Southern Maryland Revolving Loan Application

The Southern Maryland Revolving Loan Fund for Agriculture, offered by the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC, a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland) and MARBIDCO, helps agricultural producers in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties finance smaller projects that may not qualify for traditional commercial lending. Subsidized low-cost loans may be used for:

- the purchase of livestock and shellfish aquaculture foundation
- the production of small fruits and hops
- upgrades for the safe growing, harvesting, packing and holding of produce in conformance with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)
- value added processing equipment and services
- costs related to the foundation development and expansion of the regional equine (horse) farm industry

Loans range from $10,000 to $20,000, with no collateral required. The program supports a viable, sustainable, market-driven agricultural community in Southern Maryland. Borrowers in good standing may receive forgiveness of about 20–25% of the loan amount at the end of the term by not having to make the final quarter of amortizing payments.

Loan Terms and Conditions

Term	Details
Minimum/Maximum loan amount	$10,000/$20,000
MARBIDCO interest rate	4.50%
Loan origination fee	None (Paid by SMADC)
Loan terms (typically)	One to Four years, following an interest only period (see below for details, varies by eligible loan use)
Credit Score	Minimum 620 required
Personal guarantee	Required. All loans made to a business entity must be personally guaranteed by the owners of the business.
Application	Must be originated by the applicant
Send completed applications to	Email completed applications to MARBIDCO Loan Programs (info@marbidco.org) or mail to MARBIDCO Loan Programs, 1410 Forest Drive, Suite 21, Annapolis, MD 21403

Eligible Loan Uses and Loan Terms

Livestock & Shellfish Aquaculture Foundation Development

Supports livestock purchases, herd or flock expansion, and shellfish aquaculture development to strengthen Southern Maryland's meat and farm-raised seafood industries.

Livestock and Shellfish Aquaculture Eligible Uses

a) Livestock and shellfish aquaculture species acquisition
b) Additional eligible uses for livestock and shellfish aquaculture
c) Bull/beef semen and artificial insemination (AI) to improve existing herd genetics. May be administered by livestock producers with AI certification or professionally administered by a certified AI technician and/or veterinarian.
d) Meat locker (refrigeration) facilities
e) Fencing
f) Animal shelters
g) Shellfish aquaculture seed/larvae, substrate/shell, cages, and equipment
h) Ineligible uses for livestock and shellfish aquaculture- Motorized vehicles, including tractors and boats

Livestock and Shellfish Aquaculture Loan Terms

Eligible Use	**Interest-Only Period**
Species Acquisition	
Beef	18 months
Pigs	9 months
Goats/Lambs	12 months
Poultry/Rabbits	3 months
Turkeys	6 months
Shellfish Aquaculture	18 months
Additional eligible uses for livestock and shellfish aquaculture	Up to 12 months of interest-only payments. MARBIDCO will set repayment schedules case by case, up to a 48-month maximum based on asset life.

Small Fruits and Hops

Supports new and expanding small fruit and hops operations in Southern Maryland.

Small Fruits and Hops Eligible Uses

a) Small fruits and hops include perennial vines and root stock for hops, blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries.
b) Trellising and netting

Small Fruits and Hops Loan Terms

Up to 12 months of interest-only payments. MARBIDCO will set repayment schedules case by case, up to 48 months based on asset life and revenue potential.

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Food Safety Upgrades

Supports farm improvements for safer growing, harvesting, packing, and produce handling in line with GAP and, when applicable, FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements. These upgrades can improve access to retail, wholesale, and institutional markets.

GAP and Food Safety Upgrades Eligible Uses

a) Water
- Install drip irrigation.
- Water treatment for potable water in packing houses; UV treatment for irrigation water.
- Convert from surface water to groundwater through irrigation wells.

b) Compost/Manure
- Compost turner.
- Compost structure to prevent runoff and crop contamination.

c) Harvest
- Crates that can be sanitized.
- Packing baskets that can be sanitized.
- Handwashing stations for field use.

d) Packing House
- Enclosed structure.
- Nonporous flooring.
- Equipment such as graders/packers, cleanable belts, and peracetic acid injection and monitoring systems.
- Walk-in cooler.
- Non-wood pallets.
- Handwashing stations.
- Traceback software.

GAP and Food Safety Upgrades Loan Terms

Up to 12 months of interest-only payments. MARBIDCO will set repayment schedules case by case, up to 48 months based on asset life and revenue potential.

Value-Added Farm Products

Supports on-farm production of value-added products, including alcohol, jams and jellies, pickles, ferments, dried fruits and vegetables, artisanal grain milling, meat and poultry processing, forestry products, fur, and fiber.

