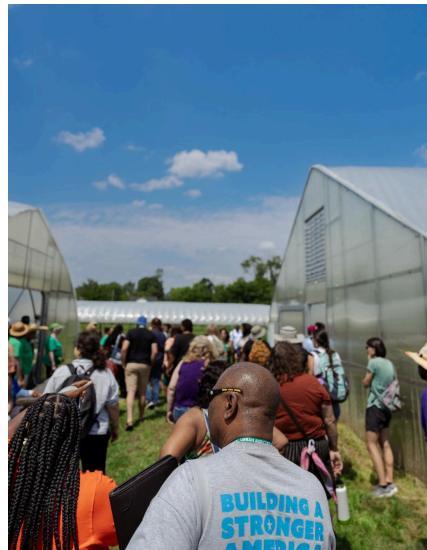




NUag News Blast

2026 Fall Edition



The NUag team is back with our Fall newsletter! Get the most updated information about our project as we work with producers, cooperators, and the USDA to advance urban agriculture.

NUag FSA Toolkit Release

FSA TOOLKIT

Your Guide to **FSA** Programs & Resources

Navigating USDA Farm Service Agency programs can be complex. This toolkit walks you through every step — from setting up digital access to finding the right funding for your farm.

Understanding the FSA



The NUag Toolkit is a resource designed to help farmers, urban producers, and organizations navigate USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs and services. It provides a step-by-step pathway for accessing USDA resources, programs, and support opportunities.

Through the toolkit, users can:

- Explore USDA and FSA programs available to producers.
- Learn how to establish a farm and submit required farm records.
 - Understand Urban County Committees (UCOCs) and their responsibilities.

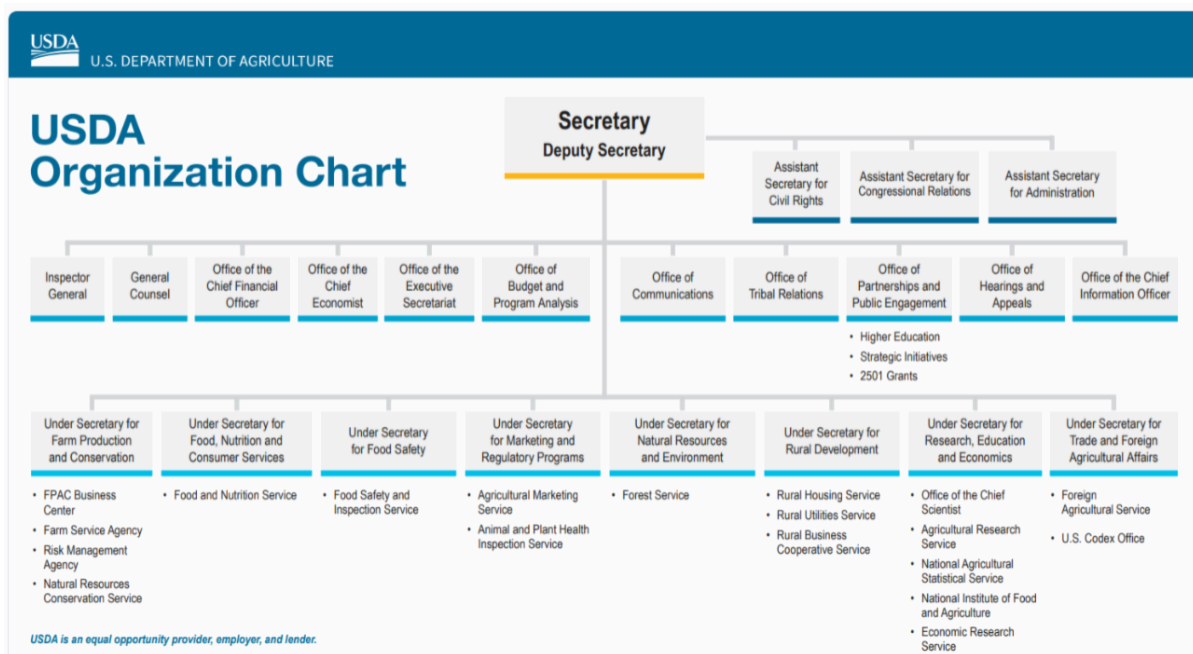


- Learn about USDA and its organizational structure.
- Access additional resources, guides, and support materials.

