MASTER APPLICATION

Assistance for PFAS-Impacted Commercial Farms

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) offers two programs to support commercial farms that have been impacted by PFAS contamination: the PFAS Response Program and the PFAS Fund. This Master Application may be used by eligible farms to apply for any of the following assistance:

Administrative Cost Grant: A one-time grant intended to partially compensate commercial farms for time spent on activities common to most farms upon the initial discovery of PFAS contamination.

Income Replacement Grant: Commercial farms that have stopped selling some or all products due to PFAS contamination may apply to DACF for up to a total of 24 months of lost income, adjusted for inflation.

Technical Assistance / Professional Services Grants: Financial support for professional services to help guide recovery efforts (e.g., business planning, marketing support, others).

Clean Feed Assistance: Financial support for clean feed when it is necessary for the health and welfare of livestock and to achieve depuration goals in the absence of clean feed from the farm.

Input Costs: Financial support for input costs (e.g., seed, soil amendments) to allow a commercial farm to convert its operations to accommodate new products and production methods.

Equipment and Infrastructure Grants: Financial support for equipment and infrastructure projects (permanent physical assets and structures) that will help a commercial farm transition to new products and production methods.

New Loan Assistance Grants: Financial support for costs associated with obtaining a new loan (e.g., payment of fees for a guaranteed loan, commercial loan insurance, or environmental site assessments required by a lending institution).

In addition to the assistance listed above, the PFAS Fund purchases PFAS-contaminated property from commercial farms seeking to sell, funds research, and supports access to blood testing. Mental health support will soon be available for eligible populations. There are separate application procedures for these programs. Information is posted on DACF's website.

The PFAS Response Program administers additional support, separate from this Master Application, i.e., farm water filtration, payments for depopulated animals, and a testing reimbursement program. More information is available on DACF's website.

maine MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

Amanda E. Beal, Commissioner
Nancy McBrady, Deputy Commissioner
Jo D. Saffeir, Deputy Commissioner
18 Elkins Lane, Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-3200
maine.gov/dacf

Eligibility and Instructions

Instructions

Applicants must complete and provide all requested information in:

- Section 1 General Applicant Information,
- One or more of Sections 2-8, depending on the farm's needs, and
- Appendix A Vendor Form (if the farm has not submitted one previously)

Applications will be considered upon receipt of the completed application sections. Multiple applications may be submitted. Completed applications can be submitted to PFAS.DACF@maine.gov or mailed to:

PFAS Response Program
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Baseline Eligibility Requirements

In general, commercial farms operating in Maine are eligible for the grant assistance listed on the first page of this application if the following criteria are met. Some grants have additional requirements.

1. The commercial farm has DACF-confirmed elevated levels of PFAS contamination, defined as
   a. one or more samples of farm products showing PFAS exceeding current Action Levels or deemed of concern by the Maine CDC, and/or
   b. groundwater test results exceeding Maine's enforceable interim drinking water standard for PFAS until superseded by either Maine's Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFAS or a federal MCL for PFAS, whichever is lowest, for wells servicing the farm or fields, and/or
   c. soil test results exceeding any current Maine CDC crop-specific screening level; and

2. The commercial farm has partnered with DACF to investigate the scope of contamination at the farm and has granted ongoing access such that DACF staff are able to develop an understanding of the farm, its PFAS contamination, and potentially a strategy for recovery.

A commercial farm is defined as a farm that produces any farm product with the intent that the farm product be sold or otherwise disposed of to generate income. Please see **Appendix B – Current Maine PFAS Screening Levels (July 2025)** for farm product Action Levels and drinking water standards.

Contact Information

For general inquiries, call (207) 287-4514 and leave your name, phone number, and a brief message.

Questions about testing reimbursement, clean feed assistance, input costs, and equipment and infrastructure projects valued up to $100,000, may be directed to Meagan Hennessey, PFAS Response Director, Meagan.Hennessey@maine.gov, (207) 592-3795, or directly to the PFAS Response Program at PFAS.DACF@maine.gov or (207) 287-4515.

Questions about administrative cost grants, income replacement, technical assistance / professional services grants, equipment and infrastructure projects valued above $100,000, and new loan assistance may be directed to Beth Valentine, PFAS Fund Director, Beth.Valentine@maine.gov, (207) 313-0962.

Master Application Contents

Assistance for PFAS-Impacted Commercial Farms

Eligibility and Instructions

Master Application Contents

Section 1. General Applicant Information

Section 2. Administrative Cost Grant

Section 3. Income Replacement Grant

Section 4. Technical Assistance / Professional Services Grants

Section 5. Clean Feed Assistance

Section 6. Input Costs

Section 7. Equipment and Infrastructure Grants

Section 8. New Loan Assistance

Appendix A: Vendor Form

Appendix B: Maine PFAS Screening Levels

Appendix C: Right to Appeal

Date of Application: _____

Section 1. General Applicant Information

(*all applicants must complete this section*)

BUSINESS ENTITY'S LEGAL NAME: _____

STATE OF INCORPORATION AND CHARTER NUMBER: _____

FARM'S PRIMARY PRODUCT(S): _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

MAILING STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHYSICAL STREET ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NAME OF DACF STAFF (APS) WORKING WITH THE FARM: _____

Required Documentation - Section 1

The following information must be attached and submitted with this Section of the application:

A. Farm Narrative. A statement, one page or less, explaining (1) the date and circumstances of the discovery of PFAS on the property, (2) the impacts to the farm's business operations due to PFAS contamination, and (3) how the requested financial assistance will support the farm's efforts to remain viable despite these impacts.

B. Proof of Contamination. PFAS test results from an approved laboratory (*if DACF does not already have them*). See **Appendix B** for the current Maine PFAS Screening Levels, updated as of July 2025.

