



Colorado FSA Urban Producers and County Committees (COC)

June 17, 2024

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Interpretation Services

- For individuals that prefer or require Spanish Interpretation:
- Live Spanish Interpretation is available for this meeting
 - Maria Elisa is doing Live Interpretation for us through the conference line.
 - Keep this Presentation up, mute your computer, call in to the conference line for Live Spanish Interpretation
 - Call **+1 970-812-0909** and Type the Passcode:
41864382#
 - The meeting is also being recorded and will be translated to Spanish after the meeting

Agenda

- FSA Overview and Colorado Specifics
 - FSA Services
 - Farm Program Information
 - Farm Loan Information
 - County Committees (Traditional)
 - Denver Urban County Committee (UCOC)
 - Eligibility to Vote and Serve on UCOC
 - Election Deadlines
-
- How to get Started with FSA
 - Available USDA Programs for Urban Producers
 - Online Resources for Urban Producers
 - Farm Service Agency Contact Information

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Overview

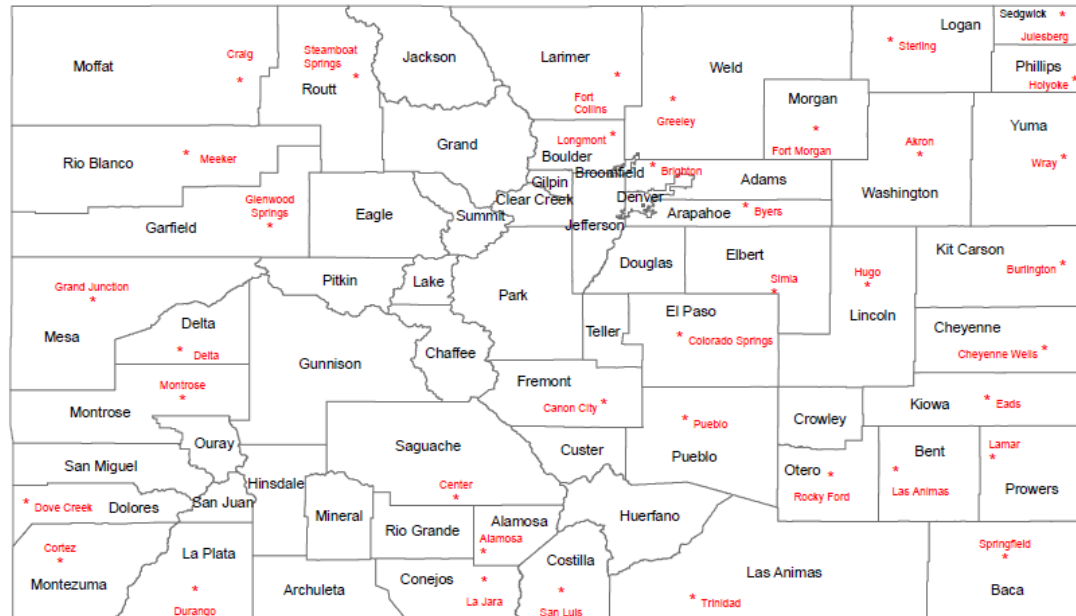
- We are a customer-driven agency
- We support agricultural communities
- We Provide Programs and Services
 - Farm Programs
 - Farm Loans
 - Commodity Operations
 - Management and State Operations

Colorado

- 37 Farm Program Service Centers and 9 Farm Loan Service Centers
- USDA Service Center Locator:
<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>
 - 1 NEW Urban Office (Coming soon)

County Committees (COC)

- Each Service Center has a COC elected by the producers that participate in their county
- COC's are made up of 3 or more members based on Local Administrative Areas (LAAs)
 - LAAs are elective areas for FSA committees in a single county or multi-county jurisdiction. There is a COC member elected from each LAA
- LAA election are staggered so only one position is open each year.



County Committees (COC)- Cont.

- Elected COC members are responsible for:
 - Making informed decisions in their FSA county offices
 - Conduct hearings and reviews as requested by the state committee or local producers
 - Ensure socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmers and ranchers are fairly represented
 - Make recommendations and provide input on local on programs such as Income safety-net loans and payments, set county average yields for commodities, conservation and disaster programs, and more
 - Conduct Outreach and Inform farmers and ranchers of the purpose and provisions of FSA programs.
- Each member serves a 3-year term, to not exceed 3-consecutive terms and is compensated for their time and mileage driven for re-occurring meetings.
 - Generally, once a month or every couple of months.

