



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov
(501) 225-1598



Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

August 05, 2020

FC 37F
Fund FFA9901
CI 590:00:49

Secretary Larry W. Walther
Department of Finance & Administration
1509 West Seventh Street, Suite 402
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Arkansas Department of Agriculture Request for CARES Act Appropriation

Dear Secretary Walther:

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture respectfully requests approval for appropriation to expend funding awarded by the Arkansas CARES Act Steering Committee under Section 36 of Act 2 of 2020. The total amount awarded by the Committee is \$5,000,000.

The main purpose of this aid is to establish a cost-share program to help local, small-scale Arkansas meat processing facilities expand processing capacity to meet increased demand due impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed grants would reimburse up to 75% of eligible expenses.

This program is modeled after the Missouri and Oklahoma cost-share programs for increased meat processing capacity that utilized CARES Act funding.

Your consideration of this request is appreciated.

Respectfully,

Wesley W. Ward
Secretary of Agriculture
State of Arkansas