

## Micro-Loan Program for New Mexico Farmers

Permaculture Guild (PcGuild) is a non-profit organization acting as a fiscal sponsor and a sister organization to the Permaculture Credit Union (PCU). In that role and keeping as our mission the ethics of permaculture: care of the earth, care of the people and re-investing the surplus, we are able to accept tax deductible donations to help with projects that are based on those ethics.

In partnership with the New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association (NMFMA) and the PCU, the PcGuild has introduced a micro-loan program for farmers all across the state of New Mexico.

With donations received, the PcGuild maintains an account at the PCU with funds to be used as collateral for these small loans to NM farmers. This enables the loans to be offered at a low interest rate and as the loans are re-paid, the funds can be re-used to secure new loans. It is reuse and recycling at its best!

Please tell other farmers and friends about this loan program. In addition, they can make a tax- deductible donation to the PcGuild's micro-loan fund.

### Comments from Farmers:

"I grow carrots, potatoes, and onions in Cerro, N.M., and needed a loan to complete the construction of a refrigerated storage building to hold my harvest so that I can sell it from August through December. The process of getting the micro-loan was as easy as explaining why I wanted the loan in a letter that I composed in a few minutes and emailed to the Permaculture Guild. I received a phone call a week later letting me know that the loan was approved; not even a credit check was required. After completion of a one page loan application with the PCU, I had the loan funds in my pocket. The Permaculture Guild has made the micro-loan application process as easy and pleasant as I can imagine."

Daniel Carmona  
Cerro Vista Farm  
Cerro, NM

The Permaculture Guild really came through when we needed them, seemingly without the normal pressures of dealing with a bank. Their actions reflect a community minded group who care about the success of their local economy.

Margaret Campos  
Comida de Campos  
Embudo, NM

**Loans in amounts of \$500 to \$3000 are available for any small-scale farmers who sell their produce at New Mexico farmers' markets. The loans have a 6% fixed interest rate and can be paid back within 40 months.**

## Eligibility Requirements

*To qualify for a loan, applicants must comply with each of the following requirements:*

1. Submit an NMFMA/Pc Guild Prequalification Letter. Letter guidelines are available in this brochure, on NMFMA's website at [www.farmersmarketsnm.org](http://www.farmersmarketsnm.org) and on the PcGuild website at [www.permacultureguild.org](http://www.permacultureguild.org). Applicants may also call PcGuild, 505-471-6338, to request an application form by mail or fax.
2. Must be a Permaculture Credit Union member by establishing an account at PCU with a \$50.00 balance, and upon pre-qualification approval, fill out a basic one page PCU Loan Application.
3. Must be a food producer and food vendor (for at least one year) at a NMFMA member market. Written verification from a market manager is required (e-mail from manager OK).
4. Must document results and complete an exit interview at the end of the payment period.

## Application Guidelines

*Please submit a pre-qualification letter (legible and preferably typed) with the following information:*

1. Your mailing address, phone number and e-mail address.
2. A brief description of your farm including its size and what you grow.
3. The size of the loan you are applying for from PcGuild.
4. A description of the project or intended use(s) for the funds.
5. A brief explanation of how this funding will help to increase your ability to continue farming and/or improve your profitability.

**Send your Pre-qualification Letters to:**  
nora@permacultureguild.org

Or mail to:  
Permaculture Guild  
PO box 4312  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

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## For more information, contact:

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nora@permacultureguild.org  
www.permacultureguild.org

Or

Denise Miller, Director,  
New Mexico Farmers Marketing  
Association  
(505) 983-4010 - Santa Fe area  
(888) 983-4400 - toll-free  
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Permaculture Guild

New Mexico  
Farmer's Markets  
Micro-Loan Program