   The commercial farm has DACF-confirmed elevated levels of PFAS contamination, defined as
   1. One or more samples of farm products showing PFAS exceeding current Action Levels or deemed of concern by the Maine CDC, and/or
   2. groundwater test results exceeding Maine's enforceable interim drinking water standard for PFAS until superseded by either Maine's Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFAS or a federal MCL for PFAS, whichever is lowest, for wells servicing the farm or fields, and/or
   3. soil test results exceeding any current Maine CDC crop-specific screening level

C. Vendor Form. A completed State of Maine Vendor Authorization Form (*if not already on record*), available in Appendix A. The purpose of the vendor form is to establish an account with the State of Maine's accounting system so that payments may be issued to the applicant by the State of Maine. These payments may represent reportable income for tax purposes to the individual or entity applicant. Any change in information, such as an address change, requires a new vendor form.

Additional Information Requested – Section 1

Has this farm previously applied for assistance from DACF via the master application? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, please indicate any changes in your operations that have occurred since your last application. Also, has the name/contact information provided above changed?

_____

_____

Does this farm currently produce any farm product with the intent that the farm product be sold or otherwise disposed of to generate income? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If no, approximate date farm stopped producing farm products for sale: _____

Applications Included in this Submittal:

Please check all applications that apply. If multiple projects are being applied for within a category, please indicate the number:

☐ Administrative Cost Grant

☐ Income Replacement

☐ Input Costs (# projects: ___)

☐ Tech Assistance/Prof. Services (# projects: ___)

☐ Equipment and Infrastructure (# projects: ___)

☐ Clean Feed Assistance

☐ New Loan Assistance

Signature Block – Section 1

Consent and Certification

By submitting this application, the undersigned:

- Agrees to partner with DACF to investigate the scope of contamination at the farm, grants ongoing access such that DACF staff are able to develop an understanding of the farm, its PFAS contamination, and potential strategies for recovery, and agrees to follow any such recommendations to the greatest extent possible;
- Authorizes DACF to receive information from and share information with other organizations when the information is necessary for DACF to make a decision on an application, including the Maine Department of the Environment (DEP), Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (MECDC), USDA Farm Service Agency, Maine Farmland Trust, and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association;
- Acknowledges that DACF reserves the right to request any additional supporting documentation that is necessary to evaluate the request for assistance;
- Acknowledges that DACF reserves the right to limit the amount of funding for all requests based on available resources;
- Agrees that if payments exceed a commercial farm's eligible documented expenses, losses, or other outlays, the commercial farm shall reimburse DACF an amount equal to the overpayment.

I certify that the information given in this application is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that where funds are granted for a specified purpose, those funds will be utilized solely for the approved activities described in the application.

I acknowledge that payments may represent reportable income for tax purposes.

I certify that I have been granted authority by _____ (business name) to sign as its representative, and my signature contractually binds the business in this agreement.

Applicant's Signature	Date
Applicant's Name (printed)	Title
Applicant's Signature	Date
Applicant's Name (printed)	Title

Please complete if someone assisted the applicant in completing this form:

Preparer Name (If not applicant)	Preparer's relationship to applicant

Permission to discuss application with Preparer: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Date of Application: _____

Section 2. Administrative Cost Grant

Upon the initial discovery of PFAS, a commercial farm that chooses to work with DACF staff to investigate the extent of contamination and its impact on the farm's products may be eligible for a one-time grant equivalent to 80 hours of a farm manager's time. This grant is intended to partially compensate farms for time spent on activities common to most farms upon discovering PFAS contamination, such as working with DACF field staff, strategizing initial response steps, communicating with customers, arranging for new sources of feed, researching and applying for technical assistance, and similar actions in response to the new operational circumstances. Administrative Cost Grants are governed by rule 01-001 CMR c. 400 (2026).

Questions about Administrative Cost Grants may be directed to Beth Valentine, PFAS Fund Director, at Beth.Valentine@maine.gov or (207) 313-0962.

Eligibility

The baseline eligibility requirements found in the *Eligibility and Instructions* Section of this Master Application must be met. As further defined therein, the farm must be a commercial farm operating in Maine with confirmed PFAS contamination, and it must collaborate with and grant DACF staff access to the farm.

Applications are due within 12 months of the first DACF-confirmed test results documenting elevated levels of PFAS contamination or within 12 months of a lower MCL taking effect, whichever is earlier.

Required Documentation – Section 2

The following information must be submitted with this Section of the application:

A. Section 1. Applicant General Information with all specified attachments, including a narrative statement.

Additional Information Requested – Section 2

1. Date of initial meeting with DACF staff: _____
2. Topics discussed:

3. Next steps identified:

4. Other assistance the farm is considering or is applying for:

Application Review – Section 2

Applications for administrative cost grants will be reviewed by DACF's PFAS Fund Director. The Director may request input from members of the DACF PFAS Response Program, including Agricultural PFAS Specialists (APS) and specialized consultants acting on the Program's behalf and who have worked with the farm and have knowledge of the applicant's operations. DACF will rely on all available information about the farm to assess the request. DACF reserves the right to request any additional supporting documentation that is necessary to evaluate the request for assistance. Decision-making authority rests with the PFAS Fund Director.

Signature Block – Section 2

I certify that the information given in this Administrative Cost Grant application is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that payments may represent reportable income for tax purposes.

Applicant's Signature Date

Applicant's Name (printed) Title

Applicant's Signature Date

Applicant's Name (printed) Title

Please complete if someone assisted the applicant to complete this form:

Preparer Name (If not applicant) Preparer's relationship to applicant

Permission to discuss application with Preparer: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Date of Application: _____

Section 3. Income Replacement Grant

Commercial farms that have stopped selling some or all products due to PFAS contamination may apply to DACF for a grant for up to a total of 24 months of lost income, adjusted for inflation. Income Replacement is governed by rule 01-001 CMR c. 401 (2026).

