

## Support Agencies and Entities

### **American Farmland Trust | Farmland Information Center**

American Farmland Trust's Farmland Information Center (FIC) is a clearinghouse for resources about farmland protection and stewardship. It is a partnership with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. FIC staff offer direct technical assistance, develop educational resources, and conduct policy research on a range of issues including farm transfer to support people working to save agricultural land for agriculture.

Farmland Information Center website: <https://farmlandinfo.org/>

Find farmland webpage: <https://farmlandinfo.org/find-farmland/>

### **American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers**

American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers is a professional association for rural property land experts, with more than 2,100 members nationwide. Members can help beginning farmers and ranchers evaluate land, develop a management plan and determine if the price is reasonable.

ASFMRA website: <https://www.asfmra.org/home>

### **Cooperative Extension System**

The Cooperative Extension System is a nationwide, non-credit educational network. Each state and U.S. territory has a state office at its land-grant university and a network of field offices with specialists who provide useful, research-based information about local agriculture, agricultural services and markets and may assist with soil testing. Extension also offers valuable resources and training related to estate and farm transfer planning.

Extension directory:

<https://nifa.usda.gov/land-grant-colleges-and-universities-partner-website-directory>

### **Conservation Districts**

Conservation districts are local units of government established under state law to carry out natural resource management programs at the local level. Districts work with landowners and operators to help them manage and protect land and water resources on private and public lands in the United States. Some conservation districts own agricultural land and make it available for leasing. District staff also work with landowners who may be interested in selling or leasing farmland. There are more than 3,000 conservation districts nationwide. The National Association of Conservation Districts maintains a directory of conservation districts.

National Association of Conservation Districts website: <http://www.nacdnet.org/>

Districts directory: <http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/conservation-district-directory/>

### Farmer Resource Network

The Farmer Resource Network is a free search tool that can be used to find organizations and resources that are useful for farmers, agricultural service providers, farmworkers, farm communities and farming families across the United States. Use the dropdown menus and check boxes to easily find what you're looking for. Our media resources include publications, videos, podcasts, training courses and more. This work is supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN).

<https://farmerresourcenetwork.force.com/FRN/s/>

### Farm Credit

The Farm Credit System (FCS) is a nationwide network of borrower-owned lending institutions and specialized service organizations that provide loans and other services to agricultural producers, rural homeowners, aquatic producers, timber harvesters, agri-businesses, and agricultural and rural utility cooperatives. According to the federal Farm Credit Administration—which regulates and examines FCS—FCS is the largest agricultural lender in the United States. Farm Credit institutions provide financial and farm transfer planning services.

Farm Credit lender finder: <https://farmcredit.com/locations?zip=>

### Farm Commons

Farm Commons provides legal workshops, timely resources, and a community for farmers, ranchers, and their service providers.

<https://farmcommons.org/>

### Local Government Offices

County and municipal offices house a wealth of information on local land use policy as well as individual parcels. They also have experts who can talk to about community conditions or issues affecting a particular site, such as an assessor, building inspector or planner. Many have information available online, but it is also a good idea to visit in person. Here is a list of the kinds of information you can collect from a county or municipal office that may inform your farm transfer:

- Ownership
- Property taxes and current assessment
- Easements, liens and other restrictions
- Local comprehensive/master plan and other community plans
- Zoning maps
- Ordinances, zoning and other local policies that affect agriculture

### State Departments of Agriculture

All 50 states and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, have a State Department of Agriculture. These state agencies offer services to farmers as they work to maintain a safe and secure food supply and to keep farming and ranching economically and environmentally sound. Some state departments of agriculture offer educational resources and/or grant

programs to assist with farm transfer planning. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture maintains a directory of state departments of agriculture.

NASDA website: <https://www.nasda.org>

NASDA directory: <https://www.nasda.org/states/state-directory>

### **Tribal Conservation Districts**

Tribal Conservation Districts are Tribal entities supporting Tribal efforts to protect, conserve and restore Tribal lands for the benefit of the community in a partnership with USDA agencies. The Tribal Conservation Districts work to strengthen government-to-government relations and provide parity in access to federal conservation programs. Tribal Conservation Districts provide technical, financial and educational assistance to address the resource needs of all the communities they serve.

Tribal Conservation District finder: <https://inca-tcd.org/tcd/>

### **USDA Beginning Farmer/Rancher**

USDA state beginning farmer coordinators help beginning farmers and ranchers get started or grow their farming operations through a variety of programs and services. From farm loans to crop insurance, and conservation programs to disaster assistance, beginning farmer coordinators help beginning farmers and ranchers find the services they need.

USDA Beginning Farmer Coordinators: [USDA state beginning-farmer coordinators](#)

### **USDA Farm Service Agency**

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides direct and guaranteed loans to farmers and ranchers unable to obtain financing from other lenders for operating expenses and land purchases. Microloans are direct farm operating loans with a shortened application process and reduced paperwork designed to meet the needs of smaller, non-traditional, and niche type operations.

USDA Service Center Locator:

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/contact/local/?cid=nrcsdev11\\_000242](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/contact/local/?cid=nrcsdev11_000242)

### **USDA Farm Service Agency Outreach Office**

USDA's Farm Service Agency Outreach office coordinates and implements agency-wide outreach activities to farmers, ranchers and stakeholders who can benefit from its programs and services. Their goal is to increase participation in FSA programs with targeted marketing activities to underserved populations including:

- Minority farmers/ranchers and landowners/operators (including African-Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Asian/Pacific Americans, Hispanics), Women, and the physically challenged who may need, but have not fully benefited from, USDA assistance;
- New or Beginning farmers and ranchers (including youth and veterans);
- Farmers and ranchers who have not participated in or have received limited benefits from FSA programs;
- Small specialty crop farmers, organic farmers and other farmers with production practices that are different from most farmers in the area.

USDA Farm Service Agency Outreach Office: [FSA/programs-and-services/outreach-and-education](#)

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**

NRCS is an agency within the United States Department of Agriculture that helps farmers and ranchers manage and conserve natural resources. NRCS conservationists offer technical and financial assistance including help developing and implementing conservation plans. They usually can be found in USDA service centers.

USDA Service Center Locator:

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/contact/local/?cid=nrcsdev11\\_000242](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/contact/local/?cid=nrcsdev11_000242)