

ID	Date Posted	Question	Answer
<b>Allowable Cost</b>			
BFQA26019	4/1/2026	The land I would seek to purchase is currently owned by my aunt and uncle, but they are no longer able to farm the land due to their age. Does this land qualify as eligible for purchase because it is my extended family?	This would be ineligible. Please see the Use of Funds Restrictions in the Technical Requirements.
BFQA26023	4/1/2026	If you want to become a partner in a farm, could these funds be used to join an existing enterprise by purchasing assets that would help build equity and increase revenue?	The applicant must be able to certify that they materially and substantially participate in the day-to-day operation of the farm at the time of application. That being said, this would not be permissible.
BFQA26030	4/1/2026	For eligible expenses for building and construction, can that be completed by staff?	Construction can be completed by staff as long as all staff members and activities are properly insured.
BFQA26035	4/1/2026	Can you hire Amish for construction projects? How is hiring amish different than hiring a contractor that is not licenced?	You can hire a licensed Amish contractor.
BFQA26041	4/1/2026	I have a friend that has worked with me on my oyster farm. I bought a second oyster farm can he lease it from me under this grant	Yes, this grant can be used for a land lease.
BFQA6052	4/8/2026	Can a farm apply to this program for solar energy? Are battery storage systems allowed?	Solar energy systems for the use of on farm activities are eligible.
BFQA6053	4/8/2026	I saw a brief definition farm production eligible for assistance. It didn't include agritourism. Do you consider agritourism enterprises eligible for funding? Is there an amount of farm produce requirement if an agritourism project is to be funded?	Expenses for agritourism activities are not eligible. All expenses must be for agricultural production-related activities. If a space is to have mixed use, only the parts that are for agricultural production or agricultural production activities would be eligible expenses.
BFQA6054	4/8/2026	If using this grant to buy equipemnt, does it have to be new equipment or can it be used?	Used equipment is allowable.
BFQA6059	4/8/2026	Can a construction project like a hay barn and discbine mower be lumped together in one grant proposal?	It is eligible to apply for more than one budget category.
BFQA6060	4/8/2026	If applicants wanted to complete most of work themselves. Can you submit for labor costs?	Construction can be completed by staff as long as all staff members and activities are properly insured. Labor costs can only be reimbursed if that individual is on payroll and hours spent on project labor can be paired with paystubs from that period.
BFQA6061	4/8/2026	If I already purchased a used greenhouse, disassembled and moved to my farm, can I apply for funds to erect and recover it?	The cost for assembling the greenhouse would be eligible, but not the purchase. Any cost incurred prior to contract execution will not be eligible.
BFQA6064	4/8/2026	What if you farm is in need of land but you don't have the funds available?	Land purchases are eligible. Please see the Eligibility section of the Technical Requirements for the full list of eligibility requirements. Also, please see the Appendix for land purchase stipulations.
BFQA6068	4/8/2026	Are tractors considered vehicles?	No, tractors are considered Machinery / Equipment. Vehicles are only ineligible if they have off farm use.
BFQA6070	4/8/2026	When you say land transactions between family members you mean to "purchase or rent" correct? If a farmer gifts land to the next generation that has never farmed independently, the funds can be used on the families land that is under the new owner?	Family transactions are ineligible for repayment of grant funds.
BFQA6073	4/22/2026	There is discussion in the Q&A regarding the requirement of a licensed builder. I have found that outside of certain jurisdictions and specialties (like asbestos removal and home improvement), that there is no such requirement in NYS. So, what is the FVI requirement regarding builder licenses?	It is a requirement of the Grant Program that Licensed Contractors are used.

BFQA6074	4/22/2026	I looked through your site and did not find a reference regarding the ability of a grantee to be compensated for the time it takes them to implement their grant proposal, such as, time to install items purchased with grant proceeds. Is this allowed and do you have requirement on how much per hour that can be charged. If I missed it my apologies.	Applicants are eligible to be reimbursed for the implementation of the grant. There are no set rules or requirements on how much can be budgeted for this. However, you will need to show proof of payment to yourself, such as payroll, for that time, as well as a work-log showing the dates and hours worked on the project so it can be verified that the amount requested corresponds to actual hours spent working on the grant project.