The NUag Toolkit also provides quick-reference learning tools, including the USDA organizational chart and FSA acronym guide below, to help users better understand agency programs and terminology. Explore the many resources available by visiting the toolkit link below.



Access NUag Toolkit Here!



Key Acronyms

Common FSA and USDA acronyms you'll encounter across programs and documents.

FSA

Farm
Service
Agency

USDA

U.S.
Department
of
Agriculture

NRCS

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

COC

County
Committee
— local
farmer-
elected
body
guiding FSA
programs

CED

County
Executive
Director —
manages
your local
FSA office

OIAIP

Office of
Urban
Agriculture
and
Innovative
Production

SARE

Sustainable
Agriculture
Research &
Education

NAP

Noninsured
Crop
Disaster
Assistance
Program

CRP

Conservation
Reserve
Program

AMS

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

RD

Rural
Development
(USDA
agency)

ELAP

Emergency
Assistance
for
Livestock,
Honeybees
& Farm-
Raised Fish

Next NUag Learning Exchange: Land Access

September 16th, 12pm EST

At our next Learning Exchange and we will hear directly from local urban producers about land access, the challenges they face securing sustainable land, and how they navigate solutions to those challenges.

Invite has been sent to cooperating organizations



Kansas City Urban Food Systems Symposium

Cultivating Communities, Cities, & Food Systems
September 14-17th

In collaboration with [Cultivate KC](#)

UFSS brings together a national and international audience of academic, non-profit, private-sector, government and research-oriented professionals. UFSS fosters collaboration and emphasizes the role of urban food systems in shaping sustainable solutions for our cities and communities.

Over the past decade, UFSS has grown from 50 to 200+ attendees. UFSS will be a dynamic conference exploring the future of urban agriculture and local food systems.

[Learn More Here](#)

[Richmond, Virginia \(Virginia State & Virginia Tech\) - Mini Grant Highlight Video](#)



NUag Impact Snapshots

All NUag Snapshots have been released and can be found on our updates and reports page.

[NUAG Updates & Reports](#)

Technical Assistance & Training Snapshot

Technology & Innovation Snapshot



Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in these videos are those of the individual speakers and are provided for informational purposes only. They do not represent the official positions or policies of the NUag initiative, participating institutions, or any federal agency. Reference to external individuals, programs, or materials does not constitute endorsement. All programs and activities referenced are conducted in accordance with applicable federal requirements and are open to eligible participants as defined by law.

Relevant USDA Links

[USDA Announces Harvest to Hallways Initiative to Invest in Child Nutrition Programs | USDA](#): Secretary Rollins and Secretary Kennedy jointly unveil new investments to bring more nutrient dense, local food into schools and give cafeterias the tools to serve healthier meals.

[USDA Announces \\$7.5 Million in Grant Funding to Expand Cold Chain Capacity and Increase Access to Real Food | USDA](#) - USDA announced \$7.5 million in grant funding available through the Cold Chain Grants for Emergency Food Assistance Program (CCG). The Program will fund projects to support cold chain equipment investments that help food assistance entities temporarily store, effectively package, and distribute fresh, frozen, and minimally processed foods.

[USDA Announces August 2026 Lending Rates for Agricultural Producers | Farm Service Agency](#) - FSA offers farm operating, ownership and emergency loans with favorable interest rates and terms to help eligible agricultural producers obtain financing needed to start, expand or maintain a family agricultural operation.

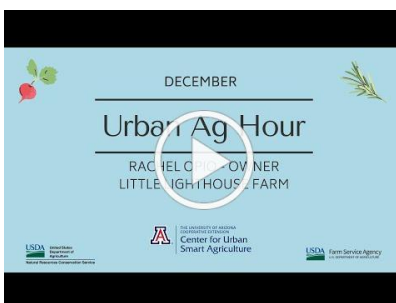
[Do Business Online with the USDA: Farmers.gov for Small Farms & Gardens - Pasa Sustainable Agriculture](#) - In this webinar, Philadelphia Farm Service Agency County Executive Director Nina Berryman shared FAQs and perspectives from the USDA. You'll learn how to securely navigate [login.gov](#) and connect to [farmers.gov](#) to manage loans and financial activity, map farm records, track conservation contracts, and e-sign documents.