Questions about Income Replacement Grants may be directed to Beth Valentine, PFAS Fund Director, at Beth.Valentine@maine.gov or (207) 313-0962.

Eligibility

The baseline eligibility requirements found in the *Eligibility and Instructions* Section of this Master Application must be met. As further defined therein, the farm must be a commercial farm operating in Maine with confirmed PFAS contamination, and it must collaborate with and grant DACF staff access to the farm. Additionally, the farm must have a demonstrated loss of income due to stopping or reducing sales of farm products at the order, written recommendation, or with the consent of DACF because of PFAS contamination.

Also, farms that (1) have a history of land application of residuals or other reasonable expectation that their farm product(s) contain elevated levels of PFAS and (2) have pulled their products from the market while test results are pending, may apply for income replacement.

Required Documentation – Section 3

The following information must be attached and submitted with this Section of the application:

A. Section 1. Applicant General Information with all specified attachments;

B. A statement, one-page or less, describing how the farm's income has been impacted by PFAS and what steps the farm is exploring to regain/reestablish income.

C. Complete copy of the applicant's federal income tax return(s) for the year(s) associated with the calculation of gross income as described in this application;

D. Profit and loss statements by month for all relevant time periods;

E. Copy of application(s) for USDA Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP) payments or other federal assistance programs, if applicable;

F. Other relevant documentation demonstrating loss of sales and current financial situation, which may include federal income tax return(s) for all relevant time periods;

G. Documentation by month of all financial payments received, including payments related to PFAS assistance from state, federal, private, and non-profit entities, including by/from USDA, insurance companies, and Maine-based nonprofit organizations.

DACF reserves the right to waive the requirement for certain documents for good cause.

Additional Information Requested – Section 3

Gross Income

There are a few options for calculating the farm's gross income; a commercial farm may use the option that is most advantageous. DACF can help to determine the best option for you.

DACF will rely primarily on Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Schedule F (Profit or Loss from Farming), Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business), and/or Schedule E (Supplemental Income and Loss) to determine gross farm income. Gross farm income typically does not include long-term capital gains such as those reported on IRS Form 8949. Gross farm income may include sales of business property reported on IRS Form 4797 when the sale is part of routine farm operations (e.g., sales of dairy cows).

Please choose which option to apply:

☐ The gross income of the year PFAS was discovered, as documented on a filed federal income tax return;

☐ The gross income of the year immediately preceding the year PFAS was discovered, as documented on a filed federal income tax return;

☐ The average of the top three grossing years out of the five years that include the year PFAS was discovered and the four years immediately preceding the year PFAS was discovered, as documented on filed federal income tax returns; or

☐ The average of the top three grossing years out of the five years immediately preceding the year PFAS was discovered, as documented on filed federal income tax returns.

Please choose from the following:

If this application for Income Replacement is approved, and the commercial farm continues to produce any farm product with the intent that the farm product be sold or otherwise disposed of to generate income, one of the following options may be selected:

☐ DACF will issue an initial payment of 30 percent of the established baseline income plus the inflationary factor. DACF will issue subsequent payments based on documentation of actual losses; or

☐ DACF will not make an upfront payment. Instead, the commercial farm will submit documentation of actual losses and DACF will make corresponding payments.

☐ Where a third-party entity has made income replacement payments to a commercial farm because of PFAS contamination and DACF has an existing reimbursement agreement with that third-party entity, DACF is authorized to reimburse the third-party entity according to the same terms as if the payment was made directly to the commercial farm. The amount of the payment to the third-party entity will be counted toward the commercial farm's maximum payment.

Application Review and Limitations - Section 3

The PFAS Fund Director will establish an application review panel comprised of DACF staff and at least one external member familiar with agricultural accounting and tax filings. The role of the application

review panel is to review applications, verify baseline income calculations, advise DACF on the sufficiency of the supporting documentation, and recommend the schedule of payments for each farm.

DACF reserves the right to consult with external persons with relevant expertise as part of the process.

DACF reserves the right to limit the amount of funding for all requests based on available resources.

Method of Calculating Income Replacement Payments

Baseline Income. DACF will calculate baseline income by subtracting an amount equal to any non-revenue payments received by the farm from the farm's gross income. For instance, DACF will subtract any "irregular" (or one-time) payments, such as prior state or federal grant awards reported in the farm's tax filing(s), from the farm's gross income.

Inflationary Factor. DACF will account for inflation by referencing the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U, CUUR0000SA0) as published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In January of each year, DACF will calculate the average annual CPI-U percentage increase of the prior five most recent years. This average will be the inflationary factor for all income replacement applications processed within that calendar year.

DACF will calculate income replacement payments using the following formulas:

Baseline Income – Current Income = Lost Income

Lost Income + (Inflationary Factor x Lost Income) = Income Replacement Amount

Maximum Payments. Payments are limited to actual losses adjusted for inflation as calculated above. Current income is income generated by the farm during the relevant time period through the sale of products or services not impacted by PFAS and other income received in the relevant time period, including but not limited to DIPP payments, gifts and donations above the federal gift tax exclusion, and income replacement payments made by another entity. Current income excludes any "irregular" (or one-time) payments, such as prior state or federal grant awards. An applicant may apply for up to 24 months of income replacement payments. The 24 months do not need to be consecutive. The initial baseline income will be used for any subsequent applications.

Overpayments. If income replacement payments exceed a commercial farm's documented losses from the impacts of PFAS, the commercial farm shall reimburse DACF an amount equal to the overpayment.

