



Maine Farms for the Future Phase 1 Business Plan Development Program Application Form Preview

Application Deadline

March 7, 2025, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time.

[To apply, download the program RFA here.](#)

To apply to the Farms for the Future Phase 1 Program, you will have to submit these answers via the online Form linked in the RFA above. This document is meant to help you feel prepared to answer those questions.

Section 1: Applicant Information

1. Farm Business Name
2. Lead point of contact for Applicant Farm (your name)
3. Farm Physical Address (Street, City and ZIP, County)
4. Mailing address (if different from Physical address)
5. Phone Number
6. Email Address
7. Preferred mode of communication (Multiple choice: Email/ Phone Call/ Text)
8. Legal Business Structure (Drop Down: LLC/ Sole Proprietor/ 501(c)(3)/ B Corp/ Cooperative/ Partnership/ Other)
9. List all (co-)owner(s) and the percentage of the business each owns.
10. How are roles and responsibilities divided between co-owners? Briefly describe each owner's typical role. (Eg. Alex manages crop planning and managing labor. Tyler manages seed starting and financial records. OR Alex and Tyler work off-farm shift jobs. Labor is divided based on who is available on farm.)
11. Number of full-time employees, excluding owner(s)
12. Number of part-time and seasonal employees
13. Number of years the farm business has commercially operated
14. Business/organization's website (NOT required)
15. List the farm business's primary crops and products and estimate the percentage of your gross income each represents. (Eg. Mixed vegetables (50%), potatoes (20%), eggs (10%), cut flowers (10%))
16. What markets does your farm business access? (Multiple choice: Farm stand (unstaffed)/ Farm store/ CSA/ Farmer's Markets/ Wholesale/ Restaurants/ Other)

17. Is there anything else that is related to your Idea(s) for Change that you'd like us to know about your farm business? NOT required--no points will be deducted for not answering this. (Max. 200 words)

Section 2: Management Capacity

18. Briefly describe your farming experience and training. (Min. 50 words, Max. 150 words)
19. Describe a time your farm business had to adapt to a new or unexpected challenge. What was the challenge? How did you change your systems, business, or operations to address it? What resources or help did you use to decide how to address the challenge? (Min. 150 words, Max. 250 words)
20. How many years or seasons has your longest-tenured employee been with your business?
21. How will the Phase 1 Business Planning Grant help you or improve your farm business? (Min. 50 words, Max. 150 words)
22. Why is this the right time for your business to engage in the Farms for the Future program? (Min. 100 words, Max. 250 words)

Section 3: Physical Resource Base

23. Estimated number of acres owned.
24. Estimated number of owned acres in production.
25. Estimated number of leased acres in production.
26. Estimated number of acres protected by a conservation easement, if any.
27. How many acres of your farmland is classified as Prime Farmland?
28. How many acres of your farmland is classified as Farmland of Statewide Importance?
29. How many acres of your farmland is classified as Farmland of Local Importance?
30. How many acres of your farmland is classified as Non-Farmland Soils?
31. For how many consecutive years has your farmland been farmed? (Your best estimate)
32. Briefly describe what practices you are using to maintain and improve your soil health, if any. (Min. 100 words, Max. 250 words, or N/A)
33. List all of your large equipment and its current condition (Poor/ Fair/ Good) (eg. BCS Push tractor- Fair; Kubota 55 HP tractor- Good)
34. List all of your buildings and infrastructure and its current condition (Poor/ Fair/ Good) (eg. 100 foot timber frame barn- Poor; 10' x 20' Storage shed- Good)

Section 4: Farm Financial Health

35. What was your Debt/Income ratio this year?
36. What was your Debt/Income ratio last year?
37. What is next year's gross projected income?

38. To what degree is the farm business supporting your household? (percentage of total household income)
39. How often do you bring your farm financial records up to date? (Choose one: Weekly or more/ Monthly/ Seasonally OR every few months/ Yearly OR At tax time)
40. What method do you use to track farm expenses? (Multiple Choice: Quickbooks/ Spreadsheets/ A ledger/ Loose notes/ Accountant/ POS)
41. What best describes your perspective on farm debt and debt management? (Choose one: Comfortable with debt when managed well/ Somewhat comfortable with debt/ Uncomfortable with debt but not entirely opposed/ Avoid debt at all costs)
42. What would you like to change about your debt situation, if any? Please be specific about what you would like to change, and when. (Min. 100 words, Max. 250 words)

Section 5: Idea(s) for Change

43. Describe your Idea(s) for Change. (Min. 150, Max. 300 words)
44. Describe how your Idea(s) for Change will impact the long-term, maintainable farm profitability and net worth of the business. (Min. 150, Max. 300 words)
45. How will your Idea(s) for Change fit into your 5-10 year vision for the farm business. (Min. 150, Max. 300 words)
46. Describe how these changes will impact your quality of life. (Min. 50, Max. 150 words)
47. Describe how your Idea(s) for Change might impact your farm business' ability to:
 - 1)** Benefit your community, **2)** Protect against development pressure, **3)** Provide more employment opportunities, **4)** Support regional agricultural infrastructure, **AND/OR 5)** Conserve other natural resources (water, soil, air, wildlife habitat, etc.)(Min. 150 words, Max. 300 words)

Supplemental Files

“An email will be sent to you after this form is submitted. You must reply to that email with the required supplemental files, including completed Schedule F Forms for the last two years, and an NRCS soil map before the Due Date. “