



United States Department of Agriculture

United States
Department of
Agriculture

USDA Cross Training Programs

Office of the
Assistant Secretary
for Administration

Quick Reference Tool for Customer-Facing Employees

Office of
Advocacy and
Outreach

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Quick Reference Tool Overview

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) mission is to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues based on sound public policy and the best available science and efficient management. Accomplishing our mission, in large part, refers to how well we serve our customers, their level of satisfaction, and the results produced by our delivery processes. Often, customers are aware of needs, but not certain how to access USDA programs or services that will meet their specific needs.

The **USDA Cross Training Initiative** is designed to ensure that USDA employees serving the public are familiar with the full range of services, grants and loan programs available to their constituents and to improve customer service. This **Quick Reference Tool** can be used as a guide to provide customers with immediate guidance to programs that will best suit their needs. Employees without the requisite program knowledge can also use this tool as an aid to locate the subject-matter expert best equipped to provide programmatic information to customers.

Table Descriptions (Column Headings and Information)

Program and Population

The first column contains the title of the program and the population that the program is designed to serve.

Objective

The second column contains a brief program objective.

Applicant

The third column identifies the characteristics or credentials required to apply.

Uses

The fourth column describes how associated funding can be used.

Type of Assistance

The fifth column identifies the program as a loan, grant, service, or other type of assistance.

Website and Other Information

The sixth column contains website or other point-of-contact information that can be used by the employee or customer to get in-depth information on the associated program.

Additional information on USDA Cross Training Programs coursework can be found on the USDA Virtual University website at <http://www.dm.usda.gov/employ/vu/index.php> or use Google and search for USDA Cross-Training Programs.

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

AMS oversees voluntary programs including grading, certification, auditing, inspection, and laboratory analysis. Industry pays for these programs and uses these tools to communicate with consumers. Examples of AMS programs in animal agriculture include the Beef Checkoff and the Certified Angus Beef Programs.

AMS Programs

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
<p>Market News Service</p> <p>The data is disseminated within hours of collection via the Internet and made available through electronic means and through news media.</p>	<p>Provides current, unbiased information on supply, demand, prices, movement, location, quality, condition, and other market data on agricultural products in specific markets and marketing areas. Reports cover both domestic and international markets, and include conventional and organic production.</p>	<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>This information is used by producers, merchants, and others to assist in the orderly marketing and distribution of their farm commodities.</p>	<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMsv1.0/marketnews</p>
<p>Commodity Standardization and Shell Egg Surveillance</p> <p>* Shell Egg Surveillance-shell egg handlers and hatcheries</p>	<p>Shell Egg Surveillance ensures that cracked, leaking, or other types of "loss" eggs are diverted from table egg consumption.</p>	<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>Shell Egg Surveillance-monitors compliance with Federal regulations to protect consumers and industry sales. AMS conducts inspections of shell egg handlers through cooperative agreements with 33 States. Federal employees perform the inspections in the States that are not currently under a cooperative agreement. AMS also inspects eggs imported into the United States at point of entry to determine that they meet the same restricted egg tolerances established for domestic producers.</p>	<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMsv1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateN&navID=FairTradingRegulations&leftNav=FairTradingRegulations&page=PYShellEggSurveillance</p>

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
* Standards - open to all	The development of US grade standards facilitates the domestic and international marketing of agricultural commodities.		Grade standards are referenced in sales contracts, application of grade, Market News reporting, legal actions, etc. Grade standards are based on measurable attributes that describe the value and utility of the product. AMS works with agriculture industry stakeholders in developing and modifying these standards to ensure their utility in the marketplace		
Market Protection and Promotion *General - Open to all *Applies to all certified applicators	Collect pesticide application and residue information	NOT APPLICABLE	Pesticide Data Program develops and communicates information on pesticide residues in food to improve Government dietary risk assessments. Pesticide Recordkeeping Program establishes Federal regulations requiring certified applicators to maintain records on applications of federally-restricted use pesticides.	NOT APPLICABLE	http://www.obpa.usda.gov/19ams2013notes.pdf
*Applies to all seed shippers	Stimulate innovative and improved commodity marketing and provide assistance and oversight of industry-sponsored activities		Federal Seed Program regulates agricultural and vegetable seed moving in interstate commerce. It requires accurate labeling and purity standards for seeds in commerce, and prohibits the importation and movement of adulterated or misbranded seeds, to enhance marketing of agricultural and vegetable seeds,	NOT APPLICABLE	

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
			<p>facilitate trade, and to ensure quality seed products.</p> <p>Country of Origin Labeling monitors retailer compliance with requirement to notify customers of the country of origin of covered commodities. AMS administers the COOL program through cooperative agreements with 50 State Agencies that conduct retail surveillance reviews</p>		
<p>Plant Variety Protection Program</p> <p>*Open to all on a fee-for-service basis</p>	<p>To encourage the development of novel varieties of sexually reproduced plants and to provide legal protection to those who breed, develop, or discover them.</p>		<p>Offers legal protection to developers of new varieties of plants which sexually reproduce by providing Certificates of Protection, which are the equivalent of a patent to the plant's developer</p>	<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateC&navID=PlantVarietyProtectionOffice&rightNav1=PlantVarietyProtectionOffice&topNav=&leftNav=ScienceandLaboratories&page=PlantVarietyProtectionOffice&resultType</p>
<p>Research & Promotion Programs</p> <p>*Cotton, dairy, fluid milk, beef, lamb, pork, soybeans, sorghum, eggs, blueberries, Hass avocado, honey, mango, mushrooms, peanuts, popcorn, potatoes, softwood lumber, and watermelon producers subject to assessment</p>	<p>AMS reviews and approves the budgets and projects proposed by the research and promotion boards to ensure that proposals comply with the regulation and statute. Each research and promotion board reimburses AMS for the cost of implementing and overseeing its program. The various research and promotion acts authorize the collection of an assessment from identified segments of the marketing chain which is used to broaden and enhance national and international markets for various commodities.</p>	<p>Industry funded and managed commodities.</p>	<p>Research and promotion programs, also known as checkoff programs, are established under Federal law at the request of their industries. Checkoff programs derive funding through industry assessments (fees), and use these funds to increase the success of the businesses and farmers within their industry. These programs allow farmers, ranchers, and other stakeholders to pool their funds and develop a coordinated program of research, promotion, and consumer</p>	<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateB&navID=ResearchandPromotion&leftNav=ResearchandPromotion&page=ResearchandPromotion&acct=AMSPW</p>

