

FRONTERA FARMER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF 2009 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Frontera Farmer Foundation is committed to promoting small, sustainable Midwestern farms serving the Chicago area, by providing them with capital development grants. Small local farms, which often struggle financially, are more likely to promote biodiversity by planting a wide range of produce and operate using organic practices. By their artisanal approach to agriculture, the freshness of their product and the variety of their offerings, these farmers insure the highest quality food while they add immeasurably to the fabric of their local rural community.

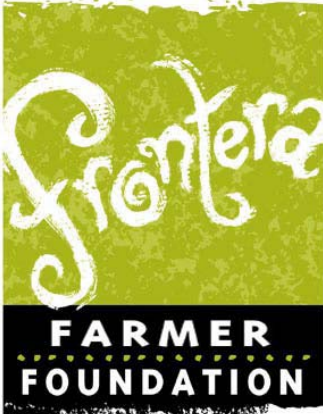
Eligibility Requirements: The Frontera Farmer Foundation will award grants for capital improvements of up to \$12,000 to small and medium-size, individually owned farms that sell their food products to customers in the Chicago area at farmers markets and otherwise. Farmers must have been in business for at least three years and must demonstrate how the grant will improve both their farm's viability and the availability of locally grown food products in the Chicago area. If you receive a grant for two successive years, you cannot apply in the third year.

Grant applicants will be judged on the basis of demonstrated need, long-term dedication to sustainable farming, creative and business acumen, and commitment to sustainability. Applicants will also be judged on their past history with the foundation. Additional grants will be approved only after a farm has demonstrated the initial grant had a measurable impact on the farms infrastructure and ability to provide locally grown food to the Chicago area.

Applications are available on the Frontera website (www.rickbayless.com). You can print the application from the website, or you can call Andrew McCaughan at Frontera Grill (312.334.3661) to have an application mailed or faxed to you.

Deadline: Grants can be submitted by mail (Frontera Farmer Foundation, 445 N. Clark, Chicago, IL, 60610), email (amccaughan@fronteragrill.net) or fax (312-661-1830). Grants must be received by **January 31, 2009**.

Awarding of Grants: Recipients of grants will be notified on or before **February 28, 2009**.



2009 APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE FRONTERA FARMER FOUNDATION

Please submit a legible, preferably typed application. Also note, applications will NOT be considered if 2008 tax and other financial information is missing.

The grant application will not be considered if any of the following are absent from the application.

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING

1. Your address, phone number and email address.
2. A brief history of your farm. Include the size of the farm, current production, the markets you sell to and the things you do to make your farm sustainable.
3. A brief resume of the manager.
4. An income statement (profit and loss statement) and a balance sheet for the previous 3 years (including 2008), a list of the farms' assets and a list of any salary paid to the farmer or a member of his/her family.
5. Income tax Schedule F (or Schedule C for incorporated farms) from the previous 3 years (including 2008). Please do not include any other tax information.
6. Current debt schedule
7. *If you have received a Frontera Farmer Foundation grant in the past, provide a detailed statement including the year of the grant, a description of the project(s), an assessment of the status of the project(s), and its impact on your farm. Also, describe how the grant you are applying for relates to previous project(s) funded by Frontera Farmer Foundation grants.*

DESCRIBE THE PROPOSED PROJECT FOR WHICH YOU NEED THE GRANT

1. Your goals for the project and the methods of reaching your goals
2. Give a detailed timeline for each phase of the project
3. What is the size of the grant you are applying for? Give a detailed budget for how the money will be used. If the project includes buying some off-the-shelf equipment, include the details of the item (description, model number, current price, picture if possible, etc.) If labor is needed to complete the project, include the specifics of the labor. If the project includes something custom built, make certain to have a design in place and a quote for the work.
4. Will you have any other sources of funding for this project?
5. What are the biggest challenges you expect to face?
6. What is the anticipated outcome and how will you measure the success?
7. How will this new asset increase your capability to continue farming, increase your farm income and increase the sustainability of your farming operation?
8. In what ways will your project have an impact on your local community?
9. Do you have any plans to become, or are you now certified for organic production?
10. Are you applying for other financial assistance in this calendar year? If yes, how will this relate to the project for which you want this grant?

Please note: If a grant is awarded for your project, the money must be used as outlined in this proposal. If you are not able to go forward with this project, the money must be returned. You are welcome to apply again for a new project.