

USDA NRCS Assistance for New and Beginning Farmers

What Assistance is Available?

- Short-term contracts to assist farmers and/or land-owners with applying practices and activities such as conservation tillage, buffers, nutrient management, animal waste storage, barnyards, and more than 100 other practices.
- Technical assistance to help farmers carry out the practices.
- Practice payments to reduce the cost to the farm operation.

What are the Advantages for New and Beginning Farmers?

- Higher payment rate [Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)].
- Advance practice payment options in EQIP to help cover costs for materials for construction, when work can begin immediately.

How do I know if I Qualify as a Farmer?

- The applicant or the operator must be an agricultural producer engaged in the production of livestock or other agricultural products including forestland. There is no minimum size or sales requirement.
- Owners of farms who are not the operator may apply for AMA and EQIP.

How do I Know if I Qualify as a New and Beginning Farmer?

- New and beginning farmers are those who have not had a farming enterprise continuously for the past 10 years.
- If a farmer has filed a Schedule F with their federal income tax return for the past 10 consecutive years, the farmer is not considered new or beginning.
- All partners in the operation must meet the new and beginning farmer criteria.

How Does a Farmer Apply?

- Contact a local USDA NRCS office at www.nrcs.usda.gov under Find a Service Center
- Request a conservation plan
- Complete an application for one of the financial assistance programs, such as: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) or Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA).

When Does a Farmer Apply?

- All programs have a continuous sign up.
- Applications are ranked to determine funding priority.
- Contracts are awarded until funding is gone.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov

For Spanish language assistance
call 1-866-232-0690