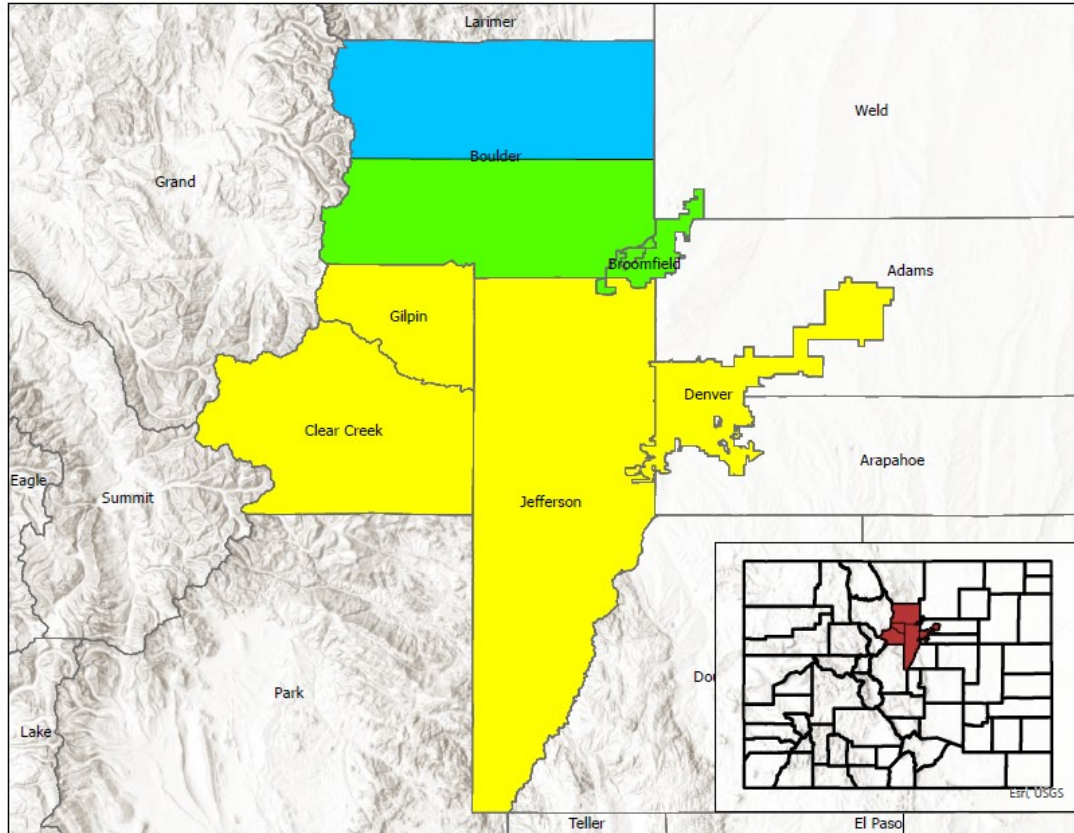
Urban County Committees Pilot Program

- Since 2020, the Farm Bill Authorized 10 Urban County Committees (UCOC) as a 5-year pilot program
- Pilot locations were chosen based on a variety of factors (interest, demographics, proximity to or number of urban farms, etc.)
- Since then, we are at 17 established UCOCs
- Denver was announced, along with 9 other cities, to have an UCOC established in 2024
- “Urban” is generally referred to as the cultivation, processing, and distribution of agricultural products in urban and suburban settings, including things like vertical production, warehouse farms, community gardens, rooftop farms, hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic facilities, and other innovations.



