Faith Fellowship and Food Security
Virtual Convening

USDA Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement
Breakout - Houses of Worship and Neighborhood Partnerships

- Julie Brewer, Director, Office of Community Food Systems, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

- Joseph Heller, Urban Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Latrice Hill, Director, Outreach, Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- Kim Harmon, Grants Specialist, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

- Sadie Lackey, Program Assistant - Youth Programs, Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE)
Our 3 Pillars of Work:

1. Distribute **grant funding** to improve access to local foods in schools.

2. Disseminate **research and data** on existing programs and opportunities for expansion.

3. Provide **training and technical assistance** to improve access to local foods in schools.
Farm to School Grant Program

- FY 2020 USDA awarded $12.1 million to 159 grantees
- Since 2013, USDA has awarded over $52 million to 719 grantees
FY 2021 Farm to School Grant RFA is now Open!

- Implementation
- State Agency
- NEW! Turnkey

https://www.fns.usda.gov/cfs/farm-school-grant-program
Fact Sheets

Community Food Systems Fact Sheets

Resources Type
Fact Sheets

General Overviews
- Office of Community Food Systems Resources
- Research Shows Farm to School Works
- Integrating Local Food into School Nutrition Programs
- Setting Local Food in Schools: A Resource for Producers
- How Cooperative Extension Professionals Can Support Farm to School Programs
- Effective Strategies State Agencies Can Use to Support Community Food Systems
- Farm to School Nutrition Programs Planning Guide

Special Topics
- School Gardens: Using Gardens to Grow Healthy Habits in California, Classrooms, and Communities
- Bringing Tribal Food and Traditions into Cafeterias, Classrooms, and Gardens
- Gardens in Tribal Communities

www.fns.usda.gov/cfs/fact-sheets
Delivered monthly, full of updates, webinar info, relevant news, and field notes! More than 30,000 subscribers.

Subscribe at https://www.fns.usda.gov/cfs
Coming Soon!

USDA FARM to SCHOOL
2019 CENSUS
Farm to School Producer Training

Help agricultural producers build their capacity to launch or expand efforts to market to schools, therefore increasing farm to school activity in schools.

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Questions?
Thank You!

Please contact SM.FN.FarmToSchool@usda.gov for any questions regarding OCFS resources and the Farm to School Grant Program!
Faith, Fellowship and Food Security Webinar
J. Latrice Hill – FSA Director of Outreach
December 17, 2020

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
USDA programs provide financing, risk management tools, income support, and conservation resources to American farmers and ranchers

- Many producers have participated in USDA programs, but don't realize they can help shape them.
- USDA has established avenues to keep our programs accountable to you
Examples of FSA Program Provisions

**Socially Disadvantaged Loans (SDA Loans)**
- Targeted loan funds to purchase farm real estate; livestock; equipment; annual operating expenses.

**Down Payment Loan Program (DPLP)**
- Assists underserved farmers in accessing capital for farmland by creating a partnership between the farmers, FSA and a private lender.

**Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**
- Underserved producers receive a 50% discount on annual NAP premiums. Administrative fees area waived.

**FSA County Committee Appointed Member**
- Targeted underserved secretarial appointments to the local county committee in counties that lack fair representation.

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Getting a farm number with FSA

- Register your farm or ranch in our database
- A map will be created outlining your farm or ranch boundaries with acreage figures
- You'll get a farm number, which will allow you to access key USDA programs and eligibility to vote in county committee elections.
- Staff will provide you with routine program notifications
HEIRS’ PROPERTY LANDOWNERS

Establishing a Farm Number

Operators on heirs’ property who cannot provide owner verification, or a lease agreement, may provide alternative documents to FSA to substantiate they are in general control of the farming operation.

www.farmers.gov/heirs
Advocating for yourself and other farmers

Get started with us

- Come visit our local offices and ask about programs and resources.
- Beyond your local office, every state has a FSA State Outreach Coordinator and USDA Beginning Farmer Coordinator