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
			information to improve, maintain, and develop markets for their products.		
<p>National Organic Program</p> <p>*Open to all on a fee-for-service basis</p>	<p>Facilitates trade and ensures the integrity of organic agricultural product labeling by implementing organic standards and enforcing compliance with the regulations.</p>	<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>Develops and maintains national standards governing the production and handling of agricultural products labeled as organic. The Program accredits certifying agents worldwide so that they may certify that organic producers and processors are in compliance with national organic regulations, and establishes recognition and equivalency agreements with foreign governments that facilitate trade. To conduct the program, NOP works with the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), which consists of 15 private-sector appointees who provide recommendations to the Secretary on the implementation of the NOP. The NOSB has unique statutory authority to propose the inclusion or prohibition of substances in organic agriculture.</p>	<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateA&navID=NationalOrganicProgram&leftNav=NationalOrganicProgram&page=NOPNationalOrganicProgramHome&acct=AMSPW</p>
<p>Transportation and Market Development</p> <p>*Open to all</p>	<p>Serves as the expert source for economic analysis on agricultural transportation from farm to market. To inform, represent, and assist agricultural shippers and government policymakers through: market reports, regulatory representation, economic analysis, transportation disruption reports, technical assistance, outreach to stakeholders, responding to</p>	<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>Support decisions regarding the transportation of agricultural products domestically and internationally and provide technical support to agricultural industry.</p>	<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateA&leftNav=AgriculturalTransportation&page=ATAgriculturalTransportationHome</p>

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	<p>inquiries.</p> <p>Supports the development of agricultural markets through technical advice and assistance to States and municipalities that are interested in creating or upgrading wholesale market facilities, auction and collection markets, and retail farmers markets.</p>		<p>Technical support and guidance for food market planners, managers, participants, and interested community stakeholders, small and mid-scale producers. Conducts regular data collection and analysis of farmers market operations and other direct-to-consumer marketing outlets on a national and regional scale, in order to help market planners, managers, participants and interested stakeholders to better understand evolving influences on market performance and profitability, and be able to incorporate these considerations into their strategic and business plans. Provides targeted site assessment and design services for food market planners, managers and community stakeholders to improve the efficiency of permanent food market facilities. Runs farmers market at USDA headquarters.</p>		
<p>Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program Grants</p> <p>*States</p>	<p>Competitive matching grants through cooperative agreements with State departments of agriculture or similar State agencies to improve the efficiency of the agricultural marketing chain.</p>	<p>State Departments of Agriculture, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, and other appropriate State agencies.</p>	<p>To assist in exploring new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products, and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the agriculture commodities marketing</p>	<p>Competitive grant</p>	<p>http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateC&navID=FindmoreinformationontheFederalStateMarketingImprovementProgram(FSMIP)AMSGrants&rightNav1=FindmoreinformationontheFederalStateMarketingImprovementProgram(FSMIP)AMSGrants&topNav=&leftNav=AMSGrants&page=FSMIP&resultType=&acct=gpfsmip</p>

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<p>Farmers Market Promotion Program Grants (Farm Bill-unfunded)</p> <p>*General</p>	<p>Provides non-construction grants that target improvements and expansion of domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agri-tourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities.</p>	<p>Agricultural cooperatives, producer networks, producer associations, local governments, nonprofit corporations, public benefit corporations, economic development corporations, regional farmers' market authorities and tribal governments.</p>	<p>system.</p> <p>Advertising & market promotion; bringing local farm products into federal nutrition programs, consumer education and outreach; equipment purchase, transportation, and delivery; agri-tourism, waste management, and green technologies; training farmers in business planning, record keeping, and rules and regulations; market start-up, expansion, and strategic planning.</p>	<p>Competitive grant</p>	<p>http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMsv1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateN&navID=WholesaleandFarmersMarkets&leftNav=WholesaleandFarmersMarkets&page=FMPP&description=Farmers%20Market%20Promotion%20Program&acct=fmpp</p>
<p>Specialty Crop Block Grants (Farm Bill-unfunded)</p> <p>*State agencies</p>	<p>Awards grants to enhance the competitiveness of fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, nursery crops, and horticulture.</p>	<p>The <u>agency, commission, or department responsible for agriculture</u> within any of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. States are encouraged to use a competitive process to select grantees.</p>	<p>Support U.S. agricultural specialty crops</p>	<p>Block grant</p>	
<p>Organic Cost-Share (National Program Unfunded); Agricultural Marketing Assistance Cost-Share program funded through 2014</p> <p>*National cost-share available in all States to producers and handlers; AMA Program</p>	<p>Reimburse eligible producers and /or handlers for a portion of the costs of organic certification.</p>	<p>Eligible organic producers and /or handlers</p>	<p>Support U.S. organic production</p>	<p>Cost-Share</p>	

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<p>authorizes cost-share assistance to producers of organic agricultural products in Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.</p>					
<p>Marketing Agreements and Orders</p> <p>*Producers of milk, fruit, and vegetable products</p>	<p>Assist farmers, milk producers, and handlers by allowing them to collectively work to solve marketing challenges. Designed to stabilize market conditions and improve the returns for fluid milk and fruit and vegetables producers.</p>	<p>Agricultural industry stakeholders</p>	<p>Establish minimum prices that handlers pay to dairy producers; regulate the quality and quantity of fruits and vegetables sold in commercial channels; and provide for market development and promotion.. Marketing agreements and orders are initiated by industry to help provide stable markets for dairy products, fruits, vegetables and specialty crops. Marketing orders help to maintain the quality of produce being marketed, standardize packages or containers, and authorized advertising, research and market development. Each order and agreement is tailored to the individual industry's marketing needs.</p>	<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateA&navID=MarketingOrders&leftNav=MarketingOrders&page=MarketingOrders&acct=AMSPW</p>
<p>Commodity Purchases</p> <p>*Open to all</p>	<p>Purchases non-price supported commodities such as meats, fish, fruits, vegetables, poultry, and egg products in order to stabilize market conditions pursuant to Section 32, and in support of Child Nutrition program needs within USDA.</p>	<p>Commodity sellers.</p>	<p>Encourage the domestic consumption of agricultural commodities or products by persons in low-income groups, and to re-establish farmers' purchasing power in connection with the normal production of agricultural</p>	<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateQ&navID=CommodityPurchasing&leftNav=CommodityPurchasing&page=CommodityPurchasing&acct=AMSPW</p>

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			commodities. These purchases also help to stabilize prices in agricultural commodity markets by balancing supply and demand.		
<p>Commodity Grading, Classing, and Auditing Services</p> <p>*Agricultural industry and associated marketing chain.</p>	<p>Provides quality grade standards, grading, certification, auditing, and inspection on agricultural commodities for which developed standards are available. Also performs approval of laboratory services.</p>	<p>Industry stakeholders apply for services on a voluntary basis.</p>	<p>Marketing and sales of agricultural commodities, including cotton, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, nuts, meat, eggs, and poultry products. Industry can use these to help promote and communicate quality and wholesomeness to consumers. Industry pays for these services and since they are voluntary, their widespread use by industry indicates they are valuable tools in helping market their products.</p>	<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateA&navID=GradingCertificationAndVerification&leftNav=GradingCertificationAndVerification&page=GradingCertificationAndVerification&acct=AMSPW</p>
<p>Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act</p> <p>*Producers, shippers, distributors, and retailers</p>	<p>Protect agricultural stakeholders from loss due to unfair and fraudulent practices in the marketing of perishable agricultural commodities; and prevent the unwarranted destruction or dumping of farm products handled for others.</p>	<p>Commission merchants, dealers, and brokers handling fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables in interstate and foreign commerce.</p>	<p>This program promotes fair trading in the fresh and frozen fruit and vegetable industry. Through PACA, buyers and sellers are required to meet the term of their contracts and procedures are available for resolving disputes outside the civil court system.</p>	<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateG&navID=FileaPACAClaimorApplyforaLicense&rightNav1=FileaPACAClaimorApplyforaLicense&topNav=&leftNav=CommodityAreas&page=PACA&resultType=</p>

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

FSA ensures the well-being of American agriculture, the environment, and the American public through commodity programs; farm ownership, operating, and emergency loans; conservation and environmental programs; emergency and disaster assistance; and domestic and international food assistance. FSA programs are delivered through an extensive network of field offices.

