



Project Summary Chart

State Capital Funds

	FY 2023	FY 2024 Request	FY 2024 Recommended	FY 2025 Request	FY 2026 Request
1. Agricultural Lands Preservation Program*	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000
2. Cover Crop Investment	\$ 5,190,000	\$ 5,190,000	\$ 5,190,000	\$ 5,190,000	\$ 5,190,000
3. Minor Capital Improvement**	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
4. Critical Equipment for Operations	-	\$ 250,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Total	\$ 15,690,000	\$ 15,940,000	\$ 15,840,000	\$ 15,940,000	\$ 15,940,000

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

** Funds authorized to the Office of Management and Budget.

1. Agricultural Lands Preservation Program

Funding is requested for the Agricultural Lands Preservation Program. The foundation has permanently protected 148,000 acres at a cost of more than \$265.0 million using a combination of state, federal and county funds. Additionally, landowners over the life of the program have donated \$360.0 million to the foundation - representing a discount of 58 percent of the value of their easements. Landowner interest continues - in the most recent round of easement selections (Round 26), 185 properties were appraised, 54 owners submitted bids and 54 were selected utilizing \$10.9 million. Additionally, two Young Farmer Loans were approved totaling \$700,000. 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.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other*
FY 2023	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000
FY 2024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000
FY 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000
FY 2026	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000
Total	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	ONGOING

*The source of Other funds is Realty Transfer Tax.

2. Cover Crop Investment

Funding is requested to continue the state's cover crop program to improve water quality and soil health. These funds help to offset the costs for farmers to plant cover crops (these crops are not harvested and thus do not provide any income for the farmer). Research shows that cover crops are the best tool in Delaware - environmentally and economically - to reduce agricultural nutrient runoff and help improve water quality. Furthermore, cover crops help

Agriculture



to mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon, improving soil health, improving resiliency of fields to pests, and reducing the amounts of fertilizers and pesticides required. Additional funding will help Delaware reach its nutrient reduction goals for the Chesapeake Bay as well as for the Inland Bays and Delaware River and Bay. These additional state funds could also be used as match to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 319 grant funds, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Cost Share Regional Conservation Partnership Program awards, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grants and other conservation grants for new alternative uses for manure, innovative renewable energy projects, infrastructure for drainage projects and irrigation to improve climate change resiliency, and even new sources of farmland preservation funds.

Funding Schedule

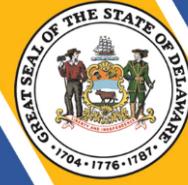
	State	Federal	Other
FY 2023	\$ 5,190,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2024	\$ 5,190,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2025	\$ 5,190,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 5,190,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	ONGOING	\$ -	\$ -

3. Minor Capital Improvement (MCI)

Funding is requested to maintain state facilities in good condition and provide regular replacement of building equipment. Department of Agriculture's facilities provide infrastructure needed to support the department's mission, and is essential in performing agricultural and consumer protection operations, environmental protection and conservation, protecting access to healthy, local food, and ensuring the value and continued viability of our agricultural economy. This funding will be managed by the Division of Facilities Management.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2023	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2024	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2025	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	ONGOING	\$ -	\$ -



4. Critical Equipment for Operations

Funding is requested for the acquisition, replacement, and repair of critical equipment essential in performing agricultural and consumer protection operations, resource protection and conservation, and to protect the value and continued viability of our agricultural economy. Critical equipment protects the agriculture industry and consumers from threats to livestock and crop health, guards against fraudulent sales practices, ensures availability of high-quality, local food, and protects the environment from pesticide and nutrient contamination. It also provides public services and infrastructure support for 20,000 acres of public land through Delaware State Forests and supports analytical chemistry and biological laboratory services.

Funding Schedule

	State	Federal	Other
FY 2024	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2025	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2026	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	ONGOING	\$ -	\$ -