



United States
Department of
Agriculture

A close-up photograph of several hands holding a bright yellow corn cob in a field. The hands are positioned around the cob, with some peeling back the dried, light-brown husks. The background is a lush green field of corn plants under bright, natural light.

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION (FPAC) ATA GLANCE

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

FARM SERVICE AGENCY | NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE | RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

About FPAC

USDA created the Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) mission area in 2017, bringing together agencies that support and deliver a wide variety of programs and services to America's farmers and ranchers. By coming together as one mission area, the agencies have strengthened coordination and collaboration, enabling them to better serve agricultural producers.

FPAC consists of four agencies—**Farm Service Agency (FSA)**, **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**, **Risk Management Agency (RMA)**, and the **FPAC Business Center**, which supports operational and business functions.

FSA helps America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners invest in, improve and expand their agricultural operations. FSA programs also assist producers in recovering from the impacts of natural disasters and market fluctuations. NRCS provides America's farmers and ranchers with financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground, not only helping the environment, but also agricultural operations.

RMA serves America's agricultural producers through effective, market-based risk management tools to strengthen their economic stability. The FPAC Business Center provides operational assistance and helps FSA, NRCS, and RMA accomplish their missions of supporting agricultural producers and rural communities.

Together, these agencies administer a wide variety of farm loan, disaster assistance, safety net, risk management, and conservation programs, helping producers weather economic ups and downs as well as grow and improve their operations. FPAC's partnership with America's producers plays a pivotal role in addressing the challenges of climate change, inequity, and the pandemic.

Loans

USDA is here to help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners get the loan support they need to be successful. Whether a producer is just getting started or a seasoned veteran in business for decades, FSA has loan options to help them meet their goals.

Loans offered through USDA include the:

- Farm Ownership Loans, Microloans, and Farm Operating Loans help farmers and ranchers get the financing they need to start, expand, or maintain a family farm.
- Youth Loans are for young people between 10 and 20 years old who need assistance with an educational agricultural project.
- Farm Storage Facility Loans help producers build or upgrade facilities to store commodities, acquire storage and handling trucks and/or related handling equipment.

Producers can find the right loan for their operation with the Farm Loan Discovery Tool on farmers.gov.

Disaster Assistance

Agriculture is a risky business. USDA is here to help producers prepare for and recover from the impacts of natural disasters and market volatility.

USDA Disaster Assistance Programs include the:

- Tree Assistance Program (TAP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) help compensate producers for losses caused by natural disasters.
- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) help producers with restoring fences, damaged farmland, or forests.
- Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program provides assistance to communities to address watershed impairments or hazards.

Producers can find the right disaster assistance for their operation with the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool on farmers.gov.

Risk Management

USDA provides crop insurance for producers through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. The federal crop insurance program is designed to provide a robust and reliable farm safety net, regardless of the size and scope of natural disasters.

USDA's Risk Management Agency works closely with Approved Insurance Providers, who sell and service the policies that producers purchase, to ensure efficient loss adjustment and prompt claims payments, even in times of major disasters.

For crops not covered by federal crop insurance, FSA offers the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), which provides coverage for both crop losses and crop planting that was prevented due to natural disasters.



Safety Net Programs

USDA offers a number of programs that provide coverage for agricultural producers to help them manage risk and to protect their operations from the impact of natural disasters and drops in prices or revenues.

USDA Safety Net Programs include the:

- Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs provide income support to farmers to mitigate the effects of substantial drops in crop prices or revenues and are vital economic safety net programs for most American farms.
- Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program offers protection to dairy producers for the difference between milk and feed prices. Also, the Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage (SDMC) provides additional payments to small and mid-sized dairy operations that have increased production over the years.
- Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments help producers meet cash flow needs during harvest time.

Conservation

Natural resources conservation in agriculture is vital to maintaining the productivity and sustainability of America's working lands, forests, and wetlands. USDA wants to help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners improve the natural resources on their lands, which can positively impact the profitability of their operations while conserving and protecting these critical resources for the future.

USDA Conservation Programs include the:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA) provide advice and funding to implement practices on agricultural working lands.
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) helps producers protect wetlands, grasslands, and farmlands with long-term easements.
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG), and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) rally partner organizations to help expand the reach of conservation and develop new approaches.
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides a payment to producers who manage conservation covers on the land. In addition to its general and continuous signups, CRP also offers a special signup for grasslands

Learn more on the Conservation Concerns Tool on [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov).

Advancing Equity

USDA is committed to equity in delivering programs and services to farmers and ranchers, including historically underserved producers who have faced barriers to access and discrimination when applying to participate in USDA programs.

USDA provides incentives and additional support—such as increased financial assistance for conservation practices, dedicated conservation funding and loan allocations, and access to advance payments for conservation practice implementation—to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners that fit into one of the four historically underserved groups.

This also includes USDA's efforts to support urban agriculture through grants, cooperative agreements, county committees focused on urban agriculture, a new Secretary's advisory committee, and available programs for urban farmers.



Addressing Climate Change

Climate change is happening, and America's agricultural and rural communities are on the frontlines. Now is the time for agriculture, forestry, and rural communities to act.

FPAC programs support climate-smart agriculture, helping farmers, ranchers, forest landowners and partners to leverage our resources to increase climate resilience, sequester carbon, enhance agricultural productivity, and maintain critical environmental benefits through voluntary conservation efforts.



Working with Us

USDA has Service Centers serving every county in the country. Service Centers are offices where you can typically meet face-to-face with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) team members to discuss your vision, goals, and ways USDA can help. In most places, FSA, NRCS as well as other USDA agencies are co-located in the same Service Center. Depending on your needs, you will likely work with both the FSA county offices and NRCS field offices. In total, USDA employs FSA and NRCS staff members in 2,300 offices nationwide.

Private crop insurance agents sell and service federal crop insurance policies. To find an agent near you, search the list of crop insurance agents online using the [Risk Management Agency's Agent Locator](#). If a producer has difficulty finding a crop insurance agent, they can contact their [RMA Regional Office](#).



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More Information

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To find your local USDA Service Center, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](#).

To locate an approved insurance provider, visit the Agent Locator on [rma.usda.gov](#).