TITLE 91, NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, CHAPTER 1

BEGINNING FARMER BOARD

BEGINNING FARMER TAX CREDIT ACT REGULATIONS

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TITLE 91 - BEGINNING FARMER BOARD

Chapter 1 - BEGINNING FARMER TAX CREDIT ACT REGULATIONS

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- TITLE 91 BEGINNING FARMER BOARD
- Chapter 1 BEGINNING FARMER TAX CREDIT ACT REGULATIONS
- <u>001 Statement of Purpose.</u> The purpose of these regulations is to aid in the administration of the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act, <u>Neb. Rev. Stat.</u> '' 77-5201 to 77-52145.
- <u>002</u> Administration. These regulations will be administered by the Beginning Farmer Board. For administrative and budgetary purposes only, the Board will be housed within the Department of **Agriculture's** Beginning Farmer Program and located in the State Office Building, Fourth Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. The mailing address is P.O. Box 94947, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4947. The telephone number is (402) 471-6890.
- <u>003 Definitions.</u> In addition to the terms listed below, the definition of terms found in the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act will apply to such terms when found in these regulations.
 - <u>003.01</u> ACT means the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act, <u>Neb.</u> Rev. <u>Stat.</u> ''77-5201 to 77-52145.
 - <u>003.02</u> QUALIFIED BEGINNING FARMER OR LIVESTOCK PRODUCER means an individual (individuals) who is (are) a resident individual (individuals) as defined in subsection 003.04, who has entered farming or livestock production or is seeking entry into farming or livestock production, who intends to farm or raise crops or livestock on land located within the state borders of Nebraska, and who meets the eligibility guidelines in Section 004.
 - <u>003.02A</u> Eligible individuals may be members of a partnership, trust, corporation, or syndicate <u>limited liability company</u>, or other business entity that is qualified to own agricultural land under Article XII, section 8, of the Constitution of Nebraska as long as all members of the partnership, trust, corporation, or syndicate <u>limited liability company</u>, or other <u>business entity</u> individually meet the eligibility quidelines.
 - $\underline{003.03}$ RELATIVE means an individual related by consanguinity (blood) within the third degree as determined by the common law, a spouse, or an individual related to a spouse within

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the third degree as so determined, and includes an individual in an adoptive relationship within the third degree.

- <u>003.03A</u> The term RELATIVE shall apply to third degree relatives which include great grandparents, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, and great grandchildren.
- <u>003.03B</u> The term RELATIVE shall not apply to fourth degree relatives which include great, great grandparents, great aunts and uncles, first cousins, grand nieces and nephews and great, great grand children.
- $\underline{003.04}$ RESIDENT OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA means an individual (individuals) who is (are) domiciled in Nebraska or who maintains a permanent place of abode in this state and spends in the aggregate more than six months of the taxable year in this state as established in '77-2714.01(7).
- <u>003.05</u> TOTAL FAMILY means the beginning farmer or livestock producer and his or her spouse and dependents.
- $\underline{003.06}$ VIABLY SIZED FARM means a farm or livestock production facility that has the potential to provide an adequate source of income to support the beginning farmer or livestock producer.
- 003.07 CASH RENT AGREEMENT means a rental agreement in which the principal consideration given to the owner of agricultural assets is a predetermined amount of money for the crop year. (This includes agreements that provide a base payment plus a variance in payment for abundant crops or high prices.)
- 003.08 SHARE-RENT AGREEMENT means a rental agreement in which the principal consideration given to the owner of the agricultural assets is a predetermined portion of the production of farm products from the rented agricultural assets and shall provide for sharing of production expenses or production risk of loss, or both, between the agricultural asset owner and the qualified beginning farmer or livestock producer.
- 003.09 OWNER OF AGRICULTURAL ASSETS means an individual (individuals) or a trustee, a partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other business entity having an ownership interest in an agricultural asset located within the State of Nebraska used for commercial production of farm products as defined in section 005.

003.10 THE SUCCESSION PLAN shall provide for the transfer of assets to be completed within a period of no longer than thirty years, except when the asset to be transferred is land owned by an individual, the period of transfer may be for a period up to the date of death of the owner. For purposes of this regulation, succession plans may include, but are not limited to, wills, purchase contracts, buy-sell agreements, and trusts, whereby, the majority ownership or majority control of the asset transfers to the beginning farmer.