FSA Programs

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program	To provide a "safety net" option that gives producers the choice of receiving revenue-based payments in lieu of price-based counter-cyclical payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP).	Eligible individuals and legal entities on farms with established base acres	No restrictions	Grant. The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA) extended ACRE through the 2013 crop year.	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/acre_2013.pdf
Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)	To support the establishment and production of crops for conversion to bio-energy in project areas and to assist with collection, harvest, storage, and transportation of eligible material for use in a biomass conversion facility.	Three types: (1) biomass conversion facility or group of farmers for request for proposal; (2) Eligible material owner (producer as land owner or operator) for matching payments; and (3) Producer as land owner or operator for annual rental and establishment payments	Annual rental, crop establishment, and eligible material payments to producers.	Cost share, annual rental, and matching payments. ATRA extended BCAP to fiscal year (FY) 2013, but is subject to appropriation to enter into new contracts. Unfunded - FY 2013	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/bcap_update_may2011.pdf

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	To provide annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland.	Owners/Operators	Installing conservation practices on eligible cropland and marginal pastureland.	Annual rental payments/cost share. (ATRA) extended CRP through FY 2013.	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/crpfactsheet0213.pdf
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	To help agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. The program is a partnership among producers; Tribal, State, and Federal governments; and, in some cases, private groups.	Owners/Operators	Installing conservation practices on eligible cropland and marginal pastureland. Enrollment of State and national lands of special significance.	Federal annual rental payments/cost share in addition to partner payments. ATRA extended CREP through FY2013.	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=cep
Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP)	To provide a payment to dairy producers when a public regulatory agency directs them to remove their raw milk from the commercial market because it has been contaminated by pesticides, nuclear radiation or fallout, or toxic substances and chemical residues other than pesticides. Manufacturers are also eligible only for products removed from the market because of pesticide contamination.	Dairy producers or manufacturers of dairy products.	No restrictions.	Grant	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/dairy_ind_pay_program.pdf
Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP)	To provide a "safety net" of fixed direct payments and price-based counter-cyclical payments	Eligible individuals and legal entities on farms with established base acres	No restrictions	Grant ATRA extended DCP through the 2013 crop year.	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/dcp2008.pdf

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP)	To provide emergency relief to producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish; covers losses from disaster such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not adequately covered by any other disaster program for losses that occurred on or before September 30, 2011.	Eligible individuals and legal entities that are producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm raised fish	No restrictions	Grant ATRA extended ELAP for FYs 2012 and 2013 but is subject to appropriations before applications can be processed. UNFUNDED – FY 2012 and 2013	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=elap
Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) *ECP approved counties in all States and territories	To provide emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.	Agricultural producers or ranchers (individual or entity)	Farmland rehabilitation, conservation structure or livestock fence repair, water conservation enhancement measures during periods of severe drought for livestock, orchards, or vineyards	Cost-share	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=ecp
Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) *EFRP approved counties in all 50 States	To provide funding for owners of non-industrial private forest land to carry out emergency measures to restore the land after the land is damaged by a natural disaster.	Owners of rural, non-industrial private forest	Restore and enhance forest health in natural disaster damaged non-industrial private forests	Cost-share	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/efrp_fac_t_sheet10.pdf
Farm Storage Facility Loan Program	To provide low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade on-farm storage and handling facilities.	Farmers, producers, and ranchers	Grain bins, silos, barns, fruit and vegetable cold storage facilities, and farm storage handling equipment. New electrical equipment, concrete foundations, aprons, pits and pads.	Direct loan.	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/farmstorage_fac_loan.pdf http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=prsu&topic=flp-fp
Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP)	To reduce downstream flood damage, improve surface and groundwater quality, and recharge groundwater supplies by restoring wetlands.	Owners/operators	Installing conservation practices on eligible cropland and marginal pastureland. Farmed wetlands, aquaculture, prairie flooded, and	Annual rental payments/cost share	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=fwp

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
			constructed wetlands.		
Feedstock Flexibility Program (FFP) *50-100 privately owned companies	To support domestic sugar prices in order to prevent forfeitures of Commodity Credit Corporation loan collateral	Beet and cane sugar processors and bioenergy producers	Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase sugar and sell to bioenergy producers for the production of bioenergy when the domestic market is in surplus.	none	
Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP) All privately owned land	To help landowners restore and protect grassland, rangeland, pastureland, and shrub land and provide assistance for rehabilitating grasslands.	Landowners and operators	Grazing and hay production according to a GRP management plan.	Rental payments, Easements and Cost-share payments.	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=grp
Grassroots Source Water Protection Program	To help prevent source water pollution through voluntary practices installed by producers at local levels.	Rural communities/farmers and ranchers.	Protection of ground and source waters.	Funding provided to National Rural Water Association.	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=swp
GRAZE-OUT Program	Payment to producers when market prices for wheat, oats, barley or triticale are low and the crop is grazed and not harvested.	Producers of wheat, oats, barley or triticale.	Provide producers with payments when commodity prices are low, providing them capital to pay operating, crop and other expenses.	Grant /Direct payment	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/graze_out_program.pdf
Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)	To provide assistance to livestock producers for forage losses due to drought and losses due to wildfire on rangeland managed by a Federal agency for losses that occurred on or before September 30, 2011.	Eligible individuals and legal entities that are livestock producers	No restrictions	Grant; ATRA extended LFP for FYs 2012 and 2013 but is subject to appropriations to allow for applications. UNFUNDED – FY 2012 and 2013	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/lfp_2011_pfs.pdf
Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)	To provide assistance to livestock producers for livestock deaths from disaster events, in excess of normal mortality for losses that occurred on or before September 30, 2011.	Eligible individuals and legal entities that are livestock producers	No restrictions	Grant; ATRA extended LIP for FYs 2012 and 2013 but is subject to appropriations to allow for applications. UNFUNDED – FY 2012 and 2013	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/lip2011_158c020211.pdf
Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program	MILC compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. FSA makes payments on a monthly basis when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment.	Eligible dairy producers are those who commercially produce and market cow milk in the United States, or those who produce milk in the United States and commercially market the milk outside the United States.	No restrictions	Grant ATRA extended through FY 2013.	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=prsu&topic=mpp-mi
Noninsured Crop	To provide assistance to eligible	Eligible individuals and legal	No restrictions		http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/nap_aug

