



Climate Friendly Agricultural Practices (CFAP) Incentive Payment

FY26

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Table of Contents

CFAP summary.....	1
Overview.....	1
Practice Scenarios.....	4
Funding availability.....	5
How to apply.....	5
How to submit questions.....	6
Eligibility	6
Eligible applicants	6
Collaboration	7
Eligible projects	7
Ineligible Projects	7
Eligible expenses.....	8
Ineligible expenses	8
Privacy notice and data classification.....	9
Requirements of CFAP Recipients	9
Notification of Award	9
Accountability and reporting.....	10
Payments	10
Audits.....	11
Federal compliance	11
Publicity	11
Affirmative action and nondiscrimination.....	11
Definitions	12
Right of Cancellation	12
Background and Program Goals	12
Application Questions	14

CFAP summary

Overview

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for Climate Friendly Agricultural Practices (CFAP) incentive payments. CFAP will provide incentive payments at a flat rate, up to \$10,000, for producers to implement a selection of sustainable agricultural practices with known, quantifiable greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. Practices that can be funded and implemented through CFAP include:

- Conservation Cover (CPS 327)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (CPS 512)

- Conservation Crop Rotation (CPS 328)
- Tree and Shrub Establishment (CPS 612), may support the following:
 - Silvopasture
 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt
 - Forest Farming

These payments are being offered through the [Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program](#) (MAWQCP), which certifies producers across the state of Minnesota for implementing conservation practices that are proven to improve and protect water. Applicants are not required to be certified in this program to apply, however certified applicants receive a higher payment rate than non-certified applicants.

Applicants who are certified, assessed, or working towards certification through the MAWQCP will receive a flat rate payment of 75% of the assumed scenario cost, as established by the rates outlined in the table below. All other applicants will receive a payment of 60% of that assumed scenario cost. Producers may reapply to subsequent rounds of the CFAP incentive payments to implement practices on new acres or with a practice that was not previously funded. Applicants who are interested in becoming certified should reach out to their [local area certification specialist](#).

Award amounts will be calculated using the [CFAP Budget sheet](#). Payment rates (below) are based on the assumed scenario costs per unit, as established by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). More detailed information about each scenario and practice can be found in the “Practice Scenarios” section of this document. MAWQCP follows those established rates to calculate the award payment per practice(s).

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until funds are fully encumbered.

Practices and payment rates are outlined in the table below:

Practices	Scenario	Unit	Cost per Unit/Acre	Payment per Unit for MAWQCP Participants	Payment per Unit for Applicants not in MAWQCP
Conservation Cover					
	Introduced Species with Foregone Income	Acre	\$575.69	\$431.77	\$345.41
	Native Species with Foregone Income	Acre	\$689.34	\$517.00	\$413.60

Conservation Crop Rotation					
	Perennial Short Term	Acre	\$73.14	\$54.86	\$43.88
	Small Grain	Acre	\$52.24	\$39.18	\$31.34
Tree/Shrub Establishment					
	Tree/shrub Planting Bareroot	Each	\$3.82	\$2.87	\$2.29
	Site Prep	Each	\$0.33	\$0.25	\$0.20
	Mulching (Fabric)	Each	\$1.46	\$1.10	\$0.88
	Mulching (Natural Material)	Each	\$0.32	\$0.24	\$0.19
Pasture and Hay Planting					
	Cool Season	Acre	\$313.80	\$235.35	\$188.28
	Cool Season Without Lime and Fertilizer	Acre	\$120.67	\$90.50	\$72.40
	Warm Season	Acre	\$339.53	\$254.65	\$203.72
	Warm Season Without Lime and Fertilizer	Acre	\$214.24	\$160.68	\$128.54

Practice Scenarios

All practices need to meet the appropriate NRCS conservation practice standard found in their [Field Office Tech Guide](#).

Conservation Cover CPS 327: this practice can be used to support the following: Contour Grass Strip, Field Border, Filter strip, and Cross Wind Trap Strip.

