

2026-2027 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, swine, and commercial equine businesses. Applicant must meet basic applicant eligibility and specific program requirements to apply. ***Applicant must utilize equipment and structures reimbursed with cost share funds for the intended purpose of the program for a minimum of five (5) continuous years from date of purchase.*** Hay balers have a three (3) year verification requirement. Ownership of bulls must be maintained for a minimum of 15 months.

Applicant must meet at least one of the minimum requirements of head of livestock or acres in production for program selected at time of application. 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, during the last 12 months at time of application. Eligible livestock include cattle, goats/sheep, equids (horses, mules, and/or donkeys), and swine. 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.
- **Poultry** = number of birds per year. Poultry must be part of a commercial operation to qualify.
- **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.

TAEP Application A								
Minimum Livestock or Acreage Requirements & Eligible Programs by Sector								
Applicant must meet at least <u>one</u> of the minimum requirements of head of livestock or acres in production for program selected.								
Program	Cattle <i>Beef/Dairy</i>	Goats/Sheep <i>Meat/Dairy</i>	Equids <i>Commercial</i>	Swine	Hay <i>1st Cutting</i>	Row Crop <i>Corn, Cotton, Soybeans, Wheat</i>	Poultry <i>Commercial</i>	
Farming Solutions	30 Head	50 Head	20 Head	100 Head	50 Acres	100 Acres		
Livestock Equipment								
Livestock Fencing								
Hay Storage					50 Acres			
Genetics								
Working Structures								
Dairy Solutions								
Herd Health								
Hay Equipment					50 Acres			
Swine Producer				100 Head				
Row Crop Solutions						100 Acres		
Poultry Grower							10,000/yr. – Nonbroilers 75,000/yr. – Broilers	
Beginning Farmer Option*								
Genetics	5-29 Head	10-49 Head						
Livestock Equipment								
Livestock Fencing								
* 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. 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.								

TAEF Application A – Beginning Farmer Option

IMPORTANT - If an applicant meets the minimum requirements for **any** TAEF 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 TAEF, the applicant must meet TAEF's Beginning Farmer Option requirements.

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

TAEF 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 TAEF applicant for the second year.

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

- **First time TAEF applicant** – 2026 will be the **first year** the applicant has applied for TAEF 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, 2016.
- **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 (2024 or 2025) unless the applicant began their operation in 2026. *Applicant may be asked to submit a copy of their Schedule F prior to TAEF approval to verify their farming operation.*
- **Educational Requirement** – if applicant is approved as a TAEF 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 2023 or after will be accepted.*
- **Reduced Minimum Requirements** – the program minimum requirements are reduced for applicants qualifying for the TAEF Beginning Farmer Option.

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

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

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