

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Brach Johnson Urban Conservationist – Nebraska Urban Ag 2024







- Urban Agriculture is one of NRCS's top five priorities
- "Micro Practices" have been established for Urban Ag
- New Office of Urban Ag and Innovative Production has been created
- NRCS ramping up training for the public and employees
- Innovative Production fully supported



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Established 17 urban ag service centers with county committees

Map of USDA Urban Service Center Locations



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Multiple ways to participate with NRCS:

- Direct technical and financial assistance with individuals and entities
- Grants and Agreement



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Cory Schmidt High tunnel 2013



Direct Participation programs:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)





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Who are our customers? Beavers Produce Rogers, NE





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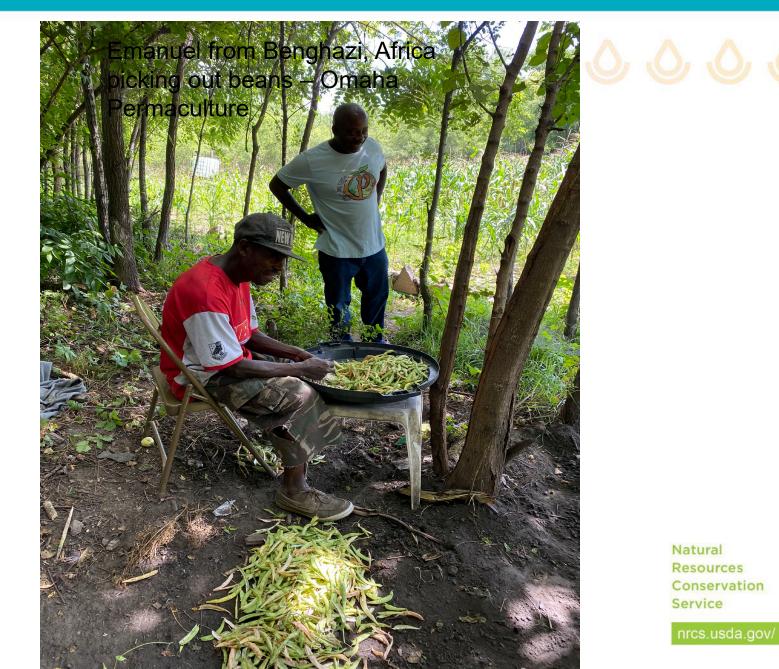


"Urban" Farm in Rogers Nebraska: Population 104

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Omaha Permaculture





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Tribal projects and in Kearney, Nebraska!





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Latino Center of the Midlands

Chayote - squash

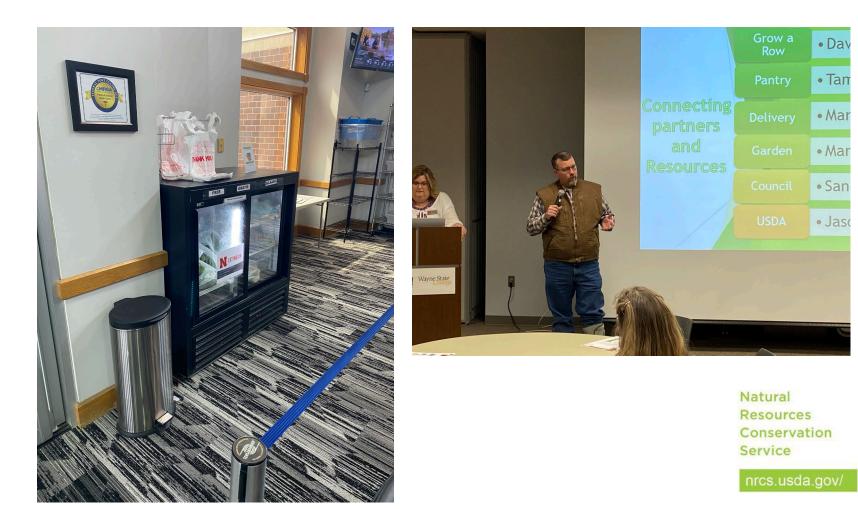




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Voices for Food – South Sioux City Over 10,000 pounds of food distributed through this \$50 cooler in 2022.





