



Hoosier Young Farmers Coalition Beginning Farmer Fellowship Application

Farming is rewarding but hard, and a little help can go a long way. The Hoosier Beginning Farmer Fellowship Program is a partnership between the National Young Farmers Coalition and HYFC. The project aims to propel a cohort of seven outstanding beginning farmers forward. We will establish a network of peers available for assistance and advice, and provide compensation to the Fellows (which they can use to take their farm to the next level).

We strongly encourage black farmers, farmers of color, indigenous farmers, and other farmers who are facing significant structural barriers to success in agriculture to apply.

Farmers must be in years 3-10 of their farming operations to participate. Farms and non-profit farms are eligible. Please see our frequently asked questions page for more details about eligibility.

The farmers will meet monthly, participate in two farming conferences and two Fellowship retreats together, and join HYFC in our effort to connect beginning farmers statewide. Farmers will receive a generous fellowship stipend to compensate for their time (\$5,000). Hopefully, these funds can help the Fellows tackle a major project that will advance their farm. Learn more about the Fellowship and eligibility at <https://www.hoosierycf.org/fellowship.html>.

Please answer the questions below and submit your application by 11:59pm on Sunday, January 3, 2021.

** Required questions*

Your Information

First Name

Last Name

Your Email

Your Phone number

Your Street Address

Your City, State, Zip

What is your ethnicity/cultural heritage? (check all that apply)

- Black/African American/Afro-Caribbean/African
- Latinx/Chicanx/Hispanic or Latinx Indigenous/Original People
- Indigenous/Original People
- Asian/Asian descent
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- White/European descent
- Not listed above? (please specify)
- Prefer not to answer

How do you identify your gender identity/ gender expression? (check all that apply)

- Agender
- Bi-Gender
- Butch
- Cis / Cisgender
- Feminine
- Femme

- g. Gender Fluid
- h. Genderqueer
- i. Gender Neutral
- j. Gender-Nonconforming
- k. Intersex
- l. Man
- m. Masculine
- n. Non-Binary
- o. Questioning my gender
- p. Stud
- q. Trans / Transgender
- r. Two-Spirit
- s. Woman
- t. Prefer not to answer
- u. Not listed above? (please specify)

Tell us About Your Farm

- Farm Operation Name *
- Farm Operation Address, City, State, Zip *
- Farm Operation County *
- Best Operation Email Address *
- Farm Operation Website *
- Farm Operation Social Media Presence (links for Facebook, Instagram, etc.)
- Best Phone Number *
- Farm Operation Land Acknowledgement Statement (if you have one)
- Year You Started Your Farm Operation *
- For non-profit farms:
 - Year the non-profit started the farm
 - Year you started managing the farm

Which of the following statements most closely resembles your relationship to your farm: *

- a. I am a farm operation owner and work full time on farm.
- b. I am a farm operation owner and work full time on farm but have an off-farm job as well (including work on a different farm).
- c. I am a farm operation owner and work part time on farm and part time off farm (including work on a different farm).
- d. I am a hired farm operation manager of a nonprofit farm, but I am the lead farmer.

Your Path to Farming

How did you become interested in farming and how did you prepare yourself for running your farm - this can include work experience, education, etc.? (Max 2-3 paragraphs) *

Your Operation

Describe your farm: tell us about what you raise/produce, where you sell your products, how long you have been farming, community involvement, or whatever else makes your farm tick. (Max 2-3 paragraphs) *

Describe your scale: (For example: number of CSA shares, acres, gross sales, etc.)? (Max 1-2 paragraphs) *

For non-profit farms: Is the nonprofit's leadership aware that you are applying for this grant? Yes/No

For non-profit farms: Do you understand that we will work together to sign a grant agreement for the funds; that the lead farmer will need paid time to participate in all Fellow activities and events; and that the Fellowship funds will be restricted for the farming operation (equipment, infrastructure, labor, supplies, etc.). Yes/No

Your Farm Trajectory

What would you like to accomplish on your farm over the next five years? Describe any big changes or projects that you have planned as your farm evolves, and why you are heading this direction. (Max 1-2 paragraphs) *

Do you anticipate growing the scale of your farm, shrinking the scale of your farm, or maintaining the current scale of your farm, and why? (Max 1-2 paragraphs) *

Benefitting from the Fellowship - Finances

If you are selected as a Fellow, you will receive a \$5,000 fellowship award. How would you use the funds? We're not asking you to pitch a project necessarily, but we do want to know how you'll utilize the funds, and how the Fellowship funding will fit into your farm's plan. Think concrete goals that you can accomplish in the coming year - and things that fit into your 5+ year goals. Funds can be used to add infrastructure, buy equipment, add storage or wash/pack, hire a new employee, etc., etc., etc. (Max 2-3 paragraphs)*

You told us about your five year goals. How would the Fellowship funds help you reach those goals? (Max 1-2 paragraphs)*

Benefitting from the Fellowship - Community

We want to find farmers who are eager to engage with a cohort of Fellows and build relationships while they build their farms. What farming communities are you a part of? This could be an unofficial group of farmers that you collaborate with; your farmer's market community; a farmer organization; a food council; or anything that feels like community to you (Max 1-2 paragraphs)*

How have you benefited from your farming community? (Max 1-2 paragraphs)*

Can you commit to making the Fellowship activities a priority, including the retreats and conferences, time for monthly calls with your cohort, etc.? Yes/No

Sharing Your Fellowship Experience

During the Fellowship, you will have several opportunities to share your experience with other beginning farmers in Indiana. Fellows will be featured as our "Fellow of the Month" on the website and social media; tag HYFC in relevant social media posts; and create a video that shares the improvements you've made on your farm as a result of your Fellowship. If you're new to making videos, don't worry: We'll provide a tutorial on how to make a good video. Plus, you can reuse the footage you take for this video for your marketing. Will you create a video sharing your progress in 2021 - perhaps highlighting the ways the Fellowship funds helped you propel your farm, and sharing how the time with the cohort helped?* Yes/No

Please upload a photo of yourself on your operation. If you are selected, we will use this as your bio image when sharing about our 2021 Fellows.*