<u>004 Beginning Farmer or Livestock Producer Qualifications.</u> A majority vote of the Board shall certify that the qualified beginning farmer or livestock producer has met the following criteria:

 $\underline{004.01}$ Demonstrates a need for assistance by having a total family net worth at the time of application of not more than \underline{one} \underline{two} hundred thousand dollars, based on fair market value as set forth in a net worth statement:

<u>004.01A</u> The_beginning farmer's or livestock producer's total family assets, valued at their fair market value, less the beginning_farmer's or livestock producer's total family indebtedness, will constitute as the net worth;

<u>004.01B</u> The current net worth statement must be signed and dated (within twelve months of the application date) by the beginning farmer and a lawyer, banker, loan officer, financial counselor, or an accountant, who gives his or her title and states in writing that the information provided on the statement appears to be accurate;

 $\underline{004.01C}$ The Board has the authority to request an updated net worth statement.

004.01D The qualified beginning farmer and livestock producer net worth threshold of \$200,000 shall be adjusted annually beginning October 1, 2009, and each October 1 thereafter, by taking the average Producer Price Index for all commodities, published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the most recent twelve available periods divided by the Producer Price Index for 2008 and multiply the

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- result by the qualified beginning farmer's or livestock producer's net worth threshold. If the resulting amount is not a multiple of \$25,000, the amount shall be rounded to the next lowest \$25,000.
- $\underline{004.02}$ Prior to the date of application, has operated a farm or produced livestock for less than ten years out of the past fifteen years;
- <u>004.03</u> Is a resident of Nebraska_as defined in <u>Neb</u>. <u>Rev</u>. <u>Stat</u>. '77-2714.01, who intends to rent or lease agricultural assets eligible for the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit_on land located within the state borders of Nebraska;
- <u>004.04</u> Provides the majority of the day-to-day physical labor and management of the farm or livestock production;
- <u>004.05</u> Demonstrates, by the judgment of the Board, an adequate farming or livestock production experience, including, but not limited to one or more of the following:
 - <u>004.05A</u> Growing up on or having been involved Experience in the day-to-day operation of a farm or ranch; or
 - <u>004.05B</u> Receiving an educational certificate or degree from a two or four year agriculture based program; or
 - $\underline{004.05C}$ Having been employed by a farm or livestock business; or
 - $\underline{004.05D}$ Possessing other agricultural experience as explained on the application.
- <u>004.06</u> Demonstrates, by judgment of the Board, knowledge in the type of farming or livestock production for which he or she seeks assistance including, but not limited to work experience or education.
- 004.07 Demonstrates a profit potential shown by:
 - $\underline{004.07A}$ A current net worth statement as provided in subsection 004.01; and
 - <u>004.07B</u> A cash flow analysis_with a positive outcome which includes all farm and off farm income and expenses including any rented ground, facilities, livestock or other assets under the tax credit act and family living expenses as referred to in ''77-5209(4).

<u>004.07B(1)</u> The cash flow analysis will be signed and dated (within twelve months of the application date) by the beginning farmer and a lawyer, banker, loan officer, or an accountant, who gives his or her title and states in writing that the information appears to be accurate; and

 $\underline{004.07B(2)}$ The Board has the authority to request an updated cash flow analysis.

004.08 Participates in a financial management program
approved by the Board as defined_in section 010;

<u>004.08A</u> The beginning farmer or livestock producer will provide proof of completion of the financial management program;

004.08B The Board may grant a waiver if:

 $\underline{004.08B(1)}$ The applicant shows he or she has recent equivalent education; or

<u>004.08B(2)</u> A financial management program is not available within one hour's driving time.; or seventy five miles of the applicant's residence.

004.08C A financial management program is not available before participation in the Act and the applicant has registered and plans to attend the next financial management program. If the planned class is not completed within one year of the application date, the Board will reconsider the eligibility of the beginning farmer or livestock producer at the next scheduled Board meeting.

<u>004.08B (3)</u> A financial management program is not available before participation in the Act and the applicant has registered or plans to attend the next financial management program of their choice. If the planned class is not completed_within one year of the application date, the Board will reconsider the eligibility of the beginning farmer or livestock producer at the next scheduled Board meeting.

<u>004.09</u> Submits, if <u>applicable</u> <u>available</u>, a copy of the nutrient management plan and the soil conservation plan

prepared for the Farm Service Agency or the Department of Environmental Quality.__If neither of the plans above are available, a self written narrative that describes the applicant's nutrient management plan and soil conservation plan may be submitted.

