

APPENDIX B

Resources for Beginning Farmers or Small Farms

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/>

This voluntary conservation programs helps producers make conservation work for them. NRCS and producers work together to invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while also improving agricultural operations.

Through EQIP, NRCS provides agricultural producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement conservation practices. Using these practices can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat - all while improving agricultural operations. NRCS co-invests in these practices with you.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against increasing weather volatility.

There is a higher cost share and separate funding pool for historically underserved farmers and ranchers that can be used for land and resource improvements such as trees or solar water systems. Historically underserved participants are eligible for advance payments to help offset costs related to purchasing materials or contracting through EQIP. Advance payments can be used for vegetative, structural and management practices.

Historically underserved participants are Beginning Farmers or Ranchers or someone who has never operated a farm or ranch or has operations of less than 10 years. A *Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher* is a member of a group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity without regard to their individual qualities. A *Veteran Farmer or Rancher* has served in the armed forces and has not operated a farm or ranch or has for less than 10 years or first obtained veteran status within the last 10 years. A *Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher* has a household income at or below the national poverty level.

Farm Service Agency also offers conservation loans to farmers and ranchers who need assistance with out of pocket conservation costs.



Farm Service Agency (FSA)

FSA helps farmers and ranchers with programs and services. Service Centers are designed to be a single location to access services. Find your county Service Center at:

<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=nd&agency=fsa>

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index>

CRP is a land conservation program. In exchange for a yearly rental payment, enrolled farmers agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that improve environmental health and quality. The program goal is to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

Transition Incentives Program (TIP)

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/transition-incentives/index>

TIP helps land owners and operators. TIP provides land owners or operators with two additional annual rental payments on land enrolled in expiring CRP contracts on the condition they sell or rent this land to a beginning farmer or rancher or to a socially disadvantaged group. New land owners or renters must return the land to production using sustainable grazing or farming methods. A beginning farmer or rancher is a person who has not been a farm or ranch operator for more than ten years. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is a member of a group who has been historically subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as a member of that group. For this program, gender is not included as socially disadvantaged.

FSA Non insurable program (NAP)

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/noninsured_crop_disaster_assistance_program-nap-fact_sheet.pdf

This program provides financial assistance for producers of eligible, non-insurable crops. Eligible causes of loss can be drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive winds or flood, conditions related to damaging weather or adverse natural occurrences such as excessive heat, plant disease or insect infestation. The local FSA office determines eligibility. Beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and qualifying veterans farmers or ranchers are eligible for a waiver of the service fee and a 50% premium reduction.

Ducks Unlimited



<https://www.ducks.org/>

Ducks Unlimited and partner North Dakota Natural Resources Trust will share the cost of water, fencing and power for people who lease state school trust and public lands. Contact Dane Buysse with Ducks Unlimited at 702-425-4852 or dbuysse@ducks.org.

<https://www.ducks.org/conservation/gpr/north-dakota/grassland-enhancement-project-shares-costs>

Ducks Unlimited helps support wetland restoration. This may include project costs, offering wetland protection in perpetuity through conservation easement contracts, providing consultation with biologists and supplying engineering design and construction services.

Download your PDF copy of “Wetland Habitat Management: A Guide for Landowners” at https://www.ducks.org/media/Conservation/GLARO/_documents/_library/_landowner/Landowner_Guide.pdf



Pheasants Forever

<https://dakotapheasantsforever.org/>

Provides annual support to landowners and producers who are interested in creating habitats and food plots. Financial assistance is available as are seeds. If you have acreage that would benefit from trees, grasslands or other work they will work with you to make it better for you and the wildlife that resides on your land. To learn more about the program or for assistance with the application you can call Dave Nehring at 701-214-3184.

North Central SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education



<https://northcentral.sare.org/State-Programs/North-Dakota/>

A network of state coordinators housed at North Dakota’s land grant university, NDSU. Coordinators conduct train the trainer programs and share information about grant programs and other sustainable agriculture resources.