Limitations

No farm is eligible for more than 24 months of income replacement payments, calculated as described above. A commercial farm that permanently ceases operation within 12 months of the discovery of PFAS is eligible for the receipt of one year's lost income. A commercial farm that permanently ceases operation more than 12 months but less than 24 months after the discovery of PFAS is limited to receipt of lost income corresponding to the timeframe during which it remained in operation.

Elimination of Herd. If a commercial farm produces one primary product from a herd of livestock and then depopulates or depurates and sells the herd because of PFAS contamination, and the farm has not initiated a plan that is satisfactory to DACF to transition to a new form or type of production within 180 days of depopulation or sale, the commercial farm will be deemed to have ceased operations on the date the majority of the herd was depopulated or sold. When determining whether a plan is satisfactory, DACF

will consider factors such as whether the farm is working with a business planner or other service provider and the degree of cooperation with DACF staff.

Confirmation in Writing. A commercial farm will be deemed to have ceased operations when the farm confirms in writing that it no longer produces any farm product with the intent that the farm product be sold or otherwise disposed of to generate income presently or in the future.

Not Economically Viable. DACF reserves the right to determine that a farm has ceased operations when analysis conducted by DACF in conjunction with a service provider with a degree or professional experience in business planning indicates that continued operation is not economically viable.

Signature Block – Section 3

I certify that the information given in this Income Replacement application is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that payments may represent reportable income for tax purposes.

Applicant's Signature	Date
Applicant's Name (printed)	Title
Applicant's Signature	Date
Applicant's Name (printed)	Title

Please complete if someone assisted the applicant to complete this form:

Preparer Name (If not applicant)	Preparer's relationship to applicant

Permission to discuss application with Preparer: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Date of Application: _____

Section 4. Technical Assistance / Professional Services Grants

Commercial farms that have DACF-confirmed elevated levels of PFAS may apply to DACF for a grant to pay for technical assistance to help guide their response to the discovery of PFAS and/or to implement mitigation strategies. Eligible producers may work with service providers to obtain expert advice, estimates, drawings, plans, research, and technical or professional assistance related to modifying their operations in response to PFAS contamination. Service providers may be marketing consultants, accounting firms, farm and/or business support organizations, engineering firms, law firms, and other organizations that DACF determines may provide valuable services that support sustained farm viability. Technical Assistance is governed by rule 01-001 CMR c. 402 (2026).

Questions about Technical Assistance / Professional Services Grants may be directed to Beth Valentine, PFAS Fund Director, at Beth.Valentine@maine.gov or (207) 313-0962.

Required Documentation – Section 4

The following information must be submitted with this Section of the application:

A. Section 1. Applicant General Information with all specified attachments.

B. An estimate, invoice, or receipt from a service provider describing the scope of work, estimated timeline, and total cost;

C. If requesting direct reimbursement, provide Proof of Payment; and,

D. Any additional supporting documentation requested by DACF that DACF determines is necessary to review the request for assistance.

Additional Information Requested – Section 4

1. Describe the impacts PFAS contamination has had on the farm as it relates to the requested technical assistance/professional services:

2. Describe the problem technical/professional services will address:

3. A detailed description of the product the technical service provider will deliver. For example, a business planner may be asked to produce a comprehensive business plan that describes the farm, including its history, products, operations, and management; market analysis; proposed business ideas and strategies; financial analysis and projections; and an implementation plan. An engineer may be asked to render a plan for a new well or structure. A marketing firm may be asked to produce social media content and photography.

4. Description of next steps anticipated after obtaining the information sought from technical and/or professional services:

5. Total amount of support requested: $_____

6. Estimated start and end dates of service. Indicate whether there are any time constraints (e.g., approval is needed prior to spring planting):

7. **Payment Options – please check which one is requested:**

☐ Applicant will pay project costs and DACF will reimburse upon proof of purchase.

☐ DACF contracts with and pays applicant's approved vendors/contractors

☐ DACF reimburses a nonprofit for payment of approved project costs made on the applicant's behalf

Application Review – Section 4

Evaluation criteria may include but not be limited to the degree to which the farm has been negatively impacted by PFAS, likelihood of success, return on investment, total cost, timing, alternative options, level of risk, producer's demonstrated lack of available financial capacity, number of other requests for DACF support by the applicant and by other producers, and the farm's capacity and commitment to continue farming on the impacted property.

Evaluation criteria will also include an assessment by DACF of whether a given service provider is appropriately qualified to provide the particular type of technical assistance being sought.

DACF reserves the right to limit funding for all requests based on available resources and the evaluation criteria listed above.

Applications for technical assistance and professional services grants will be reviewed by DACF's PFAS Fund Director. The Director may request input from members of the DACF PFAS Response Program, including Agricultural PFAS Specialists (APS) and specialized consultants acting on the Program's behalf and who have worked with the farm and have knowledge of the applicant's operations. DACF will rely on all available information about the farm to assess the request. DACF reserves the right to request any additional supporting documentation that is necessary to evaluate the request for assistance. Decision-making authority rests with the PFAS Fund Director.

Payment Restrictions

DACF may pay for technical assistance costs directly related to a commercial farm's response to PFAS contamination. DACF will not pay for a commercial farm's technical assistance costs that are associated with routine operations that are unrelated to PFAS response.

(Section 4 Signature Block on Next Page)

Signature Block – Section 4

I certify that the information given in this Technical Assistance / Professional Services application is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge that payments may represent reportable income for tax purposes.

