

# NEW FARMERS

From farm loans to crop insurance, and conservation programs to disaster assistance, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is here to support you and your operation.

## GET STARTED

### Contact Your Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator

Each State has a coordinator that can help you with questions on working with USDA.

Find yours at [farmers.gov/manage/newfarmers/coordinators](https://farmers.gov/manage/newfarmers/coordinators).

### Contact Your Local USDA Service Center

Service Centers are USDA offices where Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff can meet with you one-on-one to discuss your vision, goals, and ways USDA can help. Steps to the process are on the next page.

## USDA SERVICE CENTER AGENCIES

### Farm Service Agency (FSA)

FSA provides disaster assistance, safety net, farm loan, and conservation programs and is the go-to agency for many USDA records. If you're new to working with USDA, your FSA team member will help you register your farm with a farm number. Depending on what you raise or grow, filing an acreage report each season can ensure you're eligible for many programs and allows you to vote in county FSA elections.

### Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS provides financial and technical assistance and easement programs for conservation on working lands. Your NRCS team member will ask about your goals for your land and can help you develop a conservation plan and file an application for the wide range of NRCS programs.



## ADDITIONAL USDA RESOURCES

### Risk Management Agency (RMA)

RMA administers federal crop insurance through Approved Insurance Providers to help farmers prepare for the future. Special provisions are available to beginning farmers.

### Rural Development (RD)

RD provides loans, grants, loan guarantees, and technical assistance, along with support for affordable housing, infrastructure modernization, businesses, cooperatives, and other essential community services.

### Cooperative Extension

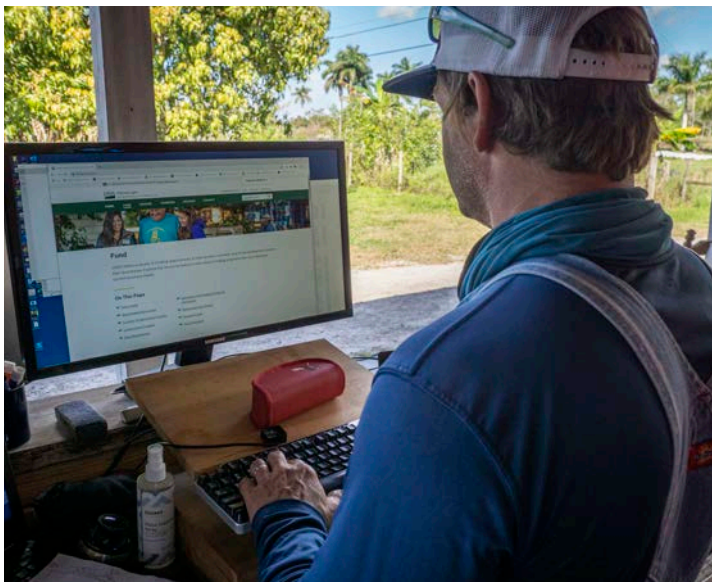
USDA and agricultural colleges around the country work together to support an extensive network of State, regional, and county Cooperative Extension offices, which can help answer questions you may have about your operation and address common issues faced by agricultural producers.

## GET STARTED WITH YOUR LOCAL USDA SERVICE CENTER

Find your local USDA Service Center at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator), which has staff who can meet with you one-on-one to discuss your vision for your land and how we can help. Free, real-time translation service is also available at the Service Center for non-English speakers. Learn more at [farmers.gov/interpret](https://farmers.gov/interpret).

### BEFORE YOUR MEETING

- 1. Make an appointment.** This will ensure quick service. Our offices can get busy, especially at times around program sign-up and reporting deadlines.
- 2. Prepare.** Ask what documents are needed to help to make the most of your appointment. Examples could include lease agreements, bank account information, inventory or production records, legal paperwork, or personal identification numbers.
- 3. Think about your vision.** What is your vision for your land and farm? What are your challenges?



### MORE INFORMATION

Learn more at [farmers.gov/newfarmers](https://farmers.gov/newfarmers).

