



Women for the Land California - Regenerative Orchard Crops (ROC) Fund

PURPOSE

American Farmland Trust's Women for the Land Initiative is pleased to announce an opportunity for farmers in California's San Joaquin Valley to apply for up to \$20,000 in grant funding to propel regenerative practices in small scale orchard cropping systems.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

AFT seeks to support farmers across California with a variety of programming and financial and technical assistance. We also recognize that social and racial injustices are entrenched in the history of California's agricultural system. Our past informs inequities that persist today, and marginalized agricultural producers have been denied equal opportunity to prosper, facing challenges such as loan discrimination, barriers to accessing federal and private programs, exploitative labor practices, intimidation, and theft and appropriation of land.

In recognition of the need for greater equity and inclusion for all groups who have been, and still are, marginalized, we aim to support the most marginalized producers through the Women for the Land Regenerative Orchard Crops (ROC) Fund. This up to \$20,000 mini grant is focused on providing resources to women, gender non-binary and trans-gendered farmers, as well as those historically resilient farmers identifying as socially disadvantaged in alignment with the USDA definition.

To be eligible, growers must:

- Be a producer within one of the following San Joaquin Valley, CA counties: Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, or Tulare
- Identify as a woman, gender non-binary, or transgender individual AND as a non-white or biracial individual or individual who fits the USDA definition of socially disadvantaged farmer.
- Produce almond, citrus, stone fruit, apple, pistachio, or another orchard crop. Raisins may also be considered.
- Produce on a small scale (less than 100 acres), whether owned or rented.
- Be motivated and ready to implement regenerative agricultural practices on their farmland using the grant funding, with spending to start in Spring of 2024.
- Farmers who previously received a Brighter Future Fund from AFT are NOT eligible. However, those who applied but were not awarded funds during our previous Bright Future Fund grant cycles are encouraged to apply to this opportunity.

WHAT YOU NEED TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION

If you have questions or need additional assistance completing your application,

please contact cjoseph@farmland.org.

Before beginning the application, we recommend gathering the required supporting materials you will be asked to upload, including:

- One (1) photo of yourself
- A statement specifying which of the following practices, or combination of practices, you would implement with the funds, including a true cost estimate of what you need for each, as well as an implementation plan:
 - Composting (i.e. via purchase of a spreader)
 - Cover crops (i.e. via purchase of a seeder or spreader)
 - Irrigation water management (i.e. via installation of moisture sensors or weather stations)
 - Conservation cover
 - Filter strip
 - Mulching
 - No-till
 - Reduced till
 - Whole orchard recycling
 - Windbreaks
- **OPTIONAL:** One (1) letter of recommendation. Letters can be from collaborators, mentors, family, friends, or contacts from educational or work settings. It will be especially helpful if they can speak about you as a farmer and your ability to implement the practices you are proposing.

TIMELINE

October 31, 2023 - Application Opens

December 15, 2023 - Application Closes by 11:59 PM Pacific Time

January 2024 - Decision Announced

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Screening Questions

* 1. Have you or your farm previously received a Brighter Futures Fund grant from AFT?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure



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* 2. Do you produce orchard crops or raisins on less than 100 acres in one of the following California counties: Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, or Tulare?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other (please specify)



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* 3. Do you or does the primary producer of the farm applying identify as a woman, gender non-binary, or transgender individual AND as a non-white, biracial, or mixed race individual?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other (please specify)



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Application Questions

PLEASE NOTE: the applicant should be the primary producer or farmer of the operation

*** 4. Applicant Information**

Applicant Full Name	<input type="text"/>
Applicant Mailing Address	<input type="text"/>
Address 2	<input type="text"/>
City/Town	<input type="text"/>
State/Province	<input type="text" value="-- select state --"/>
ZIP/Postal Code	<input type="text"/>
Applicant Email Address	<input type="text"/>
Applicant Phone Number	<input type="text"/>

5. How do you describe your gender identity?

6. Which racial and ethnic category best aligns with your identity?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="radio"/> Middle Eastern or North African |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian American | <input type="radio"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander |
| <input type="radio"/> Black or African American | <input type="radio"/> White or European |
| <input type="radio"/> Hispanic or Latino | |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) | |

7. How do you describe your sexual orientation or sexual identity?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Lesbian | <input type="radio"/> Queer |
| <input type="radio"/> Gay | <input type="radio"/> Heterosexual or Straight |
| <input type="radio"/> Bisexual | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to answer |

8. Are you a U.S. veteran? (based on the USDA definition)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

*** 9. Farm Name**

* 10. About how much of your worktime do you spend dedicated to work on your farm?

