

## FSA Outreach

### Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers farm commodity and conservation programs. FSA also makes loans to farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain conventional credit.

FSA Outreach coordinates and implements agency-wide outreach activities to people, especially the underserved, who can benefit from the agency's programs and services. The goal of FSA Outreach is to increase the participation of underserved customers in its programs with special emphasis on those who are socially and economically disadvantaged, limited resource farmers and members of racial and ethnic minority groups.

To ensure maximum participation in FSA programs and services for underserved customers, FSA Outreach works with its partners and customers to eliminate the following barriers:

- All forms of discrimination, including racial, ethnic, cultural and gender prejudices;
- Language, communication, transportation, and FSA program requirements and sign-up procedures;
- Limited access to FSA programs in remote areas. Underserved customers include:
  1. Farmers/ranchers and landowners/operators with limited resources, minority groups (including African-Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Asian/Pacific Americans, Hispanics and Aleuts), women, and the physically challenged who may need, but have not fully benefited from, USDA assistance;
  2. Individuals and groups who have not participated in or have received limited benefits from FSA programs that may improve their quality of life, their community

- and/or the environment;
- 3. Rural and urban community members;
- 4. Members of religious minorities;
- 5. Small specialty crop farmers, organic farmers and other farmers with production practices that are different from most farmers in the area.

### FSA Outreach Responsibilities

The responsibilities of FSA Outreach include:

- Providing resources, including financial planning, to help farmers and ranchers, especially the underserved;
- Providing information on loans, farm commodities and conservation programs;
- Educating farmers and ranchers on the FSA County Committee processes and encouraging participation in county elections, especially from the underserved.
- Working with community-based organizations (including churches; social groups; 1862, 1890, and 1994 Land Grant Colleges and Universities; Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities and; tribally controlled colleges to provide technical assistance, training, and enhanced program delivery to underserved communities, cooperatives, grower associations and other USDA agencies;
- Helping customers understand USDA programs and assist in completing forms and applications;
- Providing program and service information to all customers in a friendly and timely manner.

### For More Information

More information about FSA programs and FSA Outreach initiatives is available at FSA state and county of-

fices. The telephone numbers are usually listed in the telephone directory under the United States Government, U.S. Department of Agriculture. FSA Outreach information can be obtained by contacting:

USDA/FSA  
Outreach Office  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Room 3092S Stop 0539  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0539

For more information about this or any other FSA program, visit FSA's web site at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or [www.fsa.usda.gov/outreach](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/outreach).

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).*

*To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).*

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*