

BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Farm Bill has made available in fiscal year (FY) 2009 \$18 million to fund a Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP.) To support the nation's beginning farmers and ranchers, BFRDP will make competitive grants to new and established local and regional training, education, outreach and technical assistance initiatives that address the needs of beginning farmers and ranchers in the following areas:

1. mentoring, apprenticeships, and internships;
2. resources and referral;
3. assisting beginning farmers or ranchers in acquiring land from retiring farmers and ranchers;
4. innovative farm and ranch transfer strategies;
5. entrepreneurship and business training;
6. model land leasing contracts;
7. financial management training;
8. whole farm planning;
9. conservation assistance;
10. risk management education;
11. diversification and marketing strategies;
12. curriculum development;
13. understanding the impact of concentration and globalization;
14. basic livestock and crop farming practices;
15. the acquisition and management of agricultural credit;
16. environmental compliance;
17. information processing, and
18. similar subject areas of use to beginning farmers or ranchers.

CSREES anticipates releasing the FY 2009 Request for Applications (RFA) for BFRDP in February 2009 with a 30-day open period. The RFA will invite application in each of the areas above. Project periods will be limited to 3 years. Proposed budget requests must not exceed \$250,000 per year.

Priority will be given to projects that are partnerships and collaborations led by or including nongovernmental and community-based organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach. In accordance with the authorizing legislation, the RFA will also invite applications for an online clearinghouse that makes educational curricula and training materials and programs available to beginning farmers and ranchers. Missing the 3rd type of project

To be eligible to receive a BFRDP grant, the recipient must be a collaborative State, tribal, local, or regionally-based network or partnership of public or private entities, which may include: a state cooperative extension service; a Federal, State or tribal agency; a community-based and nongovernmental organization; college or university (including an institution awarding an associate's degree) or foundation maintained by a college or university; or any other appropriate partner, as determined by the Secretary.

All applicants are required to provide funds or in-kind support from non-federal sources in an amount that is at least equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the federal funds requested.

For additional information contact Suresh Sureshwaran at ssureshwaran@csrees.usda.gov , 202-720-7536; or Janie Hipp at jhipp@csrees.usda.gov , 202-720-3605

Agriculture and Food Research Institute

(www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/agriculturalandfoodresearchinitiativeafri.cfm)

Two topic areas - *Markets and Trade* and *Agricultural Prosperity for Small and Medium Sized Farms* - focus on evaluating feasibility and policy issues particularly relevant to beginning farmers and ranchers.

Contact: Siva Sureshwaran, ssureshwaran@csrees.usda.gov, 202-720-7536

Small Business Innovation Research: (www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/sbir.cfm)

Proof of concept research to stimulate private sector innovations. Eligibility: small businesses often in partnership with university and government scientists. Topic areas include *Small and Mid-sized Farms*: developing agricultural enterprises focused on specialty farm products, and *Marketing and Trade*: identifying innovative marketing strategies

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Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) (www.sare.org)

Regionally managed funding opportunities for scientists, agricultural educators and producers; includes : *Research and Education Grants; Producer Grants; Professional Development grants*

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Outreach and Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (2501)

(www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/outreachassistancesociallydisadvantagedfarmersranchers.cfm)

Annual competitive grants program. Eligible recipients work at institutions of higher education and community-based non-profit organizations that provide capacity-building training and assistance to local farmers and ranchers

Contact: Dionne Toombs, dtoombs@csrees.usda.gov, 202-401-2138

Risk Management Education (www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/riskmanagementeducationarpa.cfm)

Develop and deliver risk management tools to farmers. Managed through 4 regional centers; materials available on-line through the University of Minnesota Ag Risk Library

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OTHER CSREES COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAMS RELEVANT TO BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS NON-COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS

Formula Funds to Land-grant universities support research, education and outreach related to Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.

Cooperative Extension at the local and regional levels offer many programs to beginning farmers and ranchers, often in collaboration with Rural Development and other partners

The CSREES Family Farm Forum is a twice yearly series of webinars offering CSREES stakeholders an opportunity to discuss topics vital to America's family farms.

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The CSREES Small Farm Program enhances the economic viability of small farm and ranch enterprises through partnerships with the Land-grant university system and with other public and private sector organizations.

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