

# Support for Urban Agriculture

## FSA Fact Sheet



## Support for Urban Agriculture

Are you farming or gardening in a city, suburb, tribal community or small town? From community gardens to indoor vertical farms, urban agriculture provides critical access to healthy food for local communities, as well as jobs, climate resilience, increased green spaces, and closer community ties.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers resources to start, expand, and operate your farm or garden, market what you grow, and help you recover in the event of a natural disaster.

### *We can help you with*

## Financing Your Urban Farm or Garden

FSA loan programs provide access to capital, either directly from FSA or through a third-party, commercial lender. You may be interested in using the Farm Loan Assistance Tool to determine which loan option works best for you.

- **Farm Ownership Loans** can be used to purchase a farm, enlarge an existing farm, construct new farm buildings and/or improve structures, pay closing costs, and promote soil and water conservation and protection.
- **Operating Loans** can be used for normal operating expenses, machinery and equipment, minor real estate repairs or improvements, and refinancing debt.
- **Microloans** are particularly beneficial for the unique needs of urban farmers, beginning farmers, and other small, specialty operations. resources to start, expand, and operate your farm or garden, market what you grow, and help you recover in the event of a natural disaster.

- **Emergency Loans** help producers who suffered losses or damages due to natural disasters.
- **Farm Storage Facility Loans** provide low-interest financing to build, upgrade, or purchase permanent or portable facilities to store commodities, including fruit and vegetable cold storage, washing, packing, and handling buildings and equipment.



- **Youth Loans** are for people between 10-20 years old to start and operate income-producing projects in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, a Tribal youth group, or similar agricultural organization.
- **Marketing Assistance Loans** provide producers of honey, wool, mohair, and other eligible commodities with financing to enable the delay of selling until market prices are more favorable.
- **Loan Servicing Options** are also available for existing FSA borrowers who are unable to make scheduled payments on their farm loan programs debt to the agency because of reasons beyond their control.

## About FSA

FSA serves all farmers, livestock producers and agricultural partners through the equitable delivery of effective, efficient federal farm programs for all Americans. FSA is committed to working with farms of all sizes and in all locations, including those in urban areas.

## About Urban Agriculture

Urban agriculture includes the cultivation, processing, and distribution of agricultural products in urban and suburban areas; and may also include tribal communities and small towns.

Community gardens, rooftop farms, hydroponic, aeroponic and aquaponic facilities, and vertical production, are all examples of urban agriculture.



## Managing Risk

FSA offer a suite of programs and loans to help you recover from recent or prepare for future disasters and market fluctuations including:

- Risk management coverage options through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program that covers crops that are not insurable through USDA's federal crop insurance products.
- A strong production safety net through the administration of farm commodity price support as well as crop, livestock, and infrastructure disaster recovery assistance programs.
- Conservation programs to support land stewardship, rehabilitate agricultural operations and provide emergency haying and grazing following a qualifying natural disaster event.
- Use the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#) to learn about available disaster recovery programs.

## Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) Risk

Receive 75% or up to \$750 reimbursement when obtaining or renewing [organic certification](#).

## Get Involved

In addition to our farm programs, there are many leadership opportunities for urban producers to contribute their voices and experience.

- [Farm Service Agency Urban County Committees](#) are elected committee members who provide input on USDA urban agriculture policy in selected cities.
- [Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#) provides input and feedback to the Secretary of Agriculture.

## Get Started

You can meet face-to-face with our staff at your local USDA Service Center to discuss your vision, goals, and ways we can help. We even have urban-specific service centers in some cities. An FSA team member will help you get a farm number, the first step toward receiving USDA assistance. Even if you are farming on .01 acres, you can get a farm number, regardless of whether your farm or garden generates income.

- Find your local office at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

If you need information in a language other than English, we offer translated materials and free interpretation service.

## More Information

For more information about Farm Service Agency assistance, visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

For information on USDA-wide assistance, visit [farmers.gov/urban](https://farmers.gov/urban) and [usda.gov/urban](https://usda.gov/urban).

