

Vermont Farm Viability Enhancement Program Eligibility Waivers

The Farm Viability Advisory Board at a meeting on 2-3-05 adopted the following:

Waiver requests: (1) that all waivers be requested in writing by either the farmer applicant or a service provider; (2) that the waiver request include a description of the likelihood of the eligibility thresholds being met during the year of Viability participation; (3) that the waiver request include a copy of the applicant's previous year's IRS Form 1040F; (4) that the waiver request include a narrative description of the applicant's farm experience; and (5) that the waiver request describe any additional information indicating the likely importance of the applicant's operation to the farm economy in general or to a local community, or to collaborative efforts aimed at improving a group of farms' viability.

Waiver process: (1) that the Viability Program Director immediately forward the waiver request and supporting materials to the Chair of the Farm Viability Advisory Board; (2) that the Chair at his or her discretion decide whether the request should be taken up by a committee or by the full Advisory Board; (3) that if the Chair decides to handle the request by committee, that he or she appoint a committee of at least three Advisory Board members; (4) that the request and supporting materials be forwarded to the committee so named; (5) that a meeting of the committee be duly warned; (6) that minutes of the committee meeting be kept by the Program Director; and (7) that if the Chair decides to handle the request by the full Board, that the materials be forwarded to the full Board and the item placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Waiver guidelines: that waivers may be granted by the Advisory Board or its committee when the applicant's farm operation has the likelihood in the coming year to produce at least \$10,000 of gross farm income, and the applicant's farm operation has the likelihood of impacting the farm economy in general or a local community, because of its potential for innovation, market development, or diversification, or the applicant's farm operation is or will be part of one or more collaborative efforts aimed at improving a group of farms' viability, through marketing arrangements, sharing of land, equipment, or labor, or other cooperative ventures. In addition, farms needing a waiver to participate in the Viability Program should not represent more than 25 percent of a Viability provider's portfolio in any one grant cycle.