Community Garden: Hawley Hamlet - Lincoln





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Cut flower farm and tree nursery.



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Established an Urban and small-scale ag sub committee Approved a "micro practice" list for programs

Raised Beds and Compost Facility





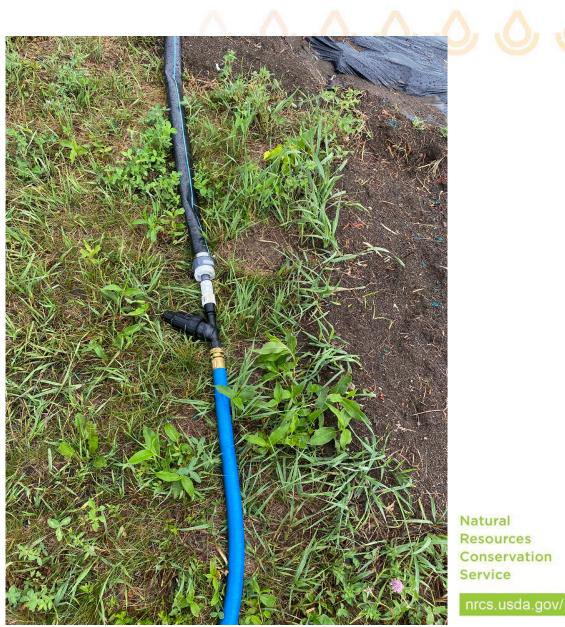
Conservation Service

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High Tunnel and Micro irrigation







Advance Payments Are you eligible?



What is an advance payment?

If you are a contract holder with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and meet the criteria as a limited resource farmer or rancher, beginning farmer or rancher, socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher, or veteran farmer or rancher, you may be eligible for an advance payment.

An advance payment provides you the opportunity to receive up to 50% of your payment up front to purchase immediately-needed materials and services. However, there are some requirements you should be aware of before making the request:

 A completed, approved design with exact quantifiable units that will be installed (feet, type, and diameter of pipe, square feet of high tunnel, etc.) must already be signed both by you and by an NRCS employee.

 Your contract may need to be modified to reflect the appropriate practice component and quantities to exactly match your completed, approved design.

 Advance payment funds must be used to purchase materials and services needed to implement a practice.



Still ready to proceed?

Here are a few other items you need to know:

 You will need to provide documentation showing any advance payment funds you receive have been expended within 90 days of when you received the funds.

 If you do not provide documentation showing the funds have been expended as outlined above, you will be required to pay the money back.

 If you do not pay the money back as required above, your contract may be terminated with financial penalties.

 If the practice you install does not exactly match the quantities documented in the advance payment, additional penalties may be leveled and delays in future payments or activities in your contract could result.

Confident you're ready for an advance payment?

Here are the next steps:

 Submit a request for an advance payment to your NRCS field office. Be sure to tell NRCS what item you'd like an advance payment on.

 Verify that the NRCS field office has your most up-todate bank account information.

 The NRCS field office will work with you to ensure the bulleted items above are completed. Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

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Established the Nebraska Urban Ag Conservation Council



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Created urban and small-scale ag training program for employees and partners







Conservation Collaborative Agreement with UNL – Urban Soil Health

Nebraska Urban Soil Health Initiative

A partnership between the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and gardeners throughout Nebraska.

The Nebraska Urban Soil Health Initiative is a citizen science project for urban farmers and gardeners throughout the state. The soil health and regenerative agriculture movement is gaining momentum on corn, soybean, and wheat acres across the state, but soil health management practices like cover crops and no-till are less common in urban gardens.

