



Guides to help prepare you for your visit to USDA

- As a new farmland owner or renter, you are encouraged to visit your local FSA office to learn about the USDA programs that can provide assistance for your operation.
 - Find FSA: FSA has an office in more than 2,000 counties nationwide in almost every rural county of the United States. Each FSA office is staffed with a dedicated team that knows the programs to help you get started as a new farmer or rancher. The USDA offices offer financial assistance, help to finalize your business plans, and conservation planning.
 - Some offices may not offer all services. Contact your local office before your visit if you have any questions.
 - To find your office, visit the web at <http://offices.usda.gov>. Although appointments are not necessary, they are strongly recommended to avoid an unexpected wait.
 - What to bring:
 - Proof of identity: driver's license, Social Security number/card
 - Copy of recorder deed, survey plat, rental, or lease agreement of the land. You do not have to own property to participate in FSA programs
 - Entities: corporation, estate, or trust documents
 - FSA will then:
 - Enroll your farm or ranch in the FSA database
 - Create a map outlining farm or ranch boundaries with acreage figures
 - Provide you with routine program notifications
 - Get a farm number from the Farm Service Agency, which will allow you to access key USDA programs and vote in county Farm Service Agency elections. To register, you will need to set up an appointment with your local FSA office, provide your social security or EIN number, and, if you have recently acquired your land, your property deed or lease.
 - Tips for success
 - Although not required, appointments are strongly recommended.
 - Report any changes to your farm operation, accounts, or ownership changes to FSA as soon as possible
 - File your acreage reports annually to maintain eligibility
 - Keep your records consistent with crop insurance: acres, shares
 - Stay current and read the newsletters
 - You are guaranteed to receive a Receipt for Service after each FSA office visit.
- The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides landowners with free technical assistance or advice for managing their land. Common technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design, and resource monitoring. Your conservation planner will help you determine if financial assistance is right for you. [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)

More information for new farmers and ranchers can be found online at:
<https://newfarmers.usda.gov/first-step>