



ANALYSIS OF THE NEW JERSEY BUDGET

**DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

FISCAL YEAR

2015-2016

NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE

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This report was prepared by the Environment, Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources Section of the Office of Legislative Services under the direction of the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer. The primary author was Joseph A. Hroncich.

Questions or comments may be directed to the OLS Environment, Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources Section (609-847-3855) or the Legislative Budget and Finance Office (609-847-3105).

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Budget Pages..... C-3; C-9; C-16; D-13 to D-21

Fiscal Summary (\$000)

	Expended FY 2014	Adjusted Appropriation FY 2015	Recommended FY 2016	Percent Change 2015-16
State Budgeted	\$22,966	\$19,749	\$19,742	0.0%
Federal Funds	\$398,117	\$468,655	\$512,907	9.4%
<u>Other</u>	<u>\$7,172</u>	<u>\$9,830</u>	<u>\$9,891</u>	<u>0.6%</u>
Grand Total	\$428,255	\$498,234	\$542,540	8.9%

Personnel Summary - Positions By Funding Source

	Actual FY 2014	Revised FY 2015	Funded FY 2016	Percent Change 2015-16
State	83	84	85	1.2%
Federal	56	56	58	3.6%
<u>Other</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>7.0%</u>
Total Positions	201	197	204	3.6%

FY 2014 (as of December) and revised FY 2015 (as of January) personnel data reflect actual payroll counts. FY 2016 data reflect the number of positions funded.

Link to Website: <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/finance.asp>

Highlights

- The Fiscal Year 2016 Budget for the Department of Agriculture totals \$19.7 million in State funds, the same level as the Fiscal Year 2015 adjusted appropriation.
- The department anticipates \$504.4 million in federal funding in FY 2016 for various food and nutrition programs primarily targeting children's nutritional needs, including the School Lunch and School Breakfast programs. According to State participation statistics provided by the department for the 2014-2015 school year, the department projects 2,663 School Lunch programs serving a total of 118.4 million lunches, and 1,996 School Breakfast programs serving a total of 50.2 million breakfasts. For the 2015-2016 school year, the department does not expect any significant changes in the meals served under the two programs.
- The budget supports an increase in the total number of personnel of seven positions from 197 in FY 2015 to 204 in FY 2016. One of these positions will be State-funded, two will be federally-funded, and four will be funded by dedicated fees.
- State aid to support the School Lunch program is continued in the amount of \$5,613,000.
- Funding for the Hunger Initiative/Food Assistance program is continued at \$6,818,000. The program provides quarterly funding to the State's six Emergency Feeding Organizations to distribute food through local food pantries, homeless shelters, and soup kitchens.
- Pursuant to Department of Environmental Protection budget language (pg. D-118), the department will receive about \$16.9 million (36.5 percent) of the FY 2016 capital construction appropriation of \$46.2 million for Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation (pg. D-116). The department's allocation is about 21 percent of the amount dedicated by the State Constitution, as amended by voter approval in November 2014, for preservation of lands for recreation and conservation purposes, agricultural and horticultural use and production, and historic preservation, which together are to receive 71 percent (\$80.1 million) of the total amount of corporation business tax revenue constitutionally dedicated for certain environmental-related purposes. The department is authorized to use its allocation for a program established by the Secretary of Agriculture to provide funding, including loans and grants, for the preservation and stewardship of land for agricultural and horticultural use and production.

Fiscal and Personnel Summary

AGENCY FUNDING BY SOURCE OF FUNDS (\$000)

	Expended FY 2014	Adj. Approp. FY 2015	Recom. FY 2016	Percent Change	
				2014-16	2015-16
General Fund					
Direct State Services	\$10,369	\$7,308	\$7,308	(29.5%)	0.0%
Grants-In-Aid	6,982	6,818	6,818	(2.4%)	0.0%
State Aid	5,615	5,623	5,616	0.0%	(0.1%)
Capital Construction	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Debt Service	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Sub-Total	\$22,966	\$19,749	\$19,742	(14.0%)	0.0%
Property Tax Relief Fund					
Direct State Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Grants-In-Aid	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
State Aid	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Sub-Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Casino Revenue Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Casino Control Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
State Total	\$22,966	\$19,749	\$19,742	(14.0%)	0.0%
Federal Funds	\$398,117	\$468,655	\$512,907	28.8%	9.4%
Other Funds	\$7,172	\$9,830	\$9,891	37.9%	0.6%
Grand Total	\$428,255	\$498,234	\$542,540	26.7%	8.9%

PERSONNEL SUMMARY - POSITIONS BY FUNDING SOURCE

	Actual FY 2014	Revised FY 2015	Funded FY 2016	Percent Change	
				2014-16	2015-16
State	83	84	85	2.4%	1.2%
Federal	56	56	58	3.6%	3.6%
All Other	62	57	61	(1.6%)	7.0%
Total Positions	201	197	204	1.5%	3.6%

FY 2014 (as of December) and revised FY 2015 (as of January) personnel data reflect actual payroll counts. FY 2016 data reflect the number of positions funded.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DATA

Total Minority Percent	24.9%	25.4%	---	---	---
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Significant Changes/New Programs (\$000)

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Adj. Approp. FY 2015</u>	<u>Recomm. FY 2016</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>Budget Page</u>
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FEDERAL FUNDS

Animal Disease Control	\$634	\$814	\$180	28.4%	D-19
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This appropriation includes U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding for a variety of programs to test for and control diseases in animals. The increase reflects additional federal funds that will be used to combat diseases such as Avian Influenza and those affecting swine. Increases are also expected in funding that supports the department's involvement in national information and laboratory networks.

Food and Nutrition Services	\$460,304	\$504,350	\$44,046	9.6%	D-19
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Federal funding for food and nutrition services includes grants from the USDA to support the School Breakfast, School Lunch, Child Care Food, Summer Food Service, and other food and nutrition assistance programs. The increases in these programs are based upon projected growth in the number of students and children that are expected to participate in the programs. Most of the growth in funding is projected to occur in the School Lunch program (+\$25 million), the School Breakfast program (+\$8 million), and the Child Care Food program (+\$9 million).

Marketing and Development Services	\$2,121	\$2,168	\$47	2.2%	D-19
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This account reflects an increase in federal funds that support the USDA Organic Certification Cost-Share program. This program provides cost-share assistance to organic producers and/or organic handlers in the State through a 75 percent reimbursement of an operation's certification costs, up to a maximum of \$750 per year.

ALL OTHER FUNDS

Animal Disease Control	\$419	\$430	\$11	2.6%	D-19
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The increase to this account is based upon additional revenue generated by fees from the greater utilization of the department's animal health diagnostic laboratory in West Trenton.

Significant Changes/New Programs (\$000) (Cont'd)

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Adj. Approp. FY 2015</u>	<u>Recomm. FY 2016</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>Budget Page</u>
Agriculture and Natural Resources	\$419	\$449	\$30	7.2%	D-19

This increase is related to anticipated fees from stormwater permits due to a recent policy clarification of the single-family home exemption under the soil erosion and sediment control regulations, and increased fees from stormwater permits to be issued in FY 2016 from the demolition and reconstruction of properties affected by Superstorm Sandy.

Significant Language Changes

No significant changes are recommended.

EXPLANATION: FY 2015 language not recommended for FY 2016 denoted by strikethrough.
Recommended FY 2016 language that did not appear in FY 2015 denoted by underlining.

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Individuals wishing information and committee schedules on the FY 2016 budget are encouraged to contact:

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