

Rural Finance Authority | 651-201-6316, [MDA.BFTC@state.mn.us](mailto:MDA.BFTC@state.mn.us)

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

### 2026 Minnesota Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Beginning Farmer Certification

#### APPLICATION DEADLINES

- **JULY 17** for leases
- **NOVEMBER 1** for sales and tuition reimbursement

#### NOTE

- **Funding is limited.** Tax credits will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis regardless of deadlines.

#### Definitions

**Beginning Farmer** is someone who has entered into farming in the last 10 years. We generally determine the number of years by how many years they claimed farm income (Schedule F) on federal tax returns. Years filing as a minor or dependent (ex. 4-H or FFA project) do not count.

**Limited Land Access Farmer** must meet all of the following:

1. Does not own any farmland.
2. Does not rent land from a relative. This includes anyone related to the beginning farmer by blood or marriage (ex. parent, in-law, grandparent, aunt/uncle, great-aunt/uncle, sibling, step-sibling, cousin, second cousin, etc.)
3. Does not have a lease term greater than three years.

#### Program Eligibility

**The beginning farmer must:**

- Be a resident of Minnesota
- Have entered farming in the last 10 years. If the current year is the 10th year, the beginning farmer still qualifies for this program.
- Be an individual (sales and leases made to business entities are not eligible)
- Provide the majority of labor and management on the farm
- Have a net worth less than \$1,013,000 in 2024. This includes all assets and debt of you, your spouse, and dependents (property, savings, investment and retirement accounts, etc.)
- Have some farming experience (this does not apply to FBM tuition only credits for beginning farmers)
- Expect that farming will become (if it has not already) profitable and a significant source of income.
- The land being farmed must be within the borders of the State of Minnesota.
- The transaction must not involve a **direct** family member unless it is a land sale. Different from the “relative” definition above, “direct family” is defined by the IRS section 267(c)4 and only includes parents, in-laws, grandparents, siblings, spouses, children, grandchildren, and other lineal descendants. Legal Adoption shall be considered in full effect. Sales and leases between aunts/uncles, nieces/nephews, and cousins are eligible. Sales between relatives will only qualify for the 8% rate.
- The beginning farmer must be enrolled in or have completed an approved financial business management (FBM) program within ten years of their first year of farming: [List of Approved FBM Programs](#)
  - Beginning farmers are eligible for a nonrefundable MN income tax credit equal to their tuition paid up to a maximum of \$1,500. The credit is available for up to three years.
  - If the beginning farmer has already completed 30 credits of FBM courses (or the equivalent hours in another approved FBM program), they do not need to register for additional courses to be eligible for the tax credit.
  - Beginning farmers may request to waive the FBM program requirement if they have a 4-year agricultural degree or reasonable work experience in agricultural finance.

## Application Instructions

- Complete all sections of this application, unless otherwise noted.
- This is a two-part application. Your asset owner(s) will also need to submit an application to receive their tax credit.
- You or your asset owner must submit a signed copy of your lease or sale documents at the time of application.
- **Funding is limited** and awarded in a first-come, first-served manner. **Leaving questions blank and skipping attachments delays processing, jeopardizing application approval.**
- An online application and more information are available at [www.mda.state.mn.us/bftc](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/bftc)

Rural Finance Authority Phone: 651-201-6316

## APPLICATION

### 2026 Minnesota Beginning Farmer Tax Credit

The data on this form will be used to certify your status as a beginning farmer as defined by Minnesota Statute 41B.0391 subdivision 1. You are not legally required to provide all of the information on this form, but the Department of Agriculture will only certify beginning farmers who provide all of the requested information. The information provided on this form will be shared with the Minnesota Department of Revenue to validate your tax credit.

#### A Beginning Farmer Information (REQUIRED)

Name:	Spouse's Name ( <i>if applicable</i> ):		
Last 4 digits of beginning farmer's social security number ( <i>optional, used to create a unique identifier</i> )			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Phone #:	Email:		
Age at Time of Application ( <i>Optional</i> ):		County:	

How do you describe your race/ethnicity?	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian	Black/African American
Hispanic/Latine	White	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Multiracial
Other Race:		Perfer not to answer	

#### Please answer the following yes/no questions

Are you a Minnesota Resident?	YES	NO
Are you a beginning farmer? ( <i>See definition in instructions</i> )	YES	NO
Is your farm located within Minnesota's borders?	YES	NO
Will you (and your spouse) provide the majority of the farm's labor and management?	YES	NO
Is your net worth less than \$1,042,000?	YES	NO
Do you expect your farm will eventually be profitable and a significant source of income?	YES	NO
Do you or your spouse own any farmland (prior to this transaction)?	YES	NO
Do you have any farm leases with terms greater than 3 years?	YES	NO
Do you have any farm leases with anyone related to you or your spouse?	YES	NO
Is the asset owner(s) you're buying/leasing from a direct family member?	FMB ONLY	YES
Does your purchase or lease include a home or other non-agricultural asset?	FMB ONLY	YES