<b>Application Mechanics</b>			
BFQA26011	4/1/2026	Given the branching nature of this application, we would like to know if before submitting we will be able to go back and edit sections of the application even if it changes the branch chosen to follow. Thank you.	The application will save as you go. If you go back and change the question that a branch stems from, the branch that follows may change.
BFQA26027	4/1/2026	If we are trying to work off of a google doc to compose and edit our application, is there a way to see the branching questions that apply to our project, in other words, something we can copy and paste into google doc with only the questions that apply to our project?	No, there is no way to do this.
BFQA26029	4/1/2026	Where exactly is the eligibility quiz? Is it at the start of the application after you create an account?	The Eligibility Quiz is in the Foundant Platform. You must successfully complete the eligibility quiz to access the application.
BFQA26034	4/1/2026	What questions are in the eligibility quiz ?	The Eligibility Quiz contains questions pertaining to: County, Agricultural Product, For- Profit Agricultural Enterprise, Ag Experience, Years as a Farm Operator, and Your involvement in the business.
BFQA26037	4/1/2026	Does this project have to go through the NY Statewide Financial System (SFS)?	No, applications are to be submitted via Foundant. The link to the portal can be found on the program webpage.
BFQA26044	4/1/2026	When is the webinar on Business Plans?	April 7th 2026 at 12pm
BFQA26050	4/1/2026	Is there a benefit to submitting an application early? Is it more likely to be seen and scored by reviewers?	There is no benefit to submitting early. All applications will be reviewed at the same time by external reviewers.
<b>Eligibility</b>			
BFQA26002	4/1/2026	I'm wondering if farmers who have "helped" on a farm more than 10 years and are now taking over the operation are eligible? The land and equipment is now just in their name and they just started filing taxes for the operation in the last year or two. The farm was operated by the father and the son is now taking over.	This grant program uses the USDA definition of a farm operator to determine eligibility: "A farm operator is a person who runs the farm, making day-to-day management decisions. An operator could be an owner, hired manager, cash tenant, share tenant, and/or a partner." Applicants who have been a farm operator for 10 or less years, and all other criteria are met, are eligible.
BFQA26003	4/1/2026	Hi - We are in our 2nd year of operating a commercial horse boarding facility in Niagara county. Facility improvements are on our list of improvements and I was wondering if commercial horse boarding is eligible for the grant process?	Commercial horse boarding is eligible for this grant.
BFQA26004	4/1/2026	If a farm has been operated by parents for many years but is now transitioning to a son or daughter who is taking over ownership and management, would that individual still be considered a "beginning farmer" for the purposes of this grant?	If all other eligibility requirements are met they would be eligible.
BFQA26005	4/1/2026	Will Cannabis farms be eligible for the grants?	Cannabis is ineligible for this grant.
BFQA26015	4/1/2026	I have a small maple syrup business and stumbled upon this grant for small business owners. I am wondering if I would be applicable for this grant?	Maple Syrup is eligible for this grant.
BFQA26016	4/1/2026	Is this grant appropriate for a young, beginning farmer, who does not own the business or property on which they farm?	Assuming all other eligibility requirements are met, applicants must also materially and substantially participate in the management of the farm.  So in this circumstance, if the applicant does not own the property, but materially and substantially participates in the day to day management of the farm they would be eligible.
BFQA26017	4/1/2026	Are Non-Profits Eligible?	Non-Profits are not eligible for this grant.
BFQA26018	4/1/2026	Are beginner nurseries able to apply?	Nurseries are eligible for this grant.
BFQA26020	4/1/2026	Greetings, my partner and I own a multi-faceted business. The primary component is that we haul food scraps and process them into compost. We also grow and sell plants and produce and potting mixes made from our compost. We would like to apply for a grant that would support the composting side of our business but are not sure how you perceive composting operations in terms of eligible expenses.	In order to be eligible, the applicant must be working for a For Profit Agricultural enterprise. The composting side of your business would not be eligible.
BFQA26022	4/1/2026	Can you submit more than one project per household - example one project for husband's farm business and one project for wife's farm business as they are different businesses?	Applications are based on the applicant, not the household. In this circumstance, if both people were working for independent for-profit agricultural enterprises, and all other eligibility requirements are met, then both would be eligible
BFQA26025	4/1/2026	Is a start up nursery eligible to apply?	Nurseries are eligible for this grant.