004.10 The beginning farmer will not be a relative, as defined in subsection 003.03, of the owner of agricultural assets or the owner's partner, member, shareholder, or trustee in which the beginning farmer or livestock producer is seeking to enter into a rental agreement unless the assets included in the rental agreement are included in a written succession plan that meets the qualifications in Section 004.10A through subsection 004.10B. ; and

004.10A. Such succession plan as certified by an attorney at law or in the form of a written contract or other instrument as defined in Sec. 003.10 legally binding the parties to a process and time table for the transfer of:

004.10A(1) the farm or ranch physical labor to
the beginning farmer;

004.10A(2) the farm or ranch management and decision making to the beginning farmer; and

004.10A(3) the farm or ranch assets listed in the rental agreement to the beginning farmer.

004.10B The succession plan will be considered to provide a reasonable manner and probability of a successful transfer if:

<u>004.10B(1)</u> The succession plan documents transfer of labor, management, and ownership.

004.10B(2) The existence of the succession plan that meets the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit guidelines in 004.10 and defined in 003.10, is documented on a form provided by the Board that shall be signed by the Beginning Farmer, Asset Owner and an Attorney at Law, with notarized signatures by a public Notary; and

004.10B(3) The owner and the beginning farmer have attended and completed training sessions on succession and transfer plans that contain lessons

on family communication skills, business meeting skills, and business entities.

<u>004.11</u> A qualified beginning farmer or livestock producer who has participated in a Board approved and certified three-year rental agreement with an owner of agricultural assets shall not be eligible to file a subsequent application on that same asset with the Board. He or she may refer to the Board for additional support and participate in programs, including educational and financial programs and seminars, established or recommended by the Board that are applicable to the continued success of such farmer or livestock producer.

<u>004.12</u> The Board agrees not to discriminate against any applicant on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex or disability.

<u>O05</u> <u>Qualifications for the Owner of Agricultural Assets.</u> Qualifications for the owner of agricultural assets for the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Program are as follows:

005.01 If the owner of agricultural assets is an An individual or a trustee, he or she must: who has an ownership interest in an agricultural asset located within the State of Nebraska.

005.01A Be a resident of the State of Nebraska;

005.01B Have derived at least fifty percent of his or
her gross annual income for income tax purposes from
farming or livestock production over a period of five
out of the last fifteen years; and

<u>005.01C</u> Have provided at least fifty percent of the day-to-day physical labor and management of a farm over a period of five out of the last ten at least <u>fifteen</u> years to qualify for the granting of tax credits by the Board.

 $\underline{005.02}$ If the owner of agricultural assets is a trust, the trustee must:

005.02A Be a resident of the State of Nebraska;

<u>005.02B</u> Have derived at least fifty percent of his or her income for income tax purposes from farming or livestock production over a period of at least five out

of the last fifteen years; and

<u>005.02C</u> Have provided at least fifty percent of the day-to-day physical labor and management of a farm over a period at of least five out of the last fifteen years.

005.032 If the owner of agricultural assets is a A trust partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other business entity having an ownership interest in an agricultural asset located within the State of Nebraska. it must:

<u>005.03A</u> Have at least one general partner who is a resident of the State of Nebraska;

005.03B Derive at least fifty percent of its income from farming or livestock production over a period of at least five out of the last fifteen years; and

<u>005.03C</u> Have one or more partners who have provided or was his or her spouse at the time the partner provided at least fifty percent of the day-to-day physical labor and management of a farm over a period of at least five out of the last fifteen years to qualify for the granting of tax credits by the Board under the act.

<u>005.04</u> If the owner of the agricultural assets is a corporation or syndicate, it must be qualified to own agricultural land under Article XII, Section 8, of the Constitution of Nebraska.

 $\underline{005.053}$ The Board agrees not to discriminate against any applicant on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex or disability.

<u>006 Application Process for the Beginning Farmer or Livestock</u> Producer and the Owner of Agricultural Assets.

 $\underline{006.01}$ The beginning farmer and the owner of agricultural assets must complete a Nebraska Department of Agriculture Beginning Farmer Application Packet to show written proof of the above eligibility criteria to apply for a tax credit and a certificate of eligibility for a personal property tax exemption.

