

**New Hampshire**  
**Department of Agriculture,**  
**Markets, and Food**

Shawn N. Jasper, Commissioner



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS, AND FOOD

Division I Finance

February 5, 2025

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food is to support and promote agriculture and serve consumers and business for the benefit of the public health, environment and economy.

**Office of the Commissioner**

**Key Functions**

Providing leadership, and administrative and business support to all divisions.

**Major Initiatives**

Ensure the safe production of quality produce

Assure producer competitiveness in the marketplace

Establish a unified partnership with the FDA to achieve an integrated food safety system

Assist, encourage & protect integrity and tradition of agricultural fairs

Protect public interest

Provide educational and promotion to the general public

Assist municipalities in covering the cost of care in pending animal cruelty cases

Modernization of all databases for the department

**Division of Weights and Measures**

**Key Function**

Verifying and promoting accuracy and equity in the marketplace.

**Major Initiatives**

Licensing businesses, service technicians and weighmasters

Ensure device compliance and accuracy in the field

Managing the state's metrology laboratory and maintaining certification

**Division of Regulatory Services**

**Key Functions**

Assuring regulatory compliance in the marketing of certain farm products and agricultural commodities.

**Major Initiatives**

Minimize risk to environment via fertilizer product registration

Sampling and calculating products for compliance

Registration of animal feed product sold

Consumer protection

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## **Division of Animal Industry/Animal Population Control**

### **Key Functions**

Preventing and controlling contagious and infectious diseases of livestock and poultry for the benefit of public health and the economy.

### **Major Initiatives**

Prevent, control and eradication of communicable diseases of domestic animals

Emergency preparedness and response

Licensing of pet vendors, livestock dealers, poultry dealers and people feeding garbage to swine

Provide support in investigation of cruelty to animals

Subsidize spaying and neutering dogs and cats for low-income populations.

## **Division of Pesticide Regulation Programs**

### **Key Functions**

Ensuring that pesticides are being handled in the most judicious and efficacious manner such that they shall provide the greatest benefits while posing the least risks.

### **Major Initiatives**

Licensure of private and commercial applicators and pesticide dealers

Product registration

Compliance assurance through inspections, case reviews, training and examination

Processing special permits

## **Division of Plant Industry**

### **Key Functions**

Promoting and protecting plant health by curtailing the spread of dangerous insects, diseases and weeds moved in commerce

### **Major Initiatives**

Licensure of nursery and plant dealers

Inspections of commercially grown nursery/greenhouse stock

Apiary Inspections

Detection, monitoring and reduction of potentially injurious insects and diseases

## **Soil Conservation**

### **Key Functions**

Assist, advise and consult with conservation districts to formulate programs and foster coordination with other natural resource state and federal agencies, organizations and legislature.

### **Major Initiatives**

Offer assistance to districts in formulating and carrying out the programs

Facilitate cooperation among districts

Keeping districts informed of funds available through local, state and federal sources

## **Division of Agricultural Development**

### **Key Functions**

As the department's public information office, creates market development opportunities that result in increased sales for agricultural producers; informs the public of the value and diversity of the state's agricultural heritage and industry.

### **Major Initiatives**

Weekly Market Bulletin

Management of NH Pavilion of the Eastern States Exposition

Media relations

Assist with promoting and advertising agricultural commodities

Obtain and disseminate information regarding quality, quantity and location of agricultural products

Compile and publish data

### **Department Funding Sources**

13% Federal Fund

50% General Fund

37% Other (Fines/Fees; Agency Income; Inter Agency Transfers; and Donations)

### **New General Fund Appropriations:**

#### **1. NH Farm to School Pilot Program**

##### **Background:**

- Established by HB 1678 2024 Session
- General Funds Received in the amount of \$120,500 (to be appropriated for FY 25 and FY 26)
- Funds wont lapse until the end of the pilot program

HB 1678 (2024) Establishing a NH Farm to School Pilot Program

The Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food has released a request for applications (RFA) to award 10 school administrative units grants for reimbursement of 1/3 of the cost of NH produced foods used in school meal programs.

