



Cultivator Farm Program Farmer Application

Thank you for your interest in Piedmont Conservation Council's Cultivator Farm program. To apply for the program, please submit the following to the farm manager, Thomas Saile, at thomas@piedmontconservation.org:

- A completed farmer application
- A business plan. The plan should include the following sections:
 - Description of current business
 - Description of expected farming operations on site, including anticipated length of license
 - Plan for potential markets and marketing
 - Farm budget
 - Financial projections for first year on site

If you would like to submit additional information about your farming operation, you are welcome to do so.

(If you do not currently have a written business plan for your farming operation, you can find templates and learn more [here](#).)

Selection of Farmers:

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee of Piedmont Conservation Council staff, board members, and project partners. Applicants will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Production experience of the applicant
- Strength of business plan
- Ability to farm in a cooperative setting
- Overall diversity of applicants
- Overall diversity of farm products grown on site
- Applicant's commitment to farming and ability to commit time to farming operation
- Strong professional references
- Good match between available farm resources and applicant's ambitions

Timeline:

Applications submitted after the priority deadline will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Applicants should expect to hear back from the farm manager with a decision on their application within four weeks.

Once an applicant has been approved, the farm manager will meet with them to answer questions and start drawing up their license agreement. Prior to signing the agreement, farmers will need to share:

- Copy of photo identification
- Proof of insurance

More details about farmer and insurance requirements can be found in the Farmer Handbook.

Please limit the length of all your responses to the amount of space allotted in the form. Additional information can be included in your business plan.

Date submitted:

Who is the contact for your farm?

Name:

Street Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

What contact method do you prefer?

Email

Text Message

Phone Call

Do you currently farm?

Yes, full time

Yes, part time

I garden but do not currently have a farming enterprise

No

If you have a farm, what is its name?

Who are the owners and operators of your farm who will be involved in the Cultivator Farm program?

Why do you want to farm at the site, and how will this further your long-term farming goals?

What crops do you plan on growing?

How many acres will you need at the site? Are you comfortable farming on a variety of terrain or do you have a preference for site conditions (shaded, sloped, etc.)?

What equipment will you need (tractors, washing and refrigeration station, etc.)?

Do you own any of this equipment?

Do you plan on hiring farmhands? Please update your business plan to reflect this information.

Please describe your farming/gardening production experience:

What is the largest size plot you have managed?

What crops have you grown in the NC Piedmont?

What equipment have you used?

What experience do you have with organic farming and/or other sustainable agriculture principles? With GAP standards?

Describe the relevant farm training you have received (certifications, apprenticeships, degrees received, areas of study, workshops, informal training, work experience).

Have you received any business training? If so, what kind?

Do you have experience marketing your produce? If so, which markets have you explored?

Do you have any skills or interests that you think would be an asset to the Cultivator Farm program?

How many hours a week do you plan to farm?

Do you currently work a non-farm job?

Yes, full time

Yes, part-time

No

How do you plan to balance farming and non-farming commitments?

When are you generally available to attend farm meetings?

Please describe any challenges you anticipate with farming in this setting.

Do you have a vehicle you plan to use on the farm?

Yes

No

Please list at least two professional/personal references that can speak to your experience:

Reference 1:

Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Relationship to you:

Reference 2:

Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Relationship to you:

Reference 3:

Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Relationship to you:

What do you enjoy about farming?

Have you reviewed the farmer policy manual?

Yes No

Do you have any questions about the policy manual before moving forward with this process?

Is there anything else we should know about you or your farm business?

Optional questions:

What are your preferred pronouns (ex. she/her/hers)?

What is your age?

18-25

26-35

36-45

46-55

Over 55

How do you identify yourself by race (Black, White, Non- White Latino, Native American, Pacific Islander, Asian, More than one race, Other)?

I certify that these responses are my own and are true and accurate.

Name:

Date

Signature: