



**Brighter Future Fund
Eligibility**

**All questions are required unless specified*

1. Farm Name/Farm Business Entity Name (if different):
2. First Name:
3. Last Name:
4. What state is your farm located in?
5. If you live in New England, choose the county your farm is located in:
6. Email
7. Retype Email:
8. Have you received previous funding from Brighter Future Microgrants Program or New England Farmer Microgrant Program?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
9. To which gender identity do you most identify?
 - a. Man
 - b. Woman
 - c. Transgender
 - d. Non-binary/third gender
 - e. Prefer to self-describe
10. Which racial and ethnic category best describes you?
 - a. American Indian or Alaska Native
 - b. Asian
 - c. Black or African American
 - d. Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin
 - e. Middle Eastern or North African
 - f. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 - g. White or European
11. How do you describe your sexual orientation or sexual identity?
 - a. Lesbian
 - b. Gay

- c. Bisexual
- d. Queer
- e. Heterosexual

12. Are you a U.S. veteran? (USDA Veteran definition)

- a. Yes
- b. No

13. We are unable to award grants to American Farmland Trust staff, board members, or substantial contributors to AFT, or their family members.

Is the applicant any of the following:

- American Farmland Trust staff member
- American Farmland Trust board member
- A substantial contributor to American Farmland Trust (See definition below)
- A family member of an American Farmland Trust staff member, board member, or substantial contributor? (See definition below)

Family member: defined as any sibling, spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, or great-grandchild

Substantial contributor: defined as having given a contribution to American Farmland Trust of \$5,000 or more

- a) Yes
- b) No

APPLICATION

Applicant Information

14. Phone Number:

15. Personal Mailing Address:

- a. Line 1
- b. Line 2
- c. City
- d. State
- e. Zip Code

16. Farm Address (if different than personal address):

- a. Line 1
- b. Line 2
- c. City
- d. State

- e. Zip Code
17. If your farm does not have a USPS address, please include its Section, Township or Range. Needed?
18. Which address would you prefer AFT to use for primary communication?
- a. Personal Mailing Address
 - b. Farm Mailing Address
19. Do you own or lease farmland at this address?
- a. Own
 - b. Lease
20. If you lease, please explain your lease agreement including –what year your current lease extends to and if it is a written lease agreement?
21. Farm Website (if applicable):
22. Are you a Beginning Farmer? Years involved in Operating a Farm: (USDA Beginning Farmer Definition)
- a. No – Farming/Ranching 10 Years or more
 - b. Yes – Farming/Ranching 6-10 Years
 - c. Yes – Farming/Ranching 1-5 years
 - d. Yes – Farming/Ranching less than 1 Year
23. How old are you?
- a. Under 25 years
 - b. 25-34 years
 - c. 35-44 years
 - d. 45-54 years
 - e. 55-64 years
 - f. 65 years and over
 - g. Prefer not to answer
24. Have you ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard?
- a. Yes, on active duty now
 - b. Yes, on active duty in the past, but not now
 - c. Never served in the military

Proposed Use of Funds:

25. Please briefly share the ways in which you specifically are proposing to use the funds. Include in your description: (150-words max)
- a. Specific details about the equipment, infrastructure, or services that will be acquired
 - b. A description of the ways that the equipment, infrastructure, or services you are seeking will enhance your farming enterprise and aspirations.

26. Does the proposed use of funds: (select one)
- a. Improve farm viability
 - b. Access, transfer or permanently protect farmland
 - c. Adopt regenerative agricultural practices
 - d. Other:
27. Did you produce food or ag products for your community, to barter or exchange, or sell at a value greater than \$1,000 in the 2022 growing year? It is not the intention of the BFF to support production for personal consumption operations.
- a. Yes
 - b. No
28. *If answered no to the above question – please state explanation (Max 150 words):*

Project Cost

29. Grant Amount Requested [\$10,000 maximum]:
30. Please provide an estimated budget outline for your project or purchase:
31. If other funds are required, what is the source of other funds?

Your Farming Situation:

32. Did you spend a majority (50 percent or more) of your worktime in farming or ranching in 2022?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
33. Size of farm (total acres of land including cropland, pasture, woodland, and all other land):
34. What primary farm products did this farm operation produce, raise or grow in 2022 and/or 2023 growing seasons? (*choose one)
- a. Dairy
 - b. Vegetables
 - c. Fruits, nuts or berries
 - d. Field crops
 - e. Greenhouse or nursery crops
 - f. Cattle, hogs or other livestock
 - g. Other _____
35. What secondary farm products did this farm operation produce, raise or grow in 2022 and/or 2023 growing seasons? (Check all that apply).
- a. Dairy
 - b. Vegetables

- c. Fruits, nuts or berries
- d. Field crops
- e. Greenhouse or nursery crops
- f. Cattle, hogs or other livestock
- g. Other _____

36. If listed other above, please specify your primary product:

37. Briefly tell us about your current farming status and land tenure situation (ex: full-time, part-time, hobby/personal use, leasing land, managing a farm, etc.): (150-word max)

38. Please briefly describe your farming background and experiences beyond the information shared above. If you are not currently farming, please explain: (150-word max)

39. Please tell us anything else about you, your story or your background that you think is important for us to better understand you and your farm: (150-word max)

Timeline

All work supported by the grant must be completed within one year of the date of the award letter.

40. When do you expect that the project will be completed? (Month / Year): _____

41. If the project cannot be completed within one year, please explain why:

42. I confirm I have reviewed the grant guidelines and agree to the terms of the grant. I understand that all award updates & communication will be done via email, failure to reply may result in loss of award:

- a. Yes
- b. No

Join Us in Saving the Land That Sustains Us

All grant applicants will be signed-up for email updates and action opportunities from AFT and will receive a complimentary one-year American Farmland Trust membership.

Yes, I wish to receive updates and a complimentary membership from AFT.

No, I do not wish to receive updates and a complimentary membership from AFT.