



New Farmers

Resources to Help Get You Started Farming

United States Department of Agriculture: <http://www.usda.gov> and USDA Results at https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/usdaresults?source=feed_text&story_id=10153831062592299

Start to Farm: Find the resources you need to get started in farming and/or personalize your search with a customized Discovery Tool tailored to your specifications: <https://newfarmers.usda.gov/>. This website guides you through initial steps when considering whether farming is the right choice for you, starting with why you want to farm, developing a farm business plan, resources to access land and capital, risk management, labor and farm safety.

Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food: KYF2 supports the critical connection between farmers and consumers to strengthen USDA's support for local and regional food systems, <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/knowyourfarmer?navid=KNOWYOURFARMER>

Farm-to-Table Topic Room: From crop production to business management to marketing, farmers wear many hats. In addition to having the tools to grow crops, they need the tools to build a strong business that capitalizes on local sales opportunities. <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Topic-Rooms/Farm-to-Table-Building-Local-and...>

Agricultural Marketing Resource Center: AgMRC offers insight into raw commodities, value-added agriculture, and direct marketing, <http://www.agmrc.org>

Find a USDA Service Center: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

Agricultural Marketing Service: AMS is responsible for developing quality grade standards for agricultural commodities, administering marketing regulatory programs, marketing agreements and orders, and making food purchases for USDA food assistance programs. <http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants>

- [Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program](#)
- [Specialty Crop Block Grants](#)

Farm Service Agency: FSA administers farm commodity, crop insurance, credit, environmental, conservation, and emergency assistance programs for farmers and ranchers. <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/beginning-farmers-and-ranchers-loans/index>

- [Farm Loan Programs](#)
- [Farm Storage Facility Loans](#)
- [Microloans](#)

Food and Nutrition Service: FNS increases food security and reduces hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthy diet, and nutrition education. <http://www.fns.usda.gov>

- [Farm to School Grants Program](#)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture: NIFA's mission is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities by supporting research, education, and extension programs in the Land-Grant University System and other partner organizations. <http://nifa.usda.gov/rfa-list>

- [Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program](#)
- [Small Business Innovation Research](#)
- [Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education](#)

Natural Resources Conservation Service: NRCS provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve natural resources and the environment. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

- [Conservation Stewardship Program](#)
- [Conservation Technical Assistance](#)
- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#)
- [Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program](#)

Risk Management Agency: RMA helps to ensure that farmers have the financial tools necessary to manage their agricultural risks. RMA provides coverage through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, which promotes national welfare by improving the economic stability of agriculture. <http://www.rma.usda.gov/>

- [Whole Farm Revenue Protection](#)

Rural Development: RD works to create jobs in rural areas and increase rural residents' economic opportunities through partnerships with rural businesses, cooperatives, communities, institutions of higher education, and individuals. <http://www.rd.usda.gov>

- [Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans](#)
- [Rural Business Development Grants](#)
- [Value-Added Producer Grants](#)

U.S. Small Business Administration: The SBA Microloan Program provides loans up to \$50,000 to help small businesses start-up and expand, <https://www.sba.gov/content/microloan-program>; and find local offices and partners that counsel, mentor, and train small businesses at <https://www.sba.gov/tools/local-assistance>.

Doing Business in North Carolina: <http://business.usa.gov/micro-site/doing-business-north-carolina>

North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services:
<http://www.nasda.org/6186.aspx>

North Carolina Cooperative Extension: The Cooperative Extension System, in partnership with NIFA, is a nationwide, non-credit educational network that addresses public needs by providing non-formal higher education and learning activities to farmers, ranchers, communities, youth, and families throughout the nation. There are programs in all 100 counties and many offer business and entrepreneurship-related programs. <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu>

Military Veterans in Farming

The 2014 Farm Bill created the position of the USDA Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison, which has responsibility for connecting veterans with opportunities in the field of agriculture and providing information to returning veterans about programs and services available to them through USDA.

Military Veterans in Agriculture: <https://newfarmers.usda.gov/./veterans/>

National Agricultural Library: This site explains the different incentives, resources and priorities for military veterans in USDA programs, <http://www.nal.usda.gov/veterans-agriculture>.

Office of Veterans Business Development and Outreach Center: Provides entrepreneurial development services such as business training, counseling and mentoring, and referrals for eligible veterans, dependents or survivors, owning or considering starting a small business, <https://www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/ovbd/resources/362341>.

Boots to Business: An entrepreneurial education and training program offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as part of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP). The curriculum includes steps for evaluating business concepts, foundational knowledge to develop a business plan, and information on SBA resources for start-up capital and technical assistance, <http://boots2business.org/>.

GI Bill: The Post-9/11 GI Bill is an education benefit program for individuals who served on active duty after September 10, 2001. You can use the Post-9/11 GI Bill at colleges, universities, trade schools, and for on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and flight schools, <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>.

