



Tompkins County Agriculinary Tourism

2026 Farm to Fork Microgrant Program

Program Summary: The Ithaca/Tompkins County Convention & Visitors Bureau, also known as Visit Ithaca, a division of the Tompkins Chamber, has a focus on advancing Agriculinary Tourism in Tompkins County. Agritourism is the linking of agricultural production and/or processing with tourism to attract visitors to a farm, or other agricultural business for the purpose of entertaining or educating the visitors while generating income for the farm, or business owner. *A portion of Visit Ithaca's budget has been allocated to provide microgrants directly to agriculture-(tourism) based businesses as well as food and beverage businesses who source locally, and **who are interested in expanding their engagement.*** The purpose of the microgrants is to enhance agribusinesses to be ready to welcome visitors and to expand Agriculinary Tourism offerings that will promote overnight visitation in Tompkins County. **This grant is meant to subsidize a portion of the business's project cost. The project must fit within one of the following goals:**

- [1] to enhance visitor readiness,
- [2] to add or improve public-facing activities, offerings, or amenities,
- [3] to enhance the marketing/communication of your business,
- [4] or to generally enhance tourism and economic development in Tompkins County.

Funding Available: Microgrants of up to \$2,000 are available to agriculture-based businesses. *This is a reimbursement grant; therefore, monies will not be received until project completion, and the final report is submitted with supporting documentation. For example, to receive a \$2,000 grant, you must have incurred project expenses of at least \$4,000. If the work is part of a bigger project, select the piece that is most applicable to the guidelines of the grant.* Monies will be disbursed within 30 days **after** receipt of the final report (form, invoices, and photos).

Should the reimbursement process present a barrier to an applicant, the committee will review requests on a case-by-case basis, for grant advance disbursements of up to 50% of the grant awarded with proof of project launch. Any advanced funds must be repaid if the project is not completed. Any projects that are not completed will forfeit the balance of the grants. Lack of repayment may disqualify applicants from future Agriculinary grant opportunities.



To receive approval, the grant application must meet the following criteria:

- Business must be agritourism-based: farms and/or food/beverage producers; or restaurants which use a minimum of 20% locally sourced food and beverage products.
 - At least 50% of total funding will be allocated to farmers and producers.
 - Up to 50% of total funding will be allocated to restaurants who source locally.
- All restaurant applicants must complete additional questions outlined in the application form.
- Business must be located within Tompkins County.
- Site visit and project discussion arranged with grant coordinator.
- Project must demonstrate intention to grow Agriculinary tourism within Tompkins County.
- Eligible to both for-profits and non-profits relating to Agriculinary tourism.
- Businesses must agree to on-site check-in with Visit Ithaca before grant approval, during project, and at the completion of project to gather feedback about how the funded project has assisted their visitor engagement.
- Applicants from underserved communities are encouraged to apply.

Examples of eligible projects corresponding to numbered goals outlined above:

- [1] Signage, beautification, renovations, accessibility requirements, restrooms.
- [2] Building a tasting room, creating an event, property planning/design.
- [3] Website consultation, logo design, promotional items.
- [4] Workforce attraction.
- [5] Creation of online ordering/shopping platform.
- [6] Operational expenses, on a case-by-case basis.
- [7] A more general category, this and all the categories are open to your unique ideas.

Ineligible:

- Businesses outside Tompkins County
- Use of funds to underwrite existing operational costs
- Farm-lodging properties not registered with Tompkins County to collect occupancy tax
- Rent/occupancy expense
- Grant recipients from three consecutive rounds will not be eligible to apply until a year after the last funded project

Application Deadline: Applications will be due:

February 23, 2026, by noon

If funding remains, a second round will be considered.

Submission Process: Please complete the application through the [Microgrant Google Form](#) (preferred) or *by email* to Lucy Williams at Lucy@visitithaca.com. You will find the application link and examples of past recipients at VisitIthaca.com/partners



Review Process: Once applications are received by the grant coordinator for completeness and eligibility, then shared to the Agriculinary Tourism Advisory Committee to score eligible grant applications. Applications will be reviewed within 3 weeks of the application due date.

- **Deliverables Required:**

Link to the Visit Ithaca Farm to Fork landing page from your website by either hyperlinking in your text or using a banner provided by Visit Ithaca.