BFQA26032	4/1/2026	Is the 10th year eligible? If the farm started in 2016 would you still be eligible to apply?	Yes, if you have been operating for 10 years or less you are eligible.
BFQA26036	4/1/2026	can you apply for a second grant in a following year after receiving a previous one?	Yes, past grantees have a life time maximum of \$250,000 awarded.
BFQA26039	4/1/2026	Can more than one partner in a one business each apply as individuals	Applications are restricted to one application per business.
BFQA26042	4/1/2026	If I am a minority partner in a farm, what minimum percent would I have to be to be not only eligible but competitive to use these funds towards growing?	Applicants must materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm that would benefit from the grant.
BFQA26045	4/1/2026	I'm wondering if farmers who have "helped" on a farm more than 10 years and are now taking over the operation are eligible? The land and equipment is now just in their name and they just started filing taxes for the operation in the last year or two. The farm was operated by the father and the son is now taking over.	This grant program uses the USDA definition of a farm operator to determine eligibility: "A farm operator is a person who runs the farm, making day-to-day management decisions. An operator could be an owner, hired manager, cash tenant, share tenant, and/or a partner." Applicants who have been a farm operator for 10 or less years are eligible.
BFQA26046	4/1/2026	Our farm has operated one type of farming since 2001, and we added a second type in 2020. Would we qualify if we are requesting funding to expand processing equipment for the newer enterprise? We are new farmers with respect to this second type of farming within our existing farm.	Eligibility is based upon the applicant, not the enterprise. If the applicant has been a farm operator for more than 10 years in any type of farming they are no longer eligible.
BFQA26047	4/1/2026	I just reviewed the application portal, and it seems like there are requirements that applicants have a preexisting business, or involvement with a university? Does the architecture of the grant work to support smaller efforts? Suggestions or information would be very helpful. Thanks!	The full list of Technical Requirements can be found here: <a href="https://nyfvi.org/grant-programs/producer-grants/beginning-farmer/2026-bf/">https://nyfvi.org/grant-programs/producer-grants/beginning-farmer/2026-bf/</a> This grant does support smaller efforts, however, if you have not had at least \$1,000 in sales in the previous year you must submit a business plan.
BFQA26048	4/1/2026	Does an indoor Hydroponic system in a basement count as a "farm" for the beginning farmer FVI program?	All applications must be in support of a For-Profit Agricultural Enterprise, so if the hydroponic system is being used for profit in a formal business sense than it would be eligible.
BFQA26049	4/1/2026	The question with the beginning farmer grant for this farm is three sisters are together in an S-corp. They all have separate rolls in this operation though meet weekly, and can think of many projects, so can they apply for separate grants? Actually, two of the husbands (not part of the S-Corp) also have ag businesses and would like to apply. Will this help or hurt their chances.	This is the Beginning <b>Farmer</b> Competitive Grant. This means that eligibility is primarily based upon the Applicant, not the business. That being said, applications are restricted to one per applicant and one per business.  As to the competitiveness of that approach, it is not for NYFVI to say which way is the most competitive. Given the competitive nature of this program, it would be inappropriate. We encourage all applicants to refer to the program webpage: <a href="https://nyfvi.org/grant-programs/producer-grants/beginning-farmer/2026-bf/">https://nyfvi.org/grant-programs/producer-grants/beginning-farmer/2026-bf/</a>
BFQA6051	4/8/2026	Considering we stopped all farming activity for 10 years and then restarted with a completely new style would we qualify under the no more than 10 year experience section? I included all the history on our project to hopefully show that yes we have operated for more than 10 years we are now in very new territory.	Eligibility is based upon the applicant, not the enterprise. If the applicant has been a farm operator for more than 10 years in any type of farming they are no longer eligible.
BFQA6065	4/8/2026	Can equipment (e.g. tractor) be purchased that is used on farm and for for-hire work?	Applicants must materially and substantially participate in the day to day operation of a for profit agricultural enterprise
BFQA6057	4/8/2026	Do all aspects of the business need to occur with NY state businesses? IE: co packer that is in a neighboring state?	All grant funds must take place in NYS. If a business has activities in multiple states, all grant funds must take place in NYS.