FARRMS Foundation for Agricultural and Rural Resource Management and Sustainability

<https://www.farrms.org/>

FARRMS helps build sustainable rural communities by linking people to hands educational experiences. **Farm Dreams** helps you explore where you and your dreams fit in the agricultural industry. **Farm Beginnings** is an eight session training course for new and beginning farmers. Learn from other farmers through **Mentorship**. **Grants and Loans** help make your operation a reality. Learn more about local food systems at the farmers markets as a **Farmers Market Intern** or spend the growing season learning on a farm by participating in the **Farm Internship** program.

USDA Rural Development Rural Energy for America Program



<https://www.rd.usda.gov/nd>

The program helps with loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Energy efficiency improvements can fund the purchase, installation and construction of HVAC, insulation, lighting, cooling or refrigeration units, doors and windows, electric, solar or gravity pumps for sprinkler pivots, switching from diesel to electric irrigation motor or replacement of energy-efficient equipment. Renewal energy projects fund biomass, hydropower, geothermal or electric generation, hydrogen, and small and large wind generation, small and large solar generation. Grants may also cover the cost of energy audits to help you identify potential areas of savings.



North Dakota Farm Management

<http://www.ndfarmmanagement.com/>

Helping farm owners and operators or persons interested in farming meet business and personal goals. **Business/Family** explores where you want to go and how you plan to get there. **Planning** helps you with budgeting livestock and crops, whole farm planning, succession and transition planning, partial year and annual cash flow, long range budgets, marketing, income estimating and more. **Farm/Ranch Business Records/Accounting** helps you in all aspects of accounting and records needed for planning and analysis. **Business Analysis** helps you create a summary of how your farm business might perform during the year using information to understand costs and returns to crop and livestock production as well as the cost of production per unit.

North Dakota FFA Foundation Bakk Farm: Farm Management Grant



<https://www.ndffaoundation.com/farm-management-grant-application/>

An immigrant farmer from Eastern North Dakota, Fridtjov Bakk, set up a trust to provide funds to enhance the education and opportunities of youth and young adults involved in North Dakota agriculture. The two year grant provides \$500 each year for program tuition for farmers and ranchers enrolled in a North Dakota Farm Business Management Program.



North Dakota Department of Agriculture

<https://www.nd.gov/ndda/>

If you grow fruits and vegetables and need to know more about food safety you'll find help with education and assistance with the **Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)**. Grower training courses also include **Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)** and the **Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training Course**.

The **Local Foods** program will help you get your local foods to market and sell directly from your farm to a larger distributor. **Farm to Market Guide** introduces you to certain laws and regulations you should know about depending on the type of food you sell. **Farmers Market Pricing Study** helps you think through your own product pricing strategies.

If you have an idea that will create new wealth and employment opportunities by developing and expanding agricultural products the **Ag Products Utilization Commission (APUC)** grant program might be a resource. APUC grants fund farm diversification projects, nature based agri-tourism projects, marketing and utilization projects and can help you with targeted technical assistance.

North Dakota is the #1 honey-producing state in the nation! The **Apiary Program** licenses beekeepers; registers hive locations and offers the honey bee research and promotion grants.

The **Meat Inspection** program governs meat or meat food products offered for sale ensuring prevention of contamination, preparation under sanitary conditions and equipment suitability. Here's where you'll find **Meat Processing in North Dakota – Guidelines for Operating a Business**.

The **North Dakota Mediation Service** helps financially distressed farmers and ranchers through assistance with credit and financial matters as well as resolving disputes.

<https://www.nd.gov/ndda/programs> is your direct link to all of the programs offered through the North Dakota Department of Agriculture.

Pride of Dakota



<https://www.prideofdakota.nd.gov/>

Pride of Dakota helps you promote and market your products and services under an identifiable brand that designates your product as ‘made in North Dakota’. Pride of Dakota is a membership based organization. Pride of Dakota’s goal is to provide resources and marketing opportunities you need to be successful.

Export Assistance services help companies interested in exporting their products by providing consulting and programs for assistance along with market research. **Networking Opportunities** bring members together to develop beneficial relationships. **Seminar and Workshops** focus on business and marketing topics, expert consultations and networking. The **Trade Show Assistance Program** offers financial assistance to members who want to take their product to regional, national and international trade shows.