006.01A A Beginning Farmer Application Packet and

process shall consist of:

- 006.01A(1) A Beginning Farmer application form signed and dated prior to the end of the participating eligible agricultural asset owner's tax year;
- 006.01A(2) A current projected(dated within twelve
 months of the application date) cash flow analysis
 as stated in part 004.07;
- 006.01A(3) A nutrient management plan and a soil
 conservation plan as stated in subsection 004.09;
- <u>006.01A(4)</u> A current net worth statement (dated within twelve months of application) as described in subsection 004.01;
- 006.01A(5) A copy of the three year rental
 agreement signed by the beginning farmer and the
 owner of agricultural assets which states in
 writing the method of rent payment;
 - <u>006.01A(5)(a)</u> For cash rent, a statement of the cash rents to be paid each year for three years; or
 - 006.01A(5)(b) For share rentals agreements, a joint agreement which records the method of determining a fair and reasonable cash equivalent of the dollar amounts of the owner's predetermined portion of the share rental agreement as stated in part 008.02C(2) to be paid each year for three years;
- <u>006.01B</u> The Owner of Agricultural Assets Packet and process shall consist of:
 - 006.01B(1) An Owner of Agricultural Assets
 application form dated prior to the end of his or
 her tax year;
 - 006.01B(2) A copy of the three year rental agreement signed by the beginning farmer and the owner of agricultural assets which states in writing the method of rent payment;

 $\underline{006.01B(2)}$ (a) For cash rent, a statement of the cash rents to be paid each year for three years; or

<u>006.01B(2)(b)</u> share rentals <u>agreements</u>, a joint agreement which records the method of determining a fair and reasonable cash equivalent of the dollar amounts of the owner's <u>predetermined</u> portion of the share rental agreement as stated in part 008.0<u>1</u>C(2) to be paid each year for three years;

006.01B(3) A copy of the succession plan form as outlined in Section 004.10.If the owner and beginning farmer are related, as stated in section 003.03.

<u>006.02</u> Prospective participants may apply to the Board on forms available at the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 94947, 301 Centennial Mall, South - 4th Floor, Lincoln, NE 68509-4947, on copies of the forms, or on forms found on the Department of Agriculture's home web page (<u>www.agr.ne.gov</u>) in the subsection titled Beginning Farmer Program; and

006.03 The completed application forms as listed in subsection 006.01 may be submitted to the Beginning Farmer Program, Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 94947, Lincoln, NE 68509-4947. Electronic submissions will be accepted if an original follows.

007 Application Process.

<u>007.01</u> The staff of the Beginning Farmer Program will;

<u>007.01A</u> Review completed application packets as described in subsection 006.01;

 $\underline{007.01B}$ Send a letter to the applicants to confirm that the application was complete or request additional information from the applicants to clarify or prove eligibility criteria.

007.01C Submit the application packets <u>007.02</u> The application packet will be submitted by the program staff to the Board for review at the next Board meeting;

007.03 The Board will review the application packets from

the beginning farmer and the owner of agricultural assets to determine the eligibility criteria

<u>007.03A007.02 The</u> Board may request additional information from the applicants and delay making a determination of eligibility until the added information is reviewed at the next board meeting;

 $\underline{007.03B}$ 007.03_The Board will determine \underline{the} eligibility of the_beginning farmer to:

007.03A Participate in the Tax Credit Program, and

007.03B Receive a Certificate of Eligibility to present to their County Assessor for acceptance into the Personal Property Tax Exemption Program. has met or livestock producer by a majority vote by the Board that states: and the owner of agricultural assets to determine the eligibility criteria;

007.03B(4) 007.03B(1) The Qualified Beginning Farmer's Certificate of Eligibility is current in year 1, year 2, or year 3 of their three year lease in the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act to begin the Beginning Farmer Tax Exemption for three years.

007.03C Eligibility of the beginning farmer will be based upon:

 $\frac{007.03B(1)}{007.03C(1)}$ The definition of the beginning farmer or livestock producer in subsection 003.02; and

 $\underline{007.03C(2)}$ the The eligibility criteria in section 004; and

 $\frac{007.03B(2)}{007.03C(3)}$ The <u>Completion of the</u> application packet and process <u>as stated</u> in part 006.01A has have been met.

007.03B(3) That he or she is qualified to
participate in the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit
Program; and

007.03D Eligibility of the owner of agricultural assets
will be based upon:

007.03C The Board will determine eligibility of the owner
of agricultural assets by a majority vote of the Board
that states:

 $\frac{007.03C(1)}{007.03D(1)}$ The definition of an owner of agricultural assets in section 77-5203 of the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act; and

007.03C(2) The eligibility criteria in section 005
of the Regulations has been met; and

 $\frac{007.03C(2)}{007.03C(3)}$ The Completion of the application packet and process as stated in part 006.01B. has have been met.and

007.03C(3) That he or she is qualified to
participate in the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit
Program;

<u>007.03D</u> If the beginning farmer or livestock producer or the owner of agricultural assets application is denied, the Board will send a notice to the applicants by certified mail, which will include the reason for denial and describe the steps for appealing the decision.

