

TAEP Updates 2024-2025 – Quick Summary

Important Updates:

TAEP Application & Program Information – Online Only

- Application and program information will only be available online at the TAEP homepage (www.tn.gov/taep).
- *The traditional application booklets will no longer be printed or available online.*
- *Paper application forms are no longer available to submit.*

Navigating TAEP Webpages

- [TAEP Overview](#) – gives overview of TAEP and highlights economic impact
- [TAEP Updates 2024-2025](#) – provides current program updates
- [TAEP Timeline](#) – lists important dates and deadlines
- [Applying for TAEP](#) – provides details on how to apply for TAEP
- [Applicant Eligibility](#) – highlights applicant responsibility, applicant agreement, and details application eligibility requirements
- [Educational Requirements](#) – details options for educational requirements
- [Reimbursement Requirements](#) – provides details regarding program purchases
- [Verification Requirements](#) – details verification requirements
- [50% Cost Share & Maximum Reimbursement](#) – explains how payment is calculated and lists maximums
- [Producer Programs](#) – view individual program content including maximum reimbursement, minimum requirements, and eligible items
- [TAEP Account Portal](#) – the portal is an account management system for TAEP participants
- [Contact TAEP](#) – lists program coordinators, emails, and phone numbers

TAEP Application Process – Online Only

- To increase program efficiency, the upcoming 2024 TAEP application process will be entirely online. *Paper application forms are no longer available to submit.*
- Online applications will be available as a **live link** (no downloading required) at the TAEP homepage (www.tn.gov/taep) during the application period (October 1-7).
 - *The application link does not exist within the TAEP Account Portal.*
 - *It is not necessary to have a TAEP Account to apply.*
- Applicants will need the following to apply online:
 - **Email address** – applicant must have a working email address which is exclusive to the applicant and not utilized by other TAEP applicants. *Applicant must be able to monitor email account for confirmation email and other correspondence related to cost share participation.*
 - **Internet access** – applicant will need access to the internet to apply.
 - **Electronic device** – applicant will need access to a computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone to apply. *Computers are preferred over smartphones.*

TAEP Updates 2024-2025 – Quick Summary

- Applicant will receive a **confirmation email** from taep.online@tn.gov if application is successfully submitted.
 - Check spam/junk folder if confirmation email is not received within 15 minutes of submitting application. *Applicant can add taep.online@tn.gov to trusted contact list.*
 - Applicant is encouraged to save confirmation email as proof of applying.

Educational Requirement – Master Certification & Special Requirements

- **Master Certification** - Application A - approved applicants will be required to have a current eligible master certification **at time of reimbursement** - not at time of application - to be considered for cost share funding. Eligible master certifications are determined by program.
 - *Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training is now incorporated into Master Beef certification and is no longer required prior to applying.*
 - *Cattle producers are encouraged to maintain their BQA certification.*
- **Special Requirements** - Application B (Producer Diversification) - approved applicants will be required to have a current eligible master certification or special requirement equivalent for Producer Diversification **at time of reimbursement** - not at time of application - to be considered for cost share funding. Eligible special requirements are determined by program.

50% Cost Share

- The amount of payment is based upon 50% cost share of expenses incurred for eligible program items up to the program maximum. *The option of 35% cost share is no longer available.*

Producer Program Updates:

Beginning Farmer Option

- Qualifying applicants will be eligible for Genetics or Livestock Equipment.
- *Row Crop Solutions is no longer available under Beginning Farmer Option due to low participation.*

Genetics

- All bulls must have eligible GE-EPDs between October 1, 2024 and date of purchase.
- All bulls will be reimbursed 50% subject to the \$2,000 maximum.
- Bulls must qualify under 1 of 2 bull type options: Balanced Trait/Maternal or Carcass Merit/Terminal.
- Bulls that do not meet all eligibility requirements between October 1, 2024 and date of purchase will be denied cost share reimbursement.
- ***Buyer must communicate with the seller prior to purchasing to ensure bull meets all TAEP eligibility requirements.***

TAEP Updates 2024-2025 – Quick Summary

Hay Equipment

- **Hay Equipment minimum requirement has changed to hay production only.**
- Minimum requirement – 100 acres of hay production (first cutting only)
- Acreage can be owned or leased in Tennessee.
- Applicant may be required to list location of acres at time of reimbursement.

Hay Storage

- Lifetime limit of three (3) reimbursements
- **Standalone center structure only**
 - Ø *Additions in the form of side sheds or extensions in length are not eligible*
- **Minimum size 1,200 square feet**
- 14 ft. eave height
- Square footage is calculated post to post; *overhang is not eligible in square footage calculation*
- New materials must be utilized in the construction of the barn.
- Acreage can be owned or leased in Tennessee.
- Applicant may be required to list location of acres at time of reimbursement.

Herd Health

- Lifetime limit of three (3) reimbursements
- Herd Health reimbursements are based upon a per head amount per item.
- Approved applicant must have current eligible educational requirement at time of reimbursement even though reimbursements are based upon a per head, not a 50% cost share.

Livestock Equipment

- New item: Rotary Cutter/Pasture Clipper – min. 8 ft.
- Gates – added minimum purchase of (3)
- Corral Panels (10 minimum purchase) – added “heavy duty” to the description
- Trailer title – added additional explanation of title requirements.
 - *Livestock Trailer – min. 16 ft; at least one cut gate; must be titled (not tagged) in the applicant's name at time of reimbursement; fees vary from county to county; title will indicate trailer is new regardless of model year; manufacturer's certificate of origin is not considered a title.*

Livestock Solutions

- No-till pasture drill – reduced size from 10 ft. to 8 ft. working width; drill must have serial number to be eligible.
- Hay wrapper – must be in-line only; *single bale hay wrappers are not eligible.*

TAEP Updates 2024-2025 – Quick Summary

Poultry Grower

- Commercial growers
- The following items have been removed:
 - o Motors
 - o Feed-line Gear Boxes
 - o Ventilation Fans – *controllers were removed*
 - o Cool Cell Watering & Ventilation Systems – *controllers, cool cell pumps, sprinkler drops/spinners, pressure regulators, medicator pumps, injectors, and flush breather units were removed*

Producer Diversification

- Applicant must be an existing agricultural producer.
- It is recommended to have at least three years of reported farm income to be considered a competitive applicant within Producer Diversification.
- Applications are competitively evaluated by industry sector.
- Priority is given to projects that focus on long-term use and on improving or increasing farm operation production.
- To ensure long-term investments, items requested must be able to meet the five (5) year verification period to be considered for cost share.
- **2024 TAEP Producer Diversification Proposal Worksheet** – see [Producer Diversification Overview](#) webpage to download and prepare prior to applying.
- Infrastructure must be built on the farm.

Row Crop Solutions

- No-till pasture drill – reduced size from 15 ft. to 12 ft. working width; drill must have serial number to be eligible.
- Transport Auger – eligible as new equipment only due to verification issues.
- Removed GPS as eligible item due to verification requirement of five years.

Swine Producer

- Commercial growers
- Swine producers with a retail meat business may be eligible under Producer Diversification (Application B) – Value-Added sector.

Working Structures & Fence-line Systems

- Permanent Working Cover – the completed project must show:
 - o Livestock working equipment permanently installed in a functional layout **under the cover**
 - o Livestock access/movement from outside flowing into the covered crowding system area
- Permanent Working Pen – pen must be permanent and **all four (4) sides** must be new construction