BFQA6066	4/8/2026	Does the farm have to be an LLC?	No, there is no requirement for business structure.

BFQA6072	4/8/2026	One eligibility criteria is that the applicant be based in New York State. Does owning a home in New York State where the farm is located meet this criteria.	The applicant must be a NYS resident.
BFQA26079	5/13/2026	I have a minor share in a farm business operation (partner, one other partner in the operation), I do not contribute any physical assets to the business. Amongst the 3 people that contribute to management decisions, I contribute about 40% of the management. Would I still be eligible for this grant? We are formalizing plans that I would inherit a larger portion of the business and real estate. I meet the requirement on management experience. If I am eligible, would I be less competitive due to the lower share I have	Applicants must materially and substantially participate in the day-to-day operation of a for-profit agricultural enterprise. If you can demonstrate that you materially and substantially participate in the day-to-day operations, then you would be eligible. We cannot comment on potential competitiveness of individual grants.
BFQA26080	5/18/2026	Our business LLC was established in late 2015; however, our aquaculture operation and active farm operations developed gradually, and we have only been actively producing and selling farmed products: rainbow trout at farmers' markets and to wholesale customers since approximately 2020. For purposes of determining "beginning farmer" eligibility and "years as a farm operator," should we use the age of the LLC/business entity, or the number of years actively operating and managing agricultural production and sales?	The applicant's cumulative work history must reflect no more than 10 years of operational experience with an agricultural business at the time of application. A "farm operator" is a person who runs the farm, making day-to-day management decisions. If you started an LLC for the purpose of an agricultural enterprise, and were doing day-to-day management of it for the development of an agricultural/aquaculture product that would eventually be sold, then you use the age of your business.
<b>Reimbursement &amp; Match</b>			
BFQA26013	4/1/2026	If I were to purchase land to expand my farm, would I still need to pay the attorney/seller first before the funds would be released to reimburse me? I just need to know if I would have to borrow money to buy the land and then get reimbursed from the grant. Thank you.	This is a reimbursement based program. The applicant must document proof of purchase and project implementation prior to payment from NYFVI. It is important to note that no cost may be incurred prior to Contract Execution, or both NYFVI and the applicant signing the contract. All applicants are required to document a 5% match. An assignment of payment to lenders is available. Please see the reimbursement section of the Technical Requirements for the full list of <a href="#">Reimbursement Requirements</a>
BFQA26014	4/1/2026	Is this a reimbursement grant and is there a match?	This is a reimbursement based program. The applicant must document proof of purchase and project implementation prior to payment from NYFVI. It is important to note that no cost may be incurred prior to Contract Execution, or both NYFVI and the applicant signing the contract. All applicants are required to document a 5% match. An assignment of payment to lenders is available. Please see the reimbursement section of the Technical Requirements for the full list of <a href="#">Reimbursement Requirements</a>
BFQA26026	4/1/2026	Is the reimbursement rolling as expenditures are made, or is it a one-shot reimbursement once the project is completely finished?	This is a reimbursement based program. The applicant must document proof of purchase and project implementation prior to payment from NYFVI. It is important to note that no cost may be incurred prior to Contract Execution, or both NYFVI and the applicant signing the contract. All applicants are required to document a 5% match. For projects that take 24 months to complete, the applicant may request a mid-point reimbursement based on a pre-specified project milestone that is agreed upon by NYFVI and the applicant prior to contracting.
BFQA26031	4/1/2026	If grants are approved in September and the project is completed by late September or early October when can we expect reimbursement?	Grants are anticipated to be announced in September, but this could be delayed. Projects must not begin until the applicant has an executed contract. Any cost incurred before an executed contract will be ineligible.  After project completion, reimbursement may take up to 120 days after the reimbursement material is accepted by staff.
BFQA6055	4/8/2026	Does the project have to be completed and finished prior to funding?	This is a reimbursement based program. The applicant must document proof of purchase and project implementation prior to payment from NYFVI. It is important to note that no cost may be incurred prior to Contract Execution, or both NYFVI and the applicant signing the contract. All applicants are required to document a 5% match. For projects that take 24 months to complete, the applicant may request a mid-point reimbursement based on a pre-specified project milestone that is agreed upon by NYFVI and the applicant prior to contracting.
