



2017



National Council of State Agricultural Finance Programs Directory

STATE BY STATE AGRICULTURAL LOAN PROGRAMS



National Council of State Agricultural Finance Programs

The National Council of State Agricultural Finance Programs (NCOSAFP) was organized in November 1984 to represent states with agricultural finance programs. It is an informal organization whose affairs are conducted by a Board of Directors selected from the NCOSAFP membership that keeps its members informed on state programs being developed across the nation and on farm finance issues emerging in Washington, D.C. The NCOSAFP also is involved in promoting and supporting rural economic development programs. Member states have developed and implemented individual programs to assist beginning and first-time farmers, existing family farm operations, and agribusiness firms. Our goals include:

- Representing the interests of state agricultural finance programs in the development of legislation, regulation and consideration of other issues that affect the ability of such programs to meet the intended public purposes
- Facilitating continued communication and educational programs among the membership
- Exploring and evaluating new ideas in agricultural financing
- Offering assistance to states that may be interested in developing state agricultural finance programs

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www.stateagfinance.org

Overview of State Agricultural Finance Programs

State	2014 Aggie Bonds	2015 Aggie Bonds	2016 Aggie Bonds
Alabama	*	*	*
Alaska	*	*	*
Arizona	*	*	*
Arkansas	*	*	*
California	*	*	*
Colorado	*	*	*
Connecticut	*	*	*
Delaware	*	*	*
DC	*	*	*
Florida	*	*	*
Georgia	*	*	*
Hawaii	*	*	*
Idaho	*	*	*
Illinois	\$ 2,176,000	*	*
Indiana	*	*	*
Iowa	\$ 6,934,171	\$ 16,900,000	\$ 16,100,000
Kansas	*	*	*
Kentucky	*	*	*
Louisiana	*	*	*
Maine	*	*	*
Maryland	*	*	*
Massachusetts	*	*	*
Michigan	*	*	*
Minnesota	\$ 250,000	\$ 500,000	*
Mississippi	*	*	*
Missouri	\$ 2,099,170	\$ 300,000	\$ 2,640,000
Montana	*	*	*
Nebraska	\$ 527,840	\$ 700,000	\$ 3,700,000
Nevada	*	*	*
New Hampshire	*	*	*
New Jersey	*	*	*
New Mexico	*	*	*
New York	*	*	*
North Carolina	*	*	*
North Dakota	*	*	*
Ohio	*	*	*
Oklahoma	*	*	*
Oregon	*	*	*
Pennsylvania	\$ 3,836,000	\$ 8,600,000	\$ 5,060,000
Rhode Island	*	*	*
South Carolina	*	*	*
South Dakota	\$ 748,800	\$ 200,000	\$ 940,000
Tennessee	*	*	*
Texas	*	*	*
Utah	*	*	*
Vermont	*	*	*
Virginia	*	*	*
Washington	\$ 200,000	*	*
West Virginia	*	*	*
Wisconsin	*	*	*
Wyoming	*	*	*
National Total	\$ 16,771,981	\$ 27,200,000	\$ 28,440,000

Aggie Bonds / Beginning Farmer Loan Program

Several states operate special loan programs for beginning farmers and ranchers. One of the most common types of beginning farmer programs is called “Aggie Bond” programs. Through these programs, states can assist beginning, first-time farmers to purchase land, farm equipment, farm buildings and breeding livestock through reduced interest rate loans. Through an Aggie Bond program, the state coordinates the creation of a bond that allows lenders to earn federally-tax exempt interest income on loans to eligible beginning farmers and ranchers. The tax savings allows the lenders to provide the loans at a reduced interest rate to a first time farmer, while the credit decisions and financial risk remain with the local lending institutions. Aggie bond programs are federal-state, public-private partnership programs that provide a cost effective way for states to assist beginning farmers.

Agricultural loan programs based on the use of tax-exempt bonds began in 1980 with the passage of legislation to create pilot Aggie Bond programs in Georgia, Alabama and Iowa. Activity peaked in the mid-eighties and abruptly leveled off in response to interest rate adjustments and other limiting factors contained in the 1986 tax bill. In the peak year of 1984, 24 states had tax-exempt bond agricultural loan programs or capabilities.

In 1988, commercial lenders renewed their interest in the use of Aggie Bonds as a way to support rural economic development efforts in their communities as well as support agriculture. The 1993 tax bill granted a permanent extension for the use of Aggie Bonds. This action greatly improved the availability of the program to eligible participants and allowed beginning and first-time farmers, lenders and state agencies to use the program more fully.

