



The Georgia ACRE Collective 2024 Farmer Infrastructure Grants

Announcement

The Georgia ACRE Collective seeks to make positive social change by influencing public health outcomes, boosting regional economies and mitigating the effects of climate change by encouraging schools, hospitals, corporations, and other community institutions within metro Atlanta to incorporate values other than cost into their wholesale purchasing decisions.

A key aspect of this work is to assist small to mid-sized family owned farms in increasing their wholesale readiness capacity. The Georgia ACRE Collective intends to reinforce wholesale readiness by assisting farmers with an interest in and capacity to sell into institutional wholesale markets within metro Atlanta.

The 2024 Georgia ACRE Collective Farmer Infrastructure Grants are intended to help advance the above objective by helping to facilitate the funding of moderate on-farm improvements for farmers that meet the conditions of this invitation.

Criteria

- Farm must be located within the state of Georgia.
- Project value must be between \$1,000USD and \$20,000USD, in total.
- Farm must be currently selling to Atlanta-area wholesale institutions or provide a viable plan for doing so within one year of notification of the grant award.
- Projects providing direct or indirect benefit to other growers preferred.

Examples of projects with “direct or indirect benefit”

- Refrigerated truck that may be used to pick up product from other farms for aggregation.

- Cold storage that may be utilized by other farms as cross dock.
- Shared equipment.
- Willingness to use property as a “farmer field day” training location.

Examples of eligible projects

- Irrigation
- Fencing
- Cold storage
- Farm equipment

Examples of ineligible projects

- Labor costs
- Inputs
- Marketing or technology costs
- Land leases or purchases

The Submission

Interested farmers must submit:

- A 500-word essay describing: (1) the history of the farm and leadership team, (2) current markets served, (3) the intended usage of the funds, and how the project will increase the farmer’s wholesale capacity and (4) the anticipated benefit to or inclusion of other farmer(s).
- A project budget that lists all sources of funding for the submitted project.
- All supporting documents that list specifications for the proposed infrastructure improvement.

All submissions should be sent via this [Google Form](#)

[\[https://forms.gle/jgXBnhLPwidS2sBf7\]](https://forms.gle/jgXBnhLPwidS2sBf7) no later than Friday, July 19, 2024.

Please email GAACRE@thecommonmarket.org with any questions.

Georgia ACRE Collective Support

The Georgia ACRE Grower Support Subcommittee will provide the following support for this project:

- **Save the Date:** There will be a virtual information session on Friday, June 28, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. EST. (A meeting link will be provided in a follow up email.)

- Submissions will be reviewed by the Grower Support Subcommittee of the Georgia ACRE Collective, with successful applicants notified no later than **August 6, 2024**.
- Through partnership with the Georgia Grown Innovation Center, technical assistance will be available to award recipients to assist with project planning and implementation.
- In order to assess the progress of the program and as a part of its reporting responsibilities, ACRE representatives may consult with award recipients from time to time to obtain feedback on successes, learnings, and challenges.
- Award recipients will be invited to attend Georgia ACRE Collective convenings to share their experiences and learn more about its farmer outreach and support strategy within the state.