- The RFA will close February 12, 2025.
- 1 award per county
- The total appropriation is \$241,000 for the current biennium
- Awards will be prorated for the current school year
- Collaborating with NH Farm to School at UNH for technical assistance to grantees

**Agricultural Development Grant Program | Agricultural Development | NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food**

#### **2. Electronic Licensing, Certification, and Registration System**

##### **Background:**

- Established by CH 79 Laws of 2023
- General Funds Received in the amount of \$360,000
- Funds are under contract with vendor
- No funds will lapse to the general fund

Initiated during the budget process for Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 through CH 79 Laws of 2023, HB 2 by amending RSA 425 by inserting section 12

425:12-a Electronic Licensing, Certification, and Registration System. The department of agriculture markets, and food shall design, establish, and contract with a third party for the

implementation and operation of an electronic system to facilitate the handling of all departmental licensing, certification, and registration duties. Such system shall be capable of receiving electronically transmitted product registrations, license applications, certificate applications, and related materials. Authorized users shall be capable of working in offline mode when an Internet connection is not available. The commissioner shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A to govern methods of obtaining, compiling, and maintaining such information it deems necessary to manage such database. The commissioner shall also ensure that the database is secure from unauthorized access or use.

**Goal:**

- Improve business functions
- Receive electronic payments via credit cards
- Be able to deliver licenses in a speedy manner
- Streamline communication between regulators and the industry
- Efficient record keeping
- Easier for field personnel to issue reports, findings and compliance
- Standardize Forms
- Eliminating paper

On June 26, 2024 the Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food amended the original contract, upon Governor and Council approval, for the Animal Records Database by incorporating other divisions.

The current go-live schedule date:

- Weights and Measures division - April 2025
- Regulatory division – May 2025
- Plant Industry division – May 2025
- Pesticides division – July 2025

**What's Next:**

Keep the database maintained and operational with continuing support from the vender with funding requested in the FY 2026 & 2027 budget

**3. Farm Ranch Stress Assistant**

**Background:**

- Established originally by Federal Funds received in 2021
- Through the budget process General Funds were received: \$100,000 (to be appropriated for FY 24 & 25)
- \$2.38 lapsed to general fund at the end of FY 24

The NH Farmer Mental Health Support Program (Under the Farm Ranch Stress Assistance Accounting Unit) is designed to address the primary root causes of farmer stress, mental health issues, and suicide through direct services to farmers. Direct services offered through this program include counseling/therapy sessions and farm financial analysis support. These services will provide farmers with tools to navigate, mitigate, and face the myriad unique stressors for those in agriculture.

Building off of a previous federally funded grant program, DAMF received general funding for the 24/25 Biennium to continue to address the demonstrated need in our farming community.

**Current status:** Working through second contract with the vendors. Goal is to encumber all remaining funds in the account so that it can be carried forward into next biennium. It is not a revolving fund. Current available funding and the modest request for next biennium will be sufficient to carry on the program at full capacity.

Have provided 59 counseling sessions and supported farm financial analysis service for 6 farms under previous contract period.

#### 4. **Animal Records Database**

**Background:**

- Established by CH 91 Laws of 2021 / RSA 437:8-a
- General Funds Received in the amount of \$250,000 appropriated for maintenance
- Original funding was through transfer from Product Scale and Testing Fund
- This is a Nonlapsing fund
- No funds lapse to the general fund

The need for Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (DAMF) to create an electronic Animal Records Database system was initiated by the passage of RSA 437:8-a:

437:8-a Animal Records Database Established.

- I. The department of agriculture, markets, and food shall design, establish, and contract with a third party for the implementation and operation of an electronic system to facilitate the handling of animal records.
- II. The department shall maintain a reporting system capable of receiving electronically transmitted records from veterinarians. The commissioner shall adopt rules under RSA 541 - A to govern methods of obtaining, compiling, and maintaining such information he or she deems necessary to manage such database including procedures for providing authorized access. The commissioner shall also ensure that the database is secure from unauthorized access or use.

DAMF was using a combination of hard copy files, several legacy Microsoft Access databases for licensing, inspection, data capture, and several separate Microsoft Excel files for data capture and reporting that cannot be provided with the Microsoft Access databases. The systems at the time were inefficient and unable to keep up with the needs and demands of DAMF and the regulated industry, which resulted in programmatic inefficiencies, absent and duplicate data entry and other consequential errors.

