

Nevada

June 2009

Definitions

Historically Underserved Agricultural Producers

DEFINITION OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER/RANCHER

A socially disadvantaged applicant is an individual or entity who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group, without regard to their individual qualities. These groups consist of the following:

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians
- Blacks or African Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Hispanics

Gender alone is not a covered group for the purposes of NRCS conservation programs.

For an entity, at least 50 percent ownership in the farm business must be held by socially disadvantaged individuals. One member of an eligible entity may certify for all members rather than have each member self-certify.

DEFINITION OF BEGINNING FARMER/RANCHER

A Beginning Farmer/Rancher is an individual or entity who:

1. Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of an entity,
2. Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.
 - a. In the case of a contract with an individual, individually or with the immediate family, material and substantial participation requires that the individual provide substantial day-to-day labor and management of the farm or ranch, consistent with the practices in the county or State where the farm is located.

2. In the case of a contract with an entity, all members must materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch. Material and substantial participation requires that each of the members provide some amount of the management, or labor and management necessary for day-to-day activities, such that if each of the members did not provide these inputs, operation of the farm or ranch would be seriously impaired.

DEFINITION OF LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER/RANCHER

A Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher is:

1. A person with direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than \$155,200 in each of the previous two years¹,
- AND
2. A person with a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years².

All individuals within an entity, such as a partnership or corporation, must meet the criteria for Limited Resource or Beginning Farmer/Rancher. A tool to help you determine your eligibility is located on the Web at <http://www.lrfstool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp>.

MORE INFORMATION

For more assistance, contact your local USDA Service Center or NRCS office. Nevada NRCS offices can be found online at www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov.

¹ This value will be increased from \$100,000 beginning in fiscal year 2004 to adjust for inflation using the "Prices Paid by Farmer Index" compiled by NASS.

² Total household income will be determined annually and indexed for inflation using Commerce Department Data.

USDA maintains this definition for the 2008 Farm Bill.