



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

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PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

USDA GRANTS SUPPORT TRAINING FOR BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS

A PORTION OF THE GRANTS ARE TARGETED TOWARD MILITARY VETERANS AND LIMITED-RESOURCE FARMERS

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S (USDA) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (NIFA) announced more than \$18 million in grants to educate, mentor, and enhance the sustainability of the next generation of farmers. NIFA funded the grants through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP), which was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill).

University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

\$1,000,000 | This project will support an online beginning farmer and rancher library and provide other information and services to new farmers, BFRDP grantees, and other organizations that serve new farmers.

Third Sector New England, Boston, MA

\$743,028 | This project will provide support and coordination to refugee/immigrant beginning farmer and rancher programs around the country.

Hmong American Partnership, St. Paul, MN

\$603,790 | This project will help 50 Hmong refugee farmers expand their businesses and provide education to 500 new Hmong farmers.

Grassworks, Inc., Seymour, WI

\$750,000 | Grassworks and the University of Wisconsin in Madison will expand the dairy apprenticeship program to Missouri in a state-by-state expansion to a national program.

University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

\$712,500 | This project will train new farmers in a five-level program; they expect to enroll 225 students who will develop business plans start new businesses.

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

\$712,500 | This project will provide advanced training and support to 500 advanced beginners and 100 military veterans who are seeking to start farming.

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

\$750,000 | The university will train and support beginning farmers and ranchers in three locations: an incubator farm for women in Genesee County; a cooperative of Hispanic farmers in southwest Michigan; and the MSU organic farm.

Center for Transformative Action, Ithaca, NY

\$707,727 | This project will provide comprehensive training, mentoring, and incubation to beginning farmers and ranchers in the Finger Lakes region of New York.

Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

\$461,031 | This project will use on-farm demonstrations, study circles, a fruit growers' school, and networks to help 235 Pennsylvania farmers and share online resources nationally.

Rodale Institute, Kutztown, PA

\$366,976 | This project will teach organic farming to beginning farmers, with a focus on military veterans. A military veteran farmer mentoring network will also be established.

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR

\$749,720 | This university collaboration will develop an online and in-person training and mentoring program for military veterans and minority farmers.

Growing Power, Milwaukee, WI

\$250,000 | This program will deliver a hands-on, intensive six-week program to train 30 beginning farmers throughout the United States in urban and peri-urban agriculture. The program will target socially-disadvantaged audiences.

Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

\$664,892 | This project will carry out a "seamless learning progression from basic to advanced" for beginning farmers and ranchers using a hybrid on-line and face-to-face format.

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

\$681,405 | This project will improve the infrastructure for beginning farmers and ranchers, particularly small farmers and veterans, through training for extension educators, short courses, curriculum, farmer-to-farmer experiences, and other means.

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

\$724,828 | This project will conduct local, regional, and statewide programs targeting an estimated 600 participants, including socially disadvantaged and veteran beginning farmers and ranchers.

Stone Barns Center, Pocantico Hills, NY

\$744,951 | This project will deliver programs on resilient agricultural practices, including experiential-based technical training, land access opportunities, business skills, midsize farming experience, and online community and connectivity.

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(CONTINUED)

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

\$652,852 | This project will deliver three courses (business management, fruits and vegetables, small ruminants) through in-person training, webinars, and a hands-on program (internships, incubatees, and mentorships) for 70 new small farmers, emphasizing limited-resource and minority participants.

Community Food and Agriculture Coalition, Missoula, MT

\$266,946 | This project will offer workshops, on-farm field days, a website, and local investing tools to deliver Montana-specific resources on financial, legal, and production issues to limited-resource beginning farmers and ranchers.

Northwest Natural Resource Group, Seattle, WA

\$167,942 | This project will conduct workshops and landowner site visits and work to develop economic opportunities and improved market opportunities for new forest owners of 20-500 acre parcels in southwestern Washington and northern Oregon.

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District, Anchorage, AK

\$427,740 | This project will provide education and technical assistance to Alaska native, socially-disadvantaged and limited-resource, beginning farmers and ranchers.

University of Nevada, Reno, NV

\$692,433 | This project aims to improve the profits and sustainability of 425 new and 600 existing beginning farmers and ranchers.

South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD

\$659,621 | This project will offer training in beginning commercial horticulture and beginning ranching to Native Americans on three reservations, including outreach to veterans through tribal offices and events.

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

\$750,000 | This project will serve Native American, veteran, limited-resource youth, and other beginning farmers and ranchers in Arizona and New Mexico, using courses, field days, a production cost estimator, and mentoring.

Seattle Tilth Association, Seattle, WA

\$750,000 | This project will serve limited-resource beginning farmers and ranchers in the Puget Sound Region, including immigrants and refugees, through training programs and incubator farms.

Recirculating Farms Coalition, Inc., New Orleans, LA

\$500,000 | This project will host weekend and evening sessions for new and beginning urban farmers in New Orleans, with a focus on water-based recirculating aquaculture, as well as soil-based production.

Community CROPS, Lincoln, NE

\$381,726 | This project will provide training and technical assistance to 150 Hispanic and other limited-resource and socially disadvantaged beginning farmers and ranchers in Nebraska.

Cultivating Community, Portland, ME

\$750,000 | This project will provide intensive, land-based training to four cohorts of new farmers in Maine, mostly socially-disadvantaged/limited-resource immigrants.

University of California, Berkeley, CA

\$750,000 | This project will support the economic and ecological viability of beginning farmers and ranchers in 10 Central California counties, including urban, peri-urban and rural beginning farmers and ranchers from diverse communities.

Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX

\$591,298 | This project will use a model farm concept at the university farm and on farms in targeted counties to engage limited-resource farmers.

Global Garden Refugee Training Program, Chicago, IL

\$71,080 | This development grant will enable Global Garden Refugee Training Program to submit a future proposal for a series of 12 six-week courses to train refugee farmers in Illinois.

World Farmers, Inc., Lancaster, MA

\$100,000 | This development grant will enable World Farmers, Inc., to submit a future proposal to train immigrant and refugee beginning farmers and ranchers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island with a hands-on approach.

National Farmers Organization, Ames, IA

\$100,000 | This development grant will enable the National Farmers Organization to submit a future proposal for training beginning dairy farmers, both organic and conventional.

Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota, Princeton, MN

\$100,000 | This development grant will enable the Sustainable Farming Association to submit a future proposal to train 40 beginning farmers and ranchers to improve their business and farming success.

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, Asheville, NC

\$100,000 | This development grant will enable Southern Appalachian Highlands to submit a future proposal to provide beginning limited resource farmers training and land access opportunities.

Veteran Farms, LLC, Middleburg, FL

\$95,747 | This development grant will enable Veterans Farm, a handicap-accessible farm for disabled combat veterans, to develop a future proposal to design an intensive, three-month training curriculum that focuses on mentoring, and support locating land.

Holmes County Food Hub, Goodman, MS

\$100,000 | This development grant will enable Holmes County Food Hub to develop a future proposal to train limited-resource farmers in Mississippi how to participate in farm-to-school marketing.

Farmer Veteran Coalition, Davis, CA

\$100,000 | This development grant will enable Farmer Veteran Coalition to submit a future proposal to build a national peer network for veteran-to-veteran learning.

Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Millheim, PA

\$100,000 | This development grant will enable the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture to submit a future proposal to foster beginning farmers and ranchers using a variety of training methods.

Whitaker Small Farm Group Inc., Garner, NC

\$100,000 | This development grant will enable Whitaker Small Farm Group to submit a future proposal to serve limited-resource farmers in central and eastern North Carolina.