



### FSA Mission

“Farm Service Agency is equitable serving all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans.”

### Serving Maryland’s Rural Communities

Maryland FSA has joined forces with Secretary Vilsack’s People’s Garden initiative. The initiative’s goal is to have a community garden in and around every USDA service center across the United States. The gardens will be a place where people can learn about agriculture and to bring communities together.

The FSA office in Kent County is working along side The Discovery Corp at Chestertown Middle School (CMS), and the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, to build a garden in 2010. The harvest of the “Victory Garden” will provide fruits and vegetables to the CMS students through school meals and for take-home boxes. Any additional proceeds will be distributed through the Community Food Pantry. CMS is a Title One school, with approximately 50% of the students entitled to receive free or reduced price meals.

Currently, Maryland has more than 10 different projects underway. To learn how you can help with other FSA People’s Gardens, call your local FSA office.

### Serving Maryland’s Producers



FSA administers and manages farm commodity, credit, conservation and disaster programs as laid

out by Congress through a network of federal, state and county offices.

These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of the agricultural industry and to help farmers adjust production to meet demand. Economically, the desired result of these programs is a steady price range for agricultural commodities for both farmers and consumers.

There are 23 counties in Maryland with 21 County Offices to serve all of our producers.





## Farm Programs

**Direct and Countercyclical Payment Program (DCP):** Income support to producers of eligible commodities based on historical acreages and yields.

**Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE):** Income support to producer for eligible commodities that is based on farm revenue.

**Biomass Crop Assistance Program: (BCAP)** Provides financial assistance to producer's who deliver eligible biomass material to designated biomass conversion facilities for use as heat, power or bio-based products of the production of bio-fuels.

**Conservation Reserve Program/ Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CRP/CREP):** A voluntary land based program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water.

**Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL):** Provides loans to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

**Milk Income Loss Contract Program: (MILC)** Supports dairy producers by providing payments when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level.

**Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP):** Provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters.

## Farm Loans

**Rural Youth Loans:** Rural youth loans may be made to individuals who are 10 to 20 years old and who are sponsored by a project advisor, such as a 4-H Club, FFA or local vocational instructor for income producing, agricultural projects.

**Farm Operating Loans:** In place to produce financing to farmers to purchase operating inputs, livestock and equipment and to refinance certain types of debt.

**Farm Ownership Loans:** Provide financial assistance to qualifying applicants in purchasing a farm or making improvements to a farm.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees loans to family farmers and ranchers to promote, build and sustain family farms in support of a thriving agricultural economy.



## United States Department of Agriculture's Vision

We want to be recognized as a dynamic organization that is able to efficiently provide the integrated program delivery needed to lead a rapidly evolving food and agriculture system