007.03D(1) The applicants may request a
reconsideration mediation with the Board at their
next scheduled meeting; or

 $\underline{007.03D(2)}$ The applicants may request an appeal following the mediation or choose to forgo the mediation step and go directly to appeal in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

008 Tax Credit Certification.

008.01 Beginning January 1, 2001, a qualified_owner of agricultural assets shall be allowed a refundable tax credit, under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to be applied against the state income tax liability of such owner for agricultural assets leased or rented to a qualified beginning farmer or livestock producer. The credit allowed shall be for assets located in Nebraska;

<u>008.021A</u> The amount of annual_tax credit for the owner of agricultural assets will be based on the rent received by the owner;

<u>008.021AB</u> Such assets shall be rented or leased at prevailing community rates as agreed to by the beginning farmer or livestock producer and the owner of the agricultural assets;

802.021BC The tax credit will be equal to five percent

of;

 $\underline{008.01}\underline{BC}(1)$ Ten percent of \underline{t} he annual gross cash rental income paid by the beginning farmer or livestock producer to the owner of said assets; or

008.01BC(2) Fifteen percent of the approved cash equivalent of the annual share_rental agreement as stated in a signed joint agreement which records the method of determining a fair and reasonable cash equivalent of the dollar amounts of the owner's portion of the share rental agreement as stated in divisions 006.01A(5)(b) and 006.01B(2)(b) to be paid each year for three years;

<u>008.0216</u>D If the Board does not approve the_dollar amount as the cash equivalent of the share rental agreement, the beginning farmer and the owner of the agricultural assets may submit a new plan for approval or begin the appeal process in part 007.03D;

008.02 A qualified beginning farmer or livestock producer in the first, second, or third year of a qualifying three-year rental agreement shall be allowed a one-time credit to be applied against the state income tax liability of such individual for the cost of participation in the financial management program required for eliqibility under section 77-5209 of the Act. The amount of the credit shall be the actual cost of participation in an approved program incurred during the tax year for which the credit is claimed, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars.

008.03 The tax credit eligibility is reviewed and certified annually by the Board.

<u>008.03A</u> A tax credit certificate will be completed by the Board and given to the Nebraska Department of Revenue each year of the lease or rental agreement; distributed by the Board to the owners.

- 008.03A(1) One certificate will be kept in the Beginning Farmer Program files; and
- 008.03A(2) Two certificates will be mailed to the owner of agricultural assets; one of which should be attached to his or her Nebraska income tax return and the other kept for their personal records.
- <u>008._03</u>B One copy of the certificate will be kept for the Beginning Farmer Program files, and two copies of the_certificates will be mailed to the owner of the agricultural assets: one copy to be_attached to his or her Nebraska income_tax return_and the other_copy for their personal records;
- <u>008.03CB</u> The tax_credit shall be granted by the Department of Revenue when the agricultural asset owner files their annual Nebraska income tax return;
- 008. 03DC The A tax_credit may be granted each year_for
 a period of up to three years;
 - <u>008. 03DC(1)</u> Each agricultural asset will not be rented or leased by the beginning farmer or livestock producer as part of the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act more than three years, except as allowed in section 009;
 - $\underline{008.03DC(2)}$ An owner of agricultural assets may receive a tax credit on more than one lease with different parties or with the same party during the same three year period;
 - <u>008.03DC(3)</u> An agricultural_asset may receive tax credits from one to three years while being owned by one owner except as allowed in subsection 009.02; and
 - $\underline{008.\ 03DC(4)}$ A qualified beginning farmer or livestock producer may be eligible to rent or lease more than one agricultural asset from one or more qualified owners of agricultural_assets.
- 009 Guidelines and Procedures Relating to Tax Credits.

