



News Release

Contact:
press@oc.usda.gov

Biden-Harris Administration Partners with Agricultural Producers to Strengthen Markets and Create Jobs for Producers in 19 States

Investments are Part of President Biden's Investing in America Agenda

Manchester, NH, June 15, 2023 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that USDA is making investments that will create new and better markets for agricultural producers and food businesses in 19 states across rural America, including North Country Growers in Berlin, NH.

“The Biden Harris Administration and USDA are standing up for America’s farmers and ranchers by expanding processing capacity, creating fairer markets, more revenue streams and market opportunities which help bring down food costs for families at the grocery store,” Vilsack said. “We are partnering with entrepreneurs in rural areas to build brighter futures, connect business owners to new markets and create good jobs for generations to come. These investments reflect the goals of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda to rebuild our economy from the bottom up and middle out and make our communities more resilient.”

“We are excited to share in the progress of North Country Growers in Berlin,” said Sarah Waring, State Director for USDA Rural Development in New Hampshire. “New and established USDA programs in agricultural production and processing have expanded market opportunities for farmers both large and small, and create new opportunities for more workers in our small towns. This \$19.9 million loan guarantee will bring around 80 new jobs to the region, and the agency is proud to support this kind of economic opportunity in northern New Hampshire.”

USDA is making investments worth \$320 million to strengthen food supply chains and create more opportunity for producers and entrepreneurs in 19 states: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Iowa, Idaho, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia. For example:

- In the Northeast, North Country Growers will be able to grow salad greens year-round in a hydroponic, 20-acre greenhouse facility.
- In the Midwest, family-owned businesses, like a meat market and a bison processing facility, will expand their production capabilities, maintain the highest quality control possible and save jobs.
- In the South, food supply chain businesses, like a berry processor, will cut costs and purchase equipment to expand production capacity for their businesses.

- And in the West, a plant-based yogurt manufacturer and a cold storage facility will support resilience in the supply chain and expand sustainable options for consumers.

Background

USDA and the Biden-Harris Administration are making these investments through four programs designed to create economic opportunities for people and businesses in rural areas. These programs are the [Food Supply Chain Loan program](#), [Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program](#), [Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program](#) and the [Rural and Economic Development Loan and Grant Program](#).

The Food Supply Chain Guarantee Loan program supports new investments in infrastructure for food aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesaling, and distribution to increase capacity and create a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain. This program is authorized under Section 1001 of the [American Rescue Plan Act](#).

The Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program (MPILP) provides grant funding to intermediary lenders who finance – or plan to finance – the start-up, expansion, or operation of slaughter, or other processing of meat and poultry. The objective of MPILP is to strengthen the financing capacity of independent meat processors and create a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain. This program was authorized by Section 751 of Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

The Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program helps improve rural economic health by increasing access to business capital, allowing commercial lenders, like banks and credit unions, to offer affordable financing to eligible rural businesses. This program was authorized by the [Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act](#).

The Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program provides funding for rural projects through local utility organizations. USDA provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, lend to local businesses for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. This program is authorized by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA Rural Development provides loans, loan guarantees and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit the [GovDelivery subscriber page](#).

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