Urban County Committees- Denver+

Colorado Urban Ag LAA's



Legend
■ LAA 1 ■ LAA 2 ■ LAA 3

Colorado Urban LAAs

- LAA #1 – North Boulder (North of Mineral Road)
- LAA #2 – Broomfield County and South Boulder (South of Mineral Road)
- LAA #3 – Jefferson, Denver, Gilpin, and Clear Creek Counties

All 3 LAAs are up for election this year*

Urban County Committees- Responsibilities

- Responsibilities of Elected UCOC Members - same as Traditional COCs but also:
 - Understand Programs within USDA and how they impact the producers.
 - Identify the needs of the growing urban agriculture market within the defined urban area.
 - Engage with a new customer base.
 - Outreach to local Stakeholders to promote USDA programs.
 - Make recommendations on training needs for employees and producers.
 - Determine who should be hired to run the FSA Urban Programs

Urban County Committees- Nominations and Serving

- For nominations, we are looking for local producers with ties to urban agriculture, utilize innovative practices, reflect diversity including historically underserved producers, and all members will be nominated by their peers.
- Each member serves a 3-year term, to not exceed 3-consecutive terms and is compensated for their time and mileage driven for re-occurring meetings.
 - Generally, once a month or every couple of months.
- For the Denver UCOC, the first 3 elected members will be different than if one LAA was up for election. Because it's the first year, the LAAs members after elected will determine which LAA(s) will only serve 1, 2, and 3 years so that we can stagger elections in the future.
- Producers can Nominate themselves or other producers

**2024 Elections for Denver UCOC are now open until
August 1, 2024**

Urban County Committees- Eligibility to Vote

- A person, including a person designated to represent an entity, who meets the following requirements:
 1. Is engaged in the production or sale of an agricultural commodity as either:
 - An individual who meets one or more of the following:
 - Is eligible to vote in one's own right
 - Is a partner of a general partnership
 - Is a member of a joint venture
 - An authorized representative of a legal entity, such as:
 - A corporation, estate, trust, limited partnership, or other business enterprise, excluding general partnerships and joint ventures.
 - A state, political subdivision of a state, or any state agency, such as a school with a farm.

**Only the designated representative may cast a vote for the entity and the entity gets one vote.*

Urban County Committees- Eligibility to Vote – Cont.

- A person, including a person designated to represent an entity, who meets the following requirements:
 2. Is of legal voting age, or if not of legal voting age, supervise and conduct the farming operation for the entire farm
 3. Participates or cooperates in any USDA program that is provided for by law.
 - To be considered cooperating, a person or entity needs to fill out a Customer Data Worksheet (AD-2047)
 - Fill out our Microsoft form for a quick way fill out our AD-2047:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=5zZb7e4BvE6GfuA8-g1Gl2Lo-1iuSAFEIh_FAGr849URUg3NUhXV0pWWFhLSIFDU0pZT0ZGVIBE12My4u

Urban County Committees- Eligibility to Serve

- A producer is Eligible to Serve on a UCOC if the following requirements are met:
 1. Be a U.S. Citizen
 2. Be an urban producer with records administered through the urban COC jurisdiction.
 3. Reside or have farming interests in the LAA that is up for election.
 4. A person must not have been removed or disqualified from:
 - FSA county committee membership or alternate membership, or FSA employment.
 - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony. Or Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

Urban County Committees- Eligibility to Serve - Cont.

- Producers can also be representatives for Socially Disadvantaged (SDA) groups as a UCOC Advisor.
 - These individuals won't be able to vote on items but can give their insight and perspective to represent our underserved producers.
- Producers can nominate themselves
- To be considered for nomination, a producer must sign an FSA-669A nomination form
 - Or if you are wanting to be an SDA Advisor, you can submit a written request

Urban County Committees- Election Deadlines

- August 1st - Final date to accept a nominations using the FSA-669A form
- November 4th - Ballots mailed to eligible producers
- December 2nd - Final date to accept voted ballot
- January 1st - nominated members onboarded



More Information

www.fsa.usda.gov/co

<https://www.farmers.gov/urban>

Urban Ag information available including fact sheets, FAQ, and Forms. This website also has a [brochure](#) that goes over all USDA programs for Urban Producers.

Nominations due by August 1, 2024

Email Elizabeth.Thomas1@usda.gov for help signing up to be a voter, submit nominations, or SDA Advisor requests!

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Questions about Urban County Committees or Nominations?

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How to get Started with FSA

This Section will go over how to get started with FSA by establishing a FSA Farm Number and potential programs specifically for Urban and Small-Scale Producers.

