



2026 Maine Farmers Drought Relief Fund Grant Application



The Department is making grants available to farmers to address the need for installation of agricultural water sources, including:

- Dug wells
- Drilled wells
- Gravel-packed wells
- Water storage ponds

Please review the Request for Applications for a full overview of the programs. RFA is available at: <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ard/grants/farmers-drought-relief-program.shtml>

Applications are due by 5:00 PM on February 13, 2026.

* Required

APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. Farm business name *

2. Your name *

3. Farm Physical Address (Street, City, ZIP Code) *

4. Mailing address (if different) *

5. Phone number (enter number without dashes or parentheses, include area code) *

6. Email address *

7. Your local Soil & Water Conservation District *

- Androscoggin Valley
- Central Aroostook
- Cumberland County
- Franklin County
- Hancock County
- Kennebec County
- Knox-Lincoln
- Oxford County
- Penobscot County
- Piscataquis County
- St. John Valley
- Somerset County
- Southern Aroostook
- Waldo County
- Washington County
- York County

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

8. **PLEASE SUBMIT A COPY OF YOUR IRS FORM SCHEDULE F OR C TO DEMONSTRATE SUFFICIENT GROSS PRODUCE SALES.** FORM **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL TO: Tom.Gordon@Maine.gov FINANCIAL INFORMATION **MUST** BE SUBMITTED TO PROVE YOUR ELIGIBILITY.

9. The farm is eligible for a Farmers Drought Relief Fund grant because: *

- A. The farm has produced agricultural products with a gross annual value of at least \$10,000 in at least one of the last three years GO TO QUESTION 12
- B. The farm has produced agricultural products of at least \$2,000 in at least one of the last three years and can demonstrate that it provides unique benefits to the local food economy. DESCRIBE IN QUESTION 10
- C. The applicant has an ancestral history of disinvestment or land dispossession in the State of Maine. DESCRIBE IN QUESTION 11

10. If you checked 9B, describe your farm's unique benefits to the local food economy (See Appendix C of the Request For Applications for guidance).

11. If you checked 9C, describe your ancestral history of disinvestment or land dispossession (See Appendix D of the Request For Applications for guidance).

PHYSICAL RESOURCE BASE - CROPS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

12. Describe your property interest in the farm *

- Owner
- Leaseholder
- Tenant At Will
- Other

13. How many acres are currently in production? *

14. How many acres will benefit directly from the improved water supply? *

15. List your farm's primary crops and products, and estimate the percentage of gross income each represents *

16. **PLEASE SUBMIT A COPY OF AN NRCS SOILS SURVEY MAP FOR YOUR FARM.** THE SOILS MAP MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL TO: Tom.Gordon@Maine.gov

17. **PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE FARM.** THE PLAN MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL TO: Tom.Gordon@Maine.gov

18. What is your current irrigation water source for the farm? *

19. What field irrigation equipment do you currently use? *

20. What additional field irrigation equipment be needed to effectively utilize a new water source and how will you finance this equipment? *

21. Describe your current water conservation practices. *

22. Describe your current soil health practices.

23. Briefly describe your farming experience and training. *

ECONOMIC IMPACT

24. What were your gross farm receipts and net farm income over the past three years? *

25. How much of your product is sold locally or regionally (farmers markets, CSAs, restaurants, distributors)? *

26. What percentage of your farm's income has been affected by past drought or water shortages? *

27. How have input costs (e.g., water hauling, feed purchases, irrigation fuel) changed during recent droughts? *

28. What are your average annual water-related costs now (pumping, hauling, well maintenance, etc.)?

29. Have you lost crops, reduced acreage, or culled livestock due to lack of water? *

Yes

No

30. Do you have off-farm income that currently supports the operation's viability? *

Yes

No

31. What specific water uses will be served by this project? *

Irrigation of crops

Livestock water

Processing

Cleaning

Residential consumption

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

32. Do you currently pump water from a river, stream, brook, or lake? *

Yes

No

33. Will development of a new water source directly reduce or eliminate water withdrawal from a river, stream, brook, or lake? Please explain.

34. Have you been contacted by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or the Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) regarding any low flow issues or incidents? *

Yes

No

35. If installing a well, are there any existing wells within 500 feet?

Yes

No

REQUESTED FUNDING

36. I/WE WISH TO APPLY FOR: *

Please select at most 3 options.

- Drilled well (up to \$25,000 plus 10% match)
- Water storage pond (up to \$ 50,000 plus 10% match)
- Gravel-packed well (up to \$ 50,000 plus 10% match)
- Dug well (up to \$15,000 plus 10% match)
- Agricultural Water Management Plan (up to \$ 7,500)
- Other

37. **PROVIDE A VENDOR QUOTE OR COST ESTIMATE FOR THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION. THE QUOTE MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL TO: Tom.Gordon@Maine.gov**

38. If installing a pond, who will provide the design?

- NRCS
- Maine Potato Board
- Private consultant/engineer
- Excavating contractor
- Self-designed

39. Will the project be completed by June 1, 2027? *

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

40. I have read and understand the RFA for this grant and understand that if my application does not meet the standards outlined in the RFA and application, my application may be disqualified and thus not considered for an award. *

I agree

41. I understand that if I am recommended for an award, an interview or additional supporting files may be required before a contract can be completed. *

I agree

42. I have read and understand the eligibility requirements described in section 1.2 of the RFA for this grant and certify that I meet all eligibility requirements to the best of my knowledge. *

I agree

43. I understand that my application will not be considered complete until I have submitted the required supplemental files by email to: Tom.Gordon@Maine.gov *

I agree

44. By submitting this application, I certify that: 1) To the best of my knowledge, all information provided in the enclosed application, both programmatic and financial, is complete and accurate at the time of submission.2) No personnel currently employed by the Department, either directly or indirectly, in any activities relating to the preparation of the Applicant's Application.3) No attempt has been made, or will be made, by the Applicant to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an Application.4) The above-named organization is the legal entity entering into the resulting contract with the Department should they be awarded the contract.5) The person preparing this application is authorized to apply on behalf of the applicant farm business. *

I agree

45. Applicant's signature