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)	producers of noninsurable crops for losses and prevented planting due to disasters	entities that produce noninsurable crops		Grant	ust_2011.pdf
Nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) Program	Using the harvested commodity as collateral, provides producers with an influx of cash when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows allowing them to delay the sale of the commodity until market conditions are more favorable	Producers of eligible commodities.	Provide producers with cash at harvest time providing them with capital to pay operating, crop and other expenses.	Direct loan ATRA extended MAL Program through the 2013 crop year.	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/malldp09.pdf
Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) Program	Payment made to a producer who, although eligible to obtain a CCC commodity loan, agrees to forgo the loan in return for a payment on the eligible harvested commodity.	Producers of eligible commodities.	Provide producers with cash at harvest time when commodity prices are low providing them with capital to pay operating, crop and other expenses.	Grant/Direct payment ATRA extended the LDP program through the 2013 crop year.	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/mal_ldp_2013.pdf
Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program (RTCP) for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers	RTCP reimburses geographically disadvantaged producers for a portion of the transportation cost for transporting their agricultural commodity, or inputs used to produce an agricultural commodity.	Farmers and ranchers in Hawaii, Alaska, or an insular area, including Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Federal States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Virgin Islands.	To offset a portion of the costs of transporting farm products or inputs from or to insular areas outside of the contiguous States.	Grant UNFUNDED – FY 2013	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/rtcp_2010.pdf
State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)	To provide annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland for wildlife priorities in each State.	Owners/operators	Provide financial assistance to owners/operators for installing conservation practices on eligible cropland and marginal pastureland. For rare, threatened, endangered, and critically imperiled wildlife species.	Annual rental payments/cost share	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/safe08.pdf
Sugar Loan Program	To provide commodity loans to processors of domestically grown sugarcane and sugar beets.	Sugar processors	Provide loans to sugar processors to store the sugar and not sell immediately at harvest. Later, when market conditions may be more favorable, the processor can sell the sugar crop and repay the loan.	Direct loan	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sugar_In_prog_mktg.pdf
Sugar Storage Facility Loan Program	To provide low-interest financing to sugar processors to build or upgrade sugarcane and sugar beet	Sugarcane and sugar beet processors	Provide funds to processors to purchase bins, silos, handling equipment, new electrical	Direct loan	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sugar_storage_loan.pdf

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
	storage and handling facilities.		equipment, concrete foundations, aprons, pits, and pads.		
Tobacco Transition Payment Program (TTPP)	Provides annual transitional payments for up to 10 years to eligible tobacco quota holders and producers.	Eligible quota holder-owned farms on 10/22/2004 with a tobacco quota assigned for the 2004 marketing year;; an eligible quota producer is one who shared in the risk of producing tobacco on a quota farm for the 2002, 2003, or 2004 marketing years.	Funds can be used in any manner by the contract holder.	Grant	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/ttpp09.pdf
Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAAF)	To provide technical training and assistance to producers of raw agricultural commodities and fishery products determined to have been adversely affected by imports.	Producers of certified commodities who produced the commodity during the specific marketing year for which the commodity was determined eligible and at least one of the three preceding marketing years, and who submitted required certification.	After completion of Initial Technical Assistance, the producer is eligible for a maximum \$4,000 cash payment to implement or develop a business adjustment plan. A producer who completes a long-term business plan is eligible to receive up to an additional \$8,000 cash payment.	Grant	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/trade_adjust_2011.pdf
Transition Incentive Program (TIP)	To provide up to two additional CRP annual rental payments to a retired or retiring owner or operator of land under an expiring CRP contract if the land is sold or leased to a non-family member beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher for the purpose of returning some or all of the land to production using sustainable grazing or crop production methods.	Retired or retiring owners/operators and beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.	To return land under an expiring CRP contract back into production using sustainable agricultural production methods, and/or re-enrolling into continuous CRP.	Annual rental payments. UNFUNDED – FY 2013	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/tipfactsheet.pdf
Tree Assistance Program (TAP)	Provide partial reimbursement to orchardists and nursery tree growers for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation if losses due to natural disasters exceed 15 percent and occurred on or before September 30, 2011.	Eligible individuals and legal entities that are orchardists or nursery tree growers	Replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation	Grant ATRA extended TAP through FY 2013 but is subject to appropriations to allow for applications. UNFUNDED – FY 2013	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/tap0510.pdf

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
<p>Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP)</p> <p>*Private farm, ranch and forest owners</p>	<p>To encourage owners and operators of privately held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make that land available for access by the public for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting or fishing under programs administered by the States and tribal governments.</p>	<p>State and tribal governments</p>	<p>Funds are to be used for landowner public access incentives, landowner payments for wildlife habitat enhancement, and program administration, outreach, oversight, monitoring and evaluation</p>	<p>Grant ATRA extended VPA-HIP through FY 2013 but is subject to appropriations to allow for applications. UNFUNDED – FY 2013</p>	<p>http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=pahp</p>

Farm Loan Programs

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
Farm Operating Loans	Provide access to credit for farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain financing from a commercial source at reasonable rates and terms, enabling them to start and maintain profitable farm businesses.	Family farmers	Purchase farm equipment, livestock, and poultry ; purchase feed, seed, fertilizer, and other production inputs, pay operating expenses; finance land and water development and conservation; refinance existing farm debts.	Direct and Guaranteed loans	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=dflop
			Microloans are direct farm operating loans with a shortened application process and reduced paperwork to meet the needs of smaller, non-traditional, and niche type operations.		
			Rural Youth Loans are direct operating loans that may only be used to finance a modest, income-producing, agriculture-related educational project while participating in 4-H, FFA, or a similar organization.		
Farm Ownership Loans	Provide access to credit for farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain financing from a commercial source at reasonable rates and terms, enabling them to start and maintain profitable farm businesses.	Family farmers	Purchase and improve farmland; construct farm buildings, refinance debts (guaranteed loans only); implement conservation practices or comply with livestock waste disposal requirements.	Direct and Guaranteed loans	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=dflon

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
Emergency Loans	Provide access to credit for producers who own or operate a farm or ranch located in a county declared by the President or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as a primary disaster area or quarantine area.	Family farmers	Repair or replace damaged or destroyed farm property, livestock and livestock products, and supplies and compensate for disaster-related loss of income based on reduced production of crops and/or livestock products. Under certain conditions, loan funds may be used to buy essential home equipment and furnishings and for refinancing of farm debts.	Direct loan	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=efl
Conservation Loans	Provide access to credit for farmers or ranchers who need and want to implement conservation measures	Farmers or ranchers	Implement any conservation practice which is part of a plan approved by NRCS, such as reducing soil erosion, improving water quality, and conducting sustainable and organic agricultural practices.	Guaranteed loan	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/newsReleases?area=home&subject=empl&topic=pfs&newstype=prfactsheet&type=detail&item=pf_20121024_consv_en_cnsvlpr12.html
Land Contract Guarantee	Provide certain financial guarantees to the seller of a farm or ranch through a land contract sale to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher.	Buyers and sellers	Provide certain financial guarantees to sellers under a land contract sale.	Guarantee	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/newsReleases?area=home&subject=empl&topic=pfs&newstype=prfactsheet&type=detail&item=pf_20120120_farln_en_lcg_rnt.html
Boll Weevil Eradication Loan Program *Cotton-producing States	Provide assistance to producer associations and State governmental agencies to eradicate boll weevils from cotton-producing areas.	Producer associations and State governmental agencies	Activities directly related to boll weevil eradication, such as purchase or lease of supplies and equipment, operating expenses, and salaries and benefits.	Direct loan	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa_admin_program2013.pdf

