatments, which can be used to minimize pesticide applications and maximize potato yield and quality.

University of Maine Darling Marine Center, New England Shellfish Farm Recovery Initiative, Walpole, Maine -- \$1,500,000 requested

The University of Maine's Darling Marine Center in Walpole, Maine and the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts developed the New England Shellfish Recovery Initiative to address the decline in oyster production is due to habitat destruction, over-fishing, and disease. The program develops selectively-bred oysters with improved growth and disease resistance, which helps meet the growing demand for cultured oysters while preserving New England's coastal waters. Funds would go toward expanding hatchery space and lab infrastructure, increasing capacity for developing and holding additional selected lines of oysters, and allowing for genetic testing.

University of Maine, Sustainable Production and Processing Research for Lowbush Specialty Crops, Orono, Maine -- \$275,000

The objectives of lowbush specialty crop research include minimizing reliance on pesticide use by developing strong integrated crop management programs, determining potential health benefits of lowbush specialty crops, determining water requirements, continual improvement in processed product quality, and value-added food processing.

University of Maine, Vaccines to Prevent Aquatic Animal Diseases, Orono, Maine -- \$500,000 requested

Vaccines and other bioreactor products form a vital part of the U.S. aquaculture industry, yet the U.S. lacks a dedicated cold water vaccine and aquaculture bioreactor center. This project would establish a bioreactor facility at University of Maine to conduct unique research to improve the health and welfare of aquaculture and restocked fish, and provide an effective means for treating regional, farm specific strains of pathogens. Funding would help accelerate the growth of sustainable U.S. aquaculture, reduce the trade deficit attributable to imported seafood, and take pressure off of overfished species.

USDA-ARS New England Plant, Soil, and Water Laboratory, Orono, Maine -- \$2,400,000

The USDA-ARS New England Plant, Soil, and Water Laboratory in Orono and Presque Isle, Maine, is the only USDA-ARS laboratory located in New England. The Lab performs critical research on cropping systems, management practices, the efficient use of nutrients and water, and the control of pathogens, insects, and weeds. Specifically, the laboratory conducts experiments to address the unique challenges that face potato growers both in the region and across the Nation.

USDA grant program for Wood Utilization, \$7,000,000

The USDA Special Grant program for Wood Utilization Research (WUR) is authorized and funded by Congress to stimulate innovation and the generation of new knowledge and technologies that are necessary to balance the sustainable use of U.S. forest resources with the need to maintain a vigorous, globally competitive domestic forest products industry. The WUR program currently supports research and outreach through 13 university partners at 11 Centers distributed across the country, including the University of Maine. A 2006 Government Accountability Office report highlighted the importance of research at Universities on wood utilization, pointing out that this research addresses a national need.