The Aggie Bond program was further expanded on August 20, 1996 to allow state loan programs to finance beginning farmer purchases of agricultural property from their grandparents, parents and/or siblings. The definition of first-time farmer also was revised, so someone may own as much as 30 percent of their county median farm size and still be eligible for a beginning farmer loan.

In 2008 the program was enhanced again. The maximum bond amount was increased to \$450,000 and indexed annually to inflation. In addition, the maximum value of previously owned real estate could not exceed \$125,000 provision was removed.

EFFECTIVE DATE	MAX BOND AMOUNT
1980 – May 2008	\$250,000
June 2008	\$450,000
Jan 1, 2009	\$469,200
Jan 1, 2010	\$470,100
Jan 1, 2011	\$477,000
Jan 1, 2012	\$488,600
Jan 1, 2013	\$501,100
Jan 1, 2014	\$509,600
Jan 1, 2015	\$517,700
Jan 1, 2016	\$520,000
Jan 1, 2017	\$524,200
Jan 1, 2018	\$534,600

Guarantee Loan Programs

Several states have established state-backed guarantee loan programs with small issues of activity bonds and taxable bonds to restore, revitalize and promote the states' agricultural and industrial businesses. Loans are made by local lenders who receive up to 85 percent guarantee of principal and interest. Several states originate and service loans through a statewide agency using federal guarantees of 90 percent of principal and interest provided by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Direct Loan Programs

Many state legislatures have appropriated funds so that direct financial assistance, in the form of direct loans, can be provided by the state agricultural agencies or authorities. The purposes of these loans include ethanol production facilities, value-added agricultural products, livestock expansion, agricultural production, aquaculture development and others.

Loan Participation Programs

These programs help low equity farmers and ranchers obtain agricultural loans when the state agency/authority purchases a portion of a loan from a local lender. The procedural guidelines are similar to the guarantee loan programs, but in these instances, the state disburses funds to buy a portion of the loan instead of guaranteeing loan payments.

Other Agricultural Development Finance Programs

Several states also operate specialized loan and finance programs serving a variety of targeted purposes, including programs for livestock and poultry producers, horticulture, value-added processing enterprises, cooperative development, aquaculture, irrigation, conservation, environmental protection, and more.

2017 NCOSAFP STATE MEMBERSHIP LIST	
California	Minnesota
Colorado	Montana
Georgia	Nebraska
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Kentucky	Utah
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ALABAMA

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Agency:	Alabama Agricultural Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Irrigation Loan Program
Overview:	<p>The AADA Irrigation Loan Program is a low-interest loan program for Alabama Fruit, Vegetable, and Nut Producers to provide financial assistance to assist with the cost of irrigation on farms in Alabama. Irrigation System plans must meet certain standard criteria with said plans to be reviewed and approved by an AADA representative prior to purchase and/or start of installation.</p> <p>Allowable funding of the direct cost is limited to a negotiable maximum amount subject to an approved loan amount to be verified by actual receipts.</p> <p>Loans are for a maximum of 4 years at a simple annual interest rate of 3½ percent. A signed promissory note denoting payment schedule will be required along with verifiable first position on chattel security that sufficiently collateralizes the loan.</p>
Eligible Users:	Alabama fruit, vegetable, and nut producers
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds are for adopting plastic and irrigation production methods.
Website:	www.aada.us/irrigation

Agency:	Alabama Agricultural Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Hay Barn Loan Program
Overview:	<p>The AADA Hay Barn Loan Program is a low-interest loan program for Alabama hay producers and cattlemen to provide financial assistance for the construction of approved new hay barns for use on farms and ranches in Alabama. Access to a hay barn enables the farmer to store hay under cover and subsequently receive substantial economic benefits and improved hay quality. Hay barn plans must meet certain standard criteria with said plans required to be reviewed and approved by the oversight committee prior to start of construction. Each barn should be of sufficient height to be able to stack a minimum of 3 hay rolls high.</p> <p>Allowable funding of the direct project cost is limited to a maximum of approved loan amount (to be verified by receipts.) As a guideline, two loan categories have been established based on the size of the hay barn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$12,500 for a 40' x 60' barn • \$25,000 for a 50' x 100' barn <p>Loans are for a maximum of 4 years at a simple annual interest rate of 4 percent. A signed promissory note denoting annual payments will be required along with verifiable first position on security that sufficiently collateralizes the loan. Proof of insurance and insurance assignment to AADA must be provided. A \$50 application fee will be charged to cover collateral filing fees and other administrative costs.</p>
Eligible Users:	Alabama hay producers and cattlemen.
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for the construction of new hay barns.
Website:	www.aada.us/hay-barn

