



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

Organic Farm Business Management Benchmarking Cost-share Updates

Recruitment postcards were mailed out to all MN certified organic row crop and dairy farms on November 25, 2019. The postcard provides a website for the application available at: **[z.umn.edu/Organic FBM](http://z.umn.edu/Organic_FBM)**

Applications are only available online and will be accepted on a rolling basis, with notifications sent out no later than the 15th of the month following the application submission. Any applications received in November will be included in the December application pool. The first round of notifications will be distributed no later than January 15, 2020.

- **Please include all of the information requested on the application, which includes**
 - Principal operator first and last name
 - FINBIN Farm ID
 - Student Tech ID
 - FBM instructor name and MN State College and University currently enrolled
 - Organic crops grown
 - Year organic production transition was finalized

- **Please refer to the eligibility requirements on the following page for clarification regarding the 25% and 50% cost-share options.**

- **New FBM students will identify a preferred instructor. The student's information will be forwarded to the instructor so they can provide additional details regarding FBM and their College.**

- **When an application is approved, a 3 year agreement will be distributed to the FBM instructor and student. The cost-share funds will not be distributed until this form is returned.**
 - Melody Weber (melody.weber@clcmn.edu) will be facilitating the payment distribution to individual colleges. She will send updates regarding timing as the paperwork is finalized.

- **As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to either of us.**
 - Joleen Hadrich, jhadrich@umn.edu, 612.626.5620
 - Pauline Van Nurden, pvannurd@umn.edu, 612.625.4219

Eligibility requirements for cost-share

A farm must contribute complete whole farm and enterprise data, to be eligible for the cost-share. If both of these are not met, the farm is not eligible for the cost-share.

If a farm is awarded a cost-share in the first round of applications, they are automatically enrolled in the 3 years of the project.

Only one family member per certified organic farm is eligible for the cost-share.

25% cost-share Eligibility:

- Paid FBM tuition, contributed organic row crop, forage, or dairy farm level data in 2017 or later to the Minnesota database and completed a FINAN.

50% cost-share Eligibility:

- First time FBM student who raises organic row crop, forage, and/or dairy and will contribute complete whole farm and enterprise data to complete a FINAN in 2020.
- Existing FBM student who is contributing organic row crop, forage, or dairy production for the first time in 2019 or later with a complete FINAN.
- If the farm has not participated in FBM since 2017, but has previously, they are considered a new FBM farm.