



Wildlife Fence Cost-Share Program

"WFCS Grants"

Application for Cost-Share Grant Funding
for the Installation of Wildlife Fencing
on Unpreserved Farmland

Overview – Wildlife Fencing Program

Introduction

The NJDA Wildlife Fencing Program makes cost-share funding available for the installation of fencing on unpreserved farms. The program is conducted in accordance with N.J.S.A. 4:20-6.1.

Availability of Cost-Share Grant

Cost-share funding for the installation of deer and/or bear (and/or other wildlife) fencing on unpreserved farms is subject to the following conditions:

- a. Grant amounts available to farmers shall be in the form of a 50 percent matching grant, with 50 percent of the cost associated with the project provided by the farmer.
- b. Grant amounts available to farmers will not exceed a total grant amount of \$50,000 per application, to be paid on a reimbursement basis after completion.

Grant amounts will typically be paid on a reimbursement basis after completion; however, applicants may request a partial advance payment of grant funds.

Eligibility for Cost-Share Grant

Applicants must meet the following criteria in order to become eligible for cost-share grants to install high-tensile woven-wire deer fencing or electric bear fencing:

- a. The land on which the fencing is to be constructed is owned, operated or leased by the applicant. Operators and lessees must obtain written authorization to install the fencing from the owner of the land on which the fencing is to be installed.
- b. If deer fencing is to be installed, Applicant must certify she or he has watched the SADC's deer fence installation training video or participated in an approved deer fence installation training session. If deer fencing is to be installed, Applicant must install the deer fencing in accordance with the specifications prescribed in Appendix A, a copy of which can be found at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/agriassist/deerfencing.html>.
- c. If electric bear fencing is to be installed, Applicant must install the electric bear fencing in accordance with the specifications prescribed in Appendix B, a copy of which can be found at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/agriassist/deerfencing.html>.

Applying for Cost-Share Grant

Farmers must use this application to apply for a cost-share grant for the installation of wildlife fencing on their farm. Each application will be reviewed to ensure the site-specific feasibility of installing wildlife fencing on the farm. For the NJDA, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources to determine that an application is feasible, the proposed fencing must be in compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Only applications that are complete, with the necessary information and attachments, will be reviewed for approval. If an application is incomplete, it is the applicant's responsibility to provide any missing information or attachments to make it complete.

Completed applications will be reviewed and approved on a rolling basis in the order in which they are received. In the event multiple applications are received on the same day, and funding is insufficient to fund the applications' implementation projects, the projects will be ranked for purposes of prioritizing them for available funding. Projects will be ranked by means of a numeric rating scale, and funding will be expended by rank order (highest to lowest) until available funding has been exhausted.

Completing the Approved Fencing Project

Farmers must commence their approved fencing project within six months of approval by the NJDA and must complete the project within three years of said approval. "Commence" means purchasing a majority (greater than fifty percent) of the materials necessary to install the wildlife fence and providing the NJDA, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources with satisfactory written proof of purchase.

Approved fencing projects must result in an area being completely enclosed.

Applicants may request a partial advance payment of grant funds supported by proof of sufficient cash or cash equivalents on-hand to cover the total expected project costs less the anticipated advance payment amount. The advance payment, if authorized, may not exceed 25% of the projected eligible project costs or \$25,000, whichever is less. The Department will issue final payment only upon completion of the approved project. Applicants receiving advance payment must agree to return those funds if the project is not commenced or completed within the time limits set forth above.

For More Information

Please read Appendix A and Appendix B at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/agriassist/deerfencing.html>, and contact the NJDA, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources at (609) 913-6490 if you have any questions about the program or application process.

Application for Cost-Share Grant to Install Wildlife Fencing on Unpreserved Farmland

*****IMPORTANT- PLEASE CHECK WITH THE LANDOWNER BEFORE APPLYING*****

Before applying, all Applicants must review the Standard Agreement, which can be found on the Department's grants webpage at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/agriassist/deerfencing.html>.

