

AGRICULTURE
65-00-00

Project Summary Chart

Project Name	STATE CAPITAL FUNDS					
	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019 Request	FY 2019 Recommended	FY 2020 Request	FY 2021 Request
1. Aglands Preservation Program*			\$7,000,000			
2. Young Farmers Loan Program*			3,000,000			
3. Incinerator			200,000	\$200,000		
4. Combustion Instrument			95,000			
5. Germinator			15,000			
TOTAL			\$10,310,000	\$200,000		

*Alternative project funding is recommended from the Realty Transfer Tax.

1. Aglands Preservation Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Funding is requested for the Agricultural Lands Preservation Program. Including Fiscal Year 2017 funding, the foundation has permanently protected more than 121,000 acres at a cost of more than \$214 million using a combination of state, federal and county funds. Additionally, landowners over the life of the program have donated \$290 million to the foundation - representing a discount of 57 percent of the value of their easements. Landowner interest continues - in the most recent round of easement selections (Round 21), 202 properties were appraised, 70 owners submitted offers and 34 were selected. This request provides sufficient funding to match any federal and county contributions, purchase easements on properties that do not qualify for federal funds, and operate the program.

CAPITAL REQUEST FUNDING

	STATE	FEDERAL	OTHER*
FY 2017	\$0	\$0	\$1,900,000
FY 2018	0	0	2,500,000
FY 2019	0	0	7,000,000
FY 2020	0	0	7,000,000
FY 2021	0	0	7,000,000
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	ONGOING

*The source of Other funds is Realty Transfer Tax.

2. Young Farmers Loan Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A portion of the Aglands Preservation funding is requested to continue the Young Farmers Loan Program. The funding will help young men and women establish agricultural operations by providing zero-interest loans to assist with the purchase of farmland. Specifically, the program will provide up to 70 percent of the value of the development rights and in return, the State receives a permanent conservation easement on the farm under the parameters and management of the Agricultural Lands Preservation Program. The young farmer repays the loan at no interest over a 30-year term, which helps to replenish the fund. The recipient must actively farm the property for the life of the loan. If the recipient withdraws from the program or sells the property, then he or she must repay the balance of the loan in full, but the conservation easement is perpetual regardless of property ownership. To date, the Young Farmers Loan Program has provided 32 loans totaling \$7.3 million and helped these recipients purchase farms totaling 2,500 acres.

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CAPITAL REQUEST

FUNDING

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>	<u>OTHER*</u>
FY 2017	\$0	\$0	\$600,000
FY 2018	0	0	500,000
FY 2019	0	0	3,000,000
FY 2020	0	0	3,000,000
FY 2021	0	0	3,000,000
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	ONGOING

*The source of Other funds is Realty Transfer Tax.

3. Incinerator

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Funding is requested to purchase a new incinerator for the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) Necropsy Laboratory. The incinerator is used by the DDA Poultry and Animal Health Section (State Veterinarian's Office) to dispose of animal carcasses, including those confirmed or suspected of having contagious diseases (such as poultry possibly having highly pathogenic avian influenza). Additionally, state and local law enforcement agencies regularly use the incinerator to dispose of confiscated drugs and evidence. The current incinerator was purchased in 1991 and is nearing the end of its life.

CAPITAL REQUEST

FUNDING

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
FY 2019	\$200,000	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$200,000	\$0	\$0

4. Combustion Instrument

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Funding is requested to replace the combustion instrument in the Agriculture Compliance Laboratory. This instrument is used for nitrogen, carbon and crude protein analysis on commercial feed, pet food, fertilizer, manure and soil samples; it analyzes nearly all of the samples received by the lab (91 percent). Its test results are used by farmers, consultants and the DDA Nutrient Management Program. The current instrument, purchased in 2002, is nearing the end of its service life. A new combustion instrument will increase testing efficiency, reduce costs and allow DDA to continue to provide

important nutrient information for fertilizers, commercial and pet feed, and manure.

CAPITAL REQUEST

FUNDING

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
FY 2019	\$95,000	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$95,000	\$0	\$0

5. Germinator

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Funding is requested to replace a germinator in the Plant Industries Seed Laboratory. The Seed Lab uses two germinators to test seed germination for farmers and to ensure seeds sold within Delaware comply with Delaware's Seed Law. Two germinators are required to accommodate the different temperature regimes required during testing and the capacity needed for the volume of samples. One germinator was purchased in 2014; this request is to replace the second germinator that was purchased in 1988 and is beyond its service life. Replacing the antiquated germinator will improve the Seed Lab's efficiency and ensure that DDA can continue to provide seed germination results to farmers and other consumers.

CAPITAL REQUEST

FUNDING

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
FY 2019	\$15,000	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$15,000	\$0	\$0