### DURING YOUR MEETING

- 1. Register for a farm number.** This is required to participate in USDA programs. Have available an official tax identification (Social Security number or employer ID) and a property deed. If you do not own the land, be sure to have your lease agreement. If your operation is incorporated or an entity, we may need proof of your signature authority and legal ability to sign contracts with USDA.
- 2. Discuss your business and conservation goals.** Your local FSA or NRCS team members need to understand your vision to recommend programs for your operation. For example, are you looking for access to capital, to rebuild after a natural disaster, or to improve your farm's soil health, improve irrigation, or attract more wildlife?
- 3. Make a plan to meet conservation compliance provisions.** You'll need to file form AD-1026 to ensure wetland areas and highly erodible lands are not farmed, unless following an NRCS conservation plan. This is required for all USDA program eligibility, including disaster assistance.
- 4. Verify eligibility.** For most USDA programs, producers must file a CCC-941 to verify they do not exceed an adjusted gross income of \$900,000.
- 5. File your program application.** We can help you complete the forms.
- 6. Sign up for email or text updates.** This will help you stay informed about program signups or deadlines.

### AFTER YOUR MEETING

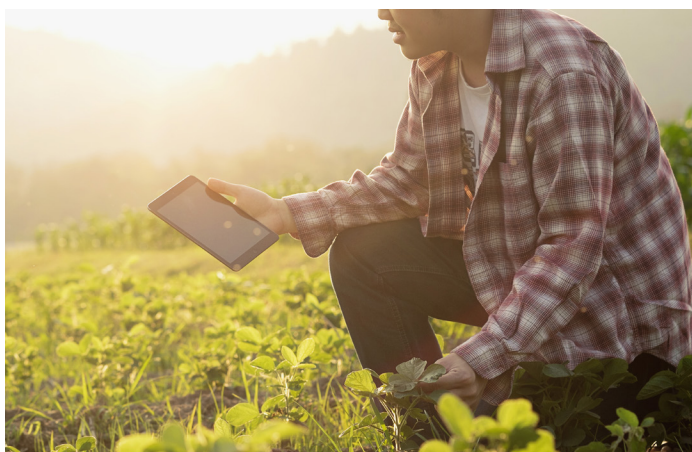
- 1. File your acreage reports throughout the year.**
- 2. Keep in touch with your local office.** Let us know if your business changes or you experience a disaster or hardship.
- 3. Learn about self-service options.** Create a [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov) account to manage some of your USDA business online.





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# On the Go? Stay Connected with USDA.



Receive email and text message alerts from USDA's **Farm Service Agency (FSA)**, **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** and **Risk Management Agency (RMA)** while on-the-go, in the field, on the tractor or even on horseback.

## Subscribe to receive timely updates on:

- ➔ Deadline Reminders
- ➔ Program Notifications
- ➔ Reporting Requirements
- ➔ Local Outreach Events
- ➔ Conservation Initiatives
- ➔ Disaster Assistance
- ➔ Crop Insurance

Scan the QR code to receive email and text messages\* or visit [farmers.gov/subscribe](https://farmers.gov/subscribe):

*\*Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details. You may unsubscribe at any time.*



For additional information or assistance with your subscriptions, contact your local USDA Service Center by visiting [Farmers.gov/service-center-locator](https://Farmers.gov/service-center-locator)



# First Visit? What to Bring Documents to Get Started



## Information Required for Farm Number

Producers can establish a farm with Farm Service Agency (FSA) if they plan to apply for a program administered by FSA or another USDA agency that requires a farm number. To establish a farm, the following documentation can be provided to your local FSA office:

1. FSA form AD-2047 to collect personal information including address, Social Security Number, phone number(s), fax number(s), email address, etc., for each member of the farming operation, in addition to a copy of Social Security Card.

If the farming interest is through an entity, the same information must be provided for the entity.

2. Copy of the deed or other legal document that transferred ownership of the property to you with all required signatures and stamps to show it has been notarized and recorded. Ownership information must be provided for all the agricultural land in which there is an interest (i.e. owner, operator, tenant, etc.), not only the farm that will be enrolled in an FSA or other USDA agency program.