Applicant's Signature	Date
Applicant's Name (printed)	Title
Applicant's Signature	Date
Applicant's Name (printed)	Title

Please complete if someone assisted the applicant to complete this form:

Preparer Name (If not applicant)	Preparer's relationship to applicant

Permission to discuss application with Preparer: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Date of Application: _____

Section 5. Clean Feed Assistance

DACF can provide clean feed financial support if it determines, based on available farm data, that clean feed is necessary for the health and welfare of livestock and/or to achieve depuration goals in the absence of available clean feed from the farm. Clean feed includes organic and conventional feedstock.

Questions about clean feed assistance may be directed to Meagan Hennessey, PFAS Response Director, at Meagan.Hennessey@maine.gov or (207) 592-3795, or directly to the PFAS Response Program at PFAS.DACF@maine.gov or (207) 287-4515.

Required Documentation – Section 5

The following information must be submitted with this Section of the application:

A. Section 1. Applicant General Information with all specified attachments

B. An estimate, invoice, or receipt from a product provider describing product, source, and amount

C. Updated Herd List, including number of pregnancies

D. Current inventory of feed available at the farm, including sources

E. If requesting a direct reimbursement, provide proof of payment

F. PFAS test results from clean feed product provider, if available

G. Any additional supporting documentation requested by DACF that DACF determines is necessary to review the request for feed.

Additional Information Requested – Section 5

Please provide the following information

1. **Feed type and volume of feed needed**:

2. **Estimate of how long this purchase of feed will provide for your herd:**

_____

3. **Total amount of support requested: $_____**

4. **What are your plans for producing/sourcing clean feed in the future without DACF support?**

5. **Has the clean feed provider conducted PFAS testing on its feed and/or soil?** ☐ YES ☐ NO

6. **Payment Options - Please check which one is requested:**

☐ Applicant will pay project costs and DACF will reimburse upon proof of purchase

☐ DACF contracts with and pays applicant's approved vendors/contractors

☐ DACF reimburses a nonprofit for payment of approved project costs made on the applicant's behalf

Application Review – Section 5

Payment is subject to factors including herd size, contamination level, projected depuration timeframe, volume of feed needed over what time period, price (including transport and delivery), ability of farm to raise clean feed in the future, and PFAS-free status of replacement feed.

DACF will consider the total cost and whether the clean feed is essential to the viability of the farm. This could include the likelihood of success or return on investment and other relevant factors.

Other criteria for consideration include: total cost, timing, alternative options, level of risk, producer's demonstrated lack of available financial capacity, number of other requests for DACF support by other producers.

DACF reserves the right to cap funding for all requests based on available resources and other factors.

Signature Block – Section 5

I certify that the information given in this Clean Feed Assistance application is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge that payments may represent reportable income for tax purposes.

Applicant's Signature	Date
Applicant's Name (printed)	Title
Applicant's Signature	Date
Applicant's Name (printed)	Title

Please complete if someone assisted the applicant to complete this form:

Preparer Name (If not applicant)	Preparer's relationship to applicant

Permission to discuss application with Preparer: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Date of Application: _____

Section 6. Input Costs

A farm proposing to convert its operations to accommodate new products and/or production methods due to PFAS can apply for funding for related input costs (e.g., seed, plantings, or soil amendments) required to implement the changes.

Questions about input costs may be directed to Meagan Hennessey, PFAS Response Director, at Meagan.Hennessey@maine.gov or (207) 592-3795, or directly to the PFAS Response Program at PFAS.DACF@maine.gov or (207) 287-4515.

Required Documentation – Section 6

The following information must be submitted with this Section of the application:

A. Section 1. Applicant General Information with all specified attachments

B. Narrative – A statement, one page or less, describing and explaining:

- The impacts PFAS contamination has had on the farm as it relates to the need for new input costs;
- The proposed inputs and how they will address the impacts stated above;
- A justification of inputs chosen (including the type and specific product chosen); and,
- The anticipated result/outcome achieved by receiving this assistance from DACF.

C. An estimate, invoice, or receipt from a provider describing the input costs, and amount, including any taxes or transportation fees

D. If requesting a direct reimbursement, provide proof of payment

E. Supporting documentation, such as:

- Cost quotes or estimates with relevant details and input cost details from at least three separate vendors.

F. Any additional supporting documentation requested by DACF that DACF determines is necessary to review the request.

Additional Information Requested – Section 6

1. TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUPPORT REQUESTED FOR SECTION 6 COSTS: $_____

2. **Payment Options –** Please check which one is requested:

☐ Applicant will pay costs and DACF will reimburse upon proof of purchase

☐ DACF contracts with and pays applicant's approved vendors/contractors

☐ DACF reimburses a nonprofit for payment of approved costs made on the applicant's behalf

Application Review – Section 6

DACF will consider the total cost and whether the inputs are essential to the viability of the farm. This could include the likelihood of success or return on investment and other relevant factors.

Other criteria for consideration include: total cost, timing, alternative options, level of risk, producer's demonstrated lack of available financial capacity, number of other requests for DACF support by other producers.

DACF reserves the right to request a business plan first be developed for the farm and submitted to DACF to support an input costs application. Business plan assistance can be applied for via the Technical Assistance Grant (Section 4).

DACF reserves the right to cap funding for all requests based on available resources and other factors.

Signature Block – Section 6

I certify that the information given in this Input Costs application is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge that payments may represent reportable income for tax purposes.

Applicant's Signature	Date
Applicant's Name (printed)	Title
Applicant's Signature	Date
Applicant's Name (printed)	Title

Please complete if someone assisted the applicant to complete this form:

Preparer Name (If not applicant)	Preparer's relationship to applicant

Permission to discuss application with Preparer: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Date of Application: _____

Section 7. Equipment and Infrastructure Grants

Commercial farms that have DACF-confirmed elevated levels of PFAS may apply to DACF for grant funding for equipment and infrastructure projects that will help the commercial farm modify production methods or transition to the production of new farm products in order to minimize the risk of PFAS contamination. Equipment and infrastructure grants over $100,000 are governed by rule 01-001 CMR c. 403 (2026).

