



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patrick M. Gallivan

# Senator Gallivan Encourages New Farmers to Apply for State Grants

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Senator Patrick M. Gallivan (R-C-I, Elma) announces that Empire State Development (ESD) and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets are making \$1 million in funding available to early-stage farmers through the New York State New Farmers Grant Fund. The program, now in its fifth year, promotes growth and development in the state's agriculture industry. To date, \$3.27 million has been awarded to nearly 90 farms throughout New York State to expand their operations and improve their profitability.

“I am proud to support this program, which is crucial in helping the next generation of farmers launch their business and a successful career,” Senator Gallivan said. “It also supports the future of New York’s agriculture industry, which boosts our economy and ensures a plentiful supply of farm-fresh food for families across the state.”

The \$1 million New Farmers Grant Fund will provide grants of up to \$50,000 to assist with up to 50 percent of eligible project costs. To qualify, all farm business owners must be within the first ten years of having an ownership interest in any farm business, and the farm must have a minimum of \$10,000 in income from sales of products grown or raised on the farm. Eligible project costs include the purchase of machinery, equipment, supplies, and the construction or improvement of agricultural structures.

Applications and guidelines for the New Farmers Grant Fund are available at [www.esd.ny.gov/new-farmers-grant-fund-program](http://www.esd.ny.gov/new-farmers-grant-fund-program). The deadline for submission is January 25, 2019.

New York State is home to 36,000 farms, which produce of more than 30 commodities, including apples, grapes, snap beans, maple products and dairy.