- **Introduced Species:** a mix of non-native grasses or grasses and legumes established on cropland in current production and retired for a minimum of five years. Payment covers seed, seedbed prep, lime, fertilizer, drilling or broadcast seeding and incorporation as needed as well as compensation for foregone income for a five-year maintenance agreement.
- **Native Species:** a mix of native grasses or grasses with legumes and/or forbes established on cropland in current production and retired for a minimum of five years. Payment covers seed, seedbed prep, drilling or broadcast seeding and incorporation as needed as well as compensation for foregone income for a five-year maintenance agreement.

Conservation Crop Rotation CPS 328

- **Perennial (Short Term):** establish on cropland in current production Intermediate Wheatgrass, Perennial Flax, Silphium, or Perennial Sunflower (Jerusalem Artichoke). Payment covers seed, seedbed prep, lime, fertilizer, drilling or broadcast seeding and incorporation as needed.
- **Small Grain:** establish on cropland in current production a winter annual small grain, oil seed, or pulse. Only the following are eligible: Winter Camelina, Pennycress, Hybrid Winter Rye, Winter Barley, and Winter Field Pea. The crop must be fall seeded, maintained over winter and not tilled after grain harvest – the succeeding crop will be no till or strip till planted. Payment covers seed, seedbed prep, lime, fertilizer, drilling or broadcast seeding and incorporation as needed.

Tree/Shrub Establishment CPS 612: this practice and the following scenarios can be used to support the following: Silvopasture, Forest Farming, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, and Riparian Forest Buffer. Tree/shrub establishment will be maintained for 15 years.

- **Tree/Shrub Planting Bareroot:** payment covers the purchase and planting by whatever means trees and shrubs on a per tree basis in an appropriately prepared area with no competition.
- **Site Prep:** covers the cost on a per tree basis of preparing an area by chemical or mechanical means to remove competition for successful establishment.
- **Mulching (fabric):** covers the cost on a per tree basis a minimum one square yard of weed barrier natural or synthetic woven material with staples to reduce competition and maintain soil moisture.
- **Mulching (natural material):** covers the cost on a per tree basis a minimum of three-foot swath of wood chips, compost or other natural material to suppress competition and maintain soil moisture.

Pasture and Hay Planting CPS 512: Practice must be implemented on land that has been in annual row crop production for at least five years. This practice is intended to be a conversion of annual cropland into a perennial grass or grass/legume mix.

- Cool Season: a mix of cool season grasses or grasses and legumes established on cropland in current production and maintained for a minimum of five years. Payment covers seed, seedbed prep, lime and fertilizer, drilling or broadcast seeding and incorporation as needed.
- Cool Season without Lime and Fertilizer: a mix of cool season grasses or grasses and legumes established on cropland in current production and maintained for a minimum of five years. Payment covers seed, seedbed prep, drilling or broadcast seeding and incorporation.
- Warm Season: a mix of warm season grasses or grasses and legumes established on cropland in current production and maintained for a minimum of five years. Payment covers seed, seedbed prep, lime and fertilizer, drilling or broadcast seeding and incorporation as needed.
- Warm Season without Lime and Fertilizer: a mix of warm season grasses or grasses and legumes established on cropland in current production and maintained for a minimum of five years. Payment covers seed, seedbed prep, drilling or broadcast seeding and incorporation.

Funding availability

We expect to award approximately \$1.2 million on a first-come first-served, rolling basis.

Awards can range from \$400 to \$10,000. We expect to distribute between 10 and 300 awards; however, the final number of awards and the funding per award will be determined through the approval process.

If selected for an award, the applicant may only incur eligible expenditures after the applicant has been notified by the state's authorized representative that they may begin work.

Once approved for award, the applicant has one year to complete the approved practices and receive payment. Applicants will be able to apply for subsequent years of funding if they are not awarded, or if they apply for a different project on a different parcel of land.

Priorities

Outcomes will include reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved water quality benefits.

How to apply

- Apply for the Climate Friendly Agricultural Practices payment using MDA's [online application system](#).
 - If you're a new user, you need to create an account first. Use this [how-to guide \(PDF\)](#) to help set up your account.

Once logged in, select Climate Friendly Agricultural Practices.