[Get to Know USDA Urban Agriculture Resources - Pasa Sustainable Agriculture](#) - In this webinar, you'll hear from representatives from [NRCS](#), [FSA](#), and [Pasa Sustainable Agriculture](#) about applicable resources and funding for your small-scale urban farm infrastructure, including high tunnels, raised beds, and composting facilities.

[USDA Urban Service Centers | Farmers.gov](#) - Find an urban service center so you can meet face to face with service providers and discuss your farming goals and vision.

[Urban Agriculture | USDA Climate Hubs](#) - How Urban Ag tackles climate resiliency

Nurturing the Land, Nourishing the People | Urban Ag Hour University of Arizona Cooperative Extension



Urban Insights

[Ohio Urban Agriculture Resource Hub | Urban Extension](#) - This Resource Hub provides centralized, evidence-based tools, technical assistance, and education for urban growers.

[Urban Agriculture - Renewing the Countryside](#) - Recognizing, supporting, and connecting existing urban agriculture initiatives and networks to help build a more robust Twin Cities food system where urban farmers/gardeners can flourish and access the resources needed to reach their goals.

[State of Urban Agriculture - Sprout NOLA](#) - A spotlight on Accessing and Navigating Land Access, Services, and Resources.

[Windbreaks for Urban Agriculture - Pasa Sustainable Agriculture](#) - After the former St. Clair Village public housing site was demolished and sat vacant for years, this opened up a rare opportunity for large-scale urban agriculture in Pittsburgh. Farming at [Hilltop Urban Farm](#) comes with several challenges, and chief among them is wind. To design an effective windbreak system for Hilltop, Pasa connected the farm with [Paul Hanes Patterson, a Penn State Professor Emeritus](#), who designed a multi-layered windbreak system that works with the site's topography and constraints.

[Center for Urban Smart Agriculture | UA Cooperative Extension](#) - The Center for Urban Smart Agriculture empowers farmers to get the most out of their land and business by leading purpose-driven science that's tailored to the unique challenges facing urban growers in the Sonoran Desert.

[Farmer Funding Opportunities Database - Community Alliance with Family Farmers](#) - The CAFF Farmer Funding Opportunities Database helps farmers and organizations find grants and other financial assistance to support and grow their agricultural businesses. It lists information on funding for areas such as farm equipment, infrastructure, sustainable agriculture, water, marketing, and business development.

[UGA Center for Urban Agriculture](#) - Connecting city living with sustainable agriculture. Through research-backed education and practical resources, UGA helps Georgians cultivate vibrant urban spaces—backyard gardens, hobby and industrial farms, commercial landscapes, and city forests.

[Urban Agriculture | Local Food Systems and Small Farms | Illinois Extension | Illinois](#) - Explore key areas of urban farm operation planning, including downloadable fact sheets with ways to customize key tips to any operation style.

[Urban Agriculture | University of Missouri Extension](#) - The MU Urban Agriculture program aims to educate producers who use indoor cultivation, or who focus on food and flower production on how to start and scale their businesses. These farm operations may be more likely to locate in or near urban areas to better access customers.

[California Farm Directory - Community Alliance with Family Farmers](#) - The California Farm Directory, is a resource that connects consumers and businesses with local farms and farmers throughout California. It helps people find farms based on products, location, and services, such as farmers markets, farm stands, CSAs, wholesale opportunities, U-Pick farms, and educational farms.

[New Mexico Policy Project Newsletter August 2026](#) - AgriPolicy Brief is a monthly newsletter produced by Farm to Table that is designed to help further the conversation about how policies and policy changes are affecting food and farming in New Mexico, both from a state and a federal perspective.

Stay Informed

Sign up at the bottom of the
USDA Office of Urban

Keep in contact with your
local Urban Agriculture

Agriculture and Innovative
Production page for updates

[OUAIP Homepage](#)

Stay up to date on current
FSA news and programs

[FSA News](#)

Service Center, FSA office
and NCRS office

[Local service
Center Locator](#)



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