



Applying for EQIP and Other Funding for Season Extension

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Small Farm Bootcamp Information

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Growing Small Farm Bootcamp is an eight module program helping small-scale farmers gain knowledge in production on their land. This curriculum was developed by the Growing Farm Capacity Work Group of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Local Food Program Team. This program was developed and piloted in 2021.

Ice Breaker

Please share:

- Name
- County
- What you expect to learn today
- What you expect to learn in overall bootcamp

Learning Objectives

1. Determine the goals of your farming operation.
2. Identify your resources.
3. Evaluate resources that can help you reach your goals
4. Walk through the EQIP Application Process



What is important to you?

Being a successful farmer means _____.



- Farming full time
- Saving money for the future
- Taking pride in products we grow and sell
- Working as a family
- Generating ___ % of our income on-farm

Four Core Farm Values

- **Personal** - What type of life do I want to live?
- **Economic** - What do I consider financially important?
- **Environmental** - What service will my farm provide in the environment?
- **Community** - How do I define community? And why is it important to me?

Who is your team?

- Family, friends, a business partner?
- Find common values
- Identify values that differ



Farm History and External Factors

- What's been done in the past on this land
- What's already here
- Who are my neighbors
- What are the regulations in my area (e.g. zoning, bonafide farm)



What do you have, and what do you need?

Capital

- Grants
- Loans
- Personal resources



Labor

- Family only
- Part time employees
- Interns



Land

- Landowner
- Buying
- Leasing





Funding Season Extension Development

What is season extension?

“Anything that allows a crop to be grown beyond the normal growing season.”

Also considered “Off Season Growing”

Funding Resources

- RAFI
- Beginning Farmer & Rancher USDA / FSA Loan
- Urban Ag & Innovation Produce USDA Grant
- State Cost Share
- The Grange
- EQIP

Funding Resources - RAFI <https://www.rafiusa.org/>

- RAFI: Rural Advancement Foundation Int'l
- Founded in 1990
- Goals of the Organization:
 - Corporate and government accountability that benefits farmers, agricultural workers, and rural communities
 - More resources & opportunities for historically underserved producers that support viability of small, independent farms.
 - Increased participation of Black and brown farmers and agricultural workers.
 - Farmers, agricultural workers, and local voices drive policies and programs.
 - More diverse, cross-sector, interconnected networks engaged in the food system.

Funding Resources - RAFI <https://www.rafiusa.org/>

- Infrastructure Grants: up to \$10k for physical infrastructure that improves farm viability
- Beginning Farmer Stipends: up to \$5k for start up and production costs
- <https://www.rafiusa.org/programs/farmers-of-color-network/farmers-of-color-network-infrastructure-fund-grants/>
- <https://www.tfaforms.com/5035590>

Funding Resources - USDA

- USDA
- FSA
- NRCS
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts

United States Department of Agriculture

- Provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on public policy, the best available science, and effective management.
- Provide economic opportunity through innovation, helping rural America to thrive; to promote agriculture production that better nourishes Americans while also helping feed others throughout the world; and to preserve our Nation's natural resources through conservation, restored forests, improved watersheds, and healthy private working lands.

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- Mission: Farm Service Agency is equitably serving all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans.
- Vision: A market-oriented, economically and environmentally sound American agriculture delivering an abundant, safe, and affordable food and fiber supply while sustaining quality agricultural communities.

FSA Services

- Aerial Photography
- ARC/PLC Program
- Civil Rights
- Conservation Programs
- Cooperative Agreements
- Dairy Margin Protection Program
- Disaster Assistance Programs
- Economic and Policy Analysis
- Emergency Relief
- Environmental and Cultural Compliance
- Farm Bill
- Farm Loan Programs
- Financial Management Information
- Laws and Regulations
- Outreach & Education
- Payment Eligibility
- Price Support

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Our Mission: We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.
- Our Vision: A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.

NRCS Priorities

- Advancing Equity, Justice, and Equal Opportunity
- Addressing Climate Change
- Supporting Urban Agriculture & Innovative Production
- Cultivating a Diverse, Well -Trained Workforce
- Building Partnerships

Soil & Water Conservation Services

- Works in cooperation with the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the 96 local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to protect and improve soil and water resources throughout the state.

Soil & Water Conservation Services Programs

- Cost Share Programs
- Easement Programs
- Education Programs

Funding Resources - USDA

- Beginning Farmer & Rancher Loans (under 10 years operating)
 - Farm Ownership, Farm Operating, and Microloan with different terms
 - NOT 0% interest loans
 - <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/beginning-farmers-and-ranchers-loans/index>
- Urban Ag & Innovative Production - for groups of farmers
 - <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2023/01/26/usda-announces-grants-urban-agriculture-and-innovative-production#:~:text=The%20competitive%20grants%20will%20support,Time%20on%20March%2027%2C%202023>

Funding Resources - Grange

- Community organization with national, state, county, and community chapters. Foundations in modernizing agriculture.
- North Carolina's State Level Grange has \$25,000 per year available for Farm Development Grants
- Getting funds from your local Grange may be simpler than USDA or RAFI grants and require less reporting
- Requirements: be a member of your local Grange (\$25 annually) and make a short presentation to your local Grange about your project (Cooperative Extension can provide a template)

Funding Resources - State Cost Share

Durham Soil and Water Conservation District can help with some aspects of Hoophouses/High Tunnels.

- **Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program (AED)**: Cost Share grants towards producing local food, Ag development, outdoor environmental learning.
 - School Grants: up to \$1,000, Farmer Grants: up to \$5,000
- **Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP)**: For agricultural water quality
- **Agricultural Water Resource Assistance Program (AgWRAP)**: For water quantity, such as increasing water use efficiency, storage, and availability



Watering Tanks



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Funding Resources - EQIP

- How to contact FSA & NRCS
- EQIP - what it is and isn't

Funding Resources - EQIP

- How to Apply for EAuth with USDA
 - <https://www.eauth.usda.gov/eauth/b/usda/registration>
 - <https://myforms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eForms/searchAction.do>
 - <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=nc&agency=fsa>
 - <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/EQIP-Factsheet%20%282%29.pdf>
 - Search for form 1200

Other Resources

- Farm Organizations to join
 - Local Farm Bureau
 - Farmers Color of Network
 - Women Farmers of Color Network
- Additional learning resources
 - Community Food Strategies Conference
 - Remainder of workshops
 - Small Farms week



Any questions?