



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANCA Launches Local Farm Grant Program to Strengthen North Country Farms

\$100K will go directly to food producers to help cover capital expenses

SARANAC LAKE, NY – Recognizing the challenges farmers in northern New York face in securing capital for critical expenses, the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) has launched a new grant program to fund projects that will strengthen local farms and food businesses.

Farmers, food entrepreneurs, food hubs and cooperatives within ANCA's 14-county service area are invited to submit Local Farm Grant requests of \$2,500 to \$45,000 for projects that address gaps in the food chain supply chain, increase opportunity for value-added processing or secure business development services.

"Farming is a financially challenging occupation, especially in northern regions like ours," said ANCA's Josh Bakelaar. "Investments in our farms and local food system can make the difference between these businesses just barely surviving and thriving."

"We find that farmers are often unable to find adequate or appropriate financing to fund projects that are critical for their business growth," Bakelaar said. "ANCA wants to help bridge these gaps to strengthen farm enterprises and ultimately the local economies that these farms and food businesses support."

The Local Farm Grant is being funded in full by anonymous donors who participated in ANCA's fourth annual Bike the Barns event on September 29, 2019. Inspired by the farms along the route, they committed \$100,000 to go directly to local farms through these grants and challenged ANCA's community and match that amount to support the nonprofit's mission.

"We're tremendously grateful for this generous gift and the passion these donors have for our region's farms," said ANCA Executive Director Kate Fish. "This 'Local Farm Challenge' will not only help local farms thrive but will provide critical support for ANCA's ongoing work in clean energy, local food and the entrepreneurial economy."

Proposals will be accepted until November 30, 2019.

More information about the Local Farm Grant program and how to apply can be found on ANCA's website at www.adirondack.org/localfarmgrant. To contribute to the Local Farm Challenge, go to bit.ly/localfarmchallenge2019.

[ANCA](#) is an independent nonprofit organization growing the New Economy in northern New York. Using an integrated approach to sustainable economic development and prosperity where economic health, community vitality and ecological stewardship are equally important outcomes, ANCA focuses on creating opportunity for people with diverse backgrounds, experience and education levels.

Attached:

One (1) PDF document

One (1) photo, courtesy of ANCA: Aaron Caiazza of Kate Mountain Farm gives Bike the Barns riders a tour of his Vermontville farm during the annual farm-by-bike event on September 29, 2019.

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