



# Farmer Relief Fund

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why do farmers and ranchers need support during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

All farmers and ranchers will likely be seriously impacted by the market disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Some farmers are losing their primary markets because people can't eat in restaurants or shop at farmers markets. Other farmers will be hard hit because they will not be able to maintain adequate farm labor—including the migrant labor now essential for many crops. Still other farmers will be devastated by expected disruptions in trade.

Yet at this time, those farmers and ranchers who market directly to consumers are being impacted most drastically. A [recent study](#) suggests that up to \$1.3 billion in food local system revenue will be lost during March and May. These farmers tend to be small businesses and are not covered by [traditional farm safety net programs](#). Without some form of support, many will go out of business.

### **How does the Farmer Relief Fund relate to American Farmland Trust's work?**

Our mission is to save the land that sustains us by protecting farmland, promoting environmentally sound farming practices, and keeping farmers on the land. We view this crisis as a serious threat to the future of America's agricultural resources. Farms that fail during this unprecedented time will likely never return.

American Farmland Trust wants to be part of the effort to ensure there is a future where people can access fresh, local, nutritious foods through farmers they know and trust. We must take action to support farmers now before it's too late.

### **Who can apply to the Farmer Relief Fund?**

The initial round of grants will target small and mid-sized producers who market direct to consumers. [Click for Application Details](#)

In the future, we hope to broaden who can apply to any farmer or rancher who has been seriously impacted by the pandemic and is not receiving adequate support from other sources.

**How much money will the Farmer Relief Fund provide to farmers and ranchers?**

During the initial application round (now through April 23), eligible producers may apply for \$1,000 grants. We know the need is great, and we hope to provide grants for all in need. If we receive enough donations, we may be able to support producers with larger grants.

**Will there be additional rounds of funding?**

We hope so—because the need across agriculture is so great. But whether American Farmland Trust can support future rounds of grants will depend on the donations we receive.

**How much of each donation will go to farmers and ranchers?**

One hundred percent of each donation will go to farmers and ranchers. American Farmland Trust will cover all administrative costs through other sources.

**What can donors to the Farmer Relief Fund expect?**

All donors to the fund can be assured that their donations will flow to farmers and ranchers who are experiencing serious financial hardships caused by the pandemic. Donors will be making a real difference at a critically important time.