Questions about equipment and infrastructure grants valued up to $100,000 may be directed to Meagan Hennessey, PFAS Response Director, at Meagan.Hennessey@maine.gov or (207) 592-3795. Questions about equipment and infrastructure grants valued above $100,000 may be directed to Beth Valentine, PFAS Fund Director, at Beth.Valentine@maine.gov or (207) 313-0962.

Required Documentation – Section 7

The following information must be submitted with this Section of the application:

A. Section 1 - General Information and all specified attachments

B. Project Narrative. A statement, one page or less, describing and explaining:

- The proposed equipment and/or infrastructure;
- Description of the impacts PFAS contamination has had on the farm, specific to equipment and/or infrastructure needs;
- A description of the specific problem the equipment and/or infrastructure seeks to address (justification);
- A justification for the specifically chosen equipment (including product type and model chosen) and/or specific infrastructure element(s); and
- The anticipated result/outcome achieved by receiving this assistance from DACF.

C. If requesting a direct reimbursement, provide proof of payment

D. Supporting documentation, such as:

- A business plan that illustrates how the requested equipment and/or infrastructure will contribute to the farm's long-term viability (business plans are advisable for all applicants and are required for all requests above $100,000);
- For equipment, necessary specifications;
- For infrastructure, building plans and/or engineering drawings; and
- Cost quotes or estimates with relevant details from three vendors; and
- For infrastructure, contractor details, including a Statement of Qualifications, from three contractors.

E. Any additional supporting documentation requested by DACF that DACF determines is necessary to review the request for assistance.

Additional Information Requested – Section 7

1. Total amount of support requested in Section 7: $ _____

2. Payment Preference – please check which one is requested:

☐ Applicant will pay project costs and DACF will reimburse upon proof of purchase

☐ DACF contracts with and pays applicant's approved vendors/contractors

☐ DACF reimburses a nonprofit for payment of approved project costs made on the applicant's behalf

Terms and Conditions of an Equipment or Infrastructure Grant

By applying for an equipment or infrastructure grant, the applicant agrees to the following conditions:

- The grantee will continue to ensure that the equipment or infrastructure purchased is maintained in a safe condition and in good repair.
- DACF has the sole discretion to determine if expenditures are reasonable and prudent, and whether the grantee has complied with these terms and conditions and all applicable laws, rules, and regulations.
- The State shall have no responsibility for the use, maintenance, or fitness of the equipment or infrastructure.
- The grantee agrees not to assign, transfer, lease or encumber its rights or obligations under the agreement without DACF's prior written consent. The grantee shall indemnify, defend, save and hold the State and its employees harmless from and against any claims, losses, liabilities, costs, expenses, damages, or other obligations of any nature in any way arising out of the use, operation, maintenance, or repair of the equipment or infrastructure.
- The grantee must retain ownership and use the equipment or infrastructure for a period consistent with the relevant recovery period for standard farming assets as depicted in Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Publication 225 (Farmer's Tax Guide), Table 7-1, Farm Property Recovery Periods[1]; or the grantee must notify DACF in writing within 30 days of any sale, trade, destruction, or abandonment of equipment or infrastructure purchased under the equipment or infrastructure grant program if such sale, trade, destruction, or abandonment occurs within the relevant recovery period for standard farming assets as depicted in IRS Publication 225 (Farmer's Tax Guide), Table 7-1, Farm Property Recovery Periods[1].
- If the equipment or infrastructure is sold, traded, abandoned, or destroyed within the relevant recovery period noted above, DACF may seek reimbursement from the grantee for the remaining value of the equipment or infrastructure as calculated using generally accepted accounting principles. In deciding whether to seek reimbursement, DACF will consider whether the events leading to the sale, trade, abandonment, or destruction were within the grantee's control and will not penalize

[1] Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service. *Farmer's Tax Guide*. Publication 225, Cat. No. 11049L. This resource is available at https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p225.pdf (last visited July 23, 2026).

grantees for forces beyond their control. Failure to provide reimbursement, if demanded, will render the grant recipient ineligible for future assistance from DACF.

- The State may inspect any equipment, facilities or infrastructure funded through an equipment or infrastructure grant at any time within the relevant recovery period.
- All grantees will purchase and maintain insurance to cover the value of the equipment or infrastructure from loss during the relevant recovery period.

Payment Restrictions

DACF may pay for equipment and infrastructure costs directly related to a commercial farm's response to PFAS contamination. DACF will not pay for a commercial farm's equipment or infrastructure costs associated with routine operations unrelated to PFAS response.

Application Review – Section 7

Evaluation criteria, regardless of cost, may include but not be limited to the degree to which the farm has been negatively impacted by PFAS, likelihood of success, return on investment, total cost, timing, alternative options, level of risk, producer's demonstrated lack of available financial capacity, number of other requests for DACF support by the applicant and by other producers, and the farm's capacity and commitment to continue farming on the impacted property. Additionally, DACF will consider all available information it has compiled on the farm to assess the request. DACF reserves the right to request any additional supporting documentation that is necessary to evaluate the request for assistance.

Applications for projects valued up to $100,000 will be reviewed by the PFAS Response Director. The PFAS Response Director may request staff input based on staff's knowledge of the applicant's operations. Decision-making authority for projects valued up to $100,000 rests with the PFAS Response Director.