BFQA6058	4/8/2026	In the case of an LLC, if the grant is applied for by an individual, does the grant count as income for the individual or the business?	Funds will be distributed to whoever completes the W-9.

BFQA6069	4/8/2026	Is this a grant or a loan?	This is a reimbursement based program. The applicant must document proof of purchase and project implementation prior to payment from NYFVI. It is important to note that no cost may be incurred prior to Contract Execution, or both NYFVI and the applicant signing the contract. All applicants are required to document a 5% match. For projects that take 24 months to complete, the applicant may request a mid-point reimbursement based on a pre-specified project milestone that is agreed upon by NYFVI and the applicant prior to contracting.
BFQA26076	5/11/2026	I will need a loan to make the purchases for my grant project. Can you guys reimburse the lender directly, or does the reimbursement have to go to the applicant?	Yes. If your project is selected for funding, you can do what's called an 'Assignment of Payment' authorizing NYFVI to pay the reimbursement funds directly to the lender. This is a form that both you and your lender need to complete prior to NYFVI generating a contract for your project.
BFQA26078	5/11/2026	If I'm getting a loan for the project, do I need to show proof of funding now?	No. You do not need to show proof of funding for the application. However, if your project is selected for funding, all Grantees are required to show proof of funding before NYFVI can generate a contract for the project.
<b>Technical Requirements</b>			
BFQA26021	4/1/2026	Can you submit projects for both Track 1 and Track 2?	No, applicants are limited to one application.
<b>Other</b>			
BFQA26024	4/1/2026	Is there a strategic benefit to request \$175k or \$150k instead of \$200k in the hope to get squeezed into the budget ceiling?	This is a question about building a competitive application. Given the competitive nature of this program, it is not appropriate for NYFVI to discuss this.  Please read all program materials on our webpage. If you continue to have questions or concerns as it regards to competitiveness, please reach out to one of the Technical Service providers.
BFQA26028	4/1/2026	Can it be helpful to submit a Business Plan even if you have made an income over \$1,000 on the farm?	This is a question about building a competitive application. Given the competitive nature of this program, it is not appropriate for NYFVI to discuss this.  Please read all program materials on our webpage. If you continue to have questions or concerns as it regards to competitiveness, please reach out to one of the Technical Service providers.
BFQA26033	4/1/2026	Hi! Is starting a new enterprise within an established farm a competitive enough use of funds? It seems like most recipients from round 1 were using funding to make improvements to existing enterprises, not necessarily starting new ones.	This is a question about building a competitive application. Given the competitive nature of this program, it is not appropriate for NYFVI to discuss this.  Please read all program materials on our webpage. If you continue to have questions or concerns as it regards to competitiveness, please reach out to one of the Technical Service providers.
BFQA26038	4/1/2026	Would letters of support help with the application odds?	This is a question about building a competitive application. Given the competitive nature of this program, it is not appropriate for NYFVI to discuss this.
BFQA26040	4/1/2026	Does approval take place September 1 or just sometime in September?	Application approval is anticipated to be sometime in September, but that may be delayed.
BFQA26043	4/1/2026	Should project ideas be limited in scope even if a grander goal is wanted? Ex: Sheep for meat milk and wool just focus on one aspect instead of all 3 for a grant.	This is a question about building a competitive application. Given the competitive nature of this program, it is not appropriate for NYFVI to discuss this.  Please read all program materials on our webpage. If you continue to have questions or concerns as it regards to competitiveness, please reach out to one of the Technical Service providers.

BFQA6056	4/8/2026	How should we budget for used equipment? Get a median cost or do we need to find a buyer willing to wait until we know if our grant app has been approved?	This is a question about building a competitive application. Given the competitive nature of this program, it is not appropriate for NYFVI to discuss this.  Please read all program materials on our webpage. If you continue to have questions or concerns as it regards to competitiveness, please reach out to one of the Technical Service providers.
BFQA6062	4/8/2026	Do you have any recommendations for agencies providing bridge loans? Farm credit east for example ?	There is a list of organizations that have agreed to work with applicants applying for this grant on our webpage.
BFQA6063	4/8/2026	Was purchase of livestock approved last round for any applicants	Yes, please review the program webpage for the Round 1 Recap document for more information.
