



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS

David A. Paterson
Governor

Patrick Hooker
Commissioner

October 7, 2009

Dear Aquaculture Producer:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides limited funds to administer the 2008 Aquaculture Grant Program (AGP) to reimburse controlled environment aquaculture producers for financial losses associated with high feed input costs during the 2008 calendar year. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is administering the program. The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has been designated by the Governor's Office to administer the program in New York.

Assistance may be provided to an eligible aquaculture producer that experienced at least a 25 percent increase in 2008 feed costs above the State's previous 5-year average (2003-2007) established for each applicable species.

The Department encourages all eligible aquaculture producers to submit an application. You may download the electronic version of the 2008 Aquaculture Grant Program application form from the Department's website at www.agmkt.state.ny.us. The application may be found by clicking on "Funding Opportunities" on the left side of the home page, then choosing "2008 Aquaculture Grant Program." Applications for assistance **must be received** by the Department before **4:30 p.m. EST on Friday, November 6, 2009**. If you prefer to receive a paper copy of the application, you may call Meg McCabe at 518.457.2195.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Hooker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick Hooker
Commissioner