

This document serves as a reference for applicants only. AFT will only accept 2026 Farm Vitality grant applications submitted through our online grant application portal, Survey Monkey Apply.

Regenerate Virginia
2026 Healthy Soils Grant Application Questions for Reference
Deadline to Apply: 11:59pm Eastern, December 19, 2025

**All questions are required unless specified*

Applicant Information

Applicants may be individuals, individual farm operations, cooperative entities, incubator entities, or other legal farm entities. For cooperative, incubator, or other legal farm entities, the contact information name should be the main point of contact. All applicants that become awardees will have to provide a W9 and banking information that match the Applicant name.

Is this application for an individual farm operation or a group of farm operations?

First Name of primary contact for application:

Last Name of primary contact for application:

Email of primary contact for application:

Retype Email:

Phone Number of primary applicant:

Primary Contact's Mailing Address:

Line 1:

Line 2:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Does the applicant qualify as a limited-resource farmer, using the USDA's [online tool](#) for self-determination?

- Yes
- No

Are any of the applicants a Beginning Farmer? Years involved in Operating a Farm: ([USDA Beginning Farmer Definition](#))

- No – Farming/Ranching 10 Years or more
- Yes – Farming/Ranching 6-10 Years
- Yes – Farming/Ranching 1-5 years
- Yes – Farming/Ranching less than 1 Year

Have any of the applicants ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard?

- Yes, on active duty now
- Yes, on active duty in the past, but not now
- Never served in the military

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Farming Information

Details about the farm's location, ownership, and operations.

Primary Applicant Farm Name:

Primary Applicant Farm Location

Line 1:

Line 2:

City:

State:

If the farm does not have a USPS address, please include its Section, Township or Range:

County:

Primary Applicant Farm website(s) and/or any social media handles (if applicable):

Size of farm (total acres of land including cropland, pasture, woodland, and all other land):

Total acres in cultivation or agricultural use:

Is the farmland at this addressed owned or leased?

- ☐ Own
- ☐ Lease
- ☐ Do not own, but operate family farmland

Briefly tell us about the current farming status and land tenure situation If leased, please explain the terms of the lease agreement (yearly, month-to-month, or otherwise), including what year the current lease extends to and if it is a formal or informal lease agreement.(ex: full-time, part-time, hobby/personal use, leasing land, managing a farm, etc.) (500-word max):

Farming Experience

Share your background, training, and current farming status.

Did you spend a majority (50 percent or more) of your work time farming or ranching over the last 12 months?

- Yes
- No

If you answered “no”, please explain why farming is not currently your primary occupation (150 words max):

Briefly describe your farming background, training, and experiences (500 words max):

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Please tell us anything else about you, your story, or your background that you think is important for us better to understand you and your farm, including any hardships or impacts you may have encountered based on your identity (150-word max)

How will this funding help you overcome any of the barriers or hardships you mentioned in the question above? (250 word maximum)

Production & Practices

Did you produce food or agricultural products for your community in 2024 and/or 2025 for sale or barter/exchange?

Yes

No

If yes, and products were sold, what were your gross revenues? \$_____

If no, please state an explanation (150 word max):

What products did this farm operation produce, raise, or grow in 2024 and/or 2025 growing seasons?
(Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Dairy
- ☐ Beef
- ☐ Sheep/Goats (meat)
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Equine
- ☐ Poultry-meat
- ☐ Poultry-eggs
- ☐ Fiber
- ☐ Other Livestock
- ☐ Fruit
- ☐ Vegetables
- ☐ Feed Grains
- ☐ Nursery
- ☐ Flowers
- ☐ Greenhouse
- ☐ Forages, hay
- ☐ Ethnic Crops
- ☐ Seed Production
- ☐ Grains, dry beans, oil seeds for human consumption
- ☐ Maple

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- ☐ Bees/honey
- ☐ Peanuts
- ☐ If product not listed above, please specify: _____

Describe your current regenerative farming practices as they relate to soil, water, community, economics, and/or farm inputs and outputs (500 words max):

For the purposes of this Program, AFT defines regenerative agriculture as a way of farming that improves the health of soil, water, and ecosystems while also supporting strong farms and communities.