AgrAbility: Provides education, assistance, and support to farmers and ranchers with disabilities, <http://nifa.usda.gov/program/agrability> and <http://www.agrability.org/Toolbox/index.cfm>.

Farmer Veteran Coalition: Based in Davis, CA but has a resource guide, list serve and network across the USA, <http://www.farmvetco.org/>.

Armed-to-Farm: Sustainable agriculture training for military veterans, <http://www.ncat.org/armedtofarm/>.

Apprenticeship Learning Programs:

- Rodale Institute, Veteran Organic Program in PA, <http://rodaleinstitute.org/veterans>
- Arcadia Farm, Veteran Farmer Program in VA, <http://www.arcadiafood.org/veteran-farmer-program>
- Veterans' Farm in FL, <http://veteransfarm.org>

Veterans Administration: [Veteran Entrepreneur Portal](#)

My Next Move: A service for Veterans to search for civilian careers and related trainings after their military service has ended, <http://www.mynextmove.org/vets/>.

North Carolina Department of Veteran and Military Affairs: <http://www.milvets.nc.gov/>

NC 4 Vets: A resource guide is published by the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs to assist veterans in learning about state and federal veteran benefits, <http://www.nc4vets.com/>.

American Legion North Carolina: http://www.nclegion.org/postlinks_counties.htm

Women in Agriculture

Women in Agriculture: <https://newfarmers.usda.gov/./who-are-women-ag/>

National Women in Agriculture: <http://www.nwiaa.org/>

A New Network for Women in Agriculture: <http://blogs.usda.gov/2015/02/19/a-new-network-for-women-in-agriculture/>

Top Producer: <http://www.agweb.com/top-producer/executive-women-in-agriculture/>

Office of Women's Business Ownership: Oversees a network of Women's Business Centers (WBCs) throughout the United States and its territories. Through the management and technical assistance provided by the WBCs, entrepreneurs, especially women who are economically or socially disadvantaged, are offered comprehensive training and counseling on a vast array of topics in many languages to help them start and grow their own businesses, <https://www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/wbo>.

International Center for Research on Women: <http://www.icrw.org/what-we-do/agriculture-food-security?qclid=CMWTudaSk8oCFcUXHwodLxINYw>

Other Entrepreneurship & Business Education Resources

North Carolina Community College System: NC CC offers an entrepreneurship curriculum at a number of campuses, and the system's [Small Business Centers Network](#) offer classes, workshops and other programs designed to help business owners.

Small Business and Technology Development Center: Offers 18 regional offices around the state with an entrepreneur-focused [Strategy & Organizational Development](#) program and on-line training resources designed to increase the likelihood of business success.

Senior Core of Retired Executives: SCORE volunteer advisors offer expertise in a variety of fields and industries. Get FREE, customized, business advice from mentors committed to helping your business succeed, <https://www.score.org/>.

NC Rural Center: The [N.C. Rural Center's Institute for Rural Entrepreneurship](#) supports the development of micro, small and medium-size enterprises in rural NC. [Project GATE](#) helps dislocated workers explore options for starting their own business.

North Carolina Farm School: NCSU and NC A & T State University Cooperative Extension, <https://ncfarmschool.ces.ncsu.edu/>.

Within University Systems:

- [Appalachian State University Center for Entrepreneurship](#)
- East Carolina University - [Small Business Institute Program](#)
- Fayetteville State University - [Center for Entrepreneurship](#)
- NC A&T State University- [Interdisciplinary Center for Entrepreneurship and E-Business](#)
- [NC State Entrepreneurship Initiative](#)
- UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Education - [Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education](#)
- UNC-Chapel Hill's [Kenan-Flagler Business School](#) has a [Center for Entrepreneurial Studies](#)
- UNC-Charlotte's [Charlotte Research Institute](#)
- UNC-Greensboro's [North Carolina Entrepreneurship Center](#)
- UNC-Pembroke's [Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship](#)
- [UNC-Wilmington Entrepreneurship Center](#)
- [The UNC System](#) also offers a number of on-line undergraduate and graduate business degree programs.

Technical Assistance for Cooperative Development

Carolina Common Enterprise: Thomas Beckett, Co-Executive Director, 828-713-1668 or Thomas@commonenterprise.coop, or see <http://commonenterprise.coop>

Rural Advancement Foundation International: Scott Marlow, Executive Director, 919-542-1396 x210 or smarlow@rafiusa.org, or see <http://rafiusa.org>

North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, International Trade and Cooperative Development Center: Dr. Osei Yeboah, Director, 336-285-4727 or oyeboah@ncat.edu or see <http://www.ncat.edu/academics/schools-colleges1/saes/academics/agribus/int-trade/>