

## Outreach Program



### Background

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

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

To ensure maximum participation in FSA programs and services for underserved customers, the FSA Outreach Programs Staff 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 signup procedures;

- Limited access to FSA programs in remote areas.

Underserved customers include:

- Farmers/ranchers and landowners/operators with limited resources, minority groups (including American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Aleuts), women, and the physically challenged who may need, but have not fully benefited from, USDA assistance;
- Individuals and groups who have not participated in or have received limited benefits from FSA programs that may improve their quality of life and/or the environment;
- Rural and urban community members;
- Members of religious minorities;
- Small specialty crop farmers, organic farmers, and other farmers with production practices that are different from most farmers in the area.

The FSA Outreach Programs Staff:

- Provides resources to assist underserved farmers and ranchers improve their income through better farm management and financial planning;
- Provides information on loans, farm commodities, and

conservation programs to underserved farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain conventional credit;

- Ensures that underserved farmers and ranchers participate fully in FSA state and county committee elections through various outreach initiatives;
- Works 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 and other USDA agencies;
- Helps customers understand USDA programs and fill out program forms;
- Provides program and service information to all customers in a customer-friendly and timely manner.

### For More Information

Further information about FSA's programs and outreach projects is available at local USDA Service Centers and FSA state and county offices. The telephone numbers are usually listed in the telephone directory under the United States

**Fact Sheet**  
*Outreach Program*

---

Government, U.S. Department of Agriculture. You may also obtain outreach and program information by contacting:

USDA/FSA  
Director, Outreach Programs Staff  
Ag Stop 0511  
Room 3718-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0511

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)

---

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.