

# Individual Development Account Program



## APPLICATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*INSTRUCTIONS: You may fill this form out electronically, or mail it in. One application may be filled out per farm. Applications are due by May 15, 2014.*

### Eligibility Self-Checklist:

#### Farming?

I am farming/ranching now and have farmed/ranched for no more than ten years.

I have a plan to start my own farm/ranch business.

*If you are from a farm family, start counting your "years of farming" at age 18. For college years, count only the months you were home farming. If you are interning or working on a wage basis but not making substantive decisions about the farming operation (such as crops planted, equipment purchased), we are considering you "not yet farming."*

#### Nebraska Resident?

I am a legal resident of the state of Nebraska and/or farm in Nebraska.

I am NOT a legal resident and don't farm in the state of Nebraska.

*CFRA has decided to limit recipients of the Individual Development Account Program to residents of Nebraska who apply these funds to farming in Nebraska.*

#### Property Owner?

I (and my spouse) own less land than 30% of the average farm size in my county. (The USDA Census of Agriculture lists average farm size: <http://1.usa.gov/1e9ZR1Z>)

I (and my spouse) own more land than 30% of the average farm size in my county.

*Sorry! CFRA limits recipients of the Individual Development Account Program to those who own less property.*

#### Ready to participate?

As a participant I will:

- 1) Develop a business or whole farm plan that incorporates income from the IDA;
- 2) make regular, minimum-or-greater deposits into a savings account;
- 3) Participate in evaluation of the IDA program;
- 4) Report progress toward savings goals quarterly;
- 5) Choose a mentor and have regular conversations about my plans and progress. \*

I already have a whole-farm plan incorporating IDA income. \*\*

I am enrolled in an accredited educational institution and will take farm financial management planning classes, or will become enrolled in the first six months of the project.

*\* If participant fails to meet these requirements, participant will not receive a savings match towards the purchase of a productive farm asset at the end of the savings period.*

*\*\* Please include a copy of the whole-farm plan with your application form by submitting to: [kathies@cfra.org](mailto:kathies@cfra.org)*

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### Saving on your own?

I pledge that savings will be my own earned income from my farm or off-farm job.

I intend to deposit funds from loans or sources other than my own earnings.\*\*\*

*\*\*\* This program is for prospective farmers who contribute their own funds.*

Applicants will be chosen based on:

- 1) Plan for business (40%),
- 2) Farming Experience/prior commitment to starting a farm/ranch (40%), and
- 3) Financial need (20%)

### Contact Information:

Name:

Spouse, or  
farm partner:

*(if applicable)*

Address:

, NE

zip

Telephone:

Email(s)\*:

*\*Electronically-filed forms must be submitted via same primary email address listed.*

### Personal Information:

*(Please answer each question with 75 words or less)*

Why do you want to participate in this program?

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### Personal Information Continued:

*(answer each question with 75 words or less)*

**Please list agriculturally relevant classroom education you have received:**

*(Such as agronomy degree, graduate of Grow Your Small Market Farm program, etc. We will ask about practical experience later)*

List community service roles from the past three years:

Have you been a member of farm or community organizations within last three years?  
Which ones?

Please list farm or business field days, conferences, workshops or farminars you have attended within the last three years:

### Farm Information:

Farm Name:

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## Farm Information Continued:

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### Primary enterprise:

*(Actual or planned: row crops, beef cattle, poultry, pork, horticulture, cut flowers)*

### Tell us your farm story:

*(250 to 500 words. Please include details about your current operation including any farm assets, owned or borrowed - equipment, land, livestock - and your plans for the future)*

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## Farm Information Continued:

*(answer each question with 75 words or less)*

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Do you have experience working on a farm that is not your own? Please list and describe:

Do you have a mentor/protégé relationship for your farm business? If so, please describe the relationship. If not, you will be asked to choose a mentor within 3 months.

## Financial Information:

Choose your annual gross household income range:

*(If you live with your parents, report your individual income)*

Less than \$22,000

\$22,001 - \$53,000

More than \$53,000

*Note: The current CFRA Individual Development Account program is open to all regardless of financial status; however, we are collecting this information because some future funding may be available for low-income participants only.*

Number of people in your household:

*(Unmarried individuals with no dependents, enter 1)*

## Savings Goal:

How much money do you plan to save MONTHLY by August 31, 2014?

*Choose a savings goal that is reachable for your farm. Savings Match not to exceed \$500 for the savings period.*

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What are you currently planning to purchase with your savings match?

*Eligible purposes include education, farm land, or productive farm assets*

**Please list two non-family references, including a phone number and email for each:**

*Name*

*Email*

*Telephone*

**Your application is confidential. It will be screened by CFRA staff and evaluated by members of the Individual Development Account Program review committee. Not all applicants may be accepted into the program.**

### HOW TO SUBMIT:

Please be sure your answers are accurate and complete.

Your application can be sent by email to [kathies@cfra.org](mailto:kathies@cfra.org), or mail this form to:

**Kathie Starkweather  
Center for Rural Affairs  
PO Box 136  
Lyons NE, 68038**

Space is limited, please submit as soon as possible!  
Applications must be received by May 15, 2014.