Proposed Use of Funds

Please describe how the proposed project will address one or more of the following principles of soil health in the specific context of your farm operation(s):

- Maximize diversity
- Minimize disturbance
- Maximize soil cover
- Maximize living roots in the soil

Please briefly share the ways in which you are specifically proposing to use the funds (500 word maximum). Include in your description:

- a) Specific details about the practices that will be implemented.
- b) A description of the ways that the project being proposed will enhance the farm's soil health and your regenerative farming goals.

Please explain why this project is not a good fit for other funding opportunities (e.g. the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share (VACS) program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), other state or federal cost share, etc.) or how you plan to use a Healthy Soils award as a complement to other funding opportunities.

Please describe the communication and outreach plan. How will you let others know about this project?

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Do you have a technical consultant or advisor you will be working with on this project (for example, an extension agent, SWCD staff person, crop consultant, etc.)? If so, who? Explain what their role on the project will be.

Explain how you plan to assess the health of your soil and what changes you will be looking for, especially in the context of the short timeline of the project.

Explain how this work fits into the longer term sustainability goals that you have for your farm. How will this project help you into the future?

Project Budget and Timeline

Grant Amount Requested [\$30,000 maximum for an individual farm, \$50,000 for a group of farmers]:

Please provide an estimated budget outline for the project (see [Excel](#) or [Word](#) budget templates if desired):

If other funds are required, what is the source of other funds?

If awarded, the grant will be disbursed as follows:

- Applicants will select a one- or two-year grant period at the time of application. The grant period starts at the time of award agreement; however, the period of performance refers to the time from initial award fund receipt to the due date of the final report, 365 days or 730 days respectively. Awardees may choose to start work after the agreement is signed, but are not required to until the first installment is received.
- The first 75% of the total awarded amount will be disbursed to the award recipient approximately 90 days after receipt of a signed award agreement via the online grant portal.
- Applicants will select a one- or two-year grant period at the time of application. The grant period starts at the time of agreement; however, the period of performance refers to the time from initial award fund receipt to the due date of the final report, 365 days or 730 days respectively. Awardees may choose to start work after the agreement is signed, but are not required to until the first installment is received.
- Final reports are due to AFT 365 days following receipt of award funds **or** 730 days following receipt of award funds depending on the pre-selected grant period.
- Awardees will receive a link via email to complete the final report in the Survey Monkey Apply portal 3 months prior to the close of their grant period.
- Remaining 25% payments will be issued approximately 90 days after the close of the grant cycle on the condition that all deliverables are met and reporting is submitted.

Please select your anticipated grant project time period:

- Completion of project within one year (365 days) of receipt of initial funds

Or

- Completion of project within two years (730) of receipt of initial funds

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How will you ensure that the payment schedule specific to your selected grant period works for your operation? Grant funds will be disbursed in two installments as reflected above. This schedule is fixed and cannot be modified. Please respond in a way that reflects this schedule.

(optional) If the project cannot be completed within two years, please explain why:

Please provide a brief timeline of proposed project activities:

I understand that all award updates & communication will be done via email and an online platform. Failure to reply may result in loss of award:

- Yes
- No

Primary Contact Demographics

The following questions are optional, but help us collect data about the reach of our grant programs. This information is not used to determine grant eligibility or preference.

Please select your age group:

- Under 25 years
- 25-34 years
- 35-44 years
- 45-54 years
- 55-64 years
- 65 years and over
- Prefer not to answer

With which gender identity do you most identify?

- Man
- Woman
- Transgender/Trans woman
- Transgender/Trans man
- Non-binary
- Prefer to self-describe: _____
- Prefer not to answer

Which racial and ethnic category/categories best describes you?

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African

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- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White or European
- ☐ Other (two or more races)
- ☐ Prefer not to answer.

How do you describe your sexual orientation or sexual identity?

- ☐ Lesbian
- ☐ Gay
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Queer
- ☐ Heterosexual
- ☐ Prefer to self-describe
- ☐ Prefer not to answer