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
Indian Tribal Land Acquisition Loans	Provide credit access to Indian Tribes or Tribal corporations that do not qualify for standard commercial loans to purchase land within their own reservation or Alaskan community.	Indian Tribes or Tribal Corporations	Acquire land located with the Native American tribe's reservation; pay costs incidental to land acquisition such as title clearance, legal services, land surveys, and loan closing; refinance non-USDA debts incurred to purchase the land under certain conditions; and pay for the cost of any appraisal.	Direct loan	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa_admin_program2013.pdf

Commodity Operations

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
End-Use Certificate Program	Track imports and dispositions of commodities requiring end use certificates (currently Canadian wheat)	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=coop&topic=pai-eu
Extra Long Staple (ELS) Cotton Competitiveness Program	Expand demand for ELS cotton and maintain competitiveness in world markets	Domestic users and exporters of ELS cotton	To be eligible for payment, Domestic Users and Exporters are required to sign an agreement and comply with all rules and regulations of the ELS cotton program.	Direct Payment	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/elscot03.pdf
Economic Adjustment Assistance Program for Users of Upland Cotton *51 Users	Provide domestic users of raw cotton with funds for capital improvements, such as equipment, machinery, etc.	Open to any applicants who wish to apply.	Payments are made to eligible participants to provide capital improvements.	Direct Payment	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=coop&topic=pai-co

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
<p>United States Warehouse Act</p> <p>*940 Warehouse Licenses, 3,150 individual locations</p> <p>2,250 CCC storage agreements, 8,600 individual locations</p>	<p>Provides a uniform (nationwide) regulatory system for the storage of ag commodities and electronic conveyance of same.</p>	<p>Producers of grain, dry beans, rice, nuts, cotton, sweetener, wool, and processed commodities.</p>	<p>Must be licensed, and Inspected. Fees apply.</p>	<p>User Fees</p>	<p>http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=coop&topic=was-ua</p>
<p>Payment-In-Kind Program for Surplus Sugar</p>	<p>Transfer surplus sugar into PIK payments to sugar producers. Removes surplus sugar from market as a price stabilization mechanism.</p>	<p>Beet and sugar cane producers</p>	<p>Unrestricted</p>	<p>Direct Payment. Note: This program has not been used for many years.</p>	<p>http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_Federal_Notices/sugarprogram.pdf</p>
<p>Dairy Product Price Support Program (DPPSP)</p>	<p>Establish minimum purchase prices to support the price of nonfat dry milk (NDM), butter, and cheddar cheese through purchases of such products made from cow's milk produced in the United States.</p>	<p>A potential applicant is an eligible offer or who is authorized to enter into a purchase agreement with CCC. An eligible offer or is a person, firm, corporation, or other legal entity who is the manufacturer of the dairy product offered or a marketing cooperative for the manufacturer.</p>	<p>DPPSP provides a safety net for dairy producers. When butter, NDM or cheddar cheese is offered to the CCC, it will purchase the dairy products as long as the products meet CCC's specifications. CCC is authorized to donate food commodities acquired through price support programs to domestic and foreign feeding programs as required by law.</p>	<p>Direct Payment</p>	<p>http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/dppsp_en_fact_sheet.pdf</p>

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS works primarily with private landowners through conservation planning and assistance designed to benefit soil, water, air, plants, and animals that result in productive lands and healthy ecosystems. NRCS has many different financial and technical assistance programs designed to help livestock or poultry producers, agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial forest land to achieve their conservation goals. Examples include assistance with irrigation technologies, conservation fencing or obtaining organic certification. NRCS works at a local level and has offices in nearly every county in the Nation.

NRCS also has substantial information resources including soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the Nation’s counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting program measures and reports on water availability in the West. These measurements are invaluable to irrigators and other water users for indicating water supply availability for the spring and summer. The [PLANTS Database](#) provides standardized information about the vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the United States. and its territories. This information primarily promotes land conservation in the United States and its territories, but academic, educational, and general use is encouraged. PLANT reduces government spending by minimizing duplication and making information exchange possible across agencies and disciplines.

NRCS Programs

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)	Provides cost share assistance to agricultural producers to address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farming operations. AMA is available in 16 States where participation in the Federal Crop Insurance Program is historically low.	All private or Tribal land in private ownership and in agricultural production is eligible. Includes cropland, hayland, pastureland, rangeland, grassland, and non-industrial private forestland.		Up to 75%	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/ama/
Agricultural Water Enhancement	Provides financial and technical assistance to	All private or Tribal land in private ownership and in		Up to 75%	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
Program (AWEP)	agricultural producers in approved project areas to implement agricultural water enhancement activities on agricultural land for the purposes of conserving surface and ground water and improving water quality. All private or Tribal land in agricultural production is eligible. Includes cropland, grassland, and non-industrial private forestland, unless it is enrolled in CRP, WRP, or GRP.	agricultural production is eligible. Includes cropland, grassland, and non-industrial private forestland, unless it is enrolled in CRP, WRP, or GRP.			/national/programs/?&cid=nracs143_008334
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by, improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities; and undertaking additional conservation activities. All private or Tribal agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland is eligible, unless it is enrolled in CRP, WRP, or GRP.	All private or Tribal agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland is eligible, unless it is enrolled in CRP, WRP, or GRP.		\$18/acre	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/
Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)	CIG is a program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in	Public bodies, non-profit corporations, Indian Tribes on Federal or State reservations.		50% of the total cost of the project must come from non-Federal matching funds (cash and in-kind contributions) provided by the grantee.	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
	<p>conjunction with agricultural production. Under CIG, EQIP funds are used to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or non-governmental organizations, Tribes, or individuals.</p>				
<p>Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)</p>	<p>CCPI is a conservation initiative that enables the use of certain conservation programs along with resource of eligible partners to provide financial and technical assistance to owners and operators of agricultural and nonindustrial private forestlands.</p>			<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/ccpi/</p>
<p>Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA)</p>	<p>CTA has a long history of serving as the base conservation program focusing on natural resources issues that are of local, State, multi-State, or national concern. The CTA Program provides a broad array of assistance, including: (1) the conservation planning that must occur prior to an application for financial assistance from another program; (2) technical assistance to help individuals comply with regulatory requirements; and (3)</p>	<p>All owners, managers, and others who have a stake and interest in natural resource management are eligible to receive technical assistance from NRCS.</p>		<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>	<p>http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/cta/</p>

