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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Gobi and Berthiaume Announce Barre Agricultural Grant**

**BOSTON – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) and Representative Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr. (R-Spencer)** have announced a \$33,536 grant being awarded to the Northeast Organic Farming Association in Barre. The funding is being awarded through a partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR).

The grant funding will be used to build a reliable, thorough, affordable, and ultimately self-funding consulting service for specialty crop farmers, gardeners, and urban growers of Massachusetts, enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crop production while also building soil health long-term throughout the state.

“Congratulations to the Northeast Organic Farming Association in Barre and thank you to the Baker-Polito Administration for their continued support of our local farmers,” said Senator Gobi. “With over 7,500 farms in Massachusetts, there is no question that they are a critical part of the fabric of this state.”

"Thank you to MDAR and the USDA for recognizing the value of farming here in Massachusetts," said Representative Berthiaume. "This funding will support the growing industry of specialty crops here in the Commonwealth."

The Specialty Crop Block Grants seek to support and promote specialty agricultural products through different strategies, such as a new website dedicated to marketing locally grown produce. According to the USDA, specialty crops are “fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops.”

For more information contact Senator Gobi’s office at 617-722-1540.

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