

Heirs' Property

What is heirs' property?

Heirs' property is a legal term that refers to family land inherited without a will or legal documentation of ownership.

Why does it matter?

It has historically been challenging for heirs' to benefit from USDA programs because of limitations in receiving a farm number without proof of ownership or control of land. However, the 2018 Farm Bill authorized the use of alternative documentation to assist heirs with establishing a farm number. A farm number is required to be eligible for many different USDA programs, including lending, disaster relief programs, and participation in county committees.

How can USDA help?

USDA is working to help heirs.

For information on how we can help or what documentation is currently required from heirs to establish land ownership, visit

farmers.gov/heirs

USDA's Heirs' Property Relending Program works through intermediary lenders who provide loans for heirs to use to get legal title to their land. For more information, visit

farmers.gov/heirs/re lending

Schedule an appointment to meet with the Farm Service Agency county outreach coordinator to discuss your farming aspirations and USDA programs available for you.

Find your local USDA Service Center at

farmers.gov/service-locator