Agency:	Alabama Agricultural Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Equipment Shed Loan Program
Overview:	<p>The AADA Equipment Shed Loan Program is a low-interest loan program for Alabama farmers to provide financial assistance for the construction of an approved new structure for use on farms in Alabama. Access to an equipment shed enables a farmer to protect equipment and subsequently receive substantial economic benefits and improved operational characteristics.</p> <p>Equipment shed plans must meet certain standard criteria with said plans required to be reviewed and approved by an AADA representative prior to start of construction. Allowable funding of the direct project cost is limited to a maximum of approved loan amount (to be verified by receipts.) As a guideline, only one general category has been established based on estimated cost. Up to \$35,000 can be borrowed depending on structure size, actual construction materials, and verifiable cost receipts.</p> <p>All loans will be for a maximum of five years at a simple annual interest rate of 3.5 percent. A signed promissory note denoting annual payments will be required along with verifiable first position on security that sufficiently collateralizes the loan. Proof of insurance and insurance assignment to AADA must be provided. A \$50 application fee will be charged to cover collateral filing fees and other administrative costs.</p>
Eligible Users:	Alabama farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for the construction of new structures for farm use.
Website:	www.aada.us/equipment-shed

Agency:	Alabama Agricultural Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Commodity Barn Loan Program
Overview:	<p>A low-interest AADA loan program for Alabama cattlemen to provide financial assistance for the construction of approved commodity storage barns for use on farms and ranches in Alabama. Access to a commodity barn would enable the farmer to buy necessary commodities in bulk quantities and subsequently receive cost savings. Commodity barn plans must meet certain standard criteria with said plans required to be reviewed and approved by the oversight committee prior to start of construction.</p> <p>In no instance will AADA funding exceed the commodity barns' total construction material cost (to be verified by receipts.) As a guideline, three loan categories have been established based on the size of the cattle operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$7,500 for a one-bay barn • \$15,000 for a two-bay barn • \$22,500 for a three-bay barn <p>All loans will be for a maximum of three years at a simple annual interest rate of 3 percent. A signed promissory note denoting annual payments will be required along with verifiable security that sufficiently collateralizes the loan. A \$50 fee will be charged to cover the filing cost.</p>
Eligible Users:	Alabama cattle producers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for approved commodity storage barns for use on farms and ranches in Alabama.
Website:	www.aada.us/cattle-working-facility

Agency:	Alabama Agricultural Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Cattle Working Facilities Loan Program
Overview:	<p>The AADA Cattle Working Facilities Pilot Loan Program is a low-interest loan program for Alabama beef cattlemen to provide financial assistance for the construction of approved working facilities for use on farms and ranches in Alabama. Access to improved cattle working facilities would better enable Alabama farmers/ranchers to more efficiently increase herd health and improve production capabilities. Working facility plans must meet certain standard criteria with said plans to be reviewed and approved by the oversight committee prior to purchase and/or start of construction.</p> <p>Allowable funding of the direct cost is limited up to a \$20,000 maximum subject to an approved loan amount to be verified by actual construction receipts. Alabama Cooperative Extension Service personnel in the designated pilot counties must first work with individual cattlemen to determine working facility needs and use program.</p> <p>Loans are for a maximum of 3 years at a simple annual interest rate of 3 percent. A signed promissory note denoting annual payments will be required along with verifiable first position on chattel security that sufficiently collateralizes the loan. A \$50 application fee will be charged to cover collateral filing fees and other administrative costs.</p>
Eligible Users:	Alabama beef cattlemen
Eligible Project Types:	To be used for the construction of working facilities.
Website:	www.aada.us/cattle-working-facility

ALASKA

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Agency:	Alaska Department of Natural Resources -- Division of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund
Overview:	The Alaska Agriculture Loan Act is designed to promote more rapid development of agriculture as an industry. Six types of loans are available to qualified applicants: 1) Farm Development, loans to purchase real property and construct non-residential improvements for agricultural purposes; 2) Chattel, loans to purchase equipment or livestock; 3) Short Term, loans to finance annual operating expenses for seed, feed, fertilizer, harvesting or planting activities; 4