



The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) continues to address the unique circumstances and concerns of socially disadvantaged farmers, as well as beginning and limited resource farmers. **These groups of farmers are referred to as “historically underserved producers” and are eligible to receive a higher dollar amount for their EQIP, WHIP, and AMA practices.** Each historically underserved producer group is defined below to help individuals and entities determine whether or not they qualify as a member of one of these unique groups. If you feel that you qualify for one of these groups, you should indicate this on the CCC-1200 Application. *Participants who self-certify as Beginning Farmer (BF) or Limited Resource (LR) are subject to a 5% random spot check during the year of contracting.*

**Limited Resource Farmers (LR) Definition:**

- A person with direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous 2 years, **AND**
- has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4 or less than 50% of the county median household income in each of the previous 2 years.

**An Entity can be a Limited Resource Farmer if ALL members independently qualify.**

To access a website with a “Limited Resource Self Determination Tool” that allows producers to determine if they qualify, visit [www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov](http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov). The LR Tool is easy to use and requires data entry of only 4 factors relative to the location and income of applicants. The data required includes: State, County, Gross Farm Sales and Adjusted Gross Income.

**For Program Year 2013, the LR tool will request income and sales information from 2010 and 2011**

**Socially Disadvantaged (SD) Definition:**

- A farmer who has been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudices because of their identity as a member of a group without regard to their individual qualities.
- A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity of a group, without regard to their individual qualities (note: gender alone is not a covered group). Identified socially disadvantaged groups include:
  - African Americans
  - American Indians
  - Alaskan Natives
  - Hispanics
  - Asians
  - Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders

**For an Entity, at least 50% ownership in the farm business must be held by socially disadvantaged individuals.**

**Beginning Farmers (BF) Definition:**

- An individual or entity who has never operated a farm, or who has operated a farm for **less than 10** consecutive years, **AND**
- Is an individual or entity that will materially and substantially participate in operations of the farm as detailed below:
  - In the case of an individual, individually or with immediate family, material and substantial day-to-day labor and management of the farm is consistent with practices in the county or State where farm is located **OR**
  - In the case of an entity, all members must materially and substantially participate in operation of the farm. Material and substantial participation requires that each of the members provide some amount of the management or labor and management necessary for day-to-day activities, such that if each of the members did not provide these inputs, operation of the farm would be seriously impaired.

**An Entity qualifies as a Beginning Farmer if ALL members independently qualify.**

**Additional Information:**

If you need more information about NRCS Programs, contact NRCS at your local USDA Service Center:

Fairfield & New Haven Counties:  
51 Mill Pond Rd; Hamden CT  
(203) 287-8038

Middlesex & New London Counties:  
238 West Town St; Norwich CT  
(860) 887-3604

Hartford & Tolland Counties:  
100 Northfield St; Windsor CT  
(860) 688-7725

Litchfield County:  
1185 New Litchfield St; Torrington CT  
(860) 626-8258

Windham County:  
71 Westcott Rd; Danielson CT  
(860) 779-0557

