



MAINE ORGANIC FARMERS AND GARDENERS

Roadmap for Addressing PFAS Contamination: Steps for Farmer Support

- [El Fondo PFAS de Bienestar para Trabajadores de Agricultura en Maine](#)
- [Fon PFAs pou Byennèt Kiltivatè nan Maine](#)

At any point in this process, please do not hesitate to contact MOFGA for support. Caleb Goossen, cgoossen@mofga.org, our crops and conservation specialist, is our point of contact for technical questions about PFAS and discussing your farm's risk. Ryan Dennett, rdennett@mofga.org, our farmer programs director, is available to hear your concerns and talk about the resources available to you.

Determine Testing Needs and Access Financial Support

1. Investigate your risk level by reading the "[Guide to Investigating PFAS on Your Farm](#)." and learn more about PFAS [here](#).
2. Explore the [Department of Environmental Protection \(DEP\) map of licensed sludge and septage sites](#). We are available to help you navigate and understand this map. Contact Goossen at cgoossen@mofga.org or 207-568-6029 (work). For questions about DEP PFAS testing, "tier" status of your property, concerns about your residential well, and spreading record details for your property contact Tracy Kelly, public service coordinator, PFAS and emerging contaminants, via email at pfas.dep@maine.gov or by phone at 207-480-0583.
3. Apply for an award that will cover the upfront costs of PFAS testing for water, milk or forage [here](#). Applications will be reviewed weekly. Awarded farmers must agree to share their test results with MOFGA, MFT and state agencies so high results can be reimbursed. Farmers earning at least 50% of their household income from the farm business and testing related to Tier 1 spreading sites will be prioritized.
4. We advise you to use the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [water sampling guidelines](#) and send them to [Maine Environmental Laboratory](#), 207-846-6569, to conduct your own water test or contact [Northern Tilt](#), 207-338-5500, for other sampling needs. If you need help interpreting test results, please contact Caleb Goossen at cgoossen@mofga.org.

If You Receive a High Test Result:

5. Contact Maine Department of Environmental Protection. They will reimburse **household water** testing laboratory fees and provide additional on-site testing and support such as a carbon water filter. Contact pfas.dep@maine.gov or David Madore, Maine Department of Environmental Protection deputy commissioner — david.madore@maine.gov, 207-287-5842.
6. For health-related questions, contact Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Contact Andrew Smith, Maine CDC state toxicologist — andy.e.smith@maine.gov, 207-287-5189.
7. Contact Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF). They will reimburse **high agricultural** testing laboratory fees, conduct additional on-site testing and provide support such as a carbon water filtration for agricultural water sources. Contact Nancy McBrady, bureau director — nancy.mcbrady@maine.gov, 207-287-7522. Additional contacts for



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questions about DACF PFAS testing and concerns about agricultural water sources are on the contacts sheet below.

Enroll in Income Replacement Program

8. Nancy McBrady (**step 6**) will provide a referral that will make you eligible for the [Income Replacement Program](#) administered by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) and Maine Farmland Trust (MFT).
9. To enroll in the Income Replacement Program, confirm that you earn at least 50% of your family income from your farm business, you have stopped sales of contaminated products, and we have received a [W-9 form](#) and a recent Schedule F (or other IRS tax filing form used by your farm business) from you. You will then be enrolled and paid weekly through MOFGA and MFT until the state indemnity program by DACF begins or the fund runs out of money. Participants agree to have their Income Replacement award deducted from the lump sum payment they receive from the Maine indemnity program in order to replenish the emergency fund that will continue to support contaminated farms.

Other supports

Community

- To connect in a confidential space with other farms impacted by PFAS contamination please contact ironwoodorganic@gmail.com to be added to a Google Group.

Financial support

- [PFAS Emergency Relief Fund](#)
- If you have been paying into unemployment, you and your employees can file for unemployment [here](#).
- If you currently have a farm loan through the FSA contact your agent to discuss payment options
- If you are dairy operation, learn more about the [Dairy Indemnity Payment Program](#)

Crisis support

- [PFAS Farmer Wellness Fund application](#)
- Contact [Farm Aid](#) — available Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., at 1-800-327-6243. They may be able to connect you with resources, and you will elevate the issue of PFAS within their organization.
- Maine Statewide Crisis and Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-888-568-1112
- Crisis Text Line : Text "CONNECT" to 741741
- [211](#) — to find counselors who can speak with you
- [Maine Mobile Health](#)
- [Maine Agricultural Mediation Program](#)



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Policy needs

- Please contact Senior Policy Director Heather Spalding, heathers@mofga.org or 207-568-4142, to support you in voicing your policy needs. She can help you arrange meetings with public officials and help with strategy to achieve your policy goals.

Legal Services

- To obtain legal services, connect with a lawyer through the
 - [Legal Food Hub](#), 1-844-529-4769 ext. 2 and legalfoodhub@clf.org

Contacts by organization

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA):

Ryan Dennett

Farmer Programs Director

Email: rdennett@mofga.org

Phone: 207-568-4142

Caleb Goossen

Organic Crops and Conservation Specialist

Email: cgoossen@mofga.org

Phone: 207-568-4142

Maine Farmland Trust (MFT):

Tricia Rouleau

Farm Network Director

Email: trouleau@mainefarmlandtrust.org

Cell: 207-899-5515

Hannah Chamberlain

Stewardship Program Manager

Email: hchamberlain@mainefarmlandtrust.org

Cell: 860-318-6957 | Office: 207-338-6575 x315

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

For health-related questions.

Andrew Smith

Maine CDC State Toxicologist

Email: andy.e.smith@maine.gov

Phone: 207-287-5189

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP):

For questions about DEP PFAS testing, "Tier" status of your property, concerns about your residential well, and spreading record details for your property.

Tracy Kelly

Public Service Coordinator

PFAS and Emerging Contaminants

Email: pfas.dep@maine.gov

Phone: 207-480-0583

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Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF):

Nancy McBrady

Bureau Director

Email: nancy.mcbrady@maine.gov

Phone: 207-287-7522

For questions about DACF PFAS testing and concerns about agricultural water sources.

Duncan Pfaehler

Email: duncan.pfaehler@maine.gov

Phone: 207-992-6643

Matt Randall

Email: matthew.randall@maine.gov

Phone: 207-557-0252