



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Ombudsperson





What does an ombudsperson do?

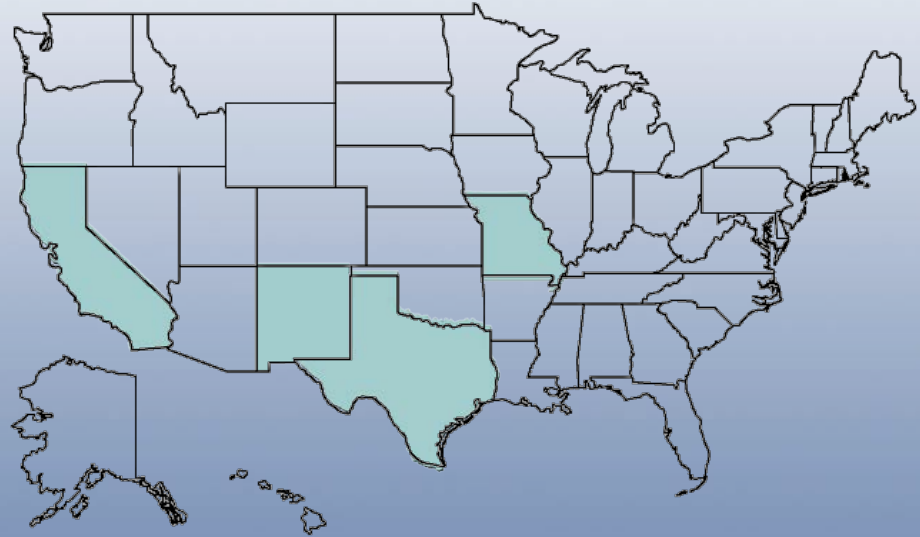
- Listens to concerns about access to USDA programs (e.g., FSA, NRCS and RD)
- Identifies shared concerns and reports issues to USDA leaders
- Makes recommendations to improve access and create systemic change



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Who does the ombudsperson serve?

- Hispanic and female farmers and ranchers in CA, MO, NM and TX
- Eventually, the Office will expand to include all states and underserved groups



Please direct additional questions to the Ombudsperson.

How does an ombudsperson operate?

- Neutral - does not advocate for a person or office but for fair process and for improved access to USDA programs
- Independent - not part of any other USDA office or agency and works without interference
- Informal - does not replace formal USDA channel
- Confidential - will not willingly disclose the information you share unless required under federal law



Why was the Office established?



- To contribute to systemic change and improve access to USDA programs for underserved farmers and ranchers



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