Applicants who do not own the land may apply. In the case of a Tenant Applicant, the Landlord-Owner is not liable or responsible for any performance related to the Grant Agreement to be signed by the Tenant upon approval of this Application, but the Tenant will need to provide written approval to install wildlife fencing on the land from the owner of the land on which the fencing is to be installed.

Applicant Information

Name of Applicant (Individual or Entity): _____

If Entity: Name of Person applying on behalf of entity: _____

If Different from Applicant, Name of Owner of Land to be Fenced: _____

Mailing Address of Applicant (Street, Town, Zip) _____

Physical Address of Farm (if different) (Street, Town, Zip)

Farm Name _____

Daytime Phone _____ **Is this your preferred phone?** Yes ☐ No ☐

Cell Phone _____ **Is this your preferred phone?** Yes ☐ No ☐

Email _____

Note about “Applicant Name”: If approved for a grant, your applicant name must be consistent during all phases of the project, including on bills and the wildlife fencing reimbursement form. NJDA, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources grant payment can only be made to the approved applicant based on bills issued to the approved applicant. Proof of signature authority is also required for any entities that are not individuals.

Tax Identification Number: An applicant must provide a completed IRS Form W-9 (Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification) with their grant application. A Form W-9 can be downloaded from the IRS website at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>.

Additional Applicant Information

Yes ☐ No ☐ I am the Owner or an agent of the Owner of the land to be fenced.

Yes ☐ No ☐ I am the Lessee or an agent of the Lessee of the land to be fenced.

If you are **not the Owner of the land to be fenced**, then you must provide written approval to install fencing on the land from the Owner of the land on which the fencing is to be installed.

You may use the Landowner Approval Form for that purpose, a copy of which can be found at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/agriassist/deerfencing.html>.

General Farm Information

1. What is the total acreage of the unpreserved farm where you are planning to install the wildlife fencing? (This would be **not just the area to be fenced**, but the parcel or parcels of land, whether contiguous or noncontiguous, together with agricultural or horticultural buildings, structures and facilities, producing agricultural or horticultural products, that you operate as a single enterprise.)

2. Please list the Block/Lots of this farm, and note the acres:
(If necessary, use additional space.)

Block/Lot: _____ Acres: _____

Block/Lot: _____ Acres: _____

Block/Lot: _____ Acres: _____

Block/Lot: _____ Acres: _____

3. Has this farm previously received a deer fencing grant or a wildlife fencing grant from NJDA, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources?

Yes ☐ No ☐

4. Please **check all boxes** that accurately describe the status of the land for which you are applying to receive a grant award. If the farmland does not satisfy a requirement in each of **A** and **B** and **C** below, then you are not eligible to receive funding under this program.

A.

☐ The farm **is not** preserved farmland pursuant to SADC's farmland preservation program.

B.

☐ It is a farm of no less than five (5) acres producing agricultural or horticultural products worth \$2,500 or more annually, and satisfying the eligibility criteria for differential property taxation pursuant to the "Farmland Assessment Act of 1964," P.L. 1964, c. 48 (N.J.S.A. 54:4-23.1); **OR**

☐ It is a farm of less than five (5) acres, producing agricultural or horticultural products worth \$50,000 or more annually and otherwise satisfying the eligibility criteria for differential property taxation pursuant to the "Farmland Assessment Act of 1964," P.L. 1964, c. 48 (N.J.S.A. 54:4-23.1); **OR**

☐ It is a farm that is a beekeeping operation producing honey or other agricultural or horticultural apiary-related products, or providing crop pollination services, worth \$10,000 or more annually.

C.

☐ the farming operation had a minimum of \$10,000 in gross sales in the preceding calendar year from agricultural or horticultural products grown or derived from the applicant's farm operation as reflected in either personal or business federal tax return forms.

5. Please attach a copy of any deed restrictions for the land on which the fencing will be installed. (If there are no other existing deed restrictions, no attachment is required.)