BFQA6067	4/8/2026	Weren't there vehicles that were approved in the last cycle?	Yes, this is an eligibility change for this round of funding. Vehicles are not permitted in this round of funding.
BFQA26074	5/2/2026	I know that purchases of equipment and services from family members are not allowed, but can I use funding from other family members for the project?	Yes, getting funding for your project from family and friends is allowed.
BFQA26075	5/6/2026	If there are multiple steps required to complete my project in the workplan, is that considered a 'Multi-stage' project?	No, as long as all those steps are to complete this specific grant project, then it is not considered 'multi-stage.' This application uses the term multi-stage project to refer to applications that will require additional investment prior to the asset creating income for the business.
<b>Individual Eligibility</b>			
BFQA26001	4/1/2026	I believe I meet eligibility requirements and would like to find full application instructions so I can expand both my vineyard and my pasture pig program. I started my winery in 2015 and bought my farmland in 2018.	If all other criteria are met this would be eligible. Please see the Eligibility section of the Technical Requirements for the full list of eligibility requirements.
BFQA26006	4/1/2026	The Maple portion of our farm has been since 2001, we added the apple portion in 2020. Would I qualify? I would be asking for funding to expand apple processing equipment. We are new farmers to the apple portion of our existing farm. Thank you.	Eligibility is based upon the applicant, not the enterprise. If the applicant has been a farm operator for more than 10 years in any type of farming they are no longer eligible.
BFQA26007	4/1/2026	Is a beginning farmer (recent college graduate with less than 10 years' farming experience) who is joining his existing family farm (a farm operating for more than 10 years, operating as an S Corp) eligible for this grant if he is starting up his own new venture under the umbrella of the existing farm? Does he need to have ownership (e.g. LLC or partner in the operation) to be eligible?	If all other eligibility requirements are met they would be eligible.
BFQA26008	4/1/2026	I was see if I'm still eligible for this grant, I officially started dairy farming July 2015 then sold the cows October 30 2021, the June 1st 2024 I started back up and I'm now in the process of trying to switch from tie stall to a free stall and was wondering if I was eligible to sign up for this grant	Eligibility is based upon the applicant, not the enterprise. If the applicant has been a farm operator for more than 10 years in any type of farming they are no longer eligible.
BFQA26009	4/1/2026	I have run a organic vegetable farm in tompkin's county for 20 years. the farm is currently being run by a group of young farmers. we are planning on changing the business structure from single owner LLC to either multiple owners or a workers cooperative in the near future and are working with an attorney currently. is it possible and appropriate for one of the farmers (age 26 and with 4 years farming experience) to apply for this grant? thank you for any advice.	Eligibility is based upon the applicant, not the enterprise. If the applicant has been a farm operator for more than 10 years in any type of farming they are no longer eligible.
BFQA26010	4/1/2026	We want to make sure we are eligible to apply. As the criteria state, we are "actively involved in day-to-day farm management and operate a commercial farm in New York State" and "have experience or skills related to agriculture and who currently operate a farm in New York State." We also "have operated a farm for 10 years or less and be seeking to build a financially sustainable (for-profit) commercial agricultural business". Seeing as we are about to embark upon our 10th growing season, having started our CSA in 2017, we would like to confirm we are still eligible to apply for this grant as we have not completed our 10th year yet.  Can you please confirm if we are eligible to apply or not? Thank you.	Yes, if you have been operating for 10 years or less you are eligible.
BFQA26012	4/1/2026	my entity and the partnership with it is a little under 1 year old, but i personally have farmed in different forms for 12 years. the one year old partnership (llc) operates and markets in a different fashion than any other venture i was involved in, would my entity be eligible?	This grant program is the Beginning FARMER Competitive Grant program. This means that eligibility is based around the applicant, not the entity. In this situation, the applicant would not be eligible.
BFQA26076	5/8/2026	My son is planning to take over ownership of my farm in the next year, but does not currently own it. Is he eligible to apply?	Yes, if that individual plans to become materially and substantially involved in the day-to-day operation of the farm, then they are eligible to apply. If they are requesting a construction project and do not yet own the land, then, upon award, they will need to provide a written lease that terminates no later than 5-years past the estimated completion date of the project. That lease must also show landowner approval of the project.