



**Agricultural Marketing Service**

# Grants and Opportunities

The 2014 Farm Bill Makes Over \$100 Million Available to Support Local Food, Organic Operations, Ranchers, and Specialty Crop Growers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) works to improve domestic and international opportunities for U.S. growers and producers. AMS works with State and local agricultural departments to provide support to rural America and the Nation’s agricultural sector.

AMS funding supports a variety of programs, including organic certification cost-share programs and efforts to expand farmers markets and other local food sources. This funding is one of the ways that USDA invests in the future of rural America and the nation’s agricultural sector.

USDA grant programs are included in Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food (KYF2), an initiative that fosters new opportunities for farmers and ranchers; promotes local and regional foods; and cultivates healthy eating habits. It also expands access to affordable fresh and local food; stimulates agricultural economic development; and demonstrates the connection between food, agriculture, community, and the environment.

**In recent years, USDA supported the organic industry and rural America by issuing close to 12,000 cost-share reimbursements totaling over \$8.4 million.**



## Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program

Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program grants are available annually to support local and regional food systems through two competitive programs: the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) and the Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP).

FMPP grants fund farmer-to-consumer direct marketing projects such as farmers markets, community-supported agriculture programs, roadside stands, and agritourism. It also funds Capacity Building and Community Development, Training, and Technical Assistance grant project types.

LFPP grants fund local and regional food business enterprises that serve as intermediaries to process, distribute, aggregate, and store locally or regionally produced food products. Projects also provide technical assistance and outreach, including planning grants for local food businesses.

For more information, visit [www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants](http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants)



## Cost-Share Programs for Organic Certification

Organic cost-share programs provide assistance for certification-related expenses. The funds are awarded to certified organic producers and handlers through participating States.

In recent years, USDA issued close to 12,000 cost-share reimbursements totaling over \$8.4 million, to support the organic industry and rural America.

Payments cover up to 75 percent of certification costs, up to a maximum of \$750 per certification. To receive cost-share assistance, organic producers and handlers should contact their State departments of agriculture.

Through the National Organic Program, USDA has helped organic farmers and businesses achieve \$39 billion annually in U.S. retail sales. There are more than 31,000 certified organic farms and businesses around the world.

Visit [www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants](http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants) to learn more.