The goal was to implement a new electronic user-friendly Animal Records system to facilitate the handling of animal records (dogs, cats, and ferrets). The proposed solution would provide a web-based solution for a Pet Transfer Process, Pet Vendor License Process and Pet Vendor Complaint Process. In addition, the proposed solution would provide the ability to accept electronic payments, including credit cards.

**Current Status:** DAMF entered into contract upon Governor and Council approval on September 20, 2023, and on October 9, 2024 the DAMF certified the database was operational Pursuant to Chapter 91 of the 2021 Session section 91:307.

**What is next:**

Keep the database maintained and operational with continuing support from the vender with funding requested in the FY 2026 & 2027 budget

## 5. Upland Invasive Species Program

### Background:

- Established by SB267-FN-A 2022 Session
- General Funds Received: \$150,000
- This is a Nonlapsing fund
- No funds lapse to general fund

The Upland Invasive Species Program was the next step in the development of the Invasive Species Statutes (RSA 430:51-58). When the Invasive Species program was first established in 2000, it was established to recognize the adverse environmental and economic effects of invasive species; to establish the means by which the state addresses and minimizes the adverse effects; promotes research and educational activities to achieve the best possible protection of agricultural, forest, wildlife, and other natural resources of the state and of human health; and prevent and control the spread of invasive species in the state. (Associated administrative rules are Agr 3800).

Invasive species activities were not supported by an invasive species budget, nor was there a staff person designated to coordinate invasive species activities in the state.

In 2022, the legislature established the Upland Invasive Species Program and Fund to support the purpose of the Invasive Species statutes. This program establishes an upland invasive species program coordinator, focused on management of upland (non-aquatic) invasive plants. The role of the coordinator is to, in brief, coordinate invasive plant programs within New Hampshire. This includes mapping invasive plant populations, communication, and coordination with municipalities, maintaining a program of management, to prevent and inhibit the spread of invasive species, distribute invasive species information with stakeholders and partners around the state, increase awareness of invasive species, and to work with agencies to develop programs and policies addressing the proliferation and spread of invasive species on agency-owned land. This authorizing legislation also created an Upland Invasive Species Remediation Fund which provides partial reimbursement to municipalities for the costs of herbicides used to control invasive species.

The Upland Invasive Species Coordinator has several active management projects controlling invasive species with various municipalities and Conservation Districts. A full report on activities from 2023 is available on-line as part of the annual Div. Plant Industry report (pages 5-21) <https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/annual-pi-report.pdf>. The 2024 calendar year report is in development.

### Mission Statement:

Address and minimize the adverse environmental and economic effects of terrestrial invasive plant species, promote research and educational activities associated with invasive plants and prevents and controls the spread of invasive plants. Ensures prohibited invasive plants are not offered for sale or distribution within the state. Oversee the upland invasive species remediation fund and coordinate invasive species management with municipalities.

### Goals and Performance Measures:

Goals are to:

- 1) Work throughout the state with a range of municipalities, agencies, and conservation districts on their invasive plant programs.

- 2) Provide educational resources and programs about invasive species throughout the state.
- 3) Continue mapping invasive plants in New Hampshire.
- 4) Promote the use of the Upland Invasive Species Remediation Fund.

Performance measures include:

- 1) Diversity of programs within the state to manage upland invasive species.

**Major Accomplishments:**

In 2023, 8 pesticide special permits were issued for specific management projects:

- DOT-Railroad Corridor (Lincoln to Laconia)
- Perennial pepperweed management in Seabrook, Hampton, Rye, and New Castle
- NH Fish & Game Project for the Deer Hill Wildlife management area
- NH Fish & Game Project for the Winnesquam boat Launch
- Town of Canterbury Riverlands Property
- Town of Lee – Japanese knotweed management
- Town of Plymouth – Bell Road – Japanese knotweed control

There were also several projects where special permits were not required:

- On DOT sand pits and regional district properties for management of Japanese knotweed and other invasive plants
- On Fish & Game Properties – Adams Point Wildlife management area, Goat Island, Cromett Creek in Durham
- On DNCR – Parks Division properties – Odiorne State Park, Fort Stark
- EPA Superfund site – Beede Property in Atkinson
- Army Corps of Engineers site in Henniker
- City of Concord on I-93 Vista View and the Blossom Hill Cemetery
- City of Nashua – invasive plant management on the Riverwalk project
- Town of Durham – Wagon Hill Farm Conservation Lands, Mill Pond Dam Removal Project
- Town of Lee - Five Corners Conservation Property and garlic mustard control at various conservation properties
- Town of Meredith – Page Pond Community Forest
- Normandeau environmental consulting cooperation on the Nashua River and the Durham Dam removal project

Ongoing early detection, rapid response projects:

- Mile-a-minute vine management in Seabrook
- Perennial pepperweed in Seabrook, Hampton, Rye, and New Castle
- Jimsonweed at Rye, New Castle

Survey and mapping:

- 1,123 new records in invasive species distribution in NH filed in 2023

Presentations/Education/Outreach:

- 21 presentations about invasive species provided in 2023 to a variety of groups
- Development of invasive species content added to NH DOT Quarterly Pesticide Training Programs
- Presentations as part of UNH's Pesticide Safety Education Program
- Revisions to the invasive plants section of *Good Forestry in the Granite State*

**What's next for the program?:**

- Response to new detections of mile-a-minute vine detected in Sunapee and Lyme
- Continued monitoring of invasive species control areas and implementation of new management programs
- Continued outreach about herbicide cost share reimbursement through the Upland Invasive Species Remediation Fund
- Maintain the program and operations with funding requested in the FY 2026 & 2027 budget

**6. Capital Improvement Program Grant Program for State Fairs & Agricultural Fairs**  
**Background:**

- Established by HB 1584 2022 Session
- General Funds Received: \$250,000
- This is a Nonlapsing fund
- NO funds lapse to the general fund

**State Agricultural Fairs Grant: Established under RSA 425:19-b** to support capital projects that make health and safety improvements to agricultural fairgrounds or fair facilities in order to benefit participants and the fair-going public. The rules of such competition shall be established by the department in accordance with RSA 541-A.

**7. Cost of Care Fund**

**Background:**

- Established by CH 346 Laws of 2019
- General Funds Received: \$100,000
- This is a Nonlapsing fund
- No funds lapse to the general fund

**Cost of Care Fund: Established under RSA 437-B:1** The cost of care fund is established to assist municipalities in covering the costs of care incurred from caring for animals pending the resolution of any action brought for animal cruelty under RSA 644:8 or RSA 644:8-a.

**New Positions Established:**

Organization	Yrs	Position Name	Status	Funding Source	Salaries	Benefit	Total
FOOD SAFETY MODERN ACT-FSMA	2025	ADMIN ASSTS-4	FILLED	FEDERAL	\$45,611	\$30,778	\$76,389
	2026				\$47,463	\$32,753	\$80,216
	2027				\$49,530	\$34,906	\$84,436
DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY	2025	BIOL SCIENTISTS-4	FILLED	GENERAL	\$86,814	\$51,668	\$138,482
	2026				\$86,814	\$58,125	\$144,939
	2027				\$86,814	\$61,052	\$147,866
HEARINGS OFFICER FUND	2025	ADMIN LAW JUDGES-PT	FILLED	REVOLVING FUNDS	\$44,693	\$3,513	\$48,206
	2026				\$44,693	\$3,513	\$48,206
	2027				\$44,693	\$3,513	\$48,206
DIV ANIMAL INDUSTRY	2025	DATA ENTRY WKRS-1	FILLED	GENERAL	\$33,521	\$16,561	\$50,082
	2026				\$34,730	\$19,672	\$54,402
	2027				\$35,997	\$20,866	\$56,863
SOIL CONSERVATION	2025	COMPLIANCE OFFICERS-	FILLED	AGENCY INCOME	\$72,579	\$35,160	\$107,739
	2026				\$75,758	\$40,288	\$116,045
	2027				\$79,365	\$42,848	\$122,213
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER	2025	ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER	FILLED	GENERAL FUND	\$94,955	\$34,892	\$129,847
	2026				\$100,819	\$35,160	\$135,979
	2027				\$106,654	\$37,134	\$143,788

**General Funds and ARPA Funds:**

- a. Specify any General Funds that were used to replace previously received ARPA funds.

\*No general funds are being used to replace previously received ARPA funds.