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
	assistance in developing and implementing conservation plans.				
Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)	The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance through the EWP (Public Law 81-516 and Public Law 95-334,) which helps to protect lives and property threatened by natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires. The program is funded through supplemental appropriations.			NOT APPLICABLE	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/ewp/
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum term of 10 years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on Tribal land, agricultural land, and non-industrial private forestland. The program does not include land	All private or Tribal land in private ownership and agricultural production is eligible. Includes cropland, grassland, and non-industrial private forestland, but does not include land enrolled in CRP, WRP, or GRP.		Up to 75%*	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
	enrolled in CRP, WRP, or GRP.				
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)	FRPP is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. The program provides matching funds to State, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations with existing farm and ranch land protection programs to purchase conservation easements.	Private land that contains at least 50% prime, State, or locally important farmland; contains historic or archeological resources; or supports the policies of a State, local farm, or ranch protection program. Includes cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland, and forestland.		One-time, up-front payment or up to five annual payments.	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/farmranch/
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	GRP is a voluntary conservation program that emphasizes support for working grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity, and protection of grassland under threat of conversion to other uses.	Private or Tribal grassland, shrubland, land containing forbs, and land that historically contained those features is eligible.		Up to 50% of actual cost with \$50,000 payment limitation. One-time, up-front payment or up to 10 equal or unequal payments (see statute).	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/grassland/
Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)	HFRP is to assist landowners, on a voluntary basis, in restoring, enhancing and protecting forestland resources on private lands through easements, 30 year contracts and restoration agreements.	All non-industrial private or Tribal forestland which will restore, enhance, or increase the likelihood of recovery of a threatened or endangered species must improve biological diversity or increase carbon sequestration.		Up to 75% for cost-share agreements, 30-year contracts, and 30-year easements; up to 100% for permanent easements.	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/forests/

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
Technical Service Providers (TSP)	TSP's are individuals, private businesses, non-profit organizations, or public agencies outside of USDA that help agricultural producers apply conservation practices on the land.			NOT APPLICABLE	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp/
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (PL-566 & PL 534)	This program authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide technical and financial assistance to entities of State and local governments and Tribes (project sponsors) for planning and installing watershed projects. The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program is available nationwide to protect and improve watersheds up to 250,000 acres in size. Currently there are approximately 300 active small watershed projects throughout the country. Eligible purposes include; (a) preventing damage from erosion, floodwater, and sediment, (b) furthering the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, and (c) Furthering the conservation and proper utilization of land.			50-100%	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/wfpo/

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property by entering into a long-term easement or agreement; the NRCS goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the WRP. WRP offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection.	Private or Tribal land that maximizes wildlife benefits such as farmed or converted wetlands together with adjacent lands.		Up to 75% of the restoration costs for restoration cost-share agreements, 30-year contracts, and 30-year easements; and up to 100% of restoration costs for permanent easements.	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/wetlands/
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)	WHIP is to help participants develop fish and wildlife habitat on private agricultural land, nonindustrial private forestland, and Tribal lands. All private or Tribal agricultural land is eligible, unless it is currently enrolled in CRP, WRP, HFRP, WBP, EWPP, GRP, or a similar program.	All private or Tribal agricultural land is eligible, unless it is currently enrolled in CRP, WRP, HFRP, WBP, EWPP, GRP or a similar program.		Up to 75%* for contracts up to 10 years in length; \$ up to 90% for contracts at least 15 years in length	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/whip/
National Initiatives	NRCS has national initiatives that leverage existing programs to target resource concerns in specific geographic areas, or to address specific resource	NOT APPLICABLE		NOT APPLICABLE	

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
	<p>concerns. They are Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative, Sage-Grouse Initiative, Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative, Colorado Salinity, High Tunnels, and Energy Audits. Some initiatives are national in scope while others cover specific States.</p>				
State Initiatives	<p>NRCS has State initiatives that leverage existing programs to target resource concerns in specific geographic areas. They are Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative, Ogallala Water Conservation Initiative, Coral Reef Task Force Partnership Initiative, New England/New York Forestry Initiative, and Bay Delta. Some States also may have their own State-level initiatives.</p>	NOT APPLICABLE		NOT APPLICABLE	
Statutory Initiatives	<p>NRCS has statutory initiatives that leverage existing programs to target resource concerns in specific geographic areas. They are: Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative, Air Quality, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative,</p>	NOT APPLICABLE		NOT APPLICABLE	

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
	Organic & Transition to Organic, and Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative.				

All programs are subject to final USDA regulations.

*Historically underserved participants may be eligible for increased payment rates (up to 90%) and advanced payments of up to 30%.

Rural Development (RD)

RD administers rural business, cooperative, housing, utilities, energy, and community development programs. Some programs provide direct assistance to farmers, ranchers and small businesses, and others help indirectly by improving the infrastructure and local amenities in rural communities. Programs for small businesses provide funds for start-ups and expansions, and to help make businesses more energy efficient. The Value Added Producer Grants Program and the Rural Business Enterprise Grants Program are examples of programs which help farmers and ranchers to market their products through value-added activities such as processing or food manufacturing. Programs for rural communities fund improvements to drinking water facilities, construction of essential community facilities, and access to energy facilities and broadband.

Rural Housing Service Programs

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
Single Family Home Ownership Direct Loans * Rural areas with populations of 10,000 or less and, under certain conditions, towns and cities between 10,000 and 20,000 population	Safe, well-built, affordable homes for rural Americans.	Families and individuals.	Buy, build, improve, repair, or rehabilitate rural home as the applicant's permanent residence.	Direct loan.	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-Direct_Housing_Loans.html
Single Family Home Ownership Direct Repair Loans and Grant * Rural areas with populations of 10,000 or less and, under certain conditions,	To help very-low-income applicants remove health and safety hazards or repair their homes.	Families and individuals who currently own their home.	Repair/replace roof, winterizing, purchase or repair of heating system, structural repair, water/sewage connect fees, etc.	Direct loan and grant.	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-RR_Loans_Grants.html

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
towns and cities between 10,000 and 20,000 population					
<p>Single Family Home Ownership Guaranteed Loans</p> <p>* Rural areas with populations of 10,000 or less and, under certain conditions, towns and cities between 10,000 and 20,000 population</p>	<p>To assist moderate income applicants(s)/household(s) in buying their homes by guaranteeing loans made by private lenders.</p>	<p>Families and individuals.</p>	<p>Purchase new or existing home and refinance existing Rural Development guaranteed or direct loans.</p>	<p>Loan guarantee</p>	<p>http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-Guaranteed_Housing_Loans.html</p>
<p>Mutual Self-Help Home Ownership Loans</p> <p>*Rural areas with populations of 10,000 or less and, under certain conditions, towns and cities between 10,000 and 20,000 population</p>	<p>Individual homes built by a group of applicants, with construction guidance of a non-profit organization.</p>	<p>Families and individuals. Individual applications for each participating individual/family.</p>	<p>Construction of a new home, in part by the applicant under supervision.</p>	<p>Direct loan</p>	<p>http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-Self-Help_Loans.html</p>
<p>Mutual Self-Help Housing Grants</p> <p>Rural areas with populations of 10,000 or less and, under certain conditions, towns and cities between 10,000 and</p>	<p>Assist lower income families in building their own homes.</p>	<p>Non-profits and public bodies.</p>	<p>Technical assistance to assist small groups of families to build each other's homes.</p>	<p>Grant</p>	<p>http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-Self-Help_Grants.html</p>