If you lease a farm, a deed must be provided to FSA to establish the farm, in addition to a copy of the lease(s) to verify the current operator or tenant on the farm.

3. If the property is owned and/or operated through an entity (i.e. corporation, LLC, partnership, etc.), copies of the official documents must be provided for the entity. This is required by federal regulation as verification for: (1) the representative authorized to sign for the entity, and (2) the entity exists and is recognized by the Texas Secretary of State, if applicable.

4. A map is not required to be submitted, but may assist FSA staff in locating property.

Additional information may be requested, as required by FSA handbook 10-CM.

Once the farm has been established, it will be assigned a farm number. The farm number is used by other USDA agencies for the program applications (i.e. NRCS uses farm numbers for EQIP applications, etc.). Producers will also be included on FSA's mailing list and will receive monthly newsletters and other general mailings pertaining to USDA programs.

## Information Required for Land Changes

If information for an existing farm number needs to be updated, such as the owner(s), operator, or the addition or removal of land, the below information can be provided to FSA to request the record change:

- Copy of Recorded Deed
- Copy of Field Notes and Survey
- Copy of the Plat Map

## Short List

1. AD-2047
2. Copy of Deed
3. Lease Agreement, if applicable.
4. Copies of official documents for entity, if applicable.
5. Maps are not required, but may assist FSA staff in locating property.

If you have additional questions on what documents may be needed to get started, contact your local FSA office.

Find your local Service Center at [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov)

FSA has additional flexibilities for operators of heirs' property in obtaining a farm number or being declared operator of a farm.

Visit [farmers.gov/heirs](https://farmers.gov/heirs) for more information.



## Establishing Producer Record

To create a producer record with FSA, the information for the applicable producer type must be submitted to your local FSA office. Additional information may be requested for determining payment eligibility to participate in FSA or other USDA programs.

## Individuals

- AD-2047
- Social Security Card
- Voided Check (if participating in FSA programs)

## Estates

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Copy of Employer Identification Number (EIN) assigned to the Estate by the IRS
- Copy of Order to Probate, if the Estate will be probated
- Copy of Will or Copy of Affidavit of Heirship
- If no will, Original Letter of Testamentary or Letter of Administration

## Corporations

- Copy of Articles of Incorporation
- Copy of Bylaws
- Copy of Certification of Incorporation
- Copy of Organizational Meeting Minutes
- Copy of SS-4 letter from the IRS, assigning the EIN for the corporation

**Note:** If the corporation is made up of all individuals, the information for new individuals will be required as identified above.

## Limited Liability Company (LLC)

- Copy of Certificate of Organization
- Copy of Exhibit A or Schedule A
- Copy of Limited Liability Company Regulation
- Copy of Operating Agreement
- Copy of Organizational Meeting Minutes
- Copy of SS-4 letter from the IRS, assigning the EIN for the LLC

**Note:** If the LLC is made up of all individuals, the information for new individuals will be required as identified above.

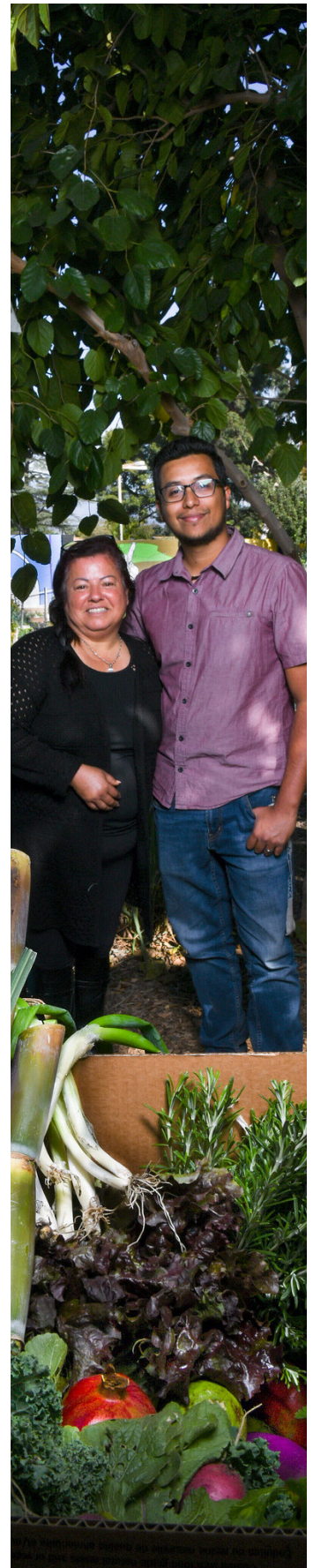
If the LLC is made up of a corporation or LTD/LP, the information required for that entity type will be required as identified on the page.

