



Onondaga County Agritourism Grant Program



January 2024

Dear Onondaga County Agricultural Community:

Onondaga County is seeking to partner with the local agricultural community to enhance the viability of our valuable farmland and protect farms and farm operators for future generations. In recognition of the role that agritourism plays in farm viability, tourism, and quality of life in Onondaga County, I am pleased to share the **Onondaga County Agritourism Grant Program**, with individual awards of up to \$15,000 to agritourism ventures.

For these purposes, agritourism is defined as a commercial farm enterprise that links local agricultural production and/or processing with tourism to attract visitors for the purposes of entertaining and/or educating the visitors, while generating income to support the farm.

These grants may be used to cover a variety of projects to grow and enhance agritourism operations in four general categories: ***Improve, Expand, Initiate and Market***. Funds may be used for projects or programs such as expanding or diversifying operations, improving safety and ease of access, or adding new educational programming. New agritourism ventures may use the funding to help offset costs of getting started on a new venture or product.

Agritourism operators are encouraged to be creative. Your submissions will help us to know better what your needs, and the needs of the agritourism community, are. If this grant program cannot fulfill your needs, please contact us to explore possible options. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, until funds run out.

Attached you will find an application form to submit a project. An electronic version of this application can also be found at <https://agriculture.ongov.net/blog/>.

Onondaga County Department of Planning staff will coordinate the grant program. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our Planning team at (315) 435-2611 or agriculture@ongov.net.

Sincerely,

J. Ryan McMahan, II
County Executive

Onondaga County Agritourism Grant Program Project Application

Name of Project: _____

Farm Name: _____

Federal Tax ID#: _____

Municipality(ies): _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Primary Contact Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Describe in one sentence the project or program for which you are seeking Agritourism Grant funding.

Which of the following best describes your project (check all that apply):

- Improve:** Capital or programmatic improvements to operations that enable the venture to operate more effectively or enhance visitor safety. Examples may include improving vehicular and pedestrian access/circulation, developing educational materials to engage visitors, or facility enhancements to minimize impacts of agritourism to neighboring land uses.
- Expand:** Expand or diversify operations which could include building or expanding structures to increase production area, purchasing equipment for new or expanded production of products, or site improvements to increase visitor capacities.
- Initiate:** Funds may be used to offset costs of initiating a new agritourism venture, or a new activity at an established site.
- Market:** Development of marketing materials, branding and advertising related to agritourism areas, venues and events, or other means to connect residents and visitors to the region and to the agritourism community.

Other: Must be consistent with the overall spirit and intent of the program.
Please describe: _____

Please describe your farm and agritourism operation. Include farm type, products, and number of full/part time employees:

Please provide a **brief description** of the proposed project. Include anticipated benefits and outcomes:

Please describe the **project timeline**, including any limitations on project commencement or completion dates, anticipated duration of project, and any other relevant information.

Please describe the anticipated total **project costs** and any estimated budget details. Please include a description of local matching funds and resources, and status of funding (committed, anticipated, etc.). Cash match is encouraged.

Total Project Cost	\$	Status of Funding
Requested County Share (\$15,000 max award, including no more than \$5,000 for marketing)	\$	<i>(pending county award)</i>
Owner Contribution	\$	
Other Funding (identify)	\$	
Notes:		

Please describe how the proposed project aligns with any of the following Onondaga County programs:

- [Buy Local Onondaga Grown Campaign](#)
- [Plan Onondaga County Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [Onondaga County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan](#)
- [Municipal Comprehensive Plans or Farmland Protection Plans \(see your town website\)](#)

Please describe how the proposed project will help your business, protect farmland and/or enhance Onondaga County’s economy:

Notes:

Applicants are welcome to submit additional materials which may assist in project review, including more detailed budgets, renderings, site plans, and/or photographs.

Onondaga County reserves the right to request further documentation and/or clarification as part of application review. Failure to provide the information requested on a timely basis may delay the review process and/or awards.

Awardees will be expected to provide required reporting and documentation of work performed to the Onondaga County Department of Planning, to ensure consistency with the approved application details and scope. Further details will be provided upon award.

Application Certification:

I certify and affirm by my signature below the information contained in this application or otherwise supplied as part of this application is complete and current to the best of my knowledge. I further understand that intentional misrepresentation of facts may be the basis for a denial.

Also, that it is understood and agreed to the following (please initial):

_____ All taxes on properties owned must be current and up to date or on a tax agreement with the Onondaga County to apply for financial assistance.

_____ Business and property owners must be in good standing with the Code Enforcement Office to apply for financial assistance.

<u>Preparer:</u>	_____	<u>Owner (If different from Preparer):</u>	_____
Signature:	_____	Signature:	_____
Print Name:	_____	Print Name:	_____
Date:	_____	Date:	_____

Completed applications should be sent by email or postal mail to the following addresses. Staff will email or call the primary contact to confirm receipt.

Mail To: Onondaga County Department of Planning 335 Montgomery Street Syracuse, NY 13202	Email To: agriculture@ongov.net
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Thank you for being part of Onondaga County’s agricultural community!