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Register Your Farm and Get a Farm Number

Bring with you:

- Proof of identity (driver's license, social security card, IRS EIN number)
- Entity Identification Status (articles of incorporation, trust and estate documents, partnership agreement)
- Proof of ownership (copy of recorded deed, if owned)
- Leases or rental agreement (if you don't own)
 - Section numbers and maps also help us identify the correct land
- Fill out the AD-2047 "Customer Data Worksheet"
 - There are a variety of other forms that can be filled out based on your operation. Make sure to ask your local FSA office.
 - Producers can find our "Apply Now" Packets with all documents (including the AD2047) needed to start with FSA on our Colorado Website: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/CO>

Producer Customer Records

- Farm Numbers and Tract Numbers are given based on Owners and Operators.
- If multiple pieces of land have the same owners and same operators, they will go under the same Farm Number

Producers could be listed as the following:

- Owners - individual or entity who has legal ownership of farmland (or property)
- Operator - individual, entity, or joint operation who is determined by FSA County Committee(COC) as being in general control of the farming operations on the farm for the current year
- Other Producer – producers who are
 - Associated with a farm
 - Not owners or operators
 - May also be referred to as Other Tenants

Farm Service Agency Programs

Farm Programs

- Disaster Assistance
- Conservation Programs
- Safety Net
- Risk Management

Farm Loans

- Ownership Loans
- Operating Loans
- Microloans
- Loan Guarantees

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP)

- Provides financial assistance to producers of certain eligible crops for which there is no commercially-available risk protection insurance; can assist with low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting when eligible disasters strike (drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, others)
- Generally, covers specialty crops, like vegetables, fruits, but also grass, alfalfa, triticale, rye, and others, where commercial insurance is not available
- Covers crop loss in excess of 50 percent, at 55 percent of the average market price for the crop; buy-up coverage is available up to 65 percent in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price
- Service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed \$1,950 total for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties

Must Apply Ahead of Production Season

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Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

- Provides financial assistance to help with cost of organic certification
- Up to 75% of certification costs, to a maximum of \$750 per certification scope (crops, livestock, wild crops, handling)
- Reimbursement of incurred costs – for expenses paid October through September **deadline to apply is generally Oct. 31st.**
- Types of reimbursable expenses include application fees, inspection costs, travel/per diem for inspectors, and more

Other General Programs for Producers (Colorado)

- Disaster Programs
 - Tree Assistance Program (TAP): provides financial assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers to replace or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines lost to natural disasters, including hurricanes and wildfires.
 - Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): Pays for death losses due to natural disaster (tornado, blizzard, excess heat, excess cold, etc.)
 - Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP): Pays for grazing losses if severe drought triggers are met.
- Conservation Programs
 - Conservation Reserve Program(s) (CRP): 4 types of CRP programs; CRP pays a yearly rental payment in exchange for farmers removing environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and planting species that will improve environmental quality.
- Commodity & Safety Net Programs
 - Ag Risk and Price Loss Coverage Programs (ARC/PLC): The ARC Program is an income support program that provides payments when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level. The PLC Program provides income support payments when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its effective reference price.

Farm Programs-Farm Loans

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL), Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) & Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)



FSFLs

- Provides low-interest financing for producers to store, handle and/or transport eligible commodities they produce
- May borrow up to \$500,000 per loan with a minimum down payment of 15%
- Loan terms vary and multiple eligible commodities
- Can do a microloan option of \$50,000 max, with lower down payment

MALs

- provide interim financing at harvest time to help agricultural producers meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows.
- Producers could opt to do an LDP instead:
 - An LDP is the difference the producer would have received if a loan was repaid at the lower market price, a direct benefit that does not need to be repaid.

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Operating Loans (Direct)

Used to purchase items such as livestock, poultry, equipment, feed, seed, farm chemicals and supplies, and for soil and water conservation efforts. Loan limit is \$400,000 with a maximum 7-year term.

Ownership Loans (Direct)

Can be used to purchase or expand a farm or ranch, construct new or improve existing farm or ranch buildings, and pay for soil and water conservation and protection purposes. Loan limit is \$600,000 with a maximum 40-year term.

Guaranteed Loans

Commercial lenders extend credit to family farm operators and owners who do not qualify for standard commercial loans. Lenders can receive protection from loss, up to 95 percent. Guarantees, for both operating and ownership loans, can be granted for up to \$2.236 million.

