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Hochul Announces $23 Million for New York Farmers Hit by Trump-Era Tariffs

The state said growers of apples, dairy and wine grapes will receive payments tied to documented export losses

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On Monday, November 23, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced a new state program that will provide up to $23 million in direct relief to New York farmers that the state says were badly hurt by tariffs imposed during the Trump administration.

The aid is intended to offset damage to farm exports and farm income and to help stabilize the agricultural economy while the federal government reviews trade policy, according to the governor’s office. The state said the money will go to producers whose crops and businesses were among the most affected by tariff-related market disruptions.

Under the plan, payments will be distributed based on crop losses and economic impact documented by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. The announcement said eligible producers include growers of commodities that were hit particularly hard, including apples, dairy and wine grapes.

Hochul said the state was stepping in because farmers were caught in a trade fight they did not create. “New York’s farmers have been on the front lines of a trade war they did not start,” she said in the announcement. “This financial assistance will help ease the burden and ensure our farmers can continue to contribute to our state’s economy and food supply.”

The governor’s office described the program as a direct response to the effect tariffs had on export markets and on the livelihoods of farmers across New York. It said the initiative is meant not only to support individual producers but also to protect the broader farm economy at a time when many operations are still dealing with lost sales channels and unstable demand.

The inclusion of wine grapes places part of New York’s beverage supply chain inside the relief effort. That matters beyond farming because trade barriers can also weigh on wineries that depend on grape growers and on export markets for finished products. Even when the direct payment goes to the farm, disruptions in overseas sales can ripple through wine production, distribution and employment in regions where the beverage industry is closely tied to agriculture.

The announcement did not frame the program as a long-term substitute for federal trade action. Instead, the state presented it as a stopgap measure while Washington reconsiders trade policies that New York officials say harmed local producers. That reflects a broader position from the Hochul administration that state support can soften the immediate blow, but that changes in federal policy are still needed to address the

underlying market problem.

The governor’s office said farm industry representatives and local leaders supported the move and viewed it as a timely response to ongoing uncertainty. The state did not identify a single commodity as the only target of the program, instead portraying the relief as part of a wider effort to assist several sectors of agriculture that were exposed to sudden changes in international trade conditions.

By directing aid according to documented losses, the state is trying to tie the money to measurable damage rather than spread it evenly across the farm sector. That approach could concentrate the largest payments among producers that saw the sharpest hit to income or market access. For growers of export-oriented crops, including those connected to the wine industry, the program could provide short-term cash support as they try to manage the effects of disrupted trade relationships.