



National
Farmers
Union
FOUNDATION



2019 Beginning Farmer Institute Application

- *Growing the Future of Agriculture* -

"IT'S A POWERFUL EXPERIENCE"

National Farmers Union's (NFU) ability to reach out to a broad cross section of farmers makes it different than other organizations. They teach at a level that opens eyes to a broader picture of where our farm fits into agriculture,"

says Erin, NFU Beginning Farmer Institute (BFI) alum. "It's the content of their classes, the small group in a close-knit setting, visiting innovative farmers, talking with experts and learning from my peers from a diverse variety of farms across the country that

gives me the opportunity to learn different solutions. The NFU Institute makes a person think beyond his or her own farm. The NFU Institute is where 'top down and bottom up' come together. It's a powerful experience."

Download the application at www.nfu.org/education

Applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2019.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

NFU's Beginning Farmer Institute (BFI) will start accepting applications February 1, 2019.

DEADLINE

Applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2019.

CLASS ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2019-2020 BFI Class will be announced by June 14, 2019.

SPONSORS

This program is brought to you the National Farmers Union Foundation, Farm Credit, FUI Foundation, CoBank, and CHS Foundation.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- There's no age limit for the Beginning Farmer Institute - anyone over the age of 18 is eligible to apply.
- Applicants should be currently farming or planning on starting within the next year.
- You do not need to own your own operation to apply.
- We welcome women, veterans, people of color, and other minority candidates.
- Operators of any operation type and size are eligible to apply.
- This program is open to residents of the contiguous United States, Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico.

Questions can be directed to NFU Education Coordinator Emma Lindberg, 202-559-9882.

National Farmers Union Beginning Farmer Institute

Application and Selection Process

We are pleased that you are applying for the NFU Beginning Farmer Institute. Described below are the procedures for applying as well as the process for screening and selecting candidates for the program. Please read the directions carefully and be sure to return all required materials. All application materials must be submitted in a typed format. For your convenience, you may duplicate the pages of this application or recreate them on your computer.

Application Expectations

Each individual participant is required to submit a completed application, including a short essay on his or her beginning farming experience and why he or she would like to participate in this program. Those who apply as a partnership must submit separate applications. In addition to the completed application and typed essay, each applicant must also include the following:

1. A current resume that lists accomplishments.
2. One letter of reference (in support of your candidacy for the NFU Beginning Farmer Institute) and the name of one additional reference including their title, organization and telephone numbers. Application postmark deadline is April 15, 2019.

SEND MATERIALS TO: National Farmers Union
Attn: Beginning Farmer Program
20 F St NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001

Screening

A team of NFU staff and leadership, established farmers, program alumni, and representatives of program sponsors will score each application. All application content will be kept confidential.

Selection, Expectations, and Fees

Final selections for participation in the NFU Beginning Farmer Institute will be based on application analysis. Candidates will be notified of their status no later than June 14, 2019. Acceptance to the program is conditional upon applicants' submission to, and NFUF review of, a background check.

Participants are required to attend all programming in its entirety and report punctually. The first session will occur in September in Washington, D.C., the second session will be held in November in Northern California, and the third session will be in March in Savannah, Georgia.

NFU will cover the majority of the remaining costs of the NFU Beginning Farmer Institute including travel, lodging, and most meals during the event. NFU's expectation is to have each institute graduate become an inspiration to and actively mentor similar individuals in their area, or to become candidates for local boards and other community opportunities. NFU plans to provide ongoing support to participants after they return to their farms.

Beginning Farmer Institute Application

Are you applying as an individual or as a farm partnership (spouses, business partner, family members, etc.)? Individual Partnership

If applying as a partnership, please provide separate applications for each person and mail them in the same envelope. Keep in mind that space is limited and all members of a partnership may or may not be admitted.

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Farm operation name, if applicable: _____

Is your farm incorporated? Yes No

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Education obtained: _____

Do you own, or have you ever owned, directly or indirectly, an interest in a farm operation or farmland?

Yes No Please describe. If you need additional space, please attach a separate page.

Have you farmed or raised livestock for less than 5 of the past 10 years? Yes No

Please describe. If you need additional space, please attach a separate paper.

Current Farm Acreage: owned _____ rented _____

Livestock Number of Head: _____

Number of Employees: _____

Type of Operation: Grain Farming (wheat, corn, soybeans, etc.) Dairy Cattle Poultry

Cotton Fruit Fishing Farmers Market Retail Vegetable Farming Other

Describe your farm operation. If you need additional space, please attach a separate page.

Are you or have you ever been a member of a cooperative? Yes No If yes, please describe.

How did you hear about the Beginning Farmer Institute?

Are you a member of Farmers Union? Yes No (desired, but not required)

Beginning Farmer Institute Essay Question

Please write an essay answering these questions:

- Why I should be selected for the Beginning Farmer Institute?
- Where do I envision my farm operation in 5 years and how do I plan to achieve this goal?
- What do I expect from this Institute?

Your essay should be one to three pages, typed and double spaced. Responses must include page numbers and your name on each page in the upper right-hand corner. Include your essay in your application packet.

Beginning Farmer Institute Sample Agenda

Each institute will be tailored to the participants' needs as determined by a pre-attendance survey.

Sample Topics

Business Formation
Credit
Labor and Contractors
Accounting
Taxation
Business Planning



Sample Tours

Farms that Found a Niche
Farms that Set an Example
Ag-Focused Cooperatives

Three Locations

Washington, D.C.
Northern California
Savannah, Georgia