Once the application is submitted you will receive a confirmation email. Contact Megan Moland (megan.moland@state.mn.us) if you do not receive this email.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until all funds have been encumbered.

- For help using the online application system:

Call 651-418-2271 or

Email megan.moland@state.mn.us with Climate Friendly Agricultural Practices in the subject line.

We will accept only one application per farm.

Incomplete applications will be rejected and not evaluated. Do not provide any materials that are not requested in this document. These materials will not be considered nor evaluated.

The MDA reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet the requirements of this document.

By applying, each applicant warrants that the information provided is true, correct, and reliable for purposes of evaluation for a potential award. Submitting inaccurate or misleading information may be grounds for disqualification from the award, as well as subject the applicant to suspension or debarment proceedings and other remedies available to the State, by law.

The applicant is responsible for all costs associated with submitting a response to this document.

How to submit questions

For questions about the program or application:

- Submit your question in writing.
- Email megan.moland@state.mn.us with Climate Friendly Agricultural Practices in the subject line.

Application guidelines

- Use plain, easily understood language. Write for reviewers who have general knowledge but may not have a thorough or deep understanding of your project.
- Answer all questions completely within the character limits specified in the application.
- Although some questions are labeled as optional, MDA strongly recommends responding to those questions or uploading the appropriate documents.
- Make sure your budget is realistic and includes only eligible items. Write a detailed budget narrative that clearly explains how the money will be spent.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

Producers, farmers and farm entities (limited liability entities) are invited to apply. Organizations, including nonprofit and for-profit organizations, are not eligible applicants.

Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements to be considered for this opportunity. Applicants must:

- Be a resident and owner/lessee of farmland in Minnesota with capacity to implement requested practices and authorized to do business in the state of Minnesota. OR
 - Be an LLC or other farm entity with capacity to implement required practices and authorized to do business in the state of Minnesota.
- Be in good standing with the State of Minnesota:
 - No back taxes owed.
 - No defaults on Minnesota state-backed financing for the last seven years.
 - Acceptable performance on past MDA grants if previously received.

- Not debarred or suspended from doing business with the State of Minnesota or the federal government.
- No conviction of felony financial crimes of its principals for the past 10 years.
- Compliant with current state regulations and statutes.
- Work with a technical contact, as defined in the “Definitions” section of this document, to complete their application and implement the approved conservation practices (if awarded). If you are unable to contact a technical staff person, or have issues doing so, please reach out to Megan Moland (megan.moland@state.mn.us) who can assist with the process.

MDA employees and their spouses, farms, or businesses principally owned or operated by them are not eligible applicants and are not eligible to receive funds from this program.

Collaboration

Multi-organization collaboration is not allowed.

Eligible projects

Funds awarded to applicants must be used to pay for conservation practice implementation that will be used to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve water quality. Total award will not exceed \$10,000.

Eligible projects will:

- Aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve water quality.
- Be completed with a technical contact, as defined in the “Definitions” section of this document. If you are unable to contact a technical staff person, or have issues doing so, please reach out to Megan Moland (megan.moland@state.mn.us) who can assist with the process.
- Be completed within one year.
- Be conducted in the State of Minnesota.
- Benefit Minnesota farmers.
- Meet the appropriate NRCS conservation practice standard found in their [Field Office Tech Guide](#). Applicants can request funds for the implementation of multiple practices.
- Not start until the agreement is signed by all parties and has reached its start date. No purchasing or contracting of goods and services may occur prior to the full execution of the agreement or effective date, whichever is later.
- Applicants must implement one or more of the following practices:
 - Conservation Cover
 - Pasture and Hay Planting
 - Conservation Crop Rotation
 - Tree and Shrub Establishment, may support the following:
 - Silvopasture
 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt
 - Forest Farming

Ineligible Projects

- No haying or grazing on conservation cover.

- No funding for planting oats, wheat or other small grains not listed in the Conservation Crop Rotation scenario.
- No funding for planting alfalfa.
- Any practice where technical assistance and practice certification is not provided by an approved professional or subject matter expert. Subject matter experts include staff from Soil & Water Conservation District, USDA/NRCS, or MN Department of Agriculture staff with appropriate Job Approval Authority, Forever Green Initiative staff, NRCS Technical Service Providers (TSP), MN DNR Forestry staff or University of Minnesota Extension Agents.

