

MASTER APPLICATION

Assistance for PFAS-Impacted Commercial Farms

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) offers two programs to support commercial farms that have been impacted by PFAS contamination. These are the PFAS Response Program and the PFAS Fund. This Master Application may be used by eligible farms to apply for any of the following assistance:

Administrative Cost Grant: A one-time grant intended to partially compensate commercial farms for time spent on activities common to most farms upon the initial discovery of PFAS contamination.

Income Replacement: Commercial farms that have stopped selling some or all products due to PFAS contamination may apply to DACF for up to a total of 24 months of lost income, adjusted for inflation.

Technical Assistance / Professional Services: Financial support for professional services to help guide recovery efforts (e.g., business planning, marketing support, others).

Clean Feed Assistance: Financial support for clean feed when it is necessary for the health and welfare of livestock and to achieve depuration goals in the absence of clean feed from the farm.

Equipment and Input Costs: Financial support for equipment and related input costs to allow a commercial farm to convert its operations to accommodate new products and production methods.

Infrastructure: Financial support for infrastructure projects (permanent physical assets and structures) that will help a commercial farm transition to new products and production methods.

Debt Service on Existing Loans: Payment of loans directly related to farm infrastructure built/installed prior to the discovery of PFAS contamination (e.g., high-tunnel, greenhouse, farm store) that (1) have not yet contributed to income or (2) are no longer useful to the producer because of PFAS contamination.

New Loan Assistance: Financial support for costs associated with obtaining a new loan (e.g., payment of fees for a guaranteed loan, commercial loan insurance, or environmental site assessments required by a lending institution).

In addition to the assistance listed above, the PFAS Fund is developing the framework to purchase PFAS-contaminated property from willing sellers, fund research, and support access to blood testing and mental health support for eligible populations. These will involve separate application procedures. Information will be posted on DACF's website as it becomes available.

The PFAS Response Program administers additional support, namely water filtration and payments for depopulated animals. These programs are not associated with this Master Application. There is also a testing reimbursement program with a separate application procedure available on DACF's website.



Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Randy Charette
Deputy Commissioner

Nancy McBrady
Deputy Commissioner

18 Elkins Lane
Augusta, ME 04333

(207) 287-3200
maine.gov/dacf



Eligibility and Instructions

Instructions

Applicants must complete and provide all requested information in:

- Section 1. Applicant General Information,
- All Sections with types of assistance for which the applicant wishes to apply (Sections II-IX), and
- Appendix A. Vendor Form

Applicants will be considered for a specific type of assistance only if the corresponding application section is complete. Multiple applications may be submitted as needed. Completed applications can be submitted to PFAS.DACF@maine.gov or PFASFund.DACF@maine.gov or mailed to:

PFAS Response Program
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Baseline Eligibility Requirements

In general, commercial farms are eligible for the assistance listed on the first page of this application if the following parameters are met. Some types of assistance may have additional or different requirements.

1. The commercial farm has DACF-confirmed unsafe levels of PFAS contamination, defined as
 - a. one or more samples of farm products showing PFAS exceeding current Action Levels or deemed of concern by the Maine CDC, and/or
 - b. groundwater test results exceeding Maine's enforceable interim drinking water standard for PFAS until superseded by either Maine's Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFAS or a federal MCL for PFAS, whichever is lowest, for wells servicing the farm or fields, and/or
 - c. soil test results exceeding any current Maine CDC crop-specific screening level; and
2. The commercial farm has partnered with DACF to investigate the scope of contamination at the farm and has granted ongoing access such that DACF staff are able to develop an understanding of the farm, its PFAS contamination, and potentially a strategy for recovery.

A commercial farm is defined as a farm that produces any farm product with the intent that the farm product be sold or otherwise disposed of to generate income. Please see **Appendix B – Current Maine PFAS Screening Levels (December 2023)** for the current Action Levels for farm products as well as the current drinking water standard values for comparison of test results.

Contact Information

For general inquiries, call 207-287-4514 and leave your name, phone number, and a brief message.

Questions about testing reimbursement, clean feed assistance, equipment and input costs, infrastructure projects valued up to \$150,000, and debt service on existing loans may be directed to Meagan Hennessey, PFAS Response Director, Meagan.Hennessey@maine.gov, 207-592-3795.



Questions about administrative cost grants, income replacement, no-cost technical assistance, infrastructure projects valued above \$150,000, and new loan assistance may be directed to Beth Valentine, PFAS Fund Director, Beth.Valentine@maine.gov, 207-313-0962

Master Application Contents

Financial Assistance

Eligibility and Instructions

Section 1. General Applicant Information

Section 2. Administrative Cost Grant

Section 3. Income Replacement

Section 4. Technical Assistance / Professional Services

Section 5. Clean Feed Assistance

Section 6. Equipment and Input Costs

Section 7. Infrastructure

Section 8. Debt Service on Existing Loans

Section 9. New Loan Assistance

Appendix A: Vendor Form

Appendix B: Current Maine PFAS Screening Levels

Appendix C: Right to Appeal