

Farmland Access Program Advisory Committee – Scoring Criteria

The Farmland Access Advisory Committee shall evaluate each farmer-buyer application based on the following scoring criteria. (100 points total)

1. Agricultural Experience (20 points)

The Committee shall consider the duration and quality of the agricultural experience with a type of agriculture similar to the type proposed in the applicant's Farm Plan. Priority shall be given to small and/or beginning farmers who are farming full-time or working towards becoming a full-time farmer in Rhode Island and to such farmers who have direct experience with the subject farm property.

2. Farm Business Experience (35 points)

The Committee shall consider the duration and quality of the experience managing a farm business similar to the type proposed in the applicant's Farm Plan and including the ability to bring products to market and sustain positive cash flow. Priority shall be given to small and/or beginning farmers that have demonstrated their ability to run a successful farm business.

3. Farm Plan (25 points)

The Committee shall consider the suitability of the applicant's plan for the purchased farm property, including land use and business operations. In determining plan suitability, the Committee shall consider the soil type, topography, infrastructure, and size of the farm property in relation to the proposed agricultural operation. The Committee shall also consider the viability of the proposed farm business on the subject farm property using the following criteria: market potential for the proposed product to be raised on the farm property, identified/secured market outlets, and projected earnings.

4. Demonstrated need for farmland (15 points)

Priority shall be given to in-state farmers who do not currently own sufficient land to sustain a profitable farming operation.

5. Financial need (5 points)

The Committee shall consider the applicant's financial need for affordable farmland