- <u>009.01</u> <u>Quarterly</u>, <u>At least semi-annually</u>, the Board will review the rental agreements between new or pending applications from beginning farmers and owners of agricultural assets for tax credit certification;
- 009.02 Annually, during the last quarter before the end of the agricultural asset_owner's_tax year, the Board will certify or terminate by a majority vote, the tax credit eligibility as per sections 008 and 009 and sub section 004.11;
- $\underline{009.03}$ 2 An owner of agricultural assets or qualified beginning farmer or livestock producer may terminate such agreement according to the terms of said contractual agreement or for reasonable cause. The agricultural owner's tax credit shall be affected as follows:
 - <u>009.032A</u> The owner of the agricultural asset shall not be eligible for further credits on that particular asset unless the rental agreement is terminated prior to the end of the three-year period through no fault of the owner of agricultural asset;
 - <u>009.032B</u> If the Board finds that such a termination was not the fault of the owner of agricultural assets, they may approve the owner for credits arising from a subsequent qualifying rental agreement with a different qualified beginning farmer or livestock producer;
 - 009.032C If an agreement is terminated without fault on the part of the owner of agricultural assets as determined by the Board, the tax credit shall not be retroactively disallowed;
 - 009.032D If an agreement is terminated with fault on the part of_the owner of agricultural assets as determined by the Board, any prior tax credits claimed by such owner shall be disallowed and recaptured and shall be immediately due and payable to the State of Nebraska;
 - 009.032E If an agreement is terminated without fault on the part of the beginning farmer as determined by the Board, the beginning farmer who is eligible may rent or lease additional agricultural assets from the same or other eligible owner's of agricultural assets as part of the tax credit program; or

 $\underline{009.032F}$ Should an agricultural asset be sold during the 3 year term, the new owner and the rental agreement must qualify under the act in order for the tax credit to apply.

<u>009.043</u> The eligible rental agreements as stated in subpart 006.01A(5) and the positive cash flow analysis as stated in part 004.07B, will be reviewed by the Board to determine by a majority vote that the farm or facility meets the definition of a viably sized farm as stated in subsection 003.06. The farm or livestock facility may vary according to the region of the state where it is located; the quality, type, and number of crops or livestock produced; off farm income and expense; and other factors related to the farming or livestock production;

<u>009.054</u> Allowable tax credit shall be distributed in the same manner as income is distributed to the partners, members, shareholders, or beneficiaries of a partnership, a corporation, a syndicate, or an estate or trust; and

009.065 If a dispute arises, the beginning farmer or livestock producer or the owner of the agricultural assets may voluntarily request mediation to determine a solution that is acceptable to both.

010 Financial Management Program Certification and Guidelines. Board approved financial management programs to be completed by the beginning farmer or livestock producer shall include the following:010.01 course work on the creation and proper use of record-keeping systems, periodic private consultations with financial management personnel, monthly and year-end cash flow analysis, detailed enterprise analysis, etc. 010.02 Written Proof of completion of the program or course, and qualifies the Beginning Farmer for the tax credit defined in 008.032.

010.03 The financial management course work shall be paid for by the beginning farmer or livestock producer unless a waiver can be granted by the school or payment is received from another source.

<u>011.00</u> <u>Beginning Farmer Personal Property Tax Exemption</u> Certification and Guidelines.

011.01 The Qualified Beginning Farmer as defined in Section 003.02 that is eligible for the Beginning Farmer Tax Exemption will apply for an Eligibility Certificate from the Beginning

- Farmer Tax Credit Program with such application postmarked submitted on or before November 1st of the year preceding the year for which the exemption is to begin. Originals must follow electronic submission of applications within 10 working days.
- 011.02 On or before December $31^{\rm st}$ of the year preceding the year for which the exemption is to begin, the beginning farmer attaches the original Eligibility Certificate to the application forms prescribed by the Tax Commissioner in the county assessor's office.
 - 011.02A Failure to provide the required documentation to their county assessor shall result in a denial of the exemption for the following year but shall be considered as an application for the year thereafter.
 - 011.02B The county assessor shall approve or deny the application for exemption and issue notice of approval or denial on or before February 1st.
- 011.03 If the application is approved, the county assessor shall exempt no more than one hundred thousand dollars of taxable value of agricultural or horticultural machinery and equipment for each year irrespective of whether the person claiming the exemption no longer meets the qualification of a beginning farmer pursuant to section 77-5209 unless the beginning farmer discontinues farming or livestock production.
- 011.04 If the application is denied by the county assessor, a written protest of the denial of the application may be filed within thirty days after the mailing of the denial to the county board of equalization.
- 011.05 Any person whose agricultural and horticultural machinery and equipment has been exempted from tangible personal property tax pursuant to this section shall be permanently disqualified from any further exemption from tangible personal property tax as a qualified beginning farmer or livestock producer.
- <u>012.00 Annotation.</u> <u>Neb. Rev. Stat. ''77-5201 to 77-5215 (1999 Laws of Nebraska, LB 623 and 2000 Laws of Nebraska, LB1223 and LB 1027).</u>