Nationa Farmers Union

2020 Beginning Farmer Institute Application

Growing the Future of Agriculture

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 closeknit 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."

In-depth, Diverse Education

Topics

- Business Formation
- Credit
- Labor and Contractors
- Accounting
- Taxation
- Business Planning

Tours

- Niche Farms
- Exemplary Farms
- Ag. Focused Cooperatives

Locations

- Nashville, TN
- San Francisco, CA
- Washington, D.C.



WHAT TO EXPECT

National Farmers Union's Beginning Farmer Institute (BFI) is a training program for new producers of all ages and operation type/size. Participants attend three in-person learning sessions over the course of one year. The sessions include farm tours, seminars on a variety of beginning farmers issues, as well as the opportunity to meet with members of Congress at NFU's Fly-In.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet with experts in an intimate setting and learn about topics ranging from business planning, access to credit, labor laws, taxes, and more.

Download Application at:

nfu.org/education

APPLICATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY: JUNE 15, 2020

SEND MATERIALS TO:

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

COST

Most travel costs including flights, hotels, and most meals during sessions are provided by National Farmers Union. The majority of transportation costs in Nashville, San Francisco, and Washington during the session will be covered by NFU. Participants will be responsible for transportation and costs in their home cities, including travel to and from home airports, airport parking, and baggage fees.

There is a one-time \$100 program fee for non-Farmers Union members.

TIMELINE

On average each session is about 4-6 days long (including travel days). In addition to the in-person sessions, participants will meet virtually (online or over the phone) before the end of the program. Sessions will be held in:

- Nashville, TN, in November 2020
- San Francisco, CA, in March 2021
- Washington, DC, in September 2021

If you have any questions please reach out to **Emma Lindberg at elindberg@nfudc.org.**



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.

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.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

We are pleased that you are applying for the NFU Beginning Farmer Institute. On the next page 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 June 15, 2020.



SELECTION AND EXPECTATIONS

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 mid-August 2020. Acceptance to the program is conditional upon applicants' submission to, and NFUF review of, a background check.

Participants are required to attend all programing in its entirety and report punctually. The first session will occur in November in Nashville, TN, the second session will be held in March in San Francisco, CA, and the third session will be held in September in Washington, DC. An additional online session may be included during the summer of 2021.

NFU's expectation is to have each institute graduate become an inspiration for 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 🗆 Individual 🗅 Partnership members, etc.)?

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.

Na	me:		D	OB:			
Far	m operation name, if applic	cable:					
Is y	our farm incorporated?					l Yes	🗆 No
Mailing Address:							
Cit	y:	County:	St	ate:	Zip	:	
Pho	one #:		E·	mail:			
Ed	ucation Obtained:						
Do you own, or have you ever owned, directly or indirectly, an interest in a farm operation or farmland? Please describe. If you need additional space, please attach a separate page.] Yes	D No
Have you farmed or raised livestock for less than 5 of the past 10 years? Please describe. If you I Yes I No need additional space, please attach a separate page.							
Current Farm Acreage: Rented:							
Livestock Number of Head:							
Number of Employees:							
Type of Operation: Grain Farming (wheat, corn, soybeans, etc.)							
	Dairy Fruit Retail	CattleFishingVegetable		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Cotton Market 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? If yes, please describe.] Yes	🗆 No
Ho	w did you hear about the Be	eginning Farmer Institu	ite?				
Are you a member of Farmers Union? (desired, but not required)] Yes	🗆 No

Beginning Farmer Institute Essay Question

Please write an essay answering these questions:

- Why should I 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.

Good luck!