Youth Loans

FSA can make low-interest loans to youth to establish and operate agriculture-related, income-producing, supervised projects with a max loan limit of \$5,000.


Direct Farm Ownership Down Payment Program

Specific to beginning farmers and ranchers or underserved farmers/ranchers; this type of loan may be used to purchase a farm or ranch. A minimum 5% cash downpayment is required with an interest rate of 1.5%. Loan limit is \$667,000 with terms up to 20 years.

Micro Loans

Designed to meet the needs of small and beginning farmers, non-traditional, specialty crop and niche type operations. Can be used for Ownership or Operating loans. Microloans are limited to \$50,000 and have a simpler application process.

Loan Assistance Tool – farmers.gov/loans

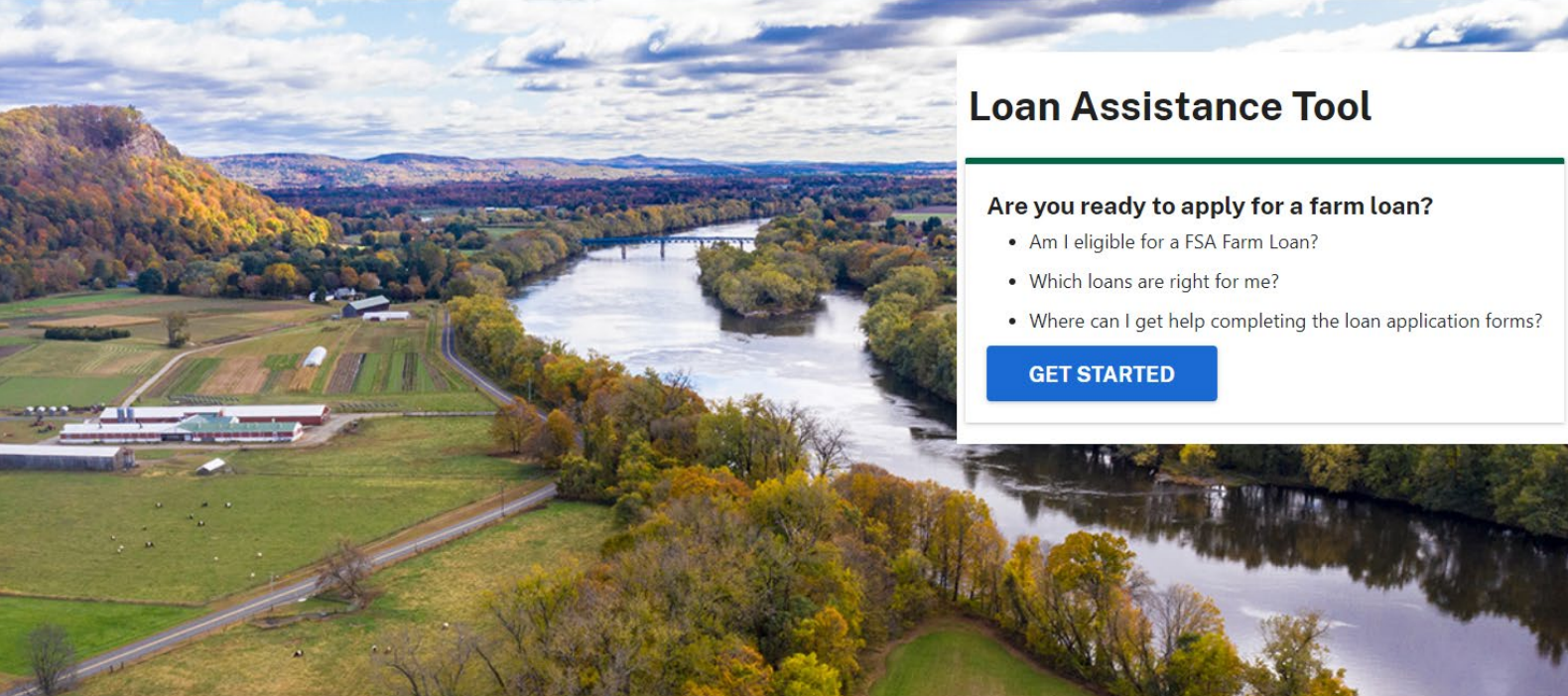
 An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know.](#)

USDA Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ABOUT FSA ASK USDA CONTACT US FORMS

[Home](#) [Guides](#) [Eligibility Self-Assessment](#) [Loan Discovery](#) [Form Support](#)

Search Application For



Loan Assistance Tool

Are you ready to apply for a farm loan?

