

Empire State Development
2015 New York State New Farmers Grant Fund

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Question: My farm property is comprised of more than 150 acres. However, less than 150 acres are used for farming purposes, am I eligible to apply?

Answer: *“Farm operation” is defined in the guidelines as “the land and on-farm buildings, equipment and practices that contribute to the production, preparation and marketing of crops, livestock and livestock products as a commercial enterprise.” If the farm operation as a whole is over 150 acres in total (with all the combined leased and owned properties), the farm business is not an eligible applicant.*

In some cases, a farm business may be able to make the case that although they own/lease over 150 acres, the farm operation is less than 150 acres. If this is the case, the applicant can submit plot plans, photos and other visual material with the application to describe the situation. Such situations will be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

Question: Can the following income sources be used to meet the eligibility requirement of a minimum of \$10,000 in sales from products grown or derived from the applicant’s farm operation:

- Custom hire income
- Farm processing income
- Farm machine rental income
- Natural Resources Conservation Service contract income

Answer: *No, these types of income may not be used to meet this eligibility requirement.*

Question: Are the following types of projects/costs considered eligible:

- a tractor
- drainage tiles
- fencing
- fertilizer, seeds

Answer: *If your project meets the Program Goals and all of the Eligibility Requirements, these items are potentially eligible.*

Question: Would a refrigerated truck be eligible?

Answer: *A refrigerated truck would not be an eligible project cost.*

Question: Is a horse farm that provides equine education, breeding, or boarding services eligible to apply?

Answer: *To be eligible a farm must produce an agricultural product as defined by the program guidelines. For this grant program, an agricultural product is defined in N.Y. Agriculture and Markets Law § 328(2) as “any agricultural or aquacultural product of the soil or water, including but not limited to fruits, vegetables, eggs, dairy products, meat and meat products, poultry and poultry products, fish and fish products, grain and grain products, honey, nuts, preserves, maple sap products, apple cider, and fruit juice.” Equine education, breeding, or boarding services are not included in this definition.*

Question: Can my 50% match for the grant be for items purchased prior to 3/1/16?

Answer: *All project costs (this includes both the grant and the match) must meet the Project Costs Eligibility Requirements (see Section 2.D of the Guidelines). Therefore, these items would not be considered an eligible match.*