Completed projects, final reports, copies of invoices and photographic evidence can be submitted and reviewed on a rolling basis, no later than December 1, 2026, to receive reimbursement. By accepting this grant, you are giving permission to Visit Ithaca for use of photographic images for marketing purposes. We reserve the right to reallocate funds if the deadline is not met. Please see the bottom of this form for the final report.

Questions? Please email Lucy Williams, at Lucy@visitithaca.com , who serves as grant coordinator of the Agriculinary Tourism Microgrants.



2026 Application:

Tompkins County Agriculinary Tourism *Farm to Fork Microgrant Program*

[Please submit through Google Form](#) Review the following questions to prepare for completing the application online.

Farm or Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Does your business reside in Tompkins County? Y____ N____

Physical Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

E-mail address: _____ Website: _____

Years in business: _____ Amount requested (maximum \$2000): _____

My business is open to the public... (select one)

- ☐ *during regularly scheduled hours*
- ☐ *by appointment only*
- ☐ *during special events*
- ☐ *other (please describe)*

Please describe your agritourism business/restaurant and its goods/services.

Please briefly describe the project and why it is necessary for your business.

Which goal (outlined on pg. 1) are you looking to accomplish? [1] [2] [3] [4] (select at least one)
Please explain how this project would support the goal.



Please briefly describe the project timeline, including your anticipated completion date.

(Note: the project, report and its deliverables must be completed and sent in by Dec. 1, 2026)

Please briefly describe your project budget, including all sources of funding and how each will be used. If this is part of a larger project, describe the piece relative to this application. Fill out the accompanying table.

Planned Budget (Required):

Incomplete budgets will be returned for completion before being considered.



- Please only list relevant sources (not all sources must be met)

Funding Source	Amount	Use of Funding
Owner Financing/Equity		
Bank/Outside Funding		
Microgrant (Max. \$2,000)		
Other (Please specify)		
Total Project Cost		

Restaurant Applicants Only:

(All others may continue to signature section of application)

Please explain what “locally sourced” means to you. (200-300 words)

What is your business currently doing to support local agriculture businesses? (200-300 words)



What is your business currently doing that sets you apart as a business that sources locally? (200-300 words)

How will these requested funds directly expand your business's current support of local agriculture and agricultural products? (200-300 words)



All applicants must agree to the following.

I understand that a change to an approved grant project requires approval by grant coordinator, Lucy Williams. I understand I am required to submit a project description, digital photographs and all invoices prior to reimbursement. I have reviewed and agreed to the guidelines, including a post-project check-in with the grant coordinator for six months following reimbursement of funds. I understand the requirements and agree to abide by the terms:

Signature of Applicant

Date

Printed name of Applicant



2026 Final Report:
Tompkins County Agriculinary Tourism *Farm to Fork Microgrant Program*

Due December 1st, 2026. *We reserve the right to reallocate funds if you do not meet this deadline.*

Farm or Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Name for the reimbursement check to be made out to:

Address for the reimbursement check to be sent to:

Please briefly reiterate your project.

What, if any challenges, did you face in completing the project?

Did your project change at all, if so, how and why?

Note: Changes to an approved grant needs approval by Grant Coordinator.



Please outline what exactly was completed for the project.

Which numerical goal (pg. 1) did you choose? How will this project help you achieve that goal?

How did your project impact on the visitation to your business? How are you judging/ measuring the change?

Did the microgrant process meet your expectations? Are there any ways we could improve the microgrant process?

Testimonial about your microgrant experience (optional):



Actual Budget Spent:

Funding Source	Amount	Use of Funding
Owner Financing/Equity		
Bank/Outside Funding		
Microgrant (Max. \$2,000)		
Other (Please specify):		
Total Project Cost		

Don't forget to include:

- Three digital photographs demonstrating project implementation
- Copies of all invoices to be reimbursed, with verification of total project expenditures

I understand I am required to submit a project description, digital photographs and all invoices prior to reimbursement. I have reviewed and agreed to the guidelines, including a post-project check-in with the grant coordinator for six months following reimbursement of funds. I understand the requirements and agree to abide by the terms:

Signature of Applicant

Date

Printed name of Applicant