



**Onondaga County  
2026  
Agricultural Grant Program**



June 2026

Dear Onondaga County Agricultural Community,

Onondaga County is excited to once again 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 critical role that agriculture plays in Onondaga County's economy, food system, landscapes, and quality of life, I am pleased to share the **Onondaga County 2026 Agricultural Grant Program, with individual awards of up to \$15,000 for agritourism or agricultural production projects.**

Farm operations involved in the production, preparation, and marketing of crops, livestock, and livestock products as a commercial enterprise, as defined by NYS Agriculture and Markets, are eligible for grant funding. Start-up farm operations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Agritourism is defined as a farm operation 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.

Funds for agritourism may be used to cover projects that improve, expand, initiate, and market agritourism operations including constructing new facilities, improving safety and ease of access, purchasing equipment, developing websites and social media campaigns, and providing educational programming.

Funds for agricultural production may be used for projects that increase farm viability through market development, enhanced production, improved profitability and cost savings, diversification, facility and equipment upgrades, and energy efficiency.

The maximum award amount is \$15,000. Projects that include a financial contribution from the applicant or other funding sources (cost sharing or match) are strongly encouraged.

Applications will be accepted and considered until funds run out, so don't delay your submission! Attached you will find an application form to submit a project. An electronic version of this application can also be found at <https://agriculture.onondaga.gov/blog/>.

The Onondaga County Department of Planning will be administering the grant program. If you have questions, please reach out to our Planning team at (315) 435-2611 or [agriculture@ongov.net](mailto:agriculture@ongov.net).

Sincerely,

J. Ryan McMahan, II  
County Executive

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**Onondaga County  
2026 Agricultural Grant Program  
Application**

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Operation Location (*google or mailing address*): \_\_\_\_\_ Municipality(ies) (official city, town, or village): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Street* Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City State Zip Code* Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Which grant funding are you applying for (*limit of one grant award per applicant, please indicate (check) the category requested*)?

- Agritourism (maximum of \$15,000)
- Agricultural Production (maximum of \$15,000)

Describe your farm and, if applicable, agritourism operation (*farm type, acreage, facilities, products, and number of full/part time employees*):

Provide a **brief one-sentence summary** of the project (*for example, renovate and expand the parking lot and install new signage for an existing seasonal produce farmstand*):

Provide a **brief description** of the project (*planning, design, materials, construction, grading, finishing work, equipment purchases, installation, planting, signage, marketing, website development, etc.*):

Describe the **project timeline** (*start and end date, phases, sequencing, weather dependency, and potential delays and disruptions*):

Indicate the amount of grant funding requested. If applicable, include any owner contributions and/or other funding and provide the status of that funding (*anticipated or committed*).

<b>FUNDING REQUEST</b>		
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Funding Status</b> <i>(anticipated or committed)</i>
<i>Requested Grant Funding (limit of one grant award per applicant, please check the category requested)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Agritourism (\$15,000 maximum) <b>or</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Production (\$15,000 maximum)	\$	<i>anticipated</i>
Owner Contribution ( <i>cash and in-kind value</i> )	\$	
Other Funding Sources ( <i>loans, grants, other</i> ) Identify:	\$	
<b>Total Project Amount</b>	<b>\$</b>	
Notes:		

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 \(see your town website\)](#)

Describe how the project will help your operation, protect farmland, and/or enhance Onondaga County's economy:

**Notes:**

Applicants are encouraged 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 required to sign a contractual agreement detailing the project timeline, scope of work, and reporting requirements including the submission of periodic progress reports and a final report with documentation including photographs.

Grant income may be considered income for tax purposes. Please consult a tax professional for more information.

**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 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  
*initial* Onondaga County to apply for financial assistance.

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

Applicant Signature

Preparer Signature (if different):

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed applications should be mailed or emailed as follows (*applicants will be notified when received*):

**Mail:** Onondaga County Department of Planning  
Carnegie Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
335 Montgomery Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202

**Email:** [agriculture@onondaga.gov](mailto:agriculture@onondaga.gov)

Please feel free to contact the Onondaga County Department of Planning at 315-435-2611 or [agriculture@onondaga.gov](mailto:agriculture@onondaga.gov) if you have any questions.

**Thank you for being part of Onondaga County’s agricultural community!**