



NEW ENGLAND FARMER MICROGRANTS PROGRAM

Application Form

The New England Farmer Microgrants Program (NEFMP), in its first year, is designed to directly assist under-resourced farmers in gaining access to land, increasing secure land tenure and bringing more land into production. See *NEFMP Guidelines* for eligibility requirements and a detailed description of the program.

Farmers seeking a NEFMP grant should submit a completed *NEFMP Microgrants Application Package* to American Farmland Trust (AFT). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning March 1, 2020. Farmers are encouraged to call AFT to discuss their projects and any questions prior to applying.

Applications may be submitted electronically to jpott@farmland.org or mailed to:

*American Farmland Trust
c/o Jamie Pott
One Short Street, Suite 2
Northampton, MA 01060*

Please answer all the questions below and see the application checklist for additional requirements.

Name of Applicant:

Phone Number:

Email:

Personal Mailing Address:

Farm Name (if applicable):

Farm Address (if different than personal address):

Farm Website (if applicable)

Grant Amount Requested [\$500 minimum-\$5,000 maximum]:



1. Help us get to know you and your farming status?:

Please tell us a bit about yourself. If you are currently farming, please describe your farm operation and your farm tenure situation. Please also describe your farming background and experiences, indicating how long you have been farming and any other pertinent information.

If you are not currently farming, please explain.

2. Land access, tenure, or production barriers:

Please share a brief summary of the barriers you face in accessing or securing land or putting farmland into production.



3. Proposal for Use of Funds:

Please share what specifically you are proposing to use this financial assistance for and how it will address the barriers you describe above. Please provide details about the services you are seeking and how they will enhance your farming enterprise or aspirations.

4. Cost of the proposed project

Please provide an accurate estimate of costs with supporting materials. Supporting materials could be a quote from a contractor or service provider you plan to work with or a detailed budget with justification for work you will perform yourself.

5. Timeline:

Please share a clear timeline for the completion of your proposed project. All work supported by the grant must be completed within one year of the date of the award letter. Extensions may be granted upon request. Do you expect you can meet this deadline? Please explain.



6. Service Provider or Advisor:

A complete application requires a brief letter of support from a person you are working with on your farm planning needs you describe above. The letter should articulate your likely success if awarded funding.

Please submit the letter of support with the application. (See our Service Provider Letter of Support Guidance document attached). If you do not have an identified advisor, please give us a call for support or see our Service Providers and Funding Opportunities Resource Page to find one near you.

7. Follow-Up:

Immediately after services supported by the grant are completed, grant recipients will be asked to participate in a follow up survey (15 minutes maximum) and a short interview with AFT staff. An additional interview (8-18 months after completion of the project) may be requested to evaluate the grant process, services provided, and impact to your operation. These stories will help further efforts to continue this program and highlight farmers across New England. Are you open to AFT publicly sharing a portion of your follow up interviews? (While sharing stories is a priority of this project, we understand some applicants may not wish to have their information shared. Your answer to this question will not affect the likelihood of being funded.)

- No I would prefer not to be acknowledged publicly.*
- Yes, I would be open to an audio interview for public use.*
- Yes, I would be open to a filmed interview for public use.*

8. Additional Information:

Have you used any online resources related to your farmland access, transfer or conservation plans. If yes, please list them here, including any relevant details:

If you would like to share any supporting materials, such as a business plan or other documents pertinent to your situation, please include them with your application.

If you would like to share any additional comments, please do so here:



QUESTIONS:

Contact Jamie Pottern at 413-240-4621 or jpottern@farmland.org