



Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program provides grants to organizations for education, mentoring, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers or ranchers. Ensuring there will be a “new generation” of beginning farmers and ranchers—regardless of age or production choice—is especially important to the continuation of agricultural production in the United States, the stewardship of land and resources, and the vitality of our communities.

The primary goal of NIFA’s Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) is to increase the number, success and sustainability of beginning farmers and ranchers in the U.S., by providing them knowledge, skills, and tools needed to make informed decisions. This goal is achieved through competitive grants to collaborative State, tribal, local, or regionally-based network or partnership of public or private entities who carry out three kinds of projects. See BFRDP at www.nifa.usda.gov under “Programs” and “Grants”.

Standard Grants

These local and regional projects address the unique training, education, outreach and technical assistance needs of beginning farmers and ranchers, such as land acquisition, business and financial management, farming and ranching practices, natural resource conservation, risk management, legal strategies, marketing strategies, and more.

Educational Enhancement Teams

These teams review beginning farmer and rancher curricula and programs, identify gaps, and develop and disseminate materials and tools to address these gaps. Educational Enhancement Teams do not train beginning farmers and ranchers directly, but rather train the trainers and help enhance other beginning farmer and rancher education programs in the nation.

Farm Answers – the BFRDP National Clearinghouse

The FarmAnswers.org digital library of publications, videos, presentations, apps, and on-line courses provides the nation’s largest source of information for beginning farmers and those who work with them – nearly 3,000 items (and growing!) organized by topic, format, production/marketing system, and location (national, regional or state). It also houses information on new farmer programs, blogs and news feeds, social media, and much more. It is operated by the University of Minnesota’s Center for Farm Financial Management, in partnership with USDA-NIFA and the other BFRDP funded projects.

USDA-Wide Effort

BFRDP is part of a USDA-wide effort to support new and beginning farmers and ranchers through its many programs and services across the Department. Check out the information for new farmers and ranchers, women in agriculture, young farmers, military veterans, and farmers in transition at www.usda.gov/newfarmers. At that site, you can also personalize your search with the Discovery Tool.