

New Roots Farms' State-of-the-Art Equipment Fosters Growth and Sustainability

MARBIDCO's Local Government Agriculture & Resource-Based Industry Project Cost Share Program Grant Increases Resources for Farmers



Founded in 2016, New Roots Farm in West River has quickly made a name for itself with its high-quality grass-finished beef, grass-fed lamb, and pasture-raised pork.

Its owner, Sarah Campbell, a 4th

generation farmer, started the business on her family's land. Sarah moved back to the farm in 2014 and began converting the land from conventional row crop production to pasture for grazing.

Sarah runs the farm with her business partner Chelsea Kruse, a first-generation farmer who came to New Roots Farm after working at several commercial dairy farms. She manages the livestock and pastures at the farm.

The farm spans 400 acres, with 100 acres dedicated to rotational grazing. This sustainable approach not only supports the health of the pastures but ensures that their livestock—comprising purebred and composite British White, South Poll, and Wye Angus cattle—produces premium meat.

The farm's commitment to quality is evident in its operations, which include finishing 20-24 head of cattle annually, raising 30-40 market lambs, and processing 80-100 hogs each year.

In FY 2024, MARBIDCO and the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC) joined together to support agricultural business in Anne Arundel County through a strategic partnership.

As part of MARBIDCO's Local Government Agriculture & Resource-Based Industry Project Cost Share Program, additional grant funds were allocated to enhance the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation's Agricultural Business Improvement Grant (ABIG) program.

This collaboration aims to amplify resources available to local farms and agribusinesses, fostering growth and sustainability in the region's agricultural sector by matching grant funds provided by the local government.

New Roots Farm, a rising star in Maryland's agricultural sector was awarded a matching grant thanks to funds contributed by MARBIDCO (\$5,000) and AAEDC (\$5,000).

The MARBIDCO Local Government Agriculture & Resource-Based Industry Project Cost Share Program grant enhances New Roots Farm's ability to maintain and improve its high standards. This grant has been instrumental in acquiring proven grass-fed genetics and state-of-the-art record-keeping equipment, including RFID tags, tag readers, and specialized software at the farm.

The funding was used to purchase advanced grass-fed genetics, which are crucial for ensuring superior meat quality.

Additionally, the grant enables the farm to invest in cutting-edge record-keeping technology. The new RFID tags and tag readers will streamline the monitoring and tracking of each animal's growth and health, while the specialized software will improve data management and operational efficiency.

This grant comes at a pivotal time for New Roots Farm as it expands its services. The farm is set to launch an enhanced home delivery service in partnership with a local creamery, aimed at making their premium products more accessible to consumers.

This new delivery option complements the farm's successful Meat CSA program, which has been a cornerstone of its direct-to-consumer sales strategy since 2017. By offering home delivery, New Roots Farm will further strengthen its connection with the community and provide convenient access to high-quality, sustainably raised meats.

The support from MARBIDCO highlights the importance of investing in agricultural innovation and sustainability. For New Roots Farm, this grant is not just a financial boost but a strategic enhancement that will support its mission of sustainable farming and exceptional meat quality. By integrating advanced genetics and modern record-keeping tools, the farm will continue to set a standard for excellence in the industry.

As New Roots Farm looks to the future, the grant from MARBIDCO will play a crucial role in driving the farm's growth and success. The investment in genetics and technology reflects the farm's commitment to both the environment and the community. With these resources, New Roots Farm is well-positioned to advance its sustainable practices and further its mission of providing top-quality meat while fostering strong local connections.