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COMMERCIAL FARM PFAS TESTING REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) may reimburse a commercial farm for the costs the farm incurred for self-testing soil, water, and/or farm products for the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Reimbursement depends on meeting the requirements that are explained below.

What are the requirements?



1. You must be a commercial farm that Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) records indicate had sludge or septage spread on it **OR** your farm received feed or other inputs that came from a farm with a record of sludge or septage spread on it **OR** your farm is located near a location where DEP records show sludge or septage was spread.
2. Your farm conducted testing **before DACF became involved at your farm (took tests for you)**.
3. Lab results from a DEP-accredited laboratory show PFAS **above** state levels for:
 - a) Soil at or above existing PFOS crop-specific soil screening levels; **or**
 - b) Water at or above Maine’s interim Drinking Water standard of 20 parts per trillion (ppt) for the sum of 6 PFAS substances; **or**
 - c) Milk (Maine’s Action Threshold is currently 210 ppt PFOS); **or**
 - d) Beef (Maine’s Action Threshold is currently 3.4 parts per billion (ppb) PFOS)); **or**
 - e) Feed, vegetables or livestock products that have elevated levels of PFAS, in conjunction with **a** or **b** listed above.
4. If you self-tested (you didn’t use a private company to sample), you followed DEP’s sampling guidance.
5. Complete test results must be **shared** with DACF.

What costs are covered?



Reimbursable costs can include laboratory sampling costs and third-party sampling services for soil, milk, feed, beef tissue, vegetative tissue, grain, and water. **Note: Water sampling must be for water sources for farm usage.**

DACF reserves the right to review the invoices of third-party sampling contractors to assess billing rates and other charges to determine whether they are acceptable for reimbursement.

What needs to be submitted?



1. Reimbursement application form created by DACF; **and**
2. Test results from a laboratory certified by the State of Maine to perform PFAS analysis; **and**
3. Documentation of testing expenses, including copies of receipts, itemized invoices, and proof of payment; **and**
4. A completed State of Maine Vendor Authorization form.

DACF reserves the right to amend program parameters and criteria at any time. Commercial Farm PFAS Testing Reimbursement Program payments are subject to the availability of DACF’s PFAS funding.

Contact DACF staff at pfas.dacf@maine.gov