Eligible expenses

Eligible expenses are costs directly related to the project. Payments are at a flat rate for the implementation of approved practices. Expenses that would be incurred to implement these practices include:

- Seed/trees
- Planting
- Site prep
- Lime and fertilizer
- Mulch
- Implementation of maintenance agreement (i.e. mowing, weed control, replanting)

If the MDA accepts your application, the MDA will provide payment at the applicable flat rate, as established by the NRCS. Applicants are required to complete a budget sheet, which outlines the costs and award total. All work must be completed during the effective dates of the award notice; invoices provided for payment and practice verification must clearly indicate when the item was purchased or when the service was performed. All requests for payment must be documented and submitted to the MDA no later than one year after notification of the award.

Ineligible expenses

Ineligible expenses include but are not limited to:

- **Any materials purchased from a family member** as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, Section 267(c)(4), including siblings, parents, grandchildren, and spouses.
- Purchase of equipment
- Expenditures incurred before the award notification is sent; and expenditures incurred after the payment is issued and the practice is implemented.
- General operating costs or indirect costs (expenses of doing business that are not readily identified with the project).
- Expenses paid for with cash.
- Payments of interest on a loan or any financing fees
- Donations and in-kind contributions, including property and services, made by the applicant (regardless of the recipient).
- Advertising, public relations, entertainment, alcohol, and amusement costs.
- Taxes, except sales tax on goods and services and payroll taxes.
- Fines, penalties, and other settlement expenses resulting from failure of the applicant to follow federal, state, local, or Tribal nation laws and regulations including parking and traffic violations.
- Fundraising.

- Payments to lobbyists and political contributions incurred to raise capital or obtain contributions regardless of purpose for which funds will be used.
- Late payment fees, finance charges, legal costs, bad debts, or contingency funds.
- Fees for legal services and compensation for accountants, and consultants.
- Out-of-state transportation and travel expenses. Minnesota will be considered the home state for determining whether travel is out of state.
- Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal, state, or local government funding or grants.
- Projects which have already received funding from another federal grant or subaward programs may not receive funding for the same activities and expenses. Projects receiving funding from another source, grant, appropriation or other contribution, may not receive funding for the same activities and expenses.
- Political activities in accordance with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 United States Code 1501-1508 and 7324-7326).

Privacy notice and data classification

The information provided by an applicant will be used to assess the applicant's eligibility to receive an award under this program. The decision to apply for this award is voluntary, and applicants are not legally required to provide any of the requested information. Applicants may decline to complete this application without any legal consequence. However, only completed applications will be considered for payment; incomplete applications will not be considered.

Data provided in this application is initially classified by the [Minnesota Data Practices Act](#) as private or nonpublic, although some or all of the data will generally become public at various points of the application process unless the data are otherwise classified by state or federal law. Access to private or nonpublic data is limited to those authorized by law, including but not necessarily limited to MDA staff and contractors with a valid work assignment to access the data, parties authorized by the applicant, parties identified in a valid court order or federal subpoena, Minnesota Management and Budget, Minnesota Department of Administration, the state auditor, and the legislative auditor. If necessary, the MDA may also share the data with law enforcement or the Office of the Attorney General.

Requirements of CFAP Recipients

Notification of Award

Upon approval of an application, the applicant will receive notification of approval by email. This notification will include that they can begin work on their approved practice(s). The notification will also provide the total amount to be awarded to the applicant upon verification that the agreed practices have been implemented.

The notification of award will address the conditions of the award, including implementation for the project. Applicants should read the notification in entirety to ensure understanding regarding timelines, payment, and expectations.

No work on project activities can begin until the State's Authorized Representative has notified the applicant that work may start. The funded applicant will be legally responsible for assuring implementation of the work

plan and compliance with all applicable state requirements including worker's compensation insurance, nondiscrimination, data privacy, budget compliance and reporting as well as any applicable federal requirements.

Accountability and reporting

Awardees who implement Tree/Shrub Establishment (CPS 612) may be contacted by MDA staff to ensure maintenance of the practice for the intended duration (15 years).