## Limited Partnership (LTD) or (LP)

- Copy of Certificate of Limited Partnership
- Copy of Limited Partnership Agreement
- Copy of Exhibit A or Schedule A
- Copy of SS-4 letter from the IRS, assigning the EIN for the LTD or LP





















**Note:** If the LTD/LP is made up of all individuals, the information for new individuals will be required as identified above.

If the LTD/LP is made up of a corporation or LLC, the information required for that entity type will be required as identified on the page.





USDA Disaster Assistance Programs At a Glance





| Disaster Programs   | Agency | Blizzard   | Fire   | Hurricane/<br>Typhoon   | Excessive<br>Moisture/<br>Flood   | Excessive<br>Winds/<br>Tornado  | Drought   | Hail  | Volcanic<br>Eruption/<br>Emissions  | Freeze  | Earth-<br>quake   |
|---|--------|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)</b> - provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or prevents crop planting.  | FSA    |  <sup>8</sup> |  <sup>8</sup> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Tree Assistance Program (TAP)</b> - provides financial cost-share assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to re-plant or, where applicable, rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines lost by natural disasters. A qualifying mortality loss in excess of 15 percent (in excess of normal mortality) must be sustained to trigger assistance. | FSA    |  <sup>8</sup> |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

<sup>8</sup> Yes, only as a related condition to an eligible disaster

Other natural disasters that may apply to some of these programs (not all perils are eligible loss conditions for all programs) include:

- Explosion;
  - High water;
  - Landslide;
  - Mudslide;
  - Severe snowstorm;
  - Storm, including ice storms;
- Tidal wave;
  - Wind-driven water;
  - Insect infestation;
  - Plant disease;
  - Lightning; and
  - Other natural phenomena.

Some man-made conditions qualify for disaster assistance, as follows:

| Disaster Programs  | Agency | Pesticide<br>Contamination  | Nuclear Radiation/<br>Fallout  | Toxic Substances<br>Other Than<br>Pesticides  | Chemical Residue<br>Other Than<br>Pesticides  |
|--|--------|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP)</b> – provides compensation to dairy producers when a public regulatory agency directs them to remove their raw milk from the commercial market because it has been contaminated by pesticides, nuclear radiation or fallout, or toxic substances and chemical residues other than pesticides. | FSA    |  |  |  |  |

FSA = Farm Service Agency | NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service | RMA = Risk Management Agency



More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply.

For more information about USDA disaster programs, visit **farmers.gov/recover** or contact your local USDA Service Center.

To find your local USDA Service Center, visit **farmers.gov/service-locator**.

To locate an approved insurance provider, visit the Agent Locator on **rma.usda.gov**.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