Area to Be Fenced

Please answer the following regarding the area where you are planning to install wildlife fencing:

1. Number of acres to be fenced: _____
2. Approximate linear feet of fencing that would be installed: _____
3. Type of wildlife fencing to be installed:
 - a. _____ high-tensile woven-wire deer fencing
 - b. _____ electric bear fencing
 - c. _____ other (please describe type of fencing, including wildlife to be excluded)
4. How much of the area to be fenced is:

Cropland: _____ acres

Pastureland: _____ acres

Woodland: _____ acres

Other: _____ acres
5. **Please attach a map which clearly shows the following:**
 - Recent aerial photography of the property (see below for options)
 - The approximate boundaries of the farm
 - The proposed location of the fencing
 - The proposed location of the fencing's corners, gates, and brace assemblies
 - The location of any existing deer or bear or other wildlife fencing
 - All known rights of way within 50 feet of the proposed fence

Mapping Notes and Resources: Deer fencing must comply with the specifications in Appendix A, a copy of which can be found at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/agriassist/deerfencing.html>. Bear fencing must comply with the specifications in Appendix B, a copy of which be found at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/agriassist/deerfencing.html>. **The fenced area must be completely enclosed.** The following are some resources (with aerial photography and other information) that you could use to help create your map:

- **Google Maps** – Online tool provided by Google: <https://www.google.com/maps>
- **NJ-GEOWEB** – Online tool provided by NJDEP: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>
- **Web Soil Survey** – Online tool provided by USDA NRCS: <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

- **Farm conservation plan** – Includes a map created by NRCS for your farm conservation plan: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>
- **Rutgers Cooperative Extension** – If you need assistance with mapping, your Rutgers Cooperative Extension county agent may be able to help: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/county/>

6. What crops are you **currently growing** in the area to be fenced? Provide the number of acres of each crop.

7. What crops are you **planning to grow** in the area to be fenced? Provide the number of acres of each crop.

8. If applicable, what was the gross dollar loss from wildlife damage for the previous calendar year on the farm? Please provide documents showing the extent of the crop damage (such as crop insurance claims or other verifiable documentation or information).

9. How much do you expect the fencing project to cost (the total amount before the grant)?

10. **Please attach a written cost quote for the project**, including the cost of materials and labor if the fencing will be installed by someone other than the farmer, or the cost of materials to be installed by the farmer. Costs may also include volunteer or in-kind labor or in-kind materials billed at reasonable rates. **Approved awards will not exceed 50 percent of the written cost quote. The Division will ultimately only issue grant money for 50 percent of the actual cost (up to a maximum of \$50,000), as documented by receipts and invoices on a reimbursement basis.** For example:

For a project with a cost quote of \$20,000, the Department approves an award of up to \$10,000 in matching grant money. However, at the project's completion, if the total cost is \$18,000, the matching grant award from the Department to the Awardee will be \$9,000, because the grant award cannot exceed 50 percent of the actual cost.

11. Is the farm in a no-firearm-discharge zone?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

12. Have you applied for NJDEP depredation permits within the last three years?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

If yes, please attach copies of your approved permits or denial letters.

13. Is the farm actively hunted?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

14. Are there parcels of public open space (owned by state, county, or municipal government or by non-profits) within 200 feet in all directions of the premises where hunting is prohibited?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

If yes, identify the name and location of the parcels:

15. Have you used any other hunting or wildlife abatement measures for the land to be fenced?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please describe:

Additional Information

1. Are you a military veteran? **If yes, please attach** a copy of discharge papers.

Yes ☐ No ☐

(Veteran means: Any veteran or active-duty member of the United States Armed Forces, having served honorably, without regard to age or era of duty.)

2. Do you have a farm conservation plan (or have you requested a farm conservation plan) that addresses soil and water resources for the area to be fenced?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

If yes, please attach a copy of the plan (or documentation showing that you have requested a plan).