Work with us

- Report changes to your operation
- File regular acreage reports! This can make you eligible for disaster assistance and other critical programs
- Sign up to get regular local newsletters and follow FSA and Farmers.gov on social media
Advocating for yourself and other farmers

Work with us (continued)

• Ask for assistance in filling out loan and program applications
• You are entitled to a Receipt for Service after every FSA office visit
• You can appeal program denials

Get help when needed

• Intermediaries like local ag organizations or FSA Outreach Coordinators can help you navigate FSA
• Every local FSA office has a County Executive Director, and every Loan Officer has a Farm Loan Manager. They report to a District Director and ultimately to the State Executive Director
FSA County Committees

FSA County Committees (COC) help administer and oversee FSA programs that make a difference for farmers and ranchers in your community:

- Represent local farmers, provide agricultural guidance and insight to county office staff, and assist with outreach to farmers, hire County Executive Directors (CED)

- More than 7,000 farmers serve on COCs

- Elections happen locally every year and elected members serve three-year terms in their Local Administrative Area (LAA). COCs meet periodically and committee members are paid a stipend and mileage reimbursement
FSA Urban County Committees

• FSA is piloting urban county committees to make sure our programs reach and serve urban producers.

• 5 locations in pilot (more coming):
  • Philadelphia, PA
  • Richmond, VA
  • Albuquerque, NM
  • Portland, OR
  • Cleveland, OH

• How to get involved:
  • Sign up for FSA email newsletters, and contact your local FSA office if your city is identified as a pilot location
  • Farmers can nominate themselves
Farmer mentorship

• One way to support other farmers is to mentor them one-on-one
• You can share your knowledge by signing up to be a SCORE mentor
• How to get involved:
  • [Register with SCORE](#) and go through their volunteer development to start working with other farmers and ranchers
How Mentorship can Help, and Where to Start

- **Starting up**
  - Review business ideas
  - Help create Business plan
  - Navigate legal and financial topics
  - Explain how to apply for licenses, purchase equipment, lease real estate
- **Preparing for growth**
  - Coach through pre-finance prep
  - Identifying new markets
  - Assist with SWOT analysis

https://newfarmers.usda.gov/mentorship
Subscribe to FSA Outreach Updates

Subscribe to FSA and FSA Outreach news & alerts: www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe

- Enroll & Select Outreach and Education

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USDA
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Joseph Heller
Urban Conservationist
New York

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Where do we find Urban and Suburban Agriculture?
The Role of NRCS

NRCS has field staff in communities across the nation to provide technical and financial support.

SERVICE CENTER LOCATOR
https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator

Our staff begin by helping farmers develop a conservation plan to meet grower objectives.

Assisting producers in urban areas presents unique challenges for conservationists.
NRCS Conservation Planning

What are the resource concerns?
Where can there be efficiencies?

Practice: Micro-Irrigation

Inefficient Moisture and erosion
Rainwater Catchment
Storage Tanks
Identifying Resource Concerns

Resource Concerns: Plant Vigor

Practice: Seasonal High Tunnel System (325)

Extend the Growing Season
Must grow in the soil
Planning is the gateway to financial assistance

**Funding Sources at NRCS**

**Agricultural Management Assistance** *(Not all states)*

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program & Organic**

**Conservation Stewardship Program**

**Conservation Innovation Grants**

**Agricultural Land Easement Program**
Meet with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) &
Natural Resources Conservation Staff (NRCS).
What works: specializing in:

• High-value crops
• Partnerships
• Educational and Programs

Cornell Cooperative Extension-NYC and FarmSchool NYC teach urban farmers how to grow, process and market specialty mushrooms.

