Overview

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) continues to address the unique circumstances and concerns of traditionally underserved producers. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, as an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is committed to ensuring that its programs and services are accessible to all our customers, fairly and equitably, with emphasis on reaching the underserved and socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, and tribes of our state.

Do you qualify as a Historically Underserved Producer?

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs that benefit agricultural producers and the environment.

Historically Underserved Groups are:

- Beginning Farmer or Rancher
- Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher
- Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher
- Veteran Farmer or Rancher

NRCS in Alaska considers any land that produces food and fiber, including subsistence hunting and gathering lands, as agricultural land for Farm Bill programs eligibility purposes, so people using subsistence lands for customary and traditional activities may consider themselves "farmers or ranchers".

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jan 2019

Self-Evaluation Determination Questions

Use these questions as your guide to the NRCS-CPA-1200 Conservation Program Application block 9.

To qualify as historically underserved, you must answer *yes* to *all* of the questions within a category.

	Yes	No
Beginning Farmer or Rancher		
Have you, as the individual or entity applying, operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years?	☐	☐
Will you, the individual or entity applying, be materially and substantially participating in the operation of the farm or ranch such that if you did not, the operation would be seriously impaired?	☐	☐
If you are a legal entity or joint operation, do all members of the entity or operation individually qualify?	☐	☐
Veteran Farmer or Rancher		
Did you serve in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the reserve components thereof, and were you discharged or released therefrom, under conditions other than dishonorable?	☐	☐
Do you qualify as a beginning farmer or rancher? See above.	☐	☐
If you are a legal entity or joint operation, do all members of the entity or operation individually qualify as both veteran and beginning farmer and rancher?	☐	☐
Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher*		
In each of the last two years, was your direct or indirect gross farm sales less than or equal to the pre-determined amount found online at the NRCS Limited Resource Farmer Tool? ($177,300 for FY 2019)	☐	☐
In each of the last two tax years, was your total household income less than the "County/Area Value," as found online on the NRCS Limited Resource Farmer Tool?	☐	☐
If you are a legal entity or joint operation, do all members of the entity or operation individually qualify?	☐	☐
**You must reference data found online to answer these questions. Search for "NRCS Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher tools" and look for the current fiscal year.*		
Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher		
Are you, as the individual or entity applying, a member of a socially disadvantaged group? (Including: American Indians or Alaska Natives, Asians, Black or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics.) *Gender alone is not a socially disadvantaged group for the purposes of NRCS conservation programs.*	☐	☐
If you are a legal entity or joint operation, is at least 50 percent ownership of the entity or operation held by socially disadvantaged individuals?	☐	☐

Next Step
When filling out your application, the NRCS-CPA 1200, you may confidently self-certify your historically underserved status.

Applicants who self-certify as limited resource, beginning, or veteran farmer or rancher may be requested to provide records to verify their claim.

The term Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, includes any Federally recognized Alaska Native village, or regional or village corporation.

Contact NRCS in Alaska

North Hub, Fairbanks
(907) 479-3159

Delta Junction
(907) 895-4241

South Hub, Kenai
(907) 283-8732

Homer
(907) 235-8177

Central Hub, Wasilla
(907) 373-6492

Juneau
(907) 586-7220

State Office, Palmer
(907) 761-7760

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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