Applications for projects valued above $100,000 will be reviewed by an ad-hoc application review panel that will be established by the DACF Commissioner and, at a minimum, will be composed of DACF PFAS Response staff, and a case-specific expert based on the scope or type of project. (e.g., dairy, water, finance). The role of the application review panel is to advise DACF on the merits of proposals. Decision-making authority for projects valued above $100,000 rests with the PFAS Fund Director.

DACF reserves the right to limit funding for all requests based on available resources and the evaluation criteria listed above.

(Signature Block for Section 7 on next page)

Signature Block – Section 7

Agreement to Terms and Conditions of an Equipment or Infrastructure Grant

By submitting this application for an Equipment or Infrastructure Grant, the undersigned agrees to these Terms and Conditions. I certify that the information given in this Equipment and Infrastructure Grants application is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that payments may represent reportable income for tax purposes.

Applicant's Signature	Date
Applicant's Name (printed)	Title
Applicant's Signature	Date
Applicant's Name (printed)	Title

Please complete if someone assisted the applicant to complete this form:

Preparer Name (If not applicant)	Preparer's relationship to applicant

Permission to discuss application with Preparer: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Date of Application: _____

Section 8. New Loan Assistance

Commercial farms that have DACF-confirmed elevated levels of PFAS may apply to DACF for a grant to assist with the cost of obtaining a guaranteed loan, commercial loan insurance, or environmental site assessments when a lending institution requires one or more of these products because of PFAS contamination. New Loan Assistance is governed by rule 01-001 CMR c. 404 (2026).

Questions about New Loan Assistance Grants may be directed to Beth Valentine, PFAS Fund Director, at Beth.Valentine@maine.gov or (207) 313-0962.

Required Documentation – Section 8:

The following information must be submitted with this Section of the application:

A. Section 1. General Information and all specified attachments

B. A narrative, one-page or less, which includes the following information:

- The purpose and amount of the loan being sought,
- How the need for the loan relates to the presence of PFAS on your property,
- The name of the lending institution,
- The particular support you are seeking, e.g., fees to cover the cost of commercial loan insurance, and
- Total amount of support requested.

C. Supporting documentation, such as:

- A completed loan application,
- A statement from a lender identifying fees, and/or
- A statement from a commercial lender advising the applicant that a Phase I and/or Phase II environmental site assessment (ESA) is required before the lender will act on the applicant's loan application.

D. Any additional supporting documentation requested by DACF that DACF determines is necessary to review the request for assistance.

Application Review and Payment Restrictions – Section 8

DACF will not make any payments under this Chapter (i) for costs associated with the investigation of contaminants other than PFAS, (ii) to pay interest or reduce the principal on a commercial farm's loan, or (iii) associated with a commercial farm's acquisition of a new property. DACF may pay for the cost of a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment when a lender needs the study to make a lending decision. DACF may pay for a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment when the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment identifies the need for further PFAS investigation.

DACF payments to a lender or insurance company shall be in accordance with that entity's published fees.

Where a third-party entity has paid an expense associated with the acquisition of a new loan on behalf of a PFAS-impacted farm and DACF has an existing reimbursement agreement with that third-party entity, DACF is authorized to reimburse the third-party entity according to the same terms described herein.

New Loan Assistance Application Review

Evaluation criteria may include but not be limited to the degree to which the farm has been negatively impacted by PFAS, likelihood of success, return on investment, total cost, timing, alternative options, level of risk, producer's demonstrated lack of available financial capacity, number of other requests for DACF support by the applicant and by other producers, and the farm's capacity and commitment to continue farming on the impacted property.

Applications will be reviewed by DACF's PFAS Fund Director. The PFAS Fund Director may request staff input based on the staff's knowledge of the applicant's operations. DACF will rely on all available information it has compiled on the farm to assess the request. DACF reserves the right to request any additional supporting documentation that is necessary to evaluate the request for assistance. Decision-making authority rests with the PFAS Fund Director.

DACF reserves the right to limit funding for all requests based on available resources and the evaluation criteria listed above.

Signature Block – Section 8

I certify that the information given in this New Loan Assistance application is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that payments may represent reportable income for tax purposes.

Applicant's Signature Date

Applicant's Name (printed) Title

Applicant's Signature Date

Applicant's Name (printed) Title

Please complete if someone assisted the applicant to complete this form:

Preparer Name (If not applicant) Preparer's relationship to applicant

Permission to discuss application with Preparer: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Appendix A: Vendor Form

(all applicants must complete this section)

State of Maine Substitute W-9 & Vendor Authorization Form

RETURN: *by mail to the agency who requested the form or sent it to you, or the agency you're doing business with. (ex. DHHS/Labor/ DEP/Education/etc)*

PURPOSE: To establish or update an account with the State of Maine's accounting system.
Complete this form if: 1) You will receive payment from the State of Maine, and/or 2) You are a vendor who provides services or goods to the State of Maine.
This form replaces the IRS W-9 form per the IRS W-9 language; "If a requester gives you a form other than Form W-9 to request your TIN, you must use the requester's form if it is substantially similar to this Form W-9."

FILL OUT FORM COMPLETELY - ALL AREAS WITH * ARE REQUIRED - ONLY ONE NAME & TIN PER A FORM

TYPE OF REQUEST*: (Must select one.)