3. Are you proposing to fence at least five acres of woodland for woodland management purposes?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please attach a copy of a signed Woodland Management Plan or Forest Stewardship Plan (or documentation showing that you have requested a plan) that includes fencing as a recommended management practice.

Note: Projects that propose to fence at least five acres of woodland must have a signed Woodland Management Plan or Forest Stewardship Plan, with fencing as a recommended management practice, from a forester approved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:3-2. Please contact an approved forester if you need to obtain a plan.

Advance Payment Request

Grant funds will typically be paid to successful applicants on a reimbursement basis upon presentation of proof of payment of project costs, after installation of the fencing and approval of same by the Division. However, applicants may request a partial advance payment of grant funds supported by proof of sufficient cash or cash equivalents on-hand to cover the total expected project costs less the anticipated advance payment amount. The advance payment, if authorized, may not exceed 25% of the projected eligible project costs or \$25,000, whichever is less.

Are you requesting an advance payment of grant funds?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please skip to the next section of this application form.

If yes, how much are you requesting as an advance payment of grant funds: _____

If yes, do you have sufficient cash or cash equivalents on-hand to cover the total expected costs of the fencing project set forth in this Application, less the advance payment amount? (*Cash or cash equivalents* include, but are not limited to, money in a bank or credit union, a line of credit, an approved loan, and the like.) Yes ☐ No ☐

Please describe the cash or cash equivalents that you are relying on to request an advance payment of grant funds, and their amount(s), and provide documentary proof of same:

If you are requesting an advance payment of grant funds, you must initial here to certify that you understand and agree that, if you are awarded an advance payment of grant funds, you will be required to pay back the amount advanced if you do not commence the project work or complete the project work within the time frames described on Page 2. Initials: _____

Applicant Eligibility – Additional Documents

1. Are you completing this application as an individual?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please attach the following to confirm your eligibility:

- Tax forms filed with the IRS establishing gross farm income for the most recent tax year of at least \$10,000 in gross sales.

2. Are you completing this application as a cooperative, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or joint venture?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please attach the following to confirm your eligibility:

- Tax forms filed with the IRS establishing gross farm income for the most recent tax year of at least \$10,000 in gross sales.

If yes, please also attach documentation showing that the person signing the application (on p. 11) has signature authority on behalf of the cooperative, corporation, partnership, or joint venture. Examples of such documentation include the following:

For Corporations:

- Certificate of incorporation and any amendments
- Corporate bylaws and any amendments
- Certificate of incumbency (if necessary due to a change in personnel authorized to bind the company)
- Resolution that specifically authorizes the project

For LLCs

- Certificate of formation and any amendments
- Operating agreement and any amendments
- Resolution that specifically authorizes the project

For Partnerships

- Partnership agreement and any amendments
- Resolution that specially authorizes the project

3. **Please also attach** proof of the Farmland Assessment status of your farm. You may submit a copy of the FA1 Form submitted to tax assessor or other proof. (Beekeeping operations are not required to have Farmland Assessment status.)

Application Checklist – Documents Attached with Your Application

Please indicate which of the following documents you have attached with your application (by checking the box next to each item you have attached, not all may apply to your circumstances):

