

## Rural Development (RD)



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.

- Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans
- Rural Business Development Grants
- Value-Added Producer Grants

## USDA Agencies Supporting Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

**Farm Service Agency**  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

**Risk Management Agency**  
[www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov)

**Rural Development**  
[www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov)

### South Dakota Team

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



## Beginning Farmer and Rancher Resources



SOUTH DAKOTA

[farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov)



## 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 New Farmer Discovery Tool website to get started <https://newfarmers.usda.gov/>

### Farm Service Agency (FSA)



FSA helps America's farmers, producers and landowners invest in, improve and expand their agricultural operations. FSA provides farm commodity and disaster assistance programs to ensure producers have a strong safety net in place in case of natural disasters or market fluctuations or downturns.

FSA ensures farm loans are available for producers who want to get started in productions agriculture or make investments in existing operations but are unable to obtain credit from private lenders. FSA offers a diverse portfolio of Direct and Guaranteed Ownership and Operating loans and provides loans to help producers recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

FSA conservation programs give landowners the tools and resources to protect environmentally sensitive land, restore grasslands and forests, leading to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and enhanced wildlife habitat.

#### Acreage Reporting:

[www.fsa.usda.gov/tools/informational/fact-sheets/crop-acreage-reporting-0](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tools/informational/fact-sheets/crop-acreage-reporting-0)



#### Farm Loan Programs:

[www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/beginning-farmers-and-ranchers-loans/index](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/beginning-farmers-and-ranchers-loans/index)



#### Loans for Beginning Farmer:

[www.fsa.usda.gov/tools/informational/fact-sheets/loans-beginning-farmers-ranchers-5](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tools/informational/fact-sheets/loans-beginning-farmers-ranchers-5)



### Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



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.



#### How to Start a Farm: Beginning Farmers and Ranchers:

[www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers](http://www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers)

South Dakota 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."



#### Conservation Practice Standards Information:

[www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/conservation-practices](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/conservation-practices)

### Risk Management Agency (RMA)



RMA serves America's agricultural producers through effective, market-based 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 and Crop Insurance:

<https://www.rma.usda.gov/about-crop-insurance/basics-beginners/beginners-guide-crop-insurance>



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