The MDA reserves the right to modify reporting requirements throughout this process. Payments shall not be made on applications with past due progress reports unless the MDA has given the applicant a written extension. Information reported to the MDA may be classified as public data. Failure to regularly report, respond to surveys, and promptly respond to information requests may impact the applicant's ability to secure future funding from the MDA.

Reimbursement occurs once practice completion is confirmed by the applicant's technical staff person. The implementation of funded practices will be monitored and reviewed by technical staff. Once technical staff confirms the implementation of the practice by providing a completed job sheet verification to the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) Office, who will then initiate the payment process.

Payments

Eligible expenses may only be incurred after the State's authorized representative has notified the applicant that work may begin.

Funds are dispersed on a first-come first-served basis. All requests for payment must correspond to the approved project budget and be tied to documented progress working on the project. The MDA shall review each request for payment against the approved budget, expenditures to date and the required verification documents before approving payment.

CFAP requires both Proof of Purchase and Proof of Payment for reimbursement.

Proof of Purchase to identify what was purchased and when. Acceptable documents include:

- Detailed invoices (Handwritten notations are not acceptable)
 - Invoices must have an itemized list, or a description of the items or services provided to you.
 - Purchase descriptions need to show what was bought both quantity and amount. A statement with listed invoice numbers is insufficient documentation.
- Itemized receipts
 - Detailed proof of purchase listing each individual item or service bought, its unit price, quantity, and subtotal, along with the business name, date, taxes, and total amount.

Purchases that are not related to the project should be circled or somehow identified on the invoice or receipt. Keep ineligible expenditures off submitted receipts. Purchases must occur after the date of notification, as sent by the State's authorized representative, and within a year of being notified and approved.

Proof of Payment is used to identify how and when payment for items was made. Acceptable documents include:

- Check
 - Checks must be cleared by your bank or credit union (carbon copies of checks will not be sufficient proof). Please present both front and back sides of the check.
- Credit card
 - Cover or remove any sensitive information before making copies of your credit card, bank, or credit union statement (we do not need to know your account or routing numbers).

Cash transactions are not allowed.

Payment will only be up to the approved flat rate amount, as identified in the budget sheet that is required when applying for the payments. Fees accrued above the approved flat rate must be covered by the applicant.

Audits

Per [MINN. STAT. 16B.98, subd. 8](#), the Grantee's books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the applicant or other party that are relevant to the incentive payment or transaction are subject to examination by the Commissioner of Administration, the awarding State agency, the State Auditor, the Attorney General, and the Legislative Auditor as appropriate. This requirement will last for a minimum of six years from the approval of all final reports, or the required period of time to satisfy all state and program retention requirements, whichever is later.

Federal compliance

Recipients are required to comply with all applicable provisions of [2 CFR 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](#) and grant recipients are responsible for compliance with all applicable federal requirements imposed on these funds and accepts full financial responsibility for any requirements imposed by the Grantee's noncompliance federal requirements at <https://www.epa.gov/grants/grant-terms-and-conditions>.

Publicity

All projects funded must publicly credit MDA's Climate Friendly Agricultural Practices and the Climate Pollution Reduction grant funding in all public communications, presentations and printed materials including on the applicant's website. Additionally, applicants who have websites must include the names and contact information for the applicant's leadership, and the employee or other person who directly manages and oversees the CFAP payment on behalf of the applicant in accordance with [MINN. STAT. 16B.98, subd. 5 \(d\)](#).

Affirmative action and nondiscrimination

The applicant agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, marital status, status in regard to public assistance, membership or activity in a local commission, disability, sexual orientation, or age in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified ([MINN. STAT. 363A.02](#)). The applicant agrees to

take affirmative steps to employ, advance in employment, upgrade, train, and recruit minority persons, women, and persons with disabilities.

The Grantee must not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of physical or mental disability in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified. The Grantee agrees to take affirmative action to employ, advance in employment, and otherwise treat qualified disabled persons without discrimination based upon their physical or mental disability in all employment practices such as the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment, advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship ([Minnesota Rules, part 5000.3500](#)).

