

# 2025-2026 TAEP Application A – Quick Reference Guide

**TAEP Application A** offers a variety of cost share programs for agricultural producers involved in the production of cattle, dairy, goats/sheep, hay, commercial poultry, row crop, commercial swine, and commercial equine businesses. Applicant must meet basic applicant eligibility and specific program requirements to apply.

**Applicant must meet at least one of the minimum requirements of head of livestock or acres in production for program selected.** Each program has a minimum requirement of head of livestock or acres in production. Verification of minimum requirements may be requested prior to approval.

- **Head of Livestock** = maximum number of single type, regardless of sex or age, at any one time during the last 12 months. Eligible livestock include cattle, goats/sheep, and equids (horses, mules, and/or donkeys). Equids must be part of a commercial equine business (breeding, training, and/or boarding) to qualify.
- **Hay Acreage** = acres of hay in production (first cutting only). Acreage can be owned or leased in Tennessee. Applicant may be required to list location of acres at time of reimbursement.
- **Row Crop Acreage** = acres of row crop production of corn, cotton, soybeans, and/or wheat. Acreage can be owned or leased in Tennessee. Applicant may be required to list location of acres at time of reimbursement.

<b>TAEP Application A</b>								
<b>Minimum Livestock or Acreage Requirements &amp; Eligible Programs by Sector</b>								
Applicant must meet at least <u>one</u> of the minimum requirements of head of livestock or acres in production for program selected.								
<b>Program</b>	<b>Cattle</b> <i>Beef/Dairy</i>	<b>Goats/Sheep</b> <i>Meat/Dairy</i>	<b>Equids</b> <i>Commercial</i>	<b>Hay</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Cutting</i>	<b>Swine</b> <i>Commercial</i>	<b>Poultry</b> <i>Commercial</i>	<b>Row Crop</b> <i>Corn, Cotton, Soybeans, Wheat</i>	
Dairy Solutions	30 Head	50 Head	20 Head					
Genetics								
Livestock Equipment								
Livestock Solutions								
Hay Storage						100 Acres		
Working Structures								
Herd Health								
Hay Equipment				100 Acres				
Swine Producer					1,000 Head			
Poultry Grower						10,000/yr. – Nonbroilers 75,000/yr. – Broilers		
Row Crop Solutions							100 Acres	
<b>Beginning Farmer Option*</b>								
Genetics	5-29 Head	10-49 Head						
Livestock Equipment								
<p><i>* If an applicant meets the minimum requirements for <b>any</b> TAEP Application A program, they are <b>not eligible</b> for the Beginning Farmer Option but may apply for the program for which they are eligible. Applicant must meet TAEP's Beginning Farmer Option requirements to be considered a beginning farmer for purposes of TAEP participation. See reverse side for complete Beginning Farmer Option requirements.</i></p>								

## TAEP Application A – Beginning Farmer Option

**IMPORTANT** - If an applicant meets the minimum requirements for **any** TAEP Application A program, they are **not eligible** for the Beginning Farmer Option but may apply for the program for which they are eligible.

**To be considered a beginning farmer for the purposes of TAEP, the applicant must meet TAEP's Beginning Farmer Option requirements.**

This program option allows applicants, **who do not meet the current minimum requirements for any TAEP Application A program**, the opportunity to participate with reduced minimum requirements in select programs (Genetics or Livestock Equipment). The purpose of this option is to help the beginning farmer applicant improve their operation with the goal of meeting TAEP minimum livestock/acreage requirements in the future.

TAEP allows applicants to participate in the Beginning Farmer Option for **two consecutive** years if they meet the Beginning Farmer Option requirements except for first time TAEP applicant for the second year.

**Applicant must meet basic TAEP eligibility requirements and all Beginning Farmer Option requirements:**

- **First time TAEP applicant** – 2025 will be the **first year** the applicant has applied for TAEP cost share funding.
- **Farming ten years or less** – applicant must be actively involved in the production of livestock at time of application and must have started their farming operation after January 1, 2015.
- **Federal IRS Schedule F (Form 1040) Filing** – applicant must have filed a Federal IRS Schedule F (Form 1040), Profit or Loss from Farming, within the last two years (2023 or 2024) unless the applicant began their operation in 2025. *Applicant may be asked to submit a copy of their Schedule F prior to TAEP approval to verify their farming operation.*
- **Educational Requirement** – if applicant is approved as a TAEP Beginning Farmer, applicant will be required to complete the **UT Farming Fundamentals** or **TSU New Farmer Academy** certification to be considered for cost share reimbursement. *Proof of UT Farming Fundamentals or TSU New Farmer Academy certification is required at time of reimbursement (not at time of application). Certificates issued 2022 or after will be accepted.*
- **Reduced Minimum Requirements** – the program minimum requirements are reduced for applicants qualifying for the TAEP Beginning Farmer Option.

Applicant must meet at least **one** of the minimum livestock requirements for program applied for.

- 5-29 head of cattle – *Genetics or Livestock Equipment*
- 10-49 head of goats/sheep – *Genetics or Livestock Equipment*

*Head of Livestock = maximum number of single type, regardless of sex or age, at any one time during the last 12 months. Eligible livestock include cattle and goats/sheep. Goats/sheep can be combined to meet minimum head requirement.*