

Assistance for New and Beginning Farmers

What assistance is available?

Short-term contracts to assist farmers and/or landowners with conservation practices such as:

- conservation tillage
- buffers
- nutrient management
- grazing
- barnyards
- and more than 100 other practices

Technical assistance to help farmers carry out the practices

NRCS professional staff can help identify conservation needs and plan practices for your farm.

What is the advantage for new and beginning farmers?

- Higher payment rate
- Advance practice payments of up to 30% for materials for construction, when work can begin immediately

How do I know if I qualify?

- The applicant or the operator must be an agricultural producer engaged in the production of livestock or other agricultural products and must have produced at least \$1,000 annually on the applicant's farming operation
- Owners of farms who are not the operator may apply

How do I know if I qualify as a new and beginning farmer?

- New and beginning farmers are those who have not had a farming enterprise continuously for the past 10 years
- If a farmer has filed a Schedule F with their federal income tax return for the past 10 consecutive years, the farmer is not considered new or beginning
- All partners in the operation must meet the new and beginning farmer criteria

How Does a Farmer Apply?

- Contact a local USDA NRCS office for an appointment
- Request a conservation plan
- Complete an application for one of the cost share or incentive programs

When Does a Farmer Apply?

- All programs have a continuous sign up
- Contracts are awarded until funding is gone