The Grantee agrees to comply with the rules and relevant orders of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights issued pursuant to the [Minnesota Human Rights Act](#).

Definitions

Farmer/producer: A person who is primarily responsible for managing agricultural operations on a farm.

Farming entity: A body, association, or group of people engaged in the production of agricultural products (e.g. livestock, vegetables, fruits)

Technical staff/contact: A professional sourced from one of the following institutions, who will be utilized in the development of the CFAP project plan and budget:

- [University of Minnesota Forever Green](#)
- [University of Minnesota Extension](#)
- Local Soil Water and Conservation Districts (SWCDs)
- [The Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (NRCS)
- NRCS [Technical Service Providers \(TSPs\)](#)
- [MAWQCP Certification Specialists](#)
- [Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\) Forestry Staff](#)

Right of Cancellation

These incentive payments do not obligate the MDA to award a payment. The MDA reserves the right to cancel these payments, if in the best interest of the program, agency, or the State of Minnesota. The State also reserves the right to negotiate modifications to the application or to reject any and all applications received as a result of these incentive payments. The State does not intend to award an incentive payment solely on the basis of any response made to this request or pay for information solicited or obtained.

Background and Program Goals

The Climate Friendly Agricultural Practices incentive payments were established to advance Minnesota's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by implementing a selection of sustainable agricultural practices with known, quantifiable greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Application Questions

Contact information

Applicant information

- Applicant name
- Mailing address
- Applicant telephone
- Applicant email
- County

Authorized representative

If awarded a payment, this would be the person that will be sent the Climate-Friendly Agricultural Practices award notice for this organization. This is often yourself or other leadership in your organization.

- Name
- Telephone
- Email

Who should the invoice be issued to?

If awarded a payment, in what name should MDA draft your incentive payment invoice? This could be the same as the authorized representative, or it could be your entity/business name. The identified contact will need to be registered as a vendor in SWIFT.

Eligibility

Confirm that the following statements apply to your organization.

- I am a current Minnesota resident or entity authorized to conduct business in Minnesota. (Yes)
- I am in good standing with the State of Minnesota. (No back taxes owed, no defaults on Minnesota state-backed financing for the past seven years, in compliance with current state regulations) (Yes)
- The project I intend to implement will be located within the state of Minnesota. (Yes)
- I am not a Minnesota Department of Agriculture employee or spouse of an employee of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. (Yes)

- I have not been convicted of a criminal offense, such as theft, embezzlement, and forgery, related to a state grant agreement. (Yes)
- To be eligible, an applicant must be working with an approved technical staff person who will assist with practice design as well as contracting and the payment request. Are you working with an approved technical staff person? (Yes)

Project Summary

1. Project Name

Create a name to describe your project, e.g. John Smith 2026 camelina planting.

2. Choose from the following Climate Friendly Agricultural Practices (CFAPs)

Select the practice(s) that you plan to implement.

- Conservation Cover CPS 327
- Conservation Crop Rotation CPS 328
- Tree/Shrub Establishment CPS 612
- Pasture and Hay Planting CPS 512

3. How many acres of land will you be implementing each practice on?

Example: Conservation crop rotation (CPS 327), perennial short term – 10 acres
Character limit 1000.

4. If you will be planting trees, will you be planting on cropland or grassland? Choose N/A if not implementing this practice.

(Cropland/Grassland/N/A)

5. If you will be planting a windbreak, how many rows are you planning to plant? Type N/A if not implementing this practice.

Character limit 500.

6. Location of CFAP

- County
- Township Number
- Range
- Section(s)

7. Design and Approval of CFAP

Who has designed and approved this CFAP design? You must be working with a technical contact to apply for this payment. Technical staff can be sourced from:

- [University of Minnesota Forever Green](#)
- [University of Minnesota Extension](#)
- Local Soil Water and Conservation Districts (SWCDs)
- [The Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (NRCS)
- NRCS [Technical Service Providers \(TSPs\)](#)
- [MAWQCP Certification Specialists](#)
- [Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\) Forestry Staff](#)

Character limit 200.