- ☐ Any deed restriction for the land on which the fence will be installed
- ☐ Map showing the proposed fence project, including the following:
 - Recent aerial photography of the property
 - The approximate boundaries of the farm
 - The proposed location of the fencing
 - The proposed location of the fencing's corners, gates, and brace assemblies
 - The location of any existing deer or bear or other wildlife fencing
 - All known rights of way within 50 feet of the proposed fence
- ☐ Documentation showing the extent of crop damage (crop insurance claims or other)
- ☐ Written cost quote for the fencing project, including the following:
 - Cost of materials and labor if the fencing will be installed by someone other than the established farmer; or
 - Cost of materials to be installed by the established farmer
- ☐ If advance payment of a portion of the grant has been requested, documentation showing that you have sufficient cash or cash equivalents to cover the total expected cost of the fencing project, less the advance payment amount
- ☐ NJDEP depredation permits (or denial letters) within the last three years
- ☐ Discharge papers (showing status as a military veteran)
- ☐ Farm conservation plan that addresses soil and water resources for the area to be fenced; (or) Documentation showing that applicant has requested a plan
- ☐ Woodland Management Plan or Forest Stewardship Plan (signed copy of plan that includes fencing as a recommended management practice), if applicant is proposing to fence at least five acres of woodland for woodland management purposes; (or) Documentation showing that applicant has requested a plan
- ☐ Tax records to confirm applicant's eligibility
- ☐ Proof of Farmland Assessment status (FA1 or other)
- ☐ Written Approval from owner of the property (if you are not the Owner)
- ☐ Applicant completed IRS Form W-9
- ☐ Documentation showing that the person signing the application (on p. 11) has signature authority on behalf of the cooperative, corporation, partnership, or joint venture

Certification

I hereby request a NJDA, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources Wildlife Fence Cost-Share Program grant to install wildlife fencing on the unpreserved farm described in this application. I have included on p. 6 of this application the number of linear feet of wildlife fencing I plan to install and the number of acres I plan to fence. I have read the Standard Agreement, as well as the fencing specifications in Appendix A for high tensile woven wire deer fencing and/or Appendix B for electric bear fencing as applicable, all of which can be found at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/agriassist/deerfencing.html>, and I understand the terms contained therein and agree to abide by them if I am approved for a grant award.

I certify that:

- A) I own the farmland noted in this application, or I am signing on behalf of the owner; or
- B) I am the lessee of the farmland noted in this application, or I am signing on behalf of the lessee.

-Please enter "A" or "B" here: _____

I certify that the statements and responses presented in this application are accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that only applications that are complete, with all necessary information and attachments, will be reviewed for approval. If my application is deemed incomplete, I understand it is my responsibility to provide any missing information or attachments to make it complete. I understand NJDA has no duty to notify me about incomplete or missing information in my application. I understand that applications submitted by other applicants at a later time than the time by which my application is submitted may be considered and approved before and instead of my application if my application is incomplete.

If my application is approved, I agree to watch the SADC's deer fence installation training video or complete an approved deer fencing installation training prior to installing the fence (if applicable), and I agree to commence the installation project within 6 months of the approval date. I understand I must complete the project within 3 years of approval. Project completion means installing the fence, scheduling an inspection by NJDA, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources staff, correcting any deficiencies noted during the inspection, and submitting bills for reimbursement to the NJDA, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources using a form authorized by the NJDA, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources.

I understand I will not be entitled to any advance payment received and I will not be reimbursed if fencing is not installed to the standards and specifications contained within Appendix A and its exhibits or Appendix B, whichever is applicable. If I wish to deviate from these standards and specifications, I understand I must seek and get approval from the NJDA, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources in writing, in advance, before conducting the fencing installation work. I also understand that no grant funds may be used for any work started prior to grant funding approval by the NJDA, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources, nor will I be paid for any work, and any advance payment must be returned, if the entire project is not commenced or completed within the specified timeframes. I understand that no partial payments will be made, other than in the case of an advance payment.

I understand that the fencing project must be undertaken, implemented, and maintained in compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, and the Premises must be maintained in agricultural or horticultural production for eight years. I understand that if the Premises are not retained in agricultural or horticultural production for an eight-year period, I will be obligated to repay the grant on a pro-rata basis, rounded to the closest month.

I understand there is no guarantee that I will receive grant money for signing and submitting this application.

Applicant Signature

Date

Please submit completed applications by mail or email:

NJDA, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources
PO Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625-0330

njdadeerfence@ag.nj.gov

Phone: (609) 913-6490

Map Example

Map drawn with NJ-GEOWEB (online tool provided by NJDEP):

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>

