

Chat from April 22 Zoom with Congresswoman Chellie Pingree

From garya@maine.edu : If producers put in an application for the PPP program and were approved, and did not receive any funds yet, are they in line to get funds from the first group of funds or are they in queue for the next groups of funds under consideration now?

From Rhiannon Hampson w/ Congresswoman Pingree : Morgan Urquhart of Congressman Golden's office will join as well

From Sarah Hewitt : we are a farm just getting started so how might we participate as we can't project losses.

From Tamara DeRosby : With regard to the equestrian businesses here in Maine, how will we be able to access relief? We have applied for PPP and SBA EIDL We've been told there are no more funds. PPP was applied for thru Camden National and the SBA told us last week money has depleted and they cannot even tell us if we qualify. What do we do from here? More waiting?

From Abby Sadauckas : Similar question to Tamara- as a farmer and ASP- how do we advise farmers that haven't prepared to apply for PPP- is it worth their time doing so?

From CHRIS : hamiltonfarm03@yahoo.com Thanks!

From Sarah Hewitt : any protections/availability for hemp/cannabis farmers

From brie weisman : brieweisman@yahoo.com

From rachel.schattman@maine.edu : rachel.schattman@maine.edu

From Rebecca Long : rebecca.j.long@maine.edu

From Helen Costello : I just received my FNS number to accept SNAP EBT at our farm stand - will the online sales apply to small farms, or only Amazon, etc.?

From Sarah Alexander : Banks had to close on loans within 8 days, if they don't have a closing date, they should check with their bank

From Bonnie : bsammons829@gmail.com

From brie weisman : Do farms that provide non-food sources have an opportunity to get aid. I work for AgrAbility and have Shepherds who normally sell their wool and pelts via fairs that have been cancelled due to COVID-19.

From Nanne : Though we sell food, many of us also sell fiber and have had significant losses from shows cancelled during the time period, and beyond. Is there help for us too, even though fiber is not a food product?

From Tamara DeRosby : You mentioned the 500 million set aside - we have documented losses - how do we apply for this?

From Rhiannon Hampson w/ Congresswoman Pingree : Tamara, this will be determined in rulemaking - they have not yet stated how they will be making direct payments.

From Stacy Brenner : Will guidance about whether we should expect a tourist season in Maine and New England going to come from Federal CDC or governors and state CDC's?

From Tamara DeRosby : Thank you Rhiannon meadowviewequestrian1@myfairpoint.net

From CHRIS : Agritourism (Airbnb rental, on-farm catering) is a significant portion of our farm business - we are concerned about loss of income this summer - do any of these programs apply to this aspect of our business?

From Lisa Webster : Will application for the SBA EDL loan be thru our bank or direct with MeSBA?

From Ann McAlhany : previous application for SBA EIDL was at www.sba.gov/disaster. Would expect that site to be reopened.

From Abby Sadauckas : I liked your editorial, can you tell us more about federal efforts to ensure testing is more widespread? As a market farmer and market manager, I'm pretty concerned that this may be key in helping people feel safe coming to markets versus to our farm.

From Olin Hartkopf : EIDL can be applied for online through SBA's website: disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/EIDLLoans

From Stephen Veazey : can self employed farmers apply for unemployment ?

From Tamara DeRosby : I own our equestrian business. I do not draw a paycheck. Can I apply for unemployment or do you have a recommendation?

From Jackie : Equine farms make money teaching lessons. No lessons means no income. Yet we still need to pay for feed, hay, vet and farrier for our lesson horses. What do we apply for?

From Jason Lilley : Self-employed folks in Maine are not yet eligible for unemployment.

<https://www.maine.gov/unemployment/>

From Bonnie : Is this session recorded so it can be shared with other farmers?

From Stacy Brenner : There was some discussion about removing restrictions around compensation for farm workers, particularly immigrant laborers. Has this been resolved?

From Donna Coffin : Yes, I am recording and if you want a link email me at

donna.coffin@maine.edu

From Stephen Veazey : In I have lost some of my income but not all can I get a prorated amount of unemployment?

From Sarah Hewitt : if we are accepted for the ppp, can we prepay our help for the season from that fund? before the deadline to spend the money? if we run our help as 1099 subcontractors- how do we work the ppp?

From Bonnie : thank you Chellie Pingree for all you do for agriculture!

From brie weisman : thank you for all your hard work.

From Nanne : ANY CHANCE THERE IS GOING TO BE SOME TARRIFF OR RELIEF FUNDS TO FIX OUR SHORTER CHAIN SUPPLY OF MEAT HERE IN MAINE? NEED INFRASTRUCTURE. NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION NOT WORKING...

From CHRIS : Thank You Chellie!

From Tamara DeRosby : Thank you for your time!

From rachel.schattman@maine.edu : Thanks very much for taking the time to talk with us.

From Gilbert : Thanks. Very usefull!

From Cam O'Brien (Sen. Collins) : My contact information is

Cameron_O'Brien@collins.senate.gov

From Morgan (Rep. Golden) : Morgan.Urquhart@mail.house.gov

From Jim.Britt : DACF resource is at <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/covid19/index.shtml>

From Tamara DeRosby : thank you donna for hosting !

From Rhiannon Hampson w/ Congresswoman Pingree : Rhiannon.Hampson@mail.house.gov

From Olin Hartkopf : Olin_Hartkopf@King.senate.gov if anyone needs to get a hold of me