Urban and Community Agriculture at USDA
Urban and Community Agriculture Working Group

- **Goal**: Improve **access** and **availability** to/of capital, credit, and technical assistance for urban and community farmers and gardeners

- **Priorities**:
  - Improve interagency partnership efforts regarding urban agriculture
  - Develop communications and technical assistance materials and resources
  - Support research on production systems
  - Conduct outreach regarding urban and community agriculture resources at USDA
Farm Service Agency: Key Information

FSA is supervised credit.
• This is different from traditional credit.
• FSA is the lender of first opportunity for those who may not otherwise qualify for ag credit.
• FSA also offers loan guarantees for loans made by conventional lenders.

• Loans to purchase land or operate a farm business
• Types of Loans: **Ownership, Operating, Microloans and Guaranteed Loans**
• Farm Storage Facility Loans: Storage loans for produce, meats and commodities. New mobile storage options for direct marketing farmers
Rural Development – Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program

• The B&I program guarantees loans that provide lasting community benefits by improving, developing or financing business, industry or employment-related projects

• Each year at least five percent of B&I funds are set aside for local food-related projects
  • B&I program provides loan guarantees for entities that process, distribute, aggregate, store and/or market locally or regionally-produced agricultural food products to support community development and farm income
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Experts in soil health - advise urban growers on what cover crops to grow, soil tests and nutrient management, and our soil surveys.

- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) in partnership with NRCS, awarded $2 million in funds to 42 conservation districts for urban ag and conservation projects

- EQIP and High Tunnels
Important NRCS Contact Information

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www.nrcs.usda.gov
USDA PROGRAMS IN THE LOCAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

USDA is committed to supporting robust regional food economies across the food chain through the programs noted below:

**LAND CONSERVATION**
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- Conservation Reserve Program
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Whole Farm Revenue Protection

**PRODUCTION**
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Farm Microloans
- Farm Storage Facility Loans
- Grass-fed Verification
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
- Organic Cost Share
- Rural Energy for America Program

**PROCESSING**
- Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans
- Community Facilities Loans and Grants
- Local Food Promotion Program
- Rural Business Development Grants
- Value-Added Producer Grants

**AGGREGATION/DISTRIBUTION**
- Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans
- Community Facilities Loans and Grants
- Local Food Promotion Program
- Rural Business Development Grants
- Specialty Crop Block Grants

**MARKETS/CONSUMERS**
- Community Food Projects Competitive Grants
- Farmers Market Promotion Program
- Farm to School Grant Program
- Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Grant Program
- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
- Specialty Crop Block Grants
- WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

Research, Education, and Technical Assistance Programs Along the Supply Chain:

- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program
- Conservation Technical Assistance
- Federal State Marketing Improvement Program
- Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (2901 Program)
- Risk Management Education Program
- Rural Cooperative Development Grants
- Small Business Innovation Research
- Specialty Crop Block Grants
- Specialty Crop Research Initiative
- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program

Color Key:
- Agricultural Marketing Service
- Farm Service Agency
- Food and Nutrition Service
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Office of Advocacy and Outreach
- Rural Development
- Risk Management Agency

www.ams.usda.gov/localfood
How to Find USDA Near You

New farmer, but not sure where to start? ................................................................. https://newfarmers.usda.gov/

Looking for help managing natural resources? .............................................. sharif.branham@wdc.usda.gov

Want info about farm loans or risk management tools? ............................ sarah.campbell@wdc.usda.gov

Interested in Local and Regional Food Systems? .......................................... tricia.kovacs@ams.usda.gov

My contact info ........................................................................................................ alex.cordova@wdc.usda.gov