

Rural Development

Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Through our programs, we help rural Americans in many ways. RD offers loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment; and water, electric and communications infrastructure. RD promotes economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools. We offer technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their operations. RD provides technical assistance to help communities undertake community empowerment programs. RD also assists rural residents buy or rent safe, affordable housing and make health and safety repairs to their homes.



Value Added Producer Grants:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/value-added-fact-sheet-fy-2022.pdf>



**Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**
https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fact-sheet/508_RD_FS_RBS_REAP_RE.pdf



Microentrepreneur Assistance:

https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fact-sheet/508_RD_FS_RBS_RMAP.pdf

FARMERS.GOV: How to Start a Farm Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

<https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers>



Contact USDA

Find us on the Web!

Farm Service Agency
www.fsa.usda.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.nrcs.usda.gov

Risk Management Agency
www.rma.usda.gov

Rural Development
www.rd.usda.gov

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United States Department of Agriculture



Beginning Farmer and Rancher Resources



FSA | NRCS | RMA | RD

USDA New Farmers


Who is a new farmer? New farmers and ranchers can be young or old, interested in emerging agricultural technology or making things grow. Some new farmers are young people growing their responsibilities within family businesses, but many come from non-farming backgrounds and are learning about a whole new world. New farmers are everywhere. Visit USDA's New Farmer Discovery Tool website to get started <https://newfarmers.usda.gov/>


Farm Service Agency

FSA supports farms and farming communities with many different programs that assist farmers in diverse aspects of their operations. FSA offers disaster relief for livestock loss (LIP) and dairies through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Market Facilitation Program as well as many others. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) are land conservation programs that provide an annual rental payment to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production to help improve environmental health and quality. FSA provides many different loan programs for established and beginning producers such as facility, marketing, ownership, operating loans, etc. To determine eligibility for FSA programs, acreage reporting is key. Acreage reporting is a way of documenting what crops have been planted as well as maintaining cropping history.



 **Acreage Reporting:**
https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/fsa_cropacreagereporting_factsheet_22.pdf

 **Farm Loan Programs:**
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/beginning-farmers-and-ranchers-loans/index>

 **Farm Loan Factsheet:**
https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/fsa_loansbeginningfarmersranchers-factsheet-21-v2.pdf

Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS assists America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to conserve the nation's soil, water, air and other natural resources. All programs are voluntary and offer science-based solutions that benefit both the landowner and the environment. NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground.



New Farmer definition:
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/people/outreach/slbfr/>

Indiana strives to serve all customers, with a special commitment to assisting individuals and groups underserved in the past. Qualified beginning farmers and ranchers may receive higher payment rates, priority in fund categories, or have specially designated fund categories, as listed in the Environment Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) fund category table.

Visit the Small, Limited Resource, and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers page for the NRCS definition of "Historically Underserved."



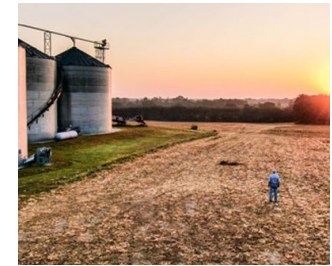
Historically Underserved Definition
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/people/outreach/slbfr/>



NRCS Financial Assistance Programs:
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/>

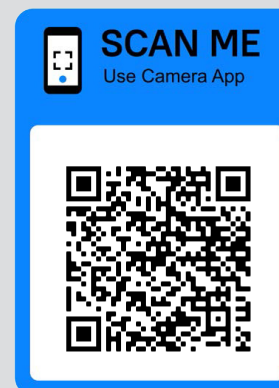
Risk Management Agency

RMA serves America's agricultural producers through effective, marketbased risk management tools to strengthen the economic stability of agricultural producers and rural communities. RMA manages the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) to provide innovative crop insurance products to America's farmers and ranchers. RMA's vision is to secure the future of agriculture by providing world class risk management tools to rural America.



Beginning Farmer & Crop Insurance:
<https://www.rma.usda.gov/Fact-Sheets/National-Fact-Sheets/Beginning-Farmer-and-Rancher-Benefits-for-Crop-Insurance>

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