#### B Farming Experience (REQUIRED - Check all that apply)

Farm Experience	Length of Time	Farm Experience	Length of Time
Grew up on a farm		Work experience on a farm	
Participated in FFA, 4-H		Farm owner	
Member of farming club/association		Other:	

**B Farming Experience Cont'd (REQUIRED)****Education/Training:** List schools, workshops, and course attended (*include farm financial training*)

School/Organization	Course Name or Degree Major <i>Ex. "Farm Business Management Essentials" or "Animal Science"</i>	Degree or Length of Program <i>Ex. "3 years" or "Associate's Degree"</i>	Date

Describe the type of farming operation you will be running.

**C Farm Profitability (REQUIRED)****Provide a Cash Flow:** Provide an estimated cash flow for the current year. Use the additional columns or attach a separate sheet if you need more years to show a positive net profit.**Note:** Do not send us your balance sheet or financial report (ex. *Finpack*)

Estimated Cash Flows	2026 (Required)	2027 (Optional)	2028 (Optional)
Farming Income	\$	\$	\$
Farming Expenses	\$	\$	\$
Net	\$	\$	\$

**D Farm Business Management (REQUIRED)**

Please select one of the following for your Farm Business Management (FBM) program requirement:

I am applying for a FBM tuition reimbursement tax credit.

I have already been reimbursed for 3 years of FBM tuition and no longer qualify for the tax credit.

I am requesting a waiver because 1) I have already completed a 30-credit or equivalent approved FBM program, or 2) I have a four year degree in agriculture or work experience in ag finance. (*Provide information/rationale in Section B above.*)

Please provide the course information below if you are applying for the FBM tuition reimbursement tax credit. If you do not know the out of pocket cost, you can write "TBD." You or your FBM instructor must email us a copy of your tuition receipt by December 1.

Name of School/FBM Program:

Out of Pocket Cost of Courses: \$

Instructor's Name:

Instructor's Email:

**E Agricultural Assets Information (Required if applying with asset owner, skip for FBM only)**List the names of **all** your asset owners (landlords, sellers) here.Note: Please submit **one beginning farmer application** each year. Do not submit multiple for each asset owner you work with.

**E Agricultural Assets Information Cont'd** (Required if applying with asset owner, skip for FBM only)

**ASSETS - FARMLAND**

Description of the land you will purchase/rent under the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit

County	# of Acres	Rent/Sale Price	Owner Name (if multiple)

**ASSETS - EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, LIVESTOCK**

Description of the Agricultural Asset you are purchasing/leasing: (complete applicable fields)

County	Asset Description (Ex. 20 Beef Cattle, 1941 Mpls-Moline GT)	Dollar Amount

I certify that the above information and any supplemental information is correct and true to the best of my knowledge. Furthermore, I warrant that I am not suspended or debarred from doing business with the State of Minnesota or with the federal government, and I will adhere to the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit policies and regulations.

**Signature / Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Application Submission**

EMAIL (preferred): [Mda.bftc@state.mn.us](mailto:Mda.bftc@state.mn.us)

MAIL: Rural Finance Authority  
625 Robert Street N.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**DEADLINES:** Applications are due on **July 17 for leases** and **November 1 for sales and tuition reimbursement**. Funding is limited, and applications will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis regardless of deadlines.

**NOTE:** If you are a beginning farmer submitting a **tuition-only application**, you do not need to submit an asset owner application, lease or sale documents.

**FOR QUESTIONS:** Read our FAQ online, or contact:  
Jenny Heck, 651-201-6316  
[Mda.bftc@state.mn.us](mailto:Mda.bftc@state.mn.us)

NOTE: You and/or your asset owner must submit the following documents to complete your application. **Funding is limited** and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis (regardless of deadlines) to those who have submitted a **complete application**.

1. Beginning Farmer application
2. Asset Owner application
3. Lease or sale documents for all assets.  
Sale documents include:
  - Settlement statement from your closing or notarized contract for deed. This can be sent later when it is available if you provide a signed purchase agreement.
  - Appraisal for any non-farm assets that are part of a farmland sale (ex. residential home). These will be subtracted from the sale price when calculating your tax credit.
  - Bill of sale or receipt for equipment or livestock sales.