

Growing Tomorrow Grant



Frequently Asked Questions

What inspired the creation of this grant?

This grant-making program is the brainchild of Mike Boyert, former Ohio Farm Bureau Trustee, and his wife Patti. Mike and Patti, residents of Medina County, remember well the struggles they encountered when they started their farming careers, and the difficulties they faced in starting, growing, and sustaining their farming business. The Growing Tomorrow Grant program is Mike and Patti's way of ensuring that creative young farmers can access opportunities they did not have, and enabling these young professionals to use their skills to alleviate the difficulties facing agriculture today, including a lack of public education regarding the importance of farms within the US food system and the significant economic hardships facing rural communities and farm workers.

Do applicants need to have a registered LLC or C-Corp to be eligible?

No. Agricultural businesses structured as a sole proprietorship, LLC, partnership, or C-corp are all eligible to apply.

Are non-profits eligible for the grant?

Yes, as long as they meet all eligibility requirements.

Does a proposal need to address all four challenges, or can it focus on just one?

Yes, grant proposals are only required to address one of the four challenges outlined in the requirements document. However, you may address multiple challenges as it makes sense for your specific situation.

Are these grant dollars taxable?

Please consult your financial advisor or tax professional.

What are the expectations in terms of video quality for part A of the application?

The video portion of the application allows the review committee to see who you are as a farmer or as an entrepreneur and your passion for your work. While it is important to clearly convey the specified information in the video, an elaborate video production is not required. A selfie style video that really showcases who you are on the farm or a well produced, edited video of you at your place of business can be equally effective. The review committee is focused primarily on the quality of the content, not necessarily the quality of the video.

More questions? Contact Mary Klopfenstein at mklopfenstein@ofbf.org

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How do I approach the financial section of the application when I have a start-up LLC with some personal cash invested to acquire essential equipment and inventory for start up?

Consider completing both an LLC balance sheet and a personal balance sheet to submit with our application. Remember, a balance sheet is just a static document of your assets/liabilities, so anything to do with your LLC as far as equipment, supplies, livestock, etc should be on the LLC balance sheet. If desired, you can show intent for the LLC to one day pay back the personal dollars invested by including the personal dollars as an account payable on the LLC balance sheet.

When documenting cash flow, there will be a spot for non-farm income. Completing this section will allow the review committee to see that although the operation may currently be operating in the red, it is brought to the black by off farm income. Know that this is very common for beginning farmers.

What determines the number of grant recipients each year and the amount allocated to each recipient?

The number of grant recipients and amount allocated to each varies each year depending on available funds and the quantity and quality of applications received. The grant review committee considers several factors when determining the recipient(s) and awarded amounts including but not limited to strength of project business plan, project budget need, and alignment with one or more of the outlined grant challenge areas.

Do I need to specify a specific dollar amount needed on my application?

Ideally, yes. Be clear about how much is needed to fuel your project. Grant project proposals of any size up to the maximum amount of dollars are available to be distributed for that year will be considered. Top applicants invited to the in-person presentation round will be asked to submit project budgets clearly articulating a good, better, best scenario in terms of fund amounts to effectively implement their proposed project.

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