[online course] on the subject.
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AMS Local and Regional Food Systems
Resources
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 (NRCS)
- Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Project
- Cooperative Agreements (NRCS)
- Conservation Reserve Program (FSA)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (NRCS)
- Conservation Innovation Grants (NRCS)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS)
- Solid Waste Management Grants (RD)

Production
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS)
- Farm Microlending (FSA)
- Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSA)
- Grass Feed Small and Very Small Producer Program (AMS)
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and Other Disaster Assistance Programs (FSA)
- Organic Cost Share (FSA)
- Rural Energy for America Program (RD)
- Urban Agriculture and Innovation Grants (NRCS)
- Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (RMA)

Processing
- Agricultural Innovation Center (RD)
- Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans (RD)
- Community Facilities Loans and Grants (RD)
- Local Food Promotion Program (AMS)
- Regional Food Systems Partnership Grants (AMS)
- Rural Business Development Grants (RD)
- Value Added Producer Grants (RD)

Aggregation/Distribution
- Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans (RD)
- Community Facilities Loans and Grants (RD)
- Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSA)
- Local Food Promotion Program (AMS)
- Regional Food Systems Partnership Grants (AMS)
- Rural Business Development Grants (RD)
- Specialty Crop Block Grants (AMS)
- Urban Agriculture and Innovation Grants (NRCS)

Markets/Consumers
- Community Food Projects
- Competitive Grants (NIFA)
- Farm to School Grant Program (FNS)
- Farmers Market Promotion Program (AMS)
- Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (formerly FINI) (NIFA)
- Regional Food Systems Partnership Grants (AMS)
- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FNS)
- Specialty Crop Block Grants (AMS)
- Urban Agriculture and Innovation Grants (NRCS)
- WIC Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program (FNS)

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

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (NIFA)
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (NIFA)
Community Prosperity Funding Opportunity (OPPE)
Conservation Technical Assistance (NRCS)
Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans (AGVETS) (NIFA)
Extension Risk Management (NIFA)
Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (AMS)
Food Safety Outreach Program (NIFA)
Organic Research & Extension Initiative (NIFA)
Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (2501 Program (OPPE)
Rural Cooperative Development Grants (RD)
Small Business Innovation Research (NIFA)
Socially Disadvantaged Group Grant (RD)
Specialty Crop Block Grants (AMS)
Specialty Crop Research Initiative (NIFA)
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (NIFA)
Famers Market Promotion Program

Two types of project applications were accepted in 2020 under FMPP (could change):

**Capacity Building**
$50,000 - $250,000 (25% match)
36 month grant period

**Community Development, Training, and Technical Assistance**
$100,000 - $500,000 (25% match)
36 month grant period
FMPP Project Types

**Capacity Building**
- Local Training
- Start-up
- Strategic Planning
- Market Analysis
- Recruitment
- Outreach

**Community Development Training and Technical Assistance (CTA)**
- Statewide Training
- Technical Assistance
- Advertising & Promotion
- Network Building
- Technical Support
Local Food Promotion Program

Two types of project applications were accepted in 2020 under LFPP (could change):

Planning
$25,000 - $100,000 (25% match)
18 month grant period

Implementation
$100,000 - $500,000 (25% match)
36 month grant period
LFPP Project Types

Planning
• Feasibility study
• Business plan
• New food hub
• Food Transportation

Implementation
• Food Incubators
• Expanding business
• Food processing
• Certifications
• Market Channels
• Food Transportation
Promote intra-curricular and extracurricular agricultural education while building a strong, sustainable pipeline for careers in agriculture, food and natural resources through USDA outreach initiatives and partner/stakeholder engagement.
**CONNECTION**
The food we eat, the clothes we wear, and the fuel that powers our lives is produced with agriculture. **USDA fosters a connection between youth and agriculture.**

**COMMUNITY**
Lessons found in the agriculture industry provide unique opportunities for youth to develop into strong leaders who will go on to lead local, state and national communities. **USDA partners with student organizations and provides programs to assist the next generation of community leaders.**

**CAREERS**
Careers in agriculture are diverse, rewarding, and in demand. **USDA supports student engagement, recruitment, retention, and agricultural workforce development, from the classroom to the workplace.**

Interested in internships at the USDA? Please visit [usda.gov/youth/careers](http://usda.gov/youth/careers)
Connecting the Dots
What’ll ya have?
Stay connected!
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Discussion

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