☐ **New Request** ☐ **New Location/Additional Entry** ☐ **Change** ◯ Legal Name ◯ Phone # ◯ Contact Info ◯ Payment Address ◯ DBA Name ◯ Care Of ◯ Email Only ◯ Ordering Address

TAXPAYER ID NUMBER* (TIN) ***(Provide ONE only)*** Social Security # (person) or a Federal Employer ID # (business) TIN

TIN Type * choose ONE	Organization Type *	Classification * choose ONE	
◯ Social Security No. ⇨	◯ Individual ⇨	☐ Individual	☐ Nonresident Alien ☐ Estate ☐ Sole Proprietorship
◯ Employer ID No. ⇨	◯ Company ⇨	☐ Corporation ☐ Partnership ☐ SB/Sole Prop ☐ Estate ☐ Other Non-Profit Org ☐ Other Gov't ☐ Fed/Sta Gov't ☐ Trust ☐ Other ☐ Foreign (W8 required)	

LEGAL NAME ***(Must provide: Legal name filed with IRS tied to the ID number, SSN=first & last name/FEIN=business name)***

Legal Name* Alias/DBA

Other Info Vendor Customer Number (if known) VC#/VS# Account/Client/Provider Number (if known)

Payment Address* My ☐ **Billing Address** ☐ **Admin. Address** is the same.

Address C/O

City/State/Zip Phone

Contact*

Name Phone Ext

Email

Procurement/Ordering Address* My ☐ **Billing Address** ☐ **Admin. Address** is the same.

Address C/O

City/State/Zip Phone

Contact*

Name Phone Ext

Email

*Require printed form with wet signature or digital signature with audit trail, such as DocuSign or Adobe Sign.

Authorized Signature, Title & Current Date

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that: 1) The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number, and 2)I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the IRS that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding, and 3) I am a U. S. citizen or other U. S. person (defined by the IRS). Ref: www.irs.gov

Information on State Agency Submitting Vendor Form

OFFICE USE ONLY State Agency & SHS # | Agency Contact Person Name & Title | OFFICE USE ONLY Contact's Phone #

Appendix B: Maine PFAS Screening Levels

MAINE PFAS SCREENING LEVELS

July 2025

Soil Remedial Action Guidelines[1] (mg/kg dry weight)						
Compound	Leaching to Groundwater	Residential	Commercial Worker	Park User	Recreator Sediment	Construction Worker
PFBS	0.11	26	340	74	85	230
PFBA	0.36	110	1,600	300	350	2,000
PFHxS	0.00047	1.7	22	4.9	5.7	5.1
PFHxA	0.13	43	560	120	140	130
PFNA	0.0046	0.26	3.4	0.74	0.85	0.77
PFOS	0.001	0.17	2.2	0.49	0.57	0.51
PFOA	0.017	0.26	3.4	0.74	0.85	0.77
HFPO-DA	0.00081	0.32	4.8	0.9	1.1	10

Soil Beneficial Use[2] (ng/g dry weight)	
Compound	Beneficial Use
PFBS	1,900
PFOS	5.2
PFOA	2.5

Interim Drinking Water Standard[3] (ng/l or ppt)	
Compound	Residential
PFOS + PFOA + PFHpA + PFNA + PFHxS + PFDA	20

Fish Tissue Action Level (ng/g wet weight)	
Compound	Action Level
PFOS	3.5

Milk[4] (ng/l or ppt)	
Compound	Action Level
PFOS	210

Beef[5] (ng/g or ppb)	
Compound	Action Level
PFOS	3.4

Chicken Eggs[6] (ng/g or ppb)	
Compound	Action Level
PFOS	4.7

[1] Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP), *Maine Remedial Action Guidelines (RAGs) for Contaminated Sites*, effective November 15, 2023.
[2] Maine DEP, *Maine Solid Waste Management Rules: Beneficial Use of Solid Wastes*, 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 418, Appendix A, last amended July 8, 2018.
[3] Resolve 2021, ch. 82, *Resolve, To Protect Consumers of Public Drinking Water by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Substances and Contaminants*, Emergency, effective June 21, 2021.
[4] Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *Action levels for PFOS in cow's milk*, Memorandum to Rachael Fiske, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), from Andrew Smith, SM, ScD and Thomas Simones, PhD, Maine CDC, March 28, 2017.
[5] Maine CDC, *Action levels for PFOS in beef for use in determining whether beef at a farm is adulterated*, Memorandum to Nancy McBrady, Maine DACF, from Andrew Smith, SM, ScD and Thomas Simones, PhD, Maine CDC, August 4, 2020.
[6] Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, *Chicken Egg Action Level – Overview and Rationale*, June 24, 2025.

MAINE PFAS SCREENING LEVELS

July 2025

Dairy[7] - PFOS Crop-Specific Soil Screening Levels (ng/g dry weight)			
	Soil to Hay to Milk Screening Level	Soil to Corn-Silage to Milk Screening Level	Soil to Hay and Corn-Silage to Milk Screening Level
Grass-Based Farm	6.8	120.0	6.4
Average Maine Farm	13.8	54.8	11.0

Helpful Conversions: 0.000001 ppm = 0.001 ppb = 1 ppt

Parts Per Million (ppm)	Parts Per Billion (ppb)	Parts Per Trillion (ppt)
1 milligram/kilogram (mg/kg) = 1 ppm 1 milligram/liter (mg/l) = 1 ppm 1 microgram/gram (µg/g) = 1 ppm	1 microgram/kilogram (µg/kg) = 1 ppb 1 microgram/liter (µg/l) = 1 ppb 1 nanogram/gram (ng/g) = 1 ppb	1 nanogram/kilogram (ng/kg) = 1 ppt 1 nanogram/liter (ng/l) = 1 ppt 1 picogram/gram (pg/g) = 1 ppt

[7] Maine CDC, *Derivation of PFOS soil screening levels for a soil-to-fodder-to-cow's milk agronomic pathway*, September 16, 2020.

Appendix C: Right to Appeal

If an application is denied, DACF will send the applicant a written notice of its decision. Such notice will include the reason the application was denied.

An aggrieved person may appeal a grant award decision by requesting an appeal hearing according to the procedures defined in 01-001 C.M.R. Chapter 8, §§ 4-6, Rules for Departmental Grant Awards and Appeals.