- ☐ 0-25%
- ☐ 26-50%
- ☐ 51-75%
- ☐ 76-100%

* 11. County farm is located in

12. Farm Address (if different than personal address)

* 13. Do you own or lease farmland at this address?

- ☐ Own
- ☐ Lease
- ☐ Other (please specify)

14. If you lease, please explain your lease agreement including -what year your current lease extends to and if it is a written lease agreement?

15. Link to Farm website or social media (if applicable)

* 16. Please list the total acres in farming AND all farm products grown, raised, or produced, with acreage breakdown for each. Be sure to note all orchard crops produced.

* 17. What is your average sales for orchard products sold per year?

- ☐ Less than \$50,000
- ☐ Between \$50,001 - 100,000
- ☐ More than \$100,000
- ☐ Other (please specify)

18. Where, or to whom, do you sell your orchard products?

* 19. Select the conservation practices that you would implement if you received this grant. Choose up to three. (More information about each of these practices can be found at <https://farmland.org/rcpp/>)



Composting



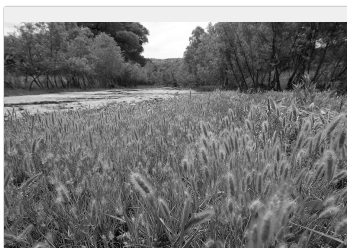
Cover crops



Irrigation water management



Conservation Cover



Filter Strip



Mulching



No Till or Reduced Till



Whole Orchard Recycling



Windbreak or Hedgerow Planting

* 20. On how many acres would you implement each of the practices you chose above? Please specify both the practice and the acres for each.

* 21. What is the **total** grant amount you are applying for to implement all the practices in your plan? This total cannot exceed \$20,000.

In the following questions, please provide more detail on your plan for each of the practices you wish to implement with these grant funds.

* 22. Please name the **first practice** you wish to implement and describe **how you plan to implement it**. This can include crop or species-specific detail, equipment you will need to purchase, and/or technical assistance you anticipate needing to implement the practice.

Please provide 2-5 sentences.

* 23. Describe the **true cost estimate** (including labor, materials, etc.) for implementing the **first practice**.

* 24. Describe **when you plan to implement** the **first practice**. Include the month you plan to start and when you hope to complete. If the practice cannot be completed by the end of 2024, please explain why.

25. Please name the **second practice** you wish to implement and **describe how you plan to implement it**. This can include crop or species-specific detail, equipment you will need to purchase, and/or technical assistance you anticipate needing to implement the practice.

Please provide 2-5 sentences.

26. Describe the **true cost estimate** (including labor, materials, etc.) for implementing the **second practice**.

27. Describe **when you plan to implement** to implement the **second practice**. Include the month you plan to start and when you hope to complete. If the practice cannot be completed by the end of 2024, please explain why.

28. Please name the **third practice** you wish to implement and **describe how you plan to implement it**. This can include crop or species-specific detail, equipment you will need to purchase, and/or technical assistance you anticipate needing to implement the practice. Please provide 2-5 sentences.

29. Describe the **true cost estimate** (including labor, materials, etc.) for implementing the **third practice**.

30. Describe **when you plan to implement** the **third practice**. Include the month you plan to start and when you hope to complete. If the practice cannot be completed by the end of 2024, please explain why.

31. Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

* 32. Statement (please type your name in the box if you agree. If you do not agree, please specify your limitations).

I agree to a brief final report and interview by AFT upon completion of the project. Sharing stories with others through various outlets is something I am interested in.

* 33. Upload one photo of yourself.

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

34. Upload a photo of your farm. (optional)

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

35. Upload a letter of recommendation. (optional)

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

36. Upload any additional information you need to share regarding your practices implementation plan. (optional)

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen