



## Farmland Information Center

<http://www.farmlandinfo.org/access-capital>



### Access to Capital

Access to capital is critical to beginning farmers and ranchers. Farming requires money for purchases such as land, buildings, fences, tractors and seed. There are many opportunities for securing capital--most in the form of loans. The information on this page identifies key lenders and resources to help you prepare for the application process.

Having trouble finding what you need? Call the Farmland Information Center at (800)-370-4879 or **send us an email** with your questions.

### Find a Lender

#### Farm Credit

In 1916 Congress enacted a law to establish the Farm Credit System (FCS) to provide a reliable source of financing for farmers. FCS is a nationwide network of borrower-owned lending institutions and specialized service organizations that provide loans and other services to agricultural producers, rural homeowners, aquatic producers, timber harvesters, agri-businesses, and agricultural and rural utility cooperatives. According to the federal Farm Credit Administration—which regulates and examines FCS—FCS is the largest agricultural lender in the United States. To locate a Farm Credit institution near you, visit the Farm Credit network homepage.

- [The Farm Credit Network](#)
- [The Business of Agriculture](#)

## State Loan Programs

State finance programs provide low interest loans, loan guarantees, and loan participation programs to help producers buy land, buildings, equipment and breeding livestock. Some programs, including "Aggie Bond" programs, are targeted specifically to beginning farmers. The National Council of State Agricultural Finance Programs tracks available programs and produces a comprehensive directory of state-level programs available to beginning and established producers.

- [National Council of State Agricultural Finance Programs](#)
- [State Beginning Farmer Loan Programs](#)

## USDA Farm Service Agency

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides direct and guaranteed loans to farmers and ranchers unable to obtain financing from other lenders for operating expenses and land purchases. Microloans are direct farm operating loans with a shortened application process and reduced paperwork designed to meet the needs of smaller, non-traditional, and niche type operations.

To find out more about program eligibility and/or the application process, contact FSA, typically located in your local USDA service center.

- [USDA Service Center Locator](#)
- [FSA Farm Loan Programs](#)
- [FSA Microloans Program](#)
- [Your Guide to FSA Farm Loans, Farm Service Agency](#)
- [Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loans](#)

## Local Commercial Banks

Your local bank may also be a potential source for credit. Many banks participate with agencies in providing financing to beginning farmers through state loan programs, including "[Aggie Bond](#)" Programs, and/or may offer loans guaranteed by FSA. Although it is uncommon, some banks have created local financing initiatives that link funds from depositors to a special lending pool available to beginning farmers. Ask your local bank if such a program is available.