



STATE OF MAINE
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & RURAL RESOURCES
 28 STATE HOUSE STATION
 AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JANET T. MILLS
 GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL
 COMMISSIONER

APPLICATION FOR PRODUCER FARM VIABILITY FUND INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

APPLICANT MUST COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION BELOW AND PROVIDE COPIES OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

TAXPAYER ID # (Provide one TIN only): SSN (person) **or** Federal Employer ID # (Business). TIN: _____

TIN TYPE	Organization Type	Classification		
Social Sec. Number ➔	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual ➔	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Sole Proprietorship	<input type="checkbox"/> Estate
Employer ID ➔	<input type="checkbox"/> Company ➔	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Other non-profit

LEGAL NAME: _____
(Legal name filed with IRS tied to the ID number above (SSN=first & last name or Employer ID = business name))

CONTACT NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

HAVE TEST RESULTS DEMONSTRATING PFAS CONTAMINATION BEEN SHARED WITH DACF?
 YES NO

NAME OF DACF STAFF PERSON FAMILIAR WITH FARM: _____

INFORMATION THAT MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION

1. **Project Description:** A separate narrative description regarding the farm’s business operation impacts due to PFAS-contamination and the proposed infrastructure project description, project justification, and the anticipated result/outcome achieved by receiving assistance from the viability fund. Please attach as a separate Word or PDF document and limit to one page.
2. **Project Details:** Attached quotes for the work, other relevant pricing/project details, and contractor information. Design plans, if created, are also helpful.
 - a. Note that DACF may request supplemental materials or documents from the applicant as needed.
3. **Payment and Project Management Preference.** If the proposal is approved for funding, please indicate payment preference:



- a. DACF directly reimburses the applicant for approved project costs. YES NO
 - b. DACF directly contracts with and pays applicant's approved vendors/contractors. YES NO
 - c. DACF directly reimburses MOFGA/MFT for payment of approved project costs. YES NO
4. If selecting 3a as the form of payment (and if not already submitted prior to this application), please provide a completed State of Maine Vendor Authorization Form, available here:
https://www.maine.gov/osc/sites/maine.gov/osc/files/inline-files/vendor_ME_W9v5.pdf)
5. **Proof of Payment:** If the proposal is approved for funding and the applicant selected either 3a or 3c above as the payment preference, the applicant must promptly submit paid invoices in order to receive reimbursement.

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION: I certify that the information given in this application is correct and completed to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that any and all funds received by me from DACF pursuant to this application will be utilized solely for the approved activities described in the application. I acknowledge that payments may represent taxable income.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____

TITLE & DATE: _____

Send completed application and all required materials to: Amie.Greenham@Maine.gov

Amie Greenham
 Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources
 28 State House Station
 Augusta, ME 04333-0028



Farm Viability Fund Parameters

For a farm to qualify for financial support, the farm must have DACF-confirmed unsafe levels of PFAS contamination. Laboratory reports from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)-approved laboratories must show:

- 1. A water test result of 20 ppt or higher for wells servicing their farm/fields *and/or* soil test results exceeding Maine CDC's current crop specific soil screening levels; and
- 2. One or more samples of farm products showing PFAS at levels deemed of concern by the Maine CDC.¹
 - a. At present, Maine CDC has established Action Thresholds for Milk (210 ppt) and Beef (3.4 ppb). These thresholds are subject to change.
 - b. Due to a rise in produce farms with PFAS contamination, Maine CDC is testing and assessing PFAS levels for a range of additional farm products. In the absence of established thresholds for these new products, DACF will request that Maine CDC review the farm product sample(s) result(s) and advise whether the test result(s) are deemed of concern in its professional opinion.
- 3. The above results have been shared with DACF in a timely manner and/or ascertained by DACF testing at the farm.
- 4. DACF and the farm have begun working together to determine the scope of PFAS contamination at the farm, with DACF conducting additional sampling.

¹ Note that in cases involving milk testing, DACF can recognize milk results above the state's action threshold as confirmation of adulteration and not require water or soil testing as a predicate to confirming contamination at that farm.

Categories of Viability Assistance

DACF's experience with PFAS-impacted farms highlights emerging categories for viability assistance, as discussed below. DACF reserves the right to expand and update this list as new and unique farm circumstances arise in the future.

- Clean Feed Assistance – DACF can provide clean feed financial support if it determines, based on available farm data, that clean feed is necessary for the health and welfare of livestock and to achieve depuration goals in the absence of available clean feed from the farm. Clean feed includes organic and conventional feedstock. Payment is subject to factors including herd size, contamination level, projected depuration timeframe, volume of feed needed over what time period, price (including transport and delivery), ability of farm to raise clean feed in the future, PFAS-free status of replacement feed.
- Equipment and Input Costs – A farm proposing to convert its operations to accommodate new products and production methods can apply for funding for equipment and related input costs for the successful harvesting, handling, processing, or packaging of the resulting product.
- Infrastructure Investment – Permanent physical assets that require significant investment due to PFAS impact. Examples may include a new well, new greenhouse, packing shed, raised beds, or other structures. Investments are capped at \$150,000.
- Debt Service Assistance – Payment of mortgage or other notes directly related with farm infrastructure built/installed within two years prior to the discovery of PFAS contamination (e.g., high-tunnel, greenhouse, farm store, milking parlor, etc.). Given the likely significant loss of farm income upon the discovery of PFAS contamination, making timely and/or full payments on mortgages or other financial notes may be difficult for some producers. DACF reserves the right to cap financial assistance at \$50,000 in this category.

DACF Criteria: DACF will consider the total cost and whether the infrastructure investment(s) are essential to the viability of the farm. This could include the likelihood of success or return on investment for the proposed infrastructure investment and other relevant factors. DACF reserves the right to cap the amount of funding for all requests based on available resources and other factors. Other criteria for consideration include: total cost, timing, alternative options, level of risk, producer's demonstrated lack of available financial capacity, number of other requests for DACF support by other producers, etc.

DACF reserves the right to amend program parameters and criteria at any time. Producer Farm Viability Fund Program payments are subject to the availability of DACF's PFAS funding. Payments may represent taxable income.