- Am I eligible for a FSA Farm Loan?
- Which loans are right for me?
- Where can I get help completing the loan application forms?

GET STARTED

[Learn More](#)

Check your eligibility for FSA loans, discover the various FSA loan products, learn about documentation

FSA ONLINE – www.farmers.gov

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know.](#)

[Translations](#) | [Service Centers](#) | [Contact](#)

¿Necesita información en español? Busque [nuestras traducciones](#) o [haga una solicitud](#).

[DISMISS](#)



Fall into growing organic

USDA can assist with organic certification costs.

[Learn about the Organic Certification Cost Share Program](#)

Your Business

[VIEW ALL IN YOUR BUSINESS](#)

[Beginning Farmers and Ranchers](#)

[Who You Are](#)

[What You Grow and Raise](#)

Small-scale Producers
No matter the size of your operation, USDA can help it grow.

Urban Growers
Browse USDA programs and services provided for urban farmers and gardeners.

Partnerships With Tribal Nations
USDA collaborates and partners with Tribal Nations to help them meet their land stewardship, production, and food sovereignty goals.

Organic Farmers
Explore USDA programs, services, and resources available for organic farmers.

Women Farmers
Women farmers and ranchers play a vital role in American agriculture in producing the food and fiber to feed and clothe the world.

LGBTQ+ Farmers
USDA help farmers and ranchers regardless of their race, gender, or sexual orientation.

Featured



How to Start a Farm: Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

New to farming? Want to learn how to start a farm? USDA can help.

- [Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinators](#)

Inflation Reduction Act Assistance

News

- [Simplified Direct Farm Loan Application](#)
- [Learn about USDA's new Urban Service Centers](#)
- [Inflation Reduction Act:](#)
 - [Assistance for Distressed Borrowers](#)
 - [Assistance for Producers Discriminated Against in Loan Programs](#)
 - [Conservation Assistance](#)
- [Boosting Domestic Production through Double Cropping, Nutrient Management and Fertilizer Investments](#)
- What should your state's [farmers.gov dashboard](#) include?

Important Dates

Date varies by state	Conservation
Sep 30, 2023	Marginal
Nov 1, 2023	Organic
Jan 31, 2024	Food

[View All](#)

Electronic Newsletter



Boulder/Jefferson County USDA Service Center Newsletter - May 5, 2024

[Farm Service Agency](#) | [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) | [Risk Management Agency](#)

- [Update Your Records](#)
- [Maps for Acreage Reporting Are Available](#)
- [Reporting Organic Crops](#)
- [USDA Reminds Producers of Climate-Smart Opportunities Using Farm Loan Programs](#)

Update Your Records

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database and needs your help. Please report any changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address or an incorrect name or business name on file to our office. You should also report changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase. You should also report any changes to your operation in which you reorganize to form a Trust, LLC or other legal entity.

FSA and NRCS program participants are required to promptly report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and to update their *Farm Operating Plan* on form CCC-902.

To update your records, contact your local USDA Service Center.

Maps for Acreage Reporting Are Available

Maps are now available at your local county FSA Office for acreage reporting purposes. If you wish to receive your maps by e-mail, please call our office or email us.

www.farmers.gov/subscribe

Select: Colorado – Urban Agriculture



Email Updates

To sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below.

Subscription Type

Email Address *

Your contact information is used to deliver requested updates or to access your subscriber preferences.

Cooperators

Urban Cooperators with USDA-FSA

USDA offers grants to organizations to be cooperators with our Urban Agriculture Initiative

What can Cooperators do for Urban Producers?

Cooperators can offer a variety of services:

- Helping producers navigate USDA Programs
- Apply for programs that the Cooperators offer
- Provide other resources for Urban Producers

Other Organizations that help Urban Producers in the area:

- Denver County CSU Extension: Urban Division
- CDA: STAR & STAR+ Program
- CSU: Regional Food Business Center
- Mile High Farmers
- Jeffco Food Policy Council
- Flatiron Farmers
- Goodwill Colorado: FarmAble program
- San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition



Questions?

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