

# FY2011 Agriculture, Rural Development Subcommittee

## Federal Funding Requests

Senator Charles E. Schumer

### **American Museum of Natural History; New York, NY; 1,500,000**

Funding would support a multifaceted educational and research initiative on food, nutrition, and agriculture, including: a major exhibition, multimedia educational resources, onsite educational and professional development programs, and research in support of these activities.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because the U.S. has a unique, complex, and rich history of food and agriculture that encompasses a range of changing cultures and regions, but despite this national importance there is currently no major educational exhibition on the subject. With this funding, the American Museum of Natural History would partner with USDA in a multifaceted educational and research initiative that would reach millions of individuals and would be focused on the critical issues underlying our nation's food supply, such as the safety of the nation's agriculture and food supply and the improvement of nutrition and health.

### **Cattaraugus County, NY; \$2,000,000**

Funds would be used to develop wireless service utilizing the County's six primary towers to provide internet access to underserved rural residences. It would also provide new/improved backbone communication connectivity for area public safety communications system.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because, currently, there is a need for broadband service to area rural residents. This project would improve the County communications system which will enhance the police, fire and EMS service for the population.

### **Cooperative Extension of Broome County; Binghamton, NY; 200,000**

Funds would be used to renovate 4,000 square feet of the existing 16,000 square foot building, creating a demonstration lab with lecture hall seating, a new Community Information Center and computer lab.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because renovations to the structurally sound current facility would enhance the capacity of Cooperative Extension and co-located partner agencies to provide one-stop agriculture, environment, nutrition, human development, workforce and economic development education.

### **Cornell University; Ithaca, NY; \$ 500,000**

The Apple Fire Blight Special Research Grant is a long-term research program to develop methods to control fire blight in tree fruit and to breed new varieties that are resistant to the disease. Funding is shared between Cornell and Michigan State.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because fire blight is the most damaging disease affecting apple trees in the U.S. Nationally, the crop and tree losses and the costs of control measures are over \$100 million per year. In a bad year, New York State losses can reach \$10 million. All 60,000 acres of apples in New York State are vulnerable to the disease.

**Cornell University; Ithaca, NY; \$3,000,000**

Funds would be used to construct a federal quarantine facility to breed and test nematode-resistant seed potatoes.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because the only existing nematode quarantine laboratory in New York State may soon lose its license due to a structural deficiency. If this facility is closed, the entire U.S. potato industry is at risk because of the need for both laboratory and greenhouse research on potato cyst nematodes.

**Cornell University; Ithaca, NY; \$ 1,000,000**

This Livestock & Dairy Policy Special Grant provides economic analysis of policy proposals of national significance to the dairy and livestock industries. USDA and Congress rely on this program to evaluate how proposals will affect these industries.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because there are 55,000 dairy farms in the US, located in all 50 states. Nationwide, the dairy industry supports hundreds of thousands of jobs in processing plants, through marketing and transportation, in retail stores, and in companies that supply inputs to the dairy industry. Because changes in dairy policy have such a widespread economic impact, policymakers need sound analysis before making decisions.

**County of Allegany, NY; \$6,100,000**

The project is intended to provide the water/wastewater treatment infrastructure necessary to deliver services from the Town of Friendship to 450 acres of undeveloped property adjacent to Exit 30 of U.S. Interstate 86 in the hamlet of Belvidere.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because immediate access to municipal water and sewer service is critical to making the Crossroads area more desirable for business and development. It is the County's desire to construct these sewer and water improvements on the site in order to attract development to the area and thereby stimulate the economy and realize future economic benefit. By increasing the demand for existing products and services and attracting new employers to the County, the goals of job creation and stimulating the economy could be shared by both businesses and the taxpayers

**Glynwood Center, Inc.; Cold Spring, NY; \$500,000**

Funds would support Glynwood's new mobile Modular Harvest System for large livestock, which addresses the critical need to expand infrastructure for farmers who want to sell federally inspected meat.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would assist livestock growers to provide their communities with USDA inspected meat products. By making the meat processing industry "mobile", and taking it to where the animals are actually raised, both farmers and consumers in the Hudson Valley and metropolitan region are benefitted.

**Long Island Cares, Inc.; Hauppauge, NY; \$ 200,000**

Funds would be used for the operation and support of Long Island Cares' Nassau Service Center which will assist residents of Long Island and specifically residents of Nassau County who are hungry or food insecure.

This program is in the interest of the taxpayer because it would address the issue of hunger on Long Island and make an investment in the health and nutritional needs of the Long Island Community.

**State University of New York College of Environment Science and Forestry; Syracuse, NY; \$1,000,000**

Funds would be used to proactively bait and kills/neuter Asian Long-horned Beetles before breeding /egg lying occurs.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because the Asian Long- Horned Beetle infestation is an economic, social and environmental disaster waiting to happen. Presently, all therapies for Asian Long-Horned Beetle infestation are reactive; all the trees are removed for miles around.

**St. John's Bread and Life; Brooklyn, NY; \$ 200,000**

Funding would be used to support and expand the CSA Program at St. John's Bread and Life including the Farm-to-Fork Program, nutrition counseling services, the model kitchen vegetable prep training program and our services that promote a healthy diet.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because St. John's Bread and Life is the largest emergency food provider in Brooklyn and the second largest in all of NYC. The funding will allow Bread and Life to purchase more fresh farm produce from upstate New York farms through its CSA Program while expanding its nutrition counseling programs and providing greater access to fresh produce and vegetables in an underserved community.

**Tompkins County Area Development (TCAD) act for and on behalf of RPM Ecosystems; Ithaca, NY; \$750,000**

Funding would be used to install 500-acres of commercial demonstration of Root Process Method (RPM) purpose grown, genetically altered RPM native trees, which grow 2-4X times faster than standard hardwood expectation and produce 2-4 times more biomass per tree.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because the RPM Accelerated Woody Biomass Demonstration Plantation Project would move purpose grown native trees into the commercial North American mainstream by demonstration of biomass supply expansion, which would help end dependency on fossil fuels, and add to rural economic/environmental vitality.

**Village of Greenwood Lake, NY; \$250,000**

Funds would be used to place an aeration system in Greenwood Lake to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen to eliminate pathogenic bacteria and organic muck at the bottom of lake.

This project is in the interest of the taxpayer because there is no other lake management alternative that can deliver these benefits. Herbicides are temporary relief; harvesting has been proven to be ineffective as milfoil reproduces by fragmentation; and dredging will cost millions.