There are more than 30 million households in the U.S. engaged in vegetable production, and our goal is to increase awareness among these backyard farmers about soil health and the related resources and programs available through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). To achieve this goal, we are recruiting at least 200 urban farmers and gardeners in Nebraska to implement new soil health management practices including cover crops, no-till, and soil amendment with compost and biochar.

Participating citizen-scientist gardeners will collect plant and soil data to learn about the benefits of soil health management practices firsthand and provide UNL with data to evaluate changes in urban soil health over time. **Participants will receive a free annual soil health test and supplies to implement a new soil health management**



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Partnering with Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency to share information about urban ag. EPA – Brownfield program



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What new practices do people want? Freight farm vertical farming



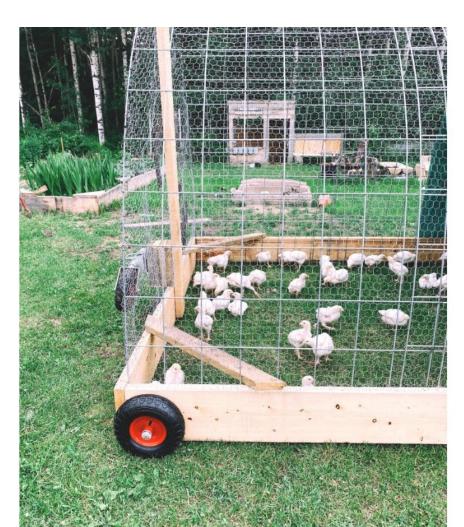


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Chicken tractors and Johnson-Su bioreactor

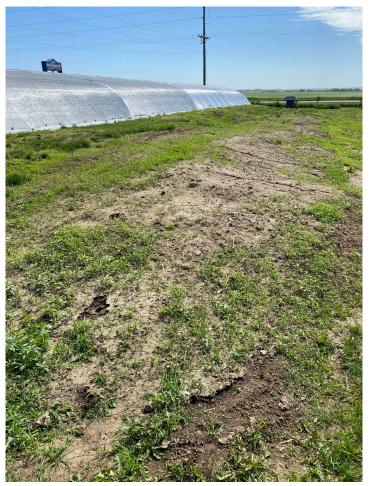








Geothermal greenhouse and hydroponics







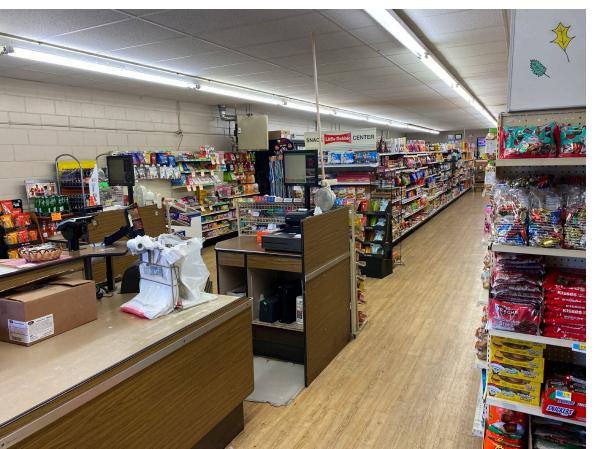


Nebraska Agriculture: Corn = # 3 Soybean = # 4 Cattle = # 2 Beef processing = # 1 Meat sales = # 3

Vegetable production: California = 71% of US total production

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In the United States:

- \Rightarrow 3 day supply of groceries in stores
- \Rightarrow Personal food on hand, 8 days supply

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BY AUTUMN SWIERS / JULY 16, 2023 2:11 PM EST

Inflation-weary consumers are cutting back on their grocery purchases. Shoppers have been employing an arsenal of money-saving tactics like **switching to generic brands** or shopping at discount stores. But, **as inflation drags on**, some items are getting 86'ed from grocery lists altogether. Data research platform NielsenNIQ found that the top three foods Americans can't justify shelling out for anymore are frozen meals, fruit juice, and soup, reports **Bloomberg**. Folks have been scrimping on these categories since at least April.

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Food Security – 1996 World Food Summit

All people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

The four main dimensions of food security:
Physical *availability* of food
Economic and physical *access* to food
Food *utilization, perceived nutrient value of food for example*Stability of the other three dimensions over time

• Stability of the other three dimensions over time

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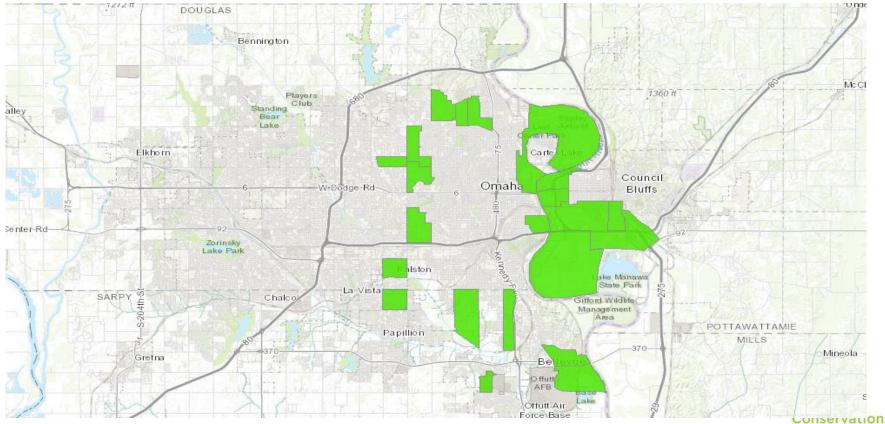


Food Desert

USDA – Economic Research Service

Food Access Research Atlas

"Food Desert" now "low income and low access"



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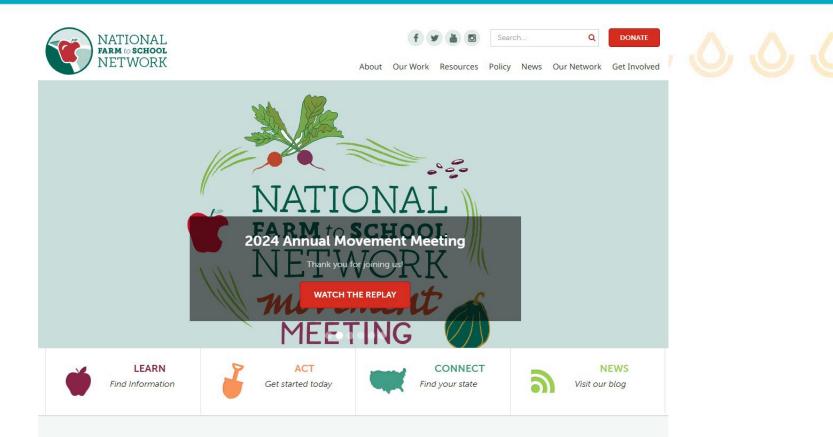












Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and

Natural Resources Conservation Service priorities, specifically "Expanding conservation tools and support to address the unique needs of urban farmers and communities nationwide." With a growing emphasis on urban agriculture, NRCS staff may be asked to assist producers with implementing EQIP on land units for customers that might be new to NRCS or have been denied service in the past. unfamiliar and smaller systems that are eligible for EQIP. Some EQIP myths are rooted in older versions of policy or law but are no longer true, and some are broad assumptions that warrant more clarity. The truths about these myths are farm size and location neutral, meaning they apply to all requests for EQIP assistance, regardless of location (urban or rural) or size (large or very small).

MYTH

Agricultural Product Income

(land and producer eligibility)



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THE MYTH:

"The farm must produce at least \$1,000 of agricultural products to be designated as an agricultural operation and to be eligible for EQIP."

HERE'S THE TRUTH:

There's no minimum agricultural income requirement or agricultural product value requirement for determining land and/or producer eligibility.

People who produce food, fiber, livestock, or other agricultural products solely to provide for their families, friends, neighbors, and/or communities, and who do not sell, market, or distribute their products may be eligible for EQIP.





Jump-Start Your Farming or Ranching Operation With FSA

Do you farm or ranch and want to grow your operation or make improvements?

The Farm Service Agency offers financial assistance to help farmers start a farm, expand their operation, improve natural resources or recover from natural disasters. Get started today to see how FSA can help you.



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For more information visit <u>www.fsa.usda.gov/outreach</u> or find your local FSA office at <u>http://offices.usda.gov</u>. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



Training staff on language tools.



I Speak Statements

- Unë flas shqip (Albanian)
- 🗋 **አማርኛ** እናገራለው (Amharic)
- (Arabic) أنا أتكلم اللغة العربية.
- 🗋 Ես խոսում եմ **հայերեն** (Armenian)
- 🔲 আমি বাংলা ভাষী। (Bengali)
- Ja govorim **bosanski jezik** (Bosnian)
- 🔲 ကျွန်တော်**မြန်မာစကား**ပြောသည်။ (Burmese)
- ☐ 我说中文 (Chinese Simplified)
- ☐ 我說中文 (Chinese Traditional)
 - Ja govorim **hrvatski**. (Croatian)

-] N a po **Klào** Win. (Kru)
- ີ ຂ້າພະເຈົ້າເວົ້າ **ພາສາລາວ**. (Lao)
- Yie gorngv **Mienh** waac. (Mien)
-] म **नेपाली** बोल्छु (Nepali)
- Mówię **po polsku**. (Polish)
- Eu falo **Portugês**. (Portuguese)
- ੇ ਇ ਸ੍ਪੇਆਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)
- Cunosc limba **Română.** (Romanian)
- Я говорю **по-русски**. (Russian)
- Ou te tautala **faaSamoa**. (Samoan)

Natural Resources Conservation Service



This form is availa	ble electronically. (See U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	Page 3 for Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Statements) 1A. County FSA Office Name and Address
CCC-860 07-21-20)	Commodity Credit Corporation	(Including Zip Code)
	Y DISADVANTAGED, LIMITED RESOURCE,	4D. Telephone No. (Area Carla) 4C. Descent Vess
DEGINNIN	IG AND VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER CERTIFICATION	1B. Telephone No. (Area Code) 1C. Program Year
Applicant's Na	me and Address	
		INSTRUCTIONS:
1		Complete Parts A, B, C and/or D as applicable. Read the information relating to false certification in Part E. Return this form to the address in Item 1 above.
NFORMATION:	If a legal entity requests to be considered a "socially "veteran" farmer or rancher, the entity must meet the rancher includes; "owners", "operators" and "other p	definition as provided on Page 2 of this form. Farmer or
ART A – CERTI	FICATION OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER O	
prejudice beca apply but note t	am a member of a group <u>listed below</u> , whose members ha use of their identity as members of a group without regard hat if only "women" is checked without selecting the othe untaged for conservation programs).	to their individual qualities. (Check all that apply
Women		
	an Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians or Asian Americans,	Black or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other
	Islanders, Hispanics. FICATION OF LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER OR RANC	
	line Self-Determination Tool through National Resource	web site available through the Limited Resource Farmer and Conservation Service at
4. I certify i	that the following statements are true by checking the box	:
identified	in the Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher Self-Determination	le for the entity or joint operation) do not exceed the amount on Tool for the 2 calendar years that precede the complete of this form), adjusted upwards in later years for any general
	tal household income (as individuals, if applicable for the e family of four in each of the same 2 previous years (see Ta	entity or joint operation) was at or below the national poverty able 1 on Page 2 of this form) referenced above.
	FICATION OF BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER	
	hat the following statements are true by checking the box	
	plicable, the entity or joint operation) have not operated a fa	
I (or if ap	plicable, the entity or joint operation) substantially participa	ate in the operation.
		Date (Month/Year began farming)
6. I certify that I	FICATION OF VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER am a farmer or rancher who has served in the Armed Fo	rces as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(10) and I meet the
-	f at least one of the boxes below: (Check all that apply)	
A.	. I (or if applicable, the entity or joint operation) have not of began farming in Date (Month/Year)	perated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years and
Пр	I (or if applicable, the entity or joint operation) am a veter	an (as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(2)) who first

ural ources servation lice



AD-20 (10-28-2			ervice Ager Developme s Conserva gement Ag	ncy nt ation Service gency	r	orms Approved – OMB No. 0560 OMB Expiration Date: 12/31	
NOTE:	The following statement is made in accordance wi Computer Security Act of 1987 (Pub. L. 100-235). The information will be used to document a reque Federal. State. Local government agencies. Triba described in applicable Routine Uses identified in (Automated), USDA/NRCS-1, Landowner, Operative requested information is voluntary. However, failu record.	OMB Circular A-123, Federal Man st by the producer for updating the agencies, and nongovernmental e the System of Records Notices for or, Producer, Cooperator, or Partic re to furnish the requested informa	552a - as ame agers' Financi business partri nitiles that har AMS-3, Perisi ipant Files, an tion will result	nded). The author al Integrity Act of 1 ner record. The inh ve been authorized able Agricultural C d USDA/RD-1, App in a determination	ty for requesting ; 182, and Privacy ; irmation collected access to the info onmodities Act (licant, Borrower, of ineligibility to re	Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). on this form may be disclosed to other immation by statute or regulation and/or as PACA), USDANFSA-2, Farm Records File Grantee, or Tenant File. Providing the quest changes within the business partner	
PART	Public Burden Statement (Paperwork Reductio not required to respond to, a collection of informat 0265. The time required to complete this informat searching existing data sources, gathering and mit The provisions of criminal and civil fraud, privacy of OFFICE. A - CUSTOMER INFORMATION	ion unless it displays a valid OMB ion collection is estimated to avera initaining the data needed, and co and other statutes may be applicab	control number ge 3 minutes (mpleting and n	r. The valid OMB c (.05 hours) per resp eviewing the collec	introl number for onse, including th ion of information	this information collection is 0560- e time for reviewing instructions,	
2A. Cu:	son for Request (Check appropriate bo: New Customer Update Existi stomer's Full Name or Business Name cluding Zip Code)	ng Customer Record		omer Busines	s Type <i>(Exan</i>	nple: Individual, Corporation, LLC	<u>,</u>
2C. Ho	me Telephone Number (Area Code)	2D. Business Telephon	e Number	(Area Code)	2E. Mobile	Telephone Number (Area Code)	-
2F. Em	ail Address	I	2G. Doe or fa	s the custome rm specific rela	want to rece ted emails?	ive sensitive (but non-PII) Produc	cer
	xpayer Identification Number (Complete last 4 digits for existing customer) and c)		3B. Birtho	late (Only requ	ired if the cu	stomer is a minor)	
U.	izenship Status: (For Individuals Only) S. Resident Resident Al ot a US Citizen or Resident Alien ship country if not US:	ien (l-551 Required)	3D. Orig	inating Countr	/ (For Foreigi	n Entities Only)	
Departn demogra only and informat	raphic Information nental Regulation 4370-001 provides U aphic information is voluntary and at th d will not be used to determine an applition in items 4A, 4B or 4C if the informa se responses to the race, ethnicity and	e discretion of the custom cant's eligibility for progra ation has previously been	er. Demog ms or servi provided to	raphic informatices for which USDA. A cus	tion is used I hey apply. Y tomer identif	by USDA for statistical purposes ou may disregard providing ied in Item 2A that is a legal entity	y
4A. Rad sele An Na As Wi	ce: (Note: More than 1 may be ected) merican Indian / Alaskan Native ative Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander sian hite ack/African American to not want to provide Race	4B. Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or La I do not want to pre Ethnicity information time.	tino ovide	4C. Gender (Male Female Non-Bir I do not	Individual): ary want to Gender	4D. Gender (Legal Entity) Not applicable/unknown Organization/Female Owned Organization/Non-Binary I do not want to provide Gender information at	ned C

Natural Resources Conservation Service



USDA LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER AND RANCHER FY2021 PROGRAM STATUS

VERIFICATION DATE: 6/16/2022

PLATTE, NEBRASKA

INCOME DETERMINATION

Gross Farm

Sales for 2018 is less than or equal to \$179,000 per year and 2019:

Adjusted Gross

is less than \$35,727

Income:

LimitedBased on your answers to the two questions: You AREResourceELIGIBLE to qualify as a Limited Resource Producer. You mayFarmer/Rancherbe required to provide sufficient documentation to verify yourStatus:claim.

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Get Started with NRCS

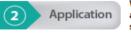
Do you farm or ranch and want to make improvements to the land that you own or lease? Natural Resources Conservation Service offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners.



To get started with NRCS, we recommend you stop by your local NRCS field office.

We'll discuss your vision for your land.

NRCS provides landowners with free technical assistance, or advice, for their land. Common technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design and resource monitoring. Your conservation planner will help you determine if financial assistance is right for you.



We'll walk you through the application process. To get started on applying for

financial assistance, we'll work with you:

- To fill out an AD 1026, which ensures a conservation plan is in place before lands with highly erodible soils are farmed. It also ensures that identified wetland areas are protected.
- · To meet other eligibility certifications.

Once complete, we'll work with you on the application, or CPA 1200.

Applications for most programs are accepted on a continuous basis, but they're considered for funding in different ranking



As part of the application process, we'll check to see if you are eligible.

To do this, you'll need to bring:

- An official tax ID (Social Security number or an employer ID)
- A property deed or lease agreement to show you have control of the property; and
- A farm tract number.

If you don't have a farm tract number, you can get one from USDA's Farm Service Agency. Typically, the local FSA office is located in the same building as the local NRCS office. You only need a farm tract number if you're interested in financial assistance.



NRCS will take a look at the applications and rank them according to local resource

concerns, the amount of conservation benefits the work will provide and the needs of applicants.



If you're selected, you can choose whether to sign the contract for the work to be done.

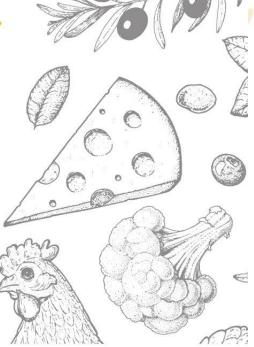
Natural Resources Conservation Service





From farm loans to crop insurance, and conservation programs to disaster assistance, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is here to support you and your operation.





GET STARTED

Contact Your Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator

Each State has a coordinator that can help vou with questions on



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USDA Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

Reducing Food Waste



In the United States, over one-third of food goes uneaten through loss or waste. When food is tossed aside, so too are opportunities for improved food security, economic growth, and environmental prosperity. USDA is uniquely positioned to help address the problem of food loss and waste through its programs, policies, and guidance.

Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Projects

The USDA Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production awards cooperative agreements through an annual competitive process. The agreements assist local and municipal governments with projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans. Implementation activities increase access to compost for agricultural producers, improve soil quality and encourages innovative, scalable waste management plans that reduce and divert food waste from landfills.

Who is Eligible?

Municipalities, counties, local governments, State and federally recognized tribes, or city planners in the United States are eligible.

Learn More

More information, including a webinar, Frequently Asked Questions, and news release, is available at farmers.gov/urban.



USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

was formed through the 2018 Farm Bill to improve USDA's support for urban and innovative farming operations.

The office manages competitive grants and cooperative agreements.

A new federal advisory committee on urban agriculture and innovative production and new Farm Service Agency urban and suburban county committees provide the public an opportunity to have input on USDA programs and services.



At left, Metro Atlanta Urban Farm (MAUF) CEO Bobby Wilson talks with USDA's Natural Resource Conversation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist Shemekia Mosley, State Public Affairs Officer Chris Groskreutz and Farm Service Agency (FSA) Beginning Farmer Regional Coordinator Rodney Brooks about future opportunities on his farm.

USDA Photo by Preston Keres prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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USDA U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

URBAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS ATAGLANCE

Natural Resources Conservation Service



United States Department of Agriculture



Please look educational but don't Pick Farm

NRCS AND URBAN AGRICULTURE

Who We Are

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service helps farmers care for the natural resources on their land – soil, water, air, plant and animals.

How We Help Urban Farmers

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to growers in:

- Soil Health As experts in soil health, NRCS conservationists can advise urban growers on things like what cover crops to grow, using farmers' soil tests and our soil surveys.
- Irrigation and Water Conservation We can help urban growers conserve water, by assisting with things like drip irrigation.
- Weeds and Pests We can help with pest and weed management by planting buffers for beneficial insects, through mulching, using cover crops and various other means.
- High Tunnels NRCS can provide financial assistance for high tunnels, used to extend the growing season and to protect plants from harsh weather, air pollution and pests. By making local produce available for more months in the year, fewer resources are used to transport food to plates.

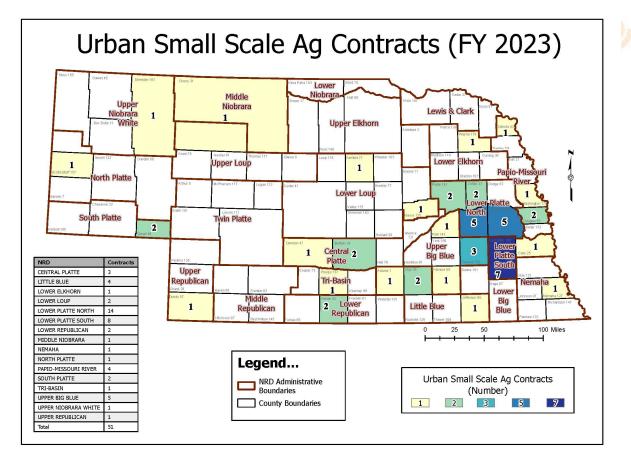


Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Practices	Count	Obligation
325 -High Tunnel System	47	\$599,693
821 -Low Tunnel Systems	6	\$71,910
533 -Pumping Plant	8	\$43,268
642 -Water Well	8	\$37,975
441 - Irrigation System, Microirrigation	21	\$36,337
430 -Irrigation Pipeline	12	\$22,835
808 -Soil Carbon Amendment	5	\$17,412
317 -Composting Facility	1	\$15,257
558 -Roof Runoff Structure	1	\$15,088
340 -Cover Crop	31	\$8,756
561 -Heavy Use Area Protection	9	\$6,831
570 -Stormwater Runoff Control	3	\$6,384
636 - Water Harvesting Catchment	3	\$5,790
590 -Nutrient Management	3	\$5,589
595 -Pest Management Conservation System	3	\$5,247
560 - Access Road	1	\$4,885
327 - Conservation Cover	7	\$4,413
612 - Tree/Shrub Establishment	1	\$3,364
216 -Soil Health Testing	8	\$2,104
380 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation	3	\$1,758
490 -Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	1	\$567
342 -Critical Area Planting	6	\$386
420 - Wildlife Habitat Planting	1	\$354
338 -Prescribed Burning	1	\$117
315 -Herbaceous Weed Treatment	1	\$16
Grand Total	191	\$916,336

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Questions?

Brach Johnson Urban Conservationist USDA-NRCS, Nebraska Brach.johnson@usda.gov Phone: 402-239-6633