Value-Added Farm Products Eligible Uses

a) Processing Equipment may include:

- Digital thermometer.
- Scale.
- pH meter.
- Commercial water-bath canner and pressure cookers.
- Storage jars and fermentation crocks.
- Commercial-grade dehydrator and trays.
- Commercial-grade grain/flour mill, grinder, flaker, or roller.
- Commercial food saws, slicers, choppers, grinders, smokers, and similar equipment.
- Commercial poultry-processing equipment such as cones, scalders, and pluckers.
- Canning machinery, bottling equipment, and vacuum sealers.
- Pasteurization equipment and flash-freeze refrigeration.
- Fermentation, brewing, and distillation equipment.
- Sawmill, kilns, and similar equipment.
- Commercial fiber/yarn production equipment such as carding, spinning, bleaching/dyeing machinery, and looms.

b) Process-Related Professional Industry Support Services

- FDA-certified Acidified Better Process Control School (one-time fee).
- Process authority reviews, including consultations and process letters.
- Heat penetration study.
- Laboratory analysis.
- Nutritional label analysis.

Value-Added Farm Products Loan Terms

Up to 12 months of interest-only payments. MARBIDCO will set repayment schedules case by case, up to 48 months based on asset life and revenue potential.

Equine Industry Foundation Development and Expansion

Supports horse farms, including riding, instruction, boarding, rescue, and breeding facilities, and encourages growth in Southern Maryland’s equine industry.

Equine Related Eligible Uses

a) Fencing (board/rail lumber or equine-standard vinyl/PVC fence systems).
b) Purchase of school horses or ponies to establish or enhance riding and lesson programs.
c) Materials and construction for horse barns, stalls, run-in sheds, tack/equipment storage, and indoor or outdoor show rings and schooling areas.
d) Specialized footing for arenas and schooling areas.
e) Lighting fixtures to expand use of outdoor arenas and schooling areas.

Ineligible Uses- Purchase of equines for breeding purposes.

Equine Industry Loan Terms

Up to 12 months of interest-only payments. MARBIDCO will set repayment schedules case by case, up to 48 months based on asset life and revenue potential.

Fund Disbursement

All loans include an interest-only period. During that time, borrowers must submit disbursement request forms to MARBIDCO for reimbursement of eligible expenses or direct payment to vendors. Requests must be submitted before the interest-only period ends; no additional funds may be disbursed after that period.

Loan Repayment Assistance

This program offers substantial repayment assistance for starting or expanding an agricultural operation. Loans generally run from one to four years, with quarterly payments. During the initial period, borrowers make modest interest-only payments, followed by regular amortizing payments. Borrowers in good standing who make payments and carry out their production plans may have the final 25% of repayment forgiven, effectively reducing the loan balance by about 20–25%. *Note: Borrowers not in good standing are not eligible for partial loan forgiveness and must repay the full original loan amount.*

Southern Maryland Revolving Loan Fund Application

Applicant Information

Intended Borrower ☐Farm Business Entity ☐Individual

Individual or Business/Farm Name: ______________________________

Business Address: ______________________________

City: ______________________ County: ______________________

State: ______________________ ZIP: ______________________

Contact Person: ______________________ Title: ______________________

Phone: ______________________ Email: ______________________

Loan Request Information

Loan Amount Requested: ______________

Requested Amortization Term (1-4 years): ______________

Length of Interest-Only Period: ______________________

Estimated Date Funds will be fully drawn: ________________

Use of Funds	Amount

Other Sources of Funds

Source	Amount

Business Structure

Year Established: ____________ State: __________

☐Corporation ☐Partnership ☐Proprietorship ☐LLC ☐Other

Project Type

☐Livestock and Shellfish Aquaculture Foundation Development

☐Small Fruits and Hops

☐GAP and Food Safety Upgrades

☐Value Added Farm Products

☐Equine Industry Foundation Development and Expansion

Employment Data

Category	Number
Current Full-Time	
New Full-Time within 36 months	
Current Part-Time	
New Part-Time within 36 months	

Project Advisor *(If applicable)*

Advisor Name: ____

Title: ____

Institution Firm: ____

Phone: ______________________________ Email: ____________________________

Management/Ownership

If there are more than 2 owners, provide the information for all owners and attach to application.

Management/Ownership (Owner 1)

Name: ____

Title: ____________________ Ownership %: ______________

SSN: ____________________ Date of Birth: ______________

Address: ____

City, State, Zip: ____

Phone: __________________ Email: ____________________

Are you a "beginner farmer" (defined as not operating a farm or ranch as a principal operator for more than 10 years): ☐ Yes ☐ No

Management/Ownership (Owner 2)

Name: ____

Title: ____________________ Ownership %: ______________

SSN: ____________________ Date of Birth: ______________

Address: ____

City, State, Zip: ____

Phone: __________________ Email: ____________________

Are you a "beginner farmer" (defined as not operating a farm or ranch as a principal operator for more than 10 years): ☐ Yes ☐ No

Farm Property Information

Farm Address: ____

City: ____________________ County: ____________________

State: ____________________ ZIP: ____________________

Is the farm property a working farm today? ☐Yes ☐No

Physical Facilities (Real Estate) If owned

Annual Mortgage Payment: ____________ Term of Mortgage: ____________

Appraised Value: _______________

Number of Parcels: _______________

Size (acres): _______________

Irrigated (select one): ☐ Yes ☐ No

Type/ No. of Buildings: _____________________

Tillable Acres: _______________

Physical Facilities (Real Estate) If leased

Annual Rental Expense: ______________

Location: _______________

Name of Lessor: ______________________

Contact number of Lessor: _______________

Size (acres): _______________

Attachments Checklist

All applicable items must be submitted with the application for MARBIDCO to consider the application complete and ready to begin reviewing.