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
20,000 population					
Rental Housing for Families and Elderly Direct Loans * Rural areas with populations of 10,000 or less and, under certain conditions, towns and cities between 10,000 and 20,000 population	Safe, well-built, affordable rental housing for very-low-income individuals and families.	Individuals, trusts, associations, limited partnerships, for-profit and non-profit entities, Tribes, public bodies.	New construction or substantial rehabilitation of rental housing.	Direct loan	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-Direct_Rental_Loans.html
Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program * Rural areas with populations of 10,000 or less and, under certain conditions, towns and cities between 10,000 and 20,000 population	Provides loan guarantees on loans to build or preserve affordable housing for very low to moderate income tenants.	Approved lenders including for profit and non-profit lenders.	Build or rehabilitate affordable rental housing.	Loan guarantee	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-Guaranteed_Rental_Loans.html
Housing Preservation Grants * Rural areas with populations of 10,000 or less and, under certain conditions, towns and cities between 10,000 and 20,000 population	Repair and rehabilitate housing owned or occupied by very-low- and low-income rural families.	Public bodies and non-profit organizations.	Operation of a program which finances repair and rehabilitation activities for single family and small rental properties.	Grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-HPG_Grants.html
Community Facilities Programs * City, town, or	Improve, develop, or finance essential community facilities for rural communities.	Public bodies, non-profit organizations, and federally recognized Indian Tribes.	Construct, enlarge, or otherwise improve essential community facilities to include public safety, fire and	Direct loan, loan guarantee, or grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF_CF.html

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
unincorporated area of not more than 20,000 in population. Facilities must primarily serve rural residents.			rescue, telecommunications, schools, libraries, hospitals, other healthcare facilities, etc. This may include furnishings, fixtures, and other required equipment.		
Farm Labor Housing	Safe, well-built affordable rental housing for farm workers.	Individuals, public and private non-profit organizations.	New construction or substantial rehabilitation of rental housing.	Direct loan and grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-Farm_Labor_Grants.html

Rural Business-Cooperative Service Programs

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
Business and Industry Guarantee Loans (B&I) * All areas except cities over 50,000 in population and their contiguous urbanized areas	Create jobs/stimulate rural economies by providing financial backing for rural businesses.	Lender/businesses.	Real estate, buildings, equipment, supplies, working capital, and some debt refinancing.	Loan guarantee	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_gar.html
Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG)	Finance and facilitate the development of small and emerging private business	Public bodies, private non-profit corporations, and Tribes.	Refinancing, land acquisition, revolving funds, construction, equipment, access streets and roads, utility and service	Grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_rbeg.html

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
*All areas except cities over 50,000 in population and their contiguous urbanized areas	enterprises.		extensions, and rural distance learning networks.		
Intermediary Relending Program Loans (IRP) Rural areas and incorporated places with populations of less than 25,000	Establish revolving funds for business facilities and community development projects	Public bodies, non-profit corporations, Native American Tribes, and cooperatives.	Community development projects, establishment or expansion of businesses, creation or saving of rural jobs.	Direct loan	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_irp.html
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP) All areas except cities over 50,000 in population and their contiguous urbanized areas	Establish revolving funds to target assistance to small rural enterprises.	Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDO)	Loans, technical, and capacity building assistance to businesses with 10 or fewer employees and sole proprietorships.	Loans, grants	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_RMAP.html
Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants (REDLG) * Rural areas with priority to places with populations of 2,500 or less.	Finance economic development and job creation in rural areas.	Rural Utilities Service-financed electric and telephone utilities.	Business startups or expansion projects that create rural jobs.	Grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_redlg.html
Rural Cooperative Development Grants	Establish/operate centers for	Non-profits and institutions of	Establish centers to provide technical assistance, training,	Grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_RCDG.html

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
<p>(RCDG)</p> <p>* All areas except cities over 50,000 in population and their contiguous urbanized areas.</p>	<p>cooperative development</p>	<p>higher education.</p>	<p>applied research, and collection and interpretation of data, for the purpose of cooperative development.</p>		
<p>Small, Socially Disadvantaged Producer Grant Program</p> <p>* All areas, except cities over 50,000 in population and their contiguous urbanized areas</p>	<p>Provides funds to eligible cooperatives or an association of cooperatives to provide technical assistance to small, socially disadvantaged producers in rural areas.</p>	<p>Cooperatives and associations of cooperatives whose membership and board of directors is comprised of at least 75 percent socially disadvantaged agricultural producers.</p>	<p>Technical assistance.</p>	<p>Grant</p>	<p>http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_SSDPG.html</p>
<p>Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant Program (VAPG)</p> <p>*All areas</p>	<p>Assist independent agricultural producers to enter into activities that add value to their crops.</p>	<p>Independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, producer groups, majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.</p>	<p>Feasibility studies, business plans; working capital</p>	<p>Grant</p>	<p>http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_VAPG.html</p>
<p>Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG)</p> <p>*All areas except cities over 50,000 in population and their contiguous urbanized areas</p>	<p>Finance technical assistance for business development planning in rural areas.</p>	<p>Public bodies, non-profit corporations, Indian Tribes on Federal or State reservations, cooperatives with members that are primarily rural residents.</p>	<p>Technical assistance, leadership training, establishment of business support centers, economic development plans.</p>	<p>Grant</p>	<p>http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_rbog.html</p>
<p>Rural Energy for America (REAP)</p>	<p>Finance the purchase of renewable energy systems, and</p>	<p>Feasibility studies/regular REAPs: agricultural producers and rural</p>	<p>Construction or improvements, purchase and installation of</p>	<p>Guaranteed loans and grants</p>	<p>http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_reapreeei.html</p>

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
*All areas except cities over 50,000 in population and their contiguous urbanized areas	make energy improvements; energy audits.	small businesses. Energy audits and renewable energy development assistance: local governments, Tribes, land-grant colleges, rural electric co-ops, public power entities.	equipment, energy audits, permit fees, professional service fees, business plans, feasibility studies.		
REAP 9007 Loan Guarantee * Cities, towns, unincorporated areas with population less than 50,000	Provide assistance for energy efficient improvements or purchase of a renewable energy system for operations.	Small businesses and agricultural producers	In addition to authorized purposes under grant, can also cover land acquisition and working capital.	Loan	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_ReapLoans.html
REAP Feasibility Study * Cities, towns, unincorporated areas with population less than 50,000	Provide assistance for 25 percent of the cost of a feasibility study.	Small businesses and agricultural producers	Feasibility studies for implementation of a renewable energy system from wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, hydro-power, hydrogen producing electricity, heat or fuel.	Grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_Reap_FeasibilityStudies.html
REAP/Energy Audit/Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grant * Cities, towns, unincorporated areas with population less than 50,000	Provide grant to entity to pass through a small business or agricultural producer for 75 percent of the cost of an energy audit or renewable energy development assistance.	State, tribal, or local government; institutions of higher education; rural electric cooperatives; or a public power entity.	\$100,000 grant to entity, make smaller grants to small business and agricultural producers for 75 percent of energy audit or renewable energy development assistance.	Grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_ReapEaReda.html
9003 Biorefinery Assistance Program Guaranteed Loan	The purpose of this program is to provide guaranteed loans for the development and construction of commercial-sale biorefineries or for the	Individual, Indian Tribe, State or local government, corporation, farm cooperative, association of agricultural producers, national laboratory, institution of higher	Guaranteed loan for the purpose of development and construction of commercial scale biorefinery or retrofitting an existing facility to use eligible	Loan	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_Biorefinery.html

