

NY Farms!

Building Farmer-Consumer Connections in the Empire State

P.O. Box 210, Watkins Glen, New York 14891 Office: 607-535-9790 Fax: 607-535-9794

E-Mail: nyfarms@nyfarms.info Web: www.nyfarms.info

May 17, 2010

After careful consideration, the Board of Directors of NY Farms! voted at their January 2010 meeting to recommend to the members of NY Farms! that the organization be dissolved.

According to the NY Farms! Bylaws:

Any [dissolution] plan must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the responding members. Absentee ballots may be collected within 15 days of the vote.

A poll was conducted (on line and mail-in) and a majority of responding members approved the dissolution plan in March 2010.

Prior to dissolving the organization, the NY Farms! Board of Directors seeks to distribute the balance of the organization's funds (approximately \$16,000) to one or more businesses or organizations with a similar mission. The mission of NY Farms! is to strengthen New York agriculture and food systems by: creating public awareness of the importance of farming; promoting agriculture and food system literacy; and fostering consumer loyalty to New York farm products. NY Farms! links farmers, consumers, businesses and organizations to build a sustainable future for New York State agriculture.

NY Farms! funds will be distributed as organizational operating grants and as grants for specific projects that will work toward achieving the founding vision of NY Farms!:

- A vibrant, profitable and diverse agriculture and food system that meets the needs of farm families, consumers and the environment;
- A public that actively supports NYS farmers, farming and the protection of productive farmland;
- An agriculture industry that further enhances the environment, meets food needs, increases economic opportunity, and fosters community development.

Please see attached grant information and evaluation criteria, and application form. Applications are due June 11 and funding decisions will be made by July 16. Contact NY Farms! Executive Director Mary Jeanne Packer with questions – email: mjpacker@gwriters.com.

Thank you,

GENE PIERCE
President

NY Farms!

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Information

NY Farms! organizational operating grants and grants for specific projects

Application categories:

Proposals must address at least one of the three priorities of NY Farms!

1. creating public awareness of the importance of farming;
2. promoting agriculture and food system literacy;
3. fostering consumer loyalty to New York farm products

Submission details:

Only applications made as a single PDF file (including all required attachments) and sent via email (to mjpacker@gwriters.com) will be accepted; and must be received by midnight on Friday, June 11, 2010.

Decisions will be made by:

July 16, 2010. Funds are expected to be paid out by July 30, 2010.

Grant size:

A total of about \$16,000 is available. This will be awarded to one or more business or organizations; and projects.

Who is eligible:

Grant applications will be accepted from businesses or organizations that are located in or serve the people of New York State. Businesses and organizations need not be tax-exempt.

What we don't fund:

- Endowments or capital campaigns
- Organizations with a religious mission
- Individuals
- Debts
- Work that has already been completed.

How we evaluate your application:

In evaluating businesses, organizations, and projects, we are looking for those that demonstrate effectiveness, efficiency, innovation, and measurable success in addressing NY Farms! three key focus areas. The NY Farms! board will consider the following criteria in evaluating applications:

- Well-documented need for business, organization, or project
- Demonstrated organizational leadership and/or success in accomplishing previous projects
- The financial sustainability and accountability of your business or organization
- Likelihood of success

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Application

NY Farms! organizational operating grants and grants for specific projects

In five (5) pages or less (not including required attachments) please address the following questions

Contact information

Tax ID

Business or Organization Name

President or Executive Director Name

Applicant Name (if different)

Address

Phone

Fax

E-mail Address for applicant contact (we will notify you of the results of your application via this email address in July 2010)

Web Site

Project and organizational information

Project name (if applying for a specific project):

Which of the following focus areas are addressed by your application? (check all that apply)

- creating public awareness of the importance of farming;
- promoting agriculture and food system literacy;
- fostering consumer loyalty to New York farm products

Please provide a brief description of your organization's mission, history and recent accomplishments.

Tell us about the specific issues being addressed by your business, organization, or project. What need are you working to meet?

Who will benefit? What populations are you serving?

How will your business, organization or project work toward one or more of the following:

- A vibrant, profitable and diverse agriculture and food system that meets the needs of farm families, consumers and the environment;
- A public that actively supports NYS farmers, farming and the protection of productive farmland;
- An agriculture industry that further enhances the environment, meets food needs, increases economic opportunity, and fosters community development.

Briefly tell us about your organizational structure, including number of staff and their roles.

Describe the overall strategies you use to achieve your mission:

Briefly describe your key programs:

What are your organizational goals for the next year?

What process do you use to determine your goals?

How do you measure success in reaching your organizational goals? Please include examples of recent achievements.

Optional: attach up to three letters for reference.

Budget and finances

Total Organizational Budget

Dollar Amount Requested

Budget Narrative - Use this section to provide additional information to help us understand your budget.

How do you work to ensure the financial sustainability of your organization for the long term?

Required Attachments (included in the PDF application file)

- Current year Organizational Budget (include expenses and both secured and proposed income)
- Balance Sheet for your most recently completed fiscal year
- Profit/Loss Statement for your most recently completed fiscal year
- Up to date list of your Corporate Officers or Board of Directors with contact information
- Optional: attach up to three letters for reference.

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER ATTACHMENTS.
IF THEY ARE, THEY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Submission details

Submit your application as a single PDF file (including all required attachments) via email to mjpacker@gwriters.com no later than midnight Friday, June 11, 2010. **Note “NY Farms grant application” in subject line.**