



by American Farmland Trust

Brighter Future Fund's National Grant for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers

ELIGIBILITY

1. Which language are you completing your application in:
 - a. English
 - b. Spanish

2. Email

3. Retype Email:

4. Have you received previous funding from the Brighter Future Fund or the New England Farmer Microgrant Program?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

5. 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
-
6. Are you a farmer or rancher, OR are you applying on behalf of a farmer or rancher? (For this program, we define "farmer/rancher" as an individual, group, or organization who are intentionally cultivating annual or perennial crops or animals for harvest.)
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

**All questions are required unless specified*

CONTACT INFORMATION

7. Farm Name/Farm Business Entity Name (if different):
8. Applicant First Name:
9. Applicant Last Name:
10. What state is your farm located in?
11. If you live in New England, choose the county your farm is located in:
12. Personal Address:
 - a. Line 1
 - b. Line 2
 - c. City
 - d. State
 - e. Zip Code
13. Farm Address (if different than personal address):
 - a. Line 1
 - b. Line 2
 - c. City
 - d. State
 - e. Zip Code
14. If your farm does not have a USPS address, please include its Section, Township or Range. Needed?
15. Do you own or lease farmland at this address?
 - a. Own
 - b. Lease
16. If you lease, please explain your lease agreement including, what year your current lease extends to and if it is a written lease agreement.
17. Which address would you prefer AFT to use for primary communications?
 - a. Personal Mailing Address
 - b. Farm Mailing Address
18. Do any of the following pertain to your farm?
 - a. S-Corp
 - b. LLC
 - c. Unincorporated
 - d. Non-Profit
 - e. None of the Above
19. Phone Number:
20. Farm Website (if applicable):

APPLICANT INFORMATION

21. To which gender identity do you most identify?
- Man
 - Woman
 - Transgender
 - Non-binary/third gender
 - Prefer to self-describe
22. Which racial and ethnic category best describes you?
- American Indian or Alaska Native
 - Asian
 - Black or African American
 - Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin
 - Middle Eastern or North African
 - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 - White or European
23. How do you describe your sexual orientation or sexual identity?
- Lesbian
 - Gay
 - Bisexual
 - Queer
 - Heterosexual
24. Do you qualify as a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher as defined by USDA (USDA Limited Resource Farmer Qualification tool)
- Yes
 - No
25. Have you ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard?
- Yes, on active duty now
 - Yes, on active duty in the past, but not now
 - Never served in the military
26. Are you a U.S. veteran? (USDA Veteran definition)
- Yes
 - No
27. Are you a Beginning Farmer? Years involved in Operating a Farm: (USDA Beginning Farmer Definition)
- No – Farming/Ranching 10 Years or more
 - Yes – Farming/Ranching 6-10 Years
 - Yes – Farming/Ranching 1-5 years
 - Yes – Farming/Ranching less than 1 Year
28. How old are you?
- Under 25 years
 - 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

PROPOSED USE OF FUNDS:

29. Were you directly impacted by the 2024 Smokehouse Creek Wildfire in the Texas Panhandle?

- a. Yes
- b. No

30. Please briefly share how 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.
- c. If you were directly impacted by the 2024 Smokehouse Creek Wildfire, include specific details of how your farm or operation was affected.

31. 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:

32. 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 2023 growing year? It is not the intention of the BFF to support production for personal consumption operations.

- a. Yes
- b. No

33. If you answered no to the above question – please state an explanation (Max 150 words):

PROJECT COST

34. Grant Amount Requested [\$5,000 maximum (Farmers/Ranchers directly impacted by the 2024 Smokehouse Creek Wildfire in the Texas Panhandle eligible to request up to \$15,000)]:

35. Please provide an estimated budget outline for your project or purchase:

36. If you would like to provide a supporting document for your estimated budget - please upload it here:

37. If other funds are required, what is the source of other funds?

YOUR FARMING SITUATION:

38. Did you spend a majority (50 percent or more) of your work time in farming or ranching in 2023?

- a. Yes
- b. No

39. Size of farm (total acres of land including cropland, pasture, woodland, and all other land):
40. How many acres will be directly impacted by the proposed project?
41. What primary farm products did this farm operation produce, raise, or grow in the 2023 and/or 2024 growing seasons? (*choose one)
- Dairy
 - Vegetables
 - Fruits, nuts or berries
 - Field crops
 - Greenhouse or nursery crops
 - Cattle, hogs or other livestock
 - Other _____
42. What secondary farm products did this farm operation produce, raise, or grow in the 2023 and/or 2024 growing seasons? (Check all that apply).
- Dairy
 - Vegetables
 - Fruits, nuts or berries
 - Field crops
 - Greenhouse or nursery crops
 - Cattle, hogs or other livestock
 - Other _____
43. 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)
44. Please briefly describe your farming background and experiences beyond the information shared above. If you are not currently farming, please explain: (150-word max)
45. Please tell us anything else about you, your story, or your background that you think is important for us to understand you and your farm better: (150-word max)

TIMELINE

All work supported by the grant must be completed by December 31, 2025

46. When do you expect that the project will be completed? (Month / Year): _____
47. If the project cannot be completed within one year, please explain why:
48. 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:
- Yes
 - No

FOR PAYMENT PURPOSES

49. If chosen to receive a Brighter Future Fund award it is important that the field below is filled in correctly. All of your award documents will be generated with the name you list in the 'Payable To' field below.

The 'payable to' field must match the name listed on 'Line 1' of your W9 and also be the owner of the bank account for ACH/Direct Deposit. Only list your farm name if you have an EIN number, if not, list an individual's name. You will be required to upload a W9 if chosen to receive an award and this information must match – you do not need to upload a W9 at this time. (Ex: Form W9)

i. Payable to: _____

JOIN US IN SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US

50. 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.

51. How did you hear about the Brighter Future Fund? (text response)