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
*No restrictions	retrofitting of existing facilities using eligible technology for the development of advanced biofuels.	learning, rural electric cooperative, public power entity, consortium of any of the entities.	technology for the development of advanced biofuels.		
9004 Repowering Assistance *No restrictions	Provide payments to existing biorefineries in replacing fossil fuels with biomass.	Existing biorefineries	Grant to existing biorefineries including ethanol and biodiesel that use electricity generated from natural gas and coal and require this for fermentation process.	Grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_RepoweringAssistance.html
9005 Bioenergy for Advanced Biofuels *No restrictions	Provide payments to producers of advanced biofuels.	Eligible producers of advanced biofuels.	Grant to producers of advanced biofuels (non-corn based).	Grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_Biofuels.html
9008 Renewable Energy Biomass Research and Development Program *No restrictions	Grant must be matched with at least 20 percent of non-Federal funds for research and development (R&D) and at least 50 percent of non-Federal funds for demonstration projects.	Institutions of higher learning, national laboratory, federal research agency, state research agency, private sector entity, nonprofit R&D organization, or consortium of two of the above type of entities.	Promote R&D and demonstration regarding the production of biofuels and biproducts.	Grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/OR_9008.html
9009 Renewable Energy Self Sufficiency * Cities, towns, unincorporated areas with population less than 50,000		Eligible rural communities	Promote community self sufficiency.	Grant	

Rural Utilities Services Programs

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants * Rural areas, and towns with up to 10,000 population	Provide infrastructure for rural areas.	Public entities, Indian Tribes, and non-profit corporations.	Build, repair, and improve public water systems, and waste collection and treatment systems.	Direct loan and grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-dispdirectloansgrants.htm
Water and Waste Disposal Loan Guarantees * Rural areas, and towns with up to 10,000 population	Provide infrastructure for rural areas.	Public entities, Indian Tribes, and non-profit corporations.	Construct, repair, improve water supply and distribution systems, and waste collection and treatment systems.	Loan guarantee	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-dispguaranteedloan.htm
Technical Assistance/Training/Circuit Rider * Rural areas and towns with up to 10,000 population	Provide technical assistance and training	Public, private, and non-profit organizations	Provide technical assistance and training to assist with management of water and waste projects.	Grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-wwtat.htm
Rural Broadband Loan and Loan Guarantee * Any area not located within: (1) a city, town, or	Deployment of broadband service to eligible rural communities.	Entities seeking to provide broadband services in rural areas. Individuals/partnerships not eligible.	Finance the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment to provide broadband service in eligible rural communities; refinance Telecommunications Program	Direct loans and loan guarantees	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/supportdocuments/BBLoanProgramBrochure_8-11.pdf

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
incorporated area over 20,000 inhabitants; or (2) an Urbanized Area contiguous to a city or town of greater than 50,000 inhabitants			debt.		
Electric and Telecommunications Programs * Electric: areas served by an existing rural electric borrower, or rural areas other than a city or town of more than 20,000 inhabitants. Telecommunications: areas cities with population over 5,000	Assist rural communities in obtaining affordable, high-quality electric and telecommunications services.	Non-profit and cooperative associations, public bodies, and other utilities.	Generation, transmission facilities, and distribution of electric power, including alternative, renewable, conservation and energy efficiency programs . Enhance 911 emergency service, digital switching equipment, fiber optic cable, along with traditional main system telecommunications service.	Direct loan or loan guarantee	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_infrastructure.html
Distance Learning and Telemedicine * Rural areas outside incorporated or unincorporated cities with population over 20,000	Development and deployment of advanced telecommunication services throughout rural America to improve education and health care.	Incorporated entities, including municipalities, for-profit, and not-for profit corporations, that operate rural schools, libraries, health care clinics and other educational or health care facilities.	To provide end-user equipment and programming that delivers distance learning and telemedicine services into eligible areas.	Direct loan and/or grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UTP_DLT.html
Community Connect * A single community outside incorporated	Provide public access to broadband in otherwise unserved communities.	Public bodies, Tribes, cooperatives, nonprofits, limited dividend or mutual	To build broadband infrastructure and establish a community center which	Grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_commconnect.html

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
or unincorporated cities with population over 20,000 which does not have broadband		associations; corporations and other legally organized entities	offers free public access to broadband for 2 years.		

Risk Management Agency (RMA)

RMA administers the Federal crop insurance program that is a critical component in the farm’s financial safety net. The Risk Management Agency provides a variety of actuarially sound crop and livestock-related insurance products. Many of these programs protect against agricultural production losses due to unavoidable causes such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, wind, hurricane, tornado, lightning, insects, etc. Much of the insurance provided by the Risk Management Agency has a revenue protection component to help producers protect against revenue losses resulting from low commodity prices.

RMA Programs

Program & Population	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Type of Assistance	Website or Other Information
Yield Protection	To provide assistance to eligible producers of insurable crops for production losses and prevented planting where available due to natural disasters.	Eligible individuals and legal entities that produce insurable crops.	Provides eligible producers with insurance payments when suffering crop production losses due to natural disasters.	Crop Insurance	http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/2013policy.html http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/combo.html
Revenue Protection	To provide assistance to eligible producers of insurable crops for production and limited revenue losses and prevented planting where available due to natural disasters.	Eligible individuals and legal entities that produce insurable crops.	Provides eligible producers with insurance payments when suffering crop production and a portion of revenue losses due to natural disasters.	Crop Insurance	http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/2013policy.html http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/combo.html
Revenue Protection with Harvest Price Election	To provide assistance to eligible producers of insurable crops for production and revenue losses and prevented planting where available due to natural disasters.	Eligible individuals and legal entities that produce insurable crops.	Provides eligible producers with insurance payments when suffering crop production and revenue losses due to natural disasters.	Crop Insurance	http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/2013policy.html http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/combo.html
Index Protection	To provide assistance to eligible producers of insurable commodities for losses determined from index values.	Eligible individuals and legal entities that produce insurable commodities.	Provide eligible producers with insurance payments when index values fall below a specified threshold.	Crop Insurance	http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/ri-vi/index.html http://www.rma.usda.gov/livestock/ http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/grip.html http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/ri-vi/apiculture.html
Other Insurance Products	To provide assistance to eligible producers of insurable crops for production losses due to natural disasters.	Eligible individuals and legal entities that produce insurable crops.	Provide eligible producers with insurance payments when suffering losses due to natural disasters.	Crop Insurance	http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/2013policy.html http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/combo.html

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