



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Get Started
at your

**USDA Urban
Service Center**

URBAN 
AGRICULTURE
AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION

farmers.gov/urban



Portland, OR

Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

Grand Rapids, MI

New York, NY

Detroit, MI

Oakland, CA

Chicago, IL

Cleveland, OH

Philadelphia, PA

Los Angeles, CA

St. Louis, MO

Richmond, VA

Albuquerque, NM

Phoenix, AZ

Dallas, TX

Atlanta, GA

New Orleans, LA

Here to Help, Right in Your Community

USDA Service Centers are locations where you can meet face-to-face with Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees to discuss your vision, goals and ways USDA can help, such as farm loans, conservation and climate-smart practices, disaster assistance and risk management. We have Service Centers covering every county with staff available right where you grow. This includes Urban Service Centers in selection locations.

Urban Service Center Locations

If your urban operation isn't near one of the Urban Service Centers listed on the map above, you can reach your local staff at one of our more than 2,300 Service Centers across the country. Find yours at farmers.gov/service-locator.



Prepare for Your Visit

- **Make an appointment.** Call or email us to set up an appointment to ensure quick service. Interpretation services are available at our Service Centers.
- **Prepare.** Ask what documents you will need to make the most of your appointment, such as:
 - Proof of identity: government issued photo ID (such as a driver's license);
 - Copy of the property deed, survey plat, rental or lease agreement;
 - Tax identification number (Social Security or employer ID number.)
- **List of your questions, goals, and needs.** The worksheet on pages 6-7 can help you think this through.

During Your Visit

- **Discuss your business and conservation goals.** We need to understand your vision to recommend the right programs to you. For example, are you looking for access to capital, to rebuild after a natural disaster, or to implement conservation efforts such as improve soil health, install irrigation, a high tunnel or composting facilities, or plant pollinator habitat?
- **Establish a customer and farm record.** You'll need these to apply for FSA farm loans, disaster assistance, and risk management as well as NRCS conservation programs.
- **Ensure you meet conservation compliance provisions and do an environmental review.** You'll need to ensure wetland areas and highly erodible lands are not farmed and do an [environmental compliance review](#), which are required for all USDA program eligibility, including disaster assistance.
- **Verify eligibility.** For most USDA programs, you must verify you do not exceed an adjusted gross income of \$900,000.
- **File your program applications.** We can help you complete the forms.
- **Get a Receipt for Service.** Keep this for your own records.
- **Sign up for email or text updates.** You can do this at the Service Center or visit farmers.gov/subscribe to sign up for email or text message updates.



WORKSHEET

Prepare for Your Urban Service Center Visit

What do you currently grow/produce? _____

What do you want to grow/produce? _____

What are your biggest challenges? _____

What is your vision/goal? _____

Do you need financing? Do you want to:

- Purchase or improve land? _____
- Build hydroponic, aquaponic, and/or a vertical farming operation? _____
- Get a loan for short-term expenses such as fertilizer, labor, and equipment? _____
- Store, handle and/or transport fruits, vegetables, flowers, honey, and mushrooms with cold storage or refrigerator trucks? _____
- Purchase livestock (including bees or beneficial insects), equipment, feed, seed, and commercial farming materials? _____
- Refinance debt? _____
- Finance youth in connection with 4-H, Future Farmers of America, school gardens? _____
- Improve local food access, support infrastructure or increase production? _____

Do you need on-farm guidance or help conserving natural resources? Do you want to:

- Extend the growing season with a high tunnel? _____
- Compost, vermicompost, incorporate mulching, cover crops, or address erosion? _____
- Incorporate a well or install a better irrigation system? _____
- Address any pest problems? Attract more pollinators? _____
- Use organic practices or get certified as organic? _____
- Get basic farming guidance from Cooperative Extension, Beginning Farmer Development Program grants, and USDA's Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program? _____
- Explore an innovative project to benefit your farm and other similar farms? _____
- Are you facing any other challenges? _____



After Your Visit

- **Keep in touch with your local office.** Let us know if your business changes or you experience a disaster or hardship.
- **Learn about self-service options.** Create a farmers.gov account at www.farmers.gov/account to manage some of your USDA business independently.
- **Participate in your local FSA County Committee or Soil and Water Conservation District.** Both FSA and NRCS programs are delivered with involvement of local farms. Get involved by voting or running for an election.

About the Service Center Agencies

Farm Service Agency (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.

Learn more at fsa.usda.gov.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (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.

Learn more at nrcs.usda.gov.



Additional USDA Assistance

USDA's assistance for urban farmers goes beyond FSA and NRS programs. For example, USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP) offers grants to support farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders. Learn more at usda.gov/urban.

Urban farmers are also eligible for crop insurance, such as Whole-Farm Revenue Protection and Micro Farm, which is sold through Approved Insurance Providers. Find a local insurance agent at rma.usda.gov.

Additional farm program information is available at farmers.gov/urban.



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