☐Brief description of project, including the justification for MARBIDCO financing

☐Brief description of the farm as it operates today

☐Farm Business plan to receive financing

☐Resume(s) or work history of principal business owner(s) and/or farm manager(s)

☐Applicant *and* farm operation tax returns for the two preceding years

☐*Completed Balance Sheet

☐*Completed Income Statement for the past 2 years

☐*Completed Pro Forma Income Statement

☐*Completed Debt Repayment Schedule

☐If the business entity is the borrower, submit Organization Documents including:

- For a Corporation: Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Corporate Resolution
- For an LLC: Articles of Organization, Operating Agreement, Members' Resolution
- For a Limited Partnership: Certificate of a Limited Partnership, Limited Partnership Agreement, Partners' Resolution

Templates for Balance Sheets, Income Statements and Debt Repayment Schedules are available on MARBIDCO's website.

Note: MARBIDCO agrees to hold Recipient's Application and Financial Reports in confidence to the extent reasonably permitted by Title 10, Subtitle 6 of the State Government Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*. Notwithstanding the aforegoing, MARBIDCO shall not be obligated to maintain in confidence any information: 1) which was already known to MARBIDCO; or, 2) which is or comes into the public domain through no fault of MARBIDCO; or, 3) which is independently developed by MARBIDCO; or, 4) which comes to MARBIDCO from a third party which is not in violation of any obligation of confidentiality to Applicant or MARBIDCO.

Declarations

If answering “yes” to any of these questions, please provide an explanation on a separate sheet and attach.

1. Is the business or any of the top management personnel an endorser, guarantor or co-signer for obligations not listed on its/their financial statements? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Is the business or any of the top management personnel a party to any claim or lawsuit? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Has the business or any of the top management personnel ever declared bankruptcy? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Does the business or any of the management personnel owe any taxes for prior years? ☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Have any managers or owners received a felony conviction? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Conflict of Interest and Ethics Certification

The applicant certifies compliance with the Maryland Public Ethics Law. The applicant affirms that to the best of their knowledge, no State official or employee—nor any qualifying relative (spouse, parent, child, brother, or sister) of a State official or employee—is employed by or has a financial interest in the applicant's business. Furthermore, no State official or employee has a financial interest in the proceeds of this loan or a financial interest in an entity that is negotiating or has entered a contract with the governmental unit.

Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691)

MARBIDCO does not discriminate in its lending practices. The Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA) and the laws of the State of Maryland strictly prohibit creditors from discriminating against credit applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age (provided the applicant has the capacity to enter into a binding contract), physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, because all or part of the applicant’s income derives from any public assistance program, or because the applicant has in good faith exercised any right under the Consumer Credit Protection Act.

The Federal agency that administers compliance with the federal law concerning this creditor is the Federal Trade Commission, Equal Credit Opportunity, Washington, D.C. 20580.

Authority to Collect Personal Information

This notice is provided pursuant to § 4-501 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Code. The personal information requested on this application is intended to be used in processing your loan request. Failure to provide the information requested may result in your application not being processed or receiving full consideration. You have the right to inspect, amend, or correct this form.

MARBIDCO is a public agency and is subject to the Maryland Public Information Act. Please be advised that information contained in this form may be made available on the Internet via the agency's website and is subject to inspection or copying, in whole or in part, by the public and other governmental agencies, unless the information is explicitly protected from disclosure by federal or State law.

I authorize the disclosure of all information submitted in connection with this application to the financial institution agreeing to participate in the project financing.

I waive all claims against any financial institution agreeing to participate in the project financing or MARBIDCO.

I realize that if I do not comply with the aforementioned Certification, my loan can be called, terminated or repayments accelerated.

I authorize MARBIDCO to obtain any additional financial information concerning me from any source which MARBIDCO reasonably requires in order to determine whether to make the requested loan, including credit histories, credit reports, and credit scores.

Certification

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Maryland that the information provided in this application, including all statements, representations, and accompanying documents, is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge.
I understand and acknowledge that submitting false, misleading, or intentionally incomplete information is a violation of State law. I agree that any such misrepresentation may result in the immediate denial of this application, the immediate acceleration and demand for repayment of any loan funds already disbursed, and referral to the appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution for fraud and/or perjury.

Signatures

Applicant Name: ____

Signature: ____

Date: ___________________

Applicant Name: ____

Signature: ____

Date: ___________________

Electronic signatures, including PDF or emailed signatures, are considered original.

How did you hear about this MARBIDCO financial program?

☐ Search Engine (Google, Bing, etc.)
☐Social media
☐Recommended by a friend
☐Event table or exhibit
☐MARBIDCO newsletter
☐Advertisement
☐Other (specify): ___________________________

☐Referred by: [Enter name/organization/state agency]:______________________________