8. **Is your land irrigated?** (Yes/No)

9. **Are the proposed project acres for practice implementation no-till?** (Yes/No)

Readiness, budget, and economic outcomes

10. Estimated Budget Form (required)

Upload the official CFAP Estimated Budget Spreadsheet. This is not a vendor quote or budget of your own making. Refer to your technical contact for assistance in completing the spreadsheet. We must receive the budget before an application is approved.

File size limit - 1MB.

11. Estimated Total Project Cost

This is the total of all costs associated with the project.

Character limit 100.

12. Amount Requested from the MDA

Can not exceed \$10,000 nor 60% of the estimated total project cost for non-certified applicants, or 75% of the estimated total project cost for certified applicants.

13. Estimated Producer's Contribution

Must be at least 40% of the estimated total project cost for non-certified applicants or 25% of the estimated total project cost for applicants in MAWQCP.

I certify that no project expenses will be incurred until I receive notification from the State's authorized representative that I have been approved for CFAP and that I can begin work on the approved practices.

Incurring expenses include ordering seed and materials and any other expenses for the project implementation. (Yes)

14. Operation and Maintenance Statement

The applicant's certifier/technical contact must provide signed Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Statements for the practice(s) funded. The O&M must include the practice lifespan. Funded practices must be maintained for the lifespan as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or the Minnesota Department of Agriculture can pursue recovery of funds. See your Certifier or technical staff person for assistance in completing the O&M Statement. The incentive payment will not be paid until the Statement(s) are provided. Indicate yes to understand this requirement for payment, if awarded the funds. (Yes)

15. Practice Lifespan Agreement

I agree to maintain the funded practices for the practice lifespan as detailed by NRCS in their [Technical Guide](#) and as identified in the attached Operation and Maintenance statement. (Yes)

Low-income and Disadvantaged Communities (LIDACs) and Environmental Justice (EJ)

16. LIDAC/EJ Status

The following questions are being asked to quantify the number of awards being given to producers in LIDAC/EJ areas to utilize for required reporting through the [Climate Smart Food Systems initiative](#).

Is your farming operation located in a LIDAC/EJ region, as identified by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Department of Agriculture? (Yes/No)

A map indicating EJ areas can be found on the [MPCA's "Understanding Environmental Justice" webpage](#). A map indicating LIDAC zones can be found on the [MDA's "LIDAC Communities in Minnesota" webpage](#). Please use the map to identify if you operate within a LIDAC/EJ zone. You are required to upload an image of the map **and** your operation if you answer yes.

File size limit – 4 MB

Conservation Plans and Multiple Benefits

17. MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program Participation

Is your operation actively certified or assessed and working towards certification with the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP)? (Yes/No)

If yes, please explain. Indicate your MAWQCP certification status (certified, applied and assessed, or applied and not assessed yet). If you are working towards MAWQCP certification but have not been certified yet, please provide the date you applied and the name of the certifier you are working with.

Character limit 500.

18. University of Minnesota Forever Green Program Participation

Do you participate in or are you involved with the University of Minnesota's Forever Green initiative? (Yes/No)

If yes, please describe your involvement. If no, please type "NA".

Character limit 500.

Acknowledgements

This Applicant Certifies that:

1. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the data in this application is true and correct and supporting documentation for the claims and assertions made within this application is available to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) for its review.

Further,

2. I understand that submitting false or misleading information in connection with this application may result in the applicant being found ineligible for financial assistance under the MAWQCP CFAP of the MDA. I further understand that receiving public funds because of false representations constitutes an act of fraud.

Further,

3. I understand that the MDA may conduct audits, check references, and conduct site inspections after payments are awarded and prior to dollars being disbursed.

Further,

4. I understand application data is private or nonpublic data until applications are awarded. Names, addresses and requested amounts then become public information. An entire application becomes public when an agency has completed negotiating the payment with an applicant. Individual applicants do not have to provide the information requested on the application form. However, if you do not, we will not be able to consider your request. The only people who will have access to your data during the time that it is protected are those permitted access by law, by your written consent, by a court order, or by those department employees whose job duties require access.

Further,

5. I verify all information supplied in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.