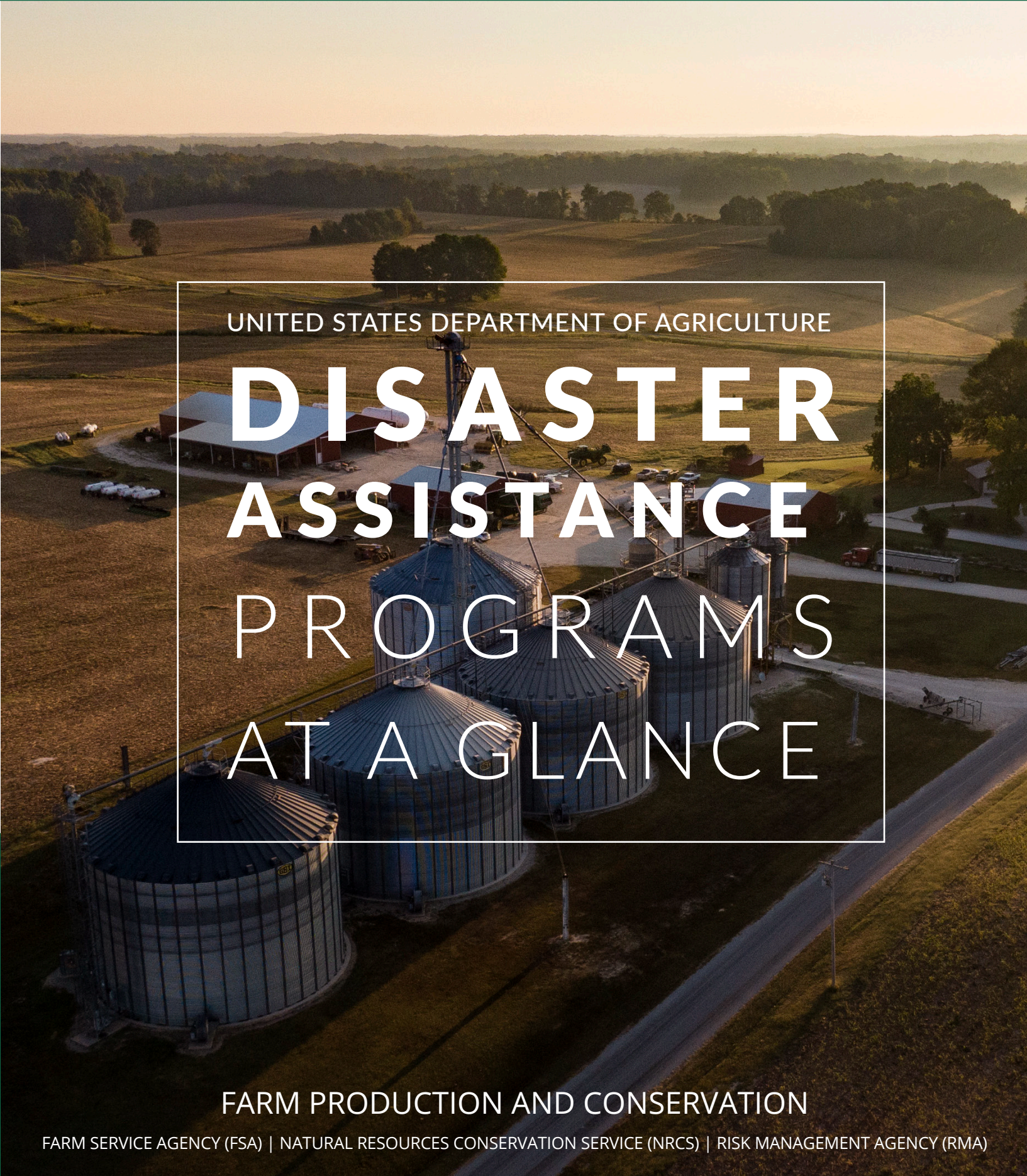
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USDA Disaster Assistance Programs at a Glance



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAMS  
AT A GLANCE

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) | NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) | RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (RMA)





# DISASTER ASSISTANCE

## USDA Disaster Assistance Programs At a Glance

Icon Key = Yes = No = Yes or No, with caveats (see footnote)

| Disaster Programs   | Agency | Blizzard     | Fire         | Hurricane/ Typhoon | Excessive Moisture/ Flood | Excessive Winds/ Tornado | Drought      | Hail         | Volcanic Eruption/ Emissions | Freeze       | Earth-quake  |
|---|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Crop Insurance</b> – provides indemnity payments to growers who purchased crop insurance for production and quality losses related to drought and other weather hazards, including losses from an inability to plant caused by an insured cause of loss.   | RMA    |              |              |                    |                           |                          |              |              |                              |              |              |
| <b>Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Haying and Grazing</b> – provides for emergency haying and grazing on certain CRP practices in a county designated as D2 or higher on the U.S. Drought Monitor, or in a county where there is at least a 40 per-cent loss in forage production.                                       | FSA    | <sup>1</sup> | <sup>1</sup> | <sup>1</sup>       | <sup>1</sup>              | <sup>1</sup>             |              | <sup>1</sup> | <sup>1</sup>                 | <sup>1</sup> | <sup>1</sup> |
| <b>Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)</b> - provides assistance to eligible owners of livestock, and produc-ers of honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease (in-cluding cattle tick fever), adverse weather, or other conditions not covered by LFP and LIP. | FSA    |              | <sup>2</sup> |                    |                           |                          | <sup>3</sup> | <sup>4</sup> |                              | <sup>1</sup> |              |
| <b>Emergency Conservation Pro-gram (ECP)</b> - provides funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to restore farmland damaged by natural di-sasters and for emergency water conservation measures in severe droughts.   | FSA    |              |              |                    |                           |                          |              |              |                              |              |              |
| <b>Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)</b> - provides fund-ing to restore privately owned forests damaged by natural disas-ters. Assistance helps landowners carry out emergency measures to restore forest health on land damaged by floods, hurricanes or other natural disasters.                                | FSA    |              |              |                    |                           |                          |              |              |                              |              |              |
| <b>Farm Loans</b> - provides Emer-gency and Operating loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to natural disasters or live-stock quarantine and can pay for farm operating and family living expenses.  | FSA    |              |              |                    |                           |                          |              |              |                              |              |              |

<sup>1</sup> Yes, but only if determined eligible by FSA.  
<sup>2</sup> Yes, except on federally managed land  
<sup>3</sup> No, except for water and feed transportation  
<sup>4</sup> Yes, but only for grazing losses

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|---|--------|----------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</b> – provides agricultural producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and imple-ment improvements on the land including financial assistance to repair and prevent the excessive soil erosion caused or impacted by natural disasters. These prac-tices include activities like stream bank restoration, grassed water-ways and buffers. NRCS-funded conservation practices protect your land from erosion, support disaster recovery and repair and can help mitigate loss from future natural disasters.<br><br>Assistance may also be available for emergency animal mortality disposal from natural disasters and other causes.   | NRCS   |          |              |                    |                           |                          |              |      |                              |              |             |
| <b>Emergency Watershed Program (EWP-Recovery)</b> – offers vital recovery options for local com-munities to help people reduce hazards to life and property caused by floodwaters, droughts, wildfires, earthquakes, windstorms, and other natural disasters.<br><br>Project funds address erosion related watershed impairments by supporting activities such as removing debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges; reshaping and protecting eroded banks; correcting damaged drainage facilities; repairing levees and structures; and reseeding damaged areas.<br><br>EWP Floodplain Easements – provide an alternative to Recovery efforts described above. NRCS has the authority to purchase floodplain easements (FPE) as an alternative measure to tradition-al Recovery where sites meet EWP-FPE eligibility criteria and it is determined that acquiring an easement in lieu of Recovery is the more economical and prudent approach to reducing the threat to life or property. | NRCS   |          |              |                    |                           |                          |              |      |                              |              |             |
| <b>Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)</b> - provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or that is planted specifically for grazing.  | FSA    |          | <sup>5</sup> |                    |                           |                          |              |      |                              |              |             |
| <b>Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)</b> - provides benefits to live-stock owners and some contract growers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality that are the direct result of an eligible adverse weather event. In addition, LIP covers attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government or protected by Federal Law. Also, LIP provides assistance to livestock owners that must sell livestock at a reduced price because of an injury from an eligible loss condition.  | FSA    |          |              |                    |                           |                          | <sup>6</sup> |      |                              | <sup>7</sup> |             |

<sup>5</sup> Yes, but only on federally managed lands impacted by the fire for which the producer is prohibited from grazing the normally permitted livestock by the Federal agency  
<sup>6</sup> No, except when associated with anthrax  
<sup>7</sup> Yes, but only if deaths result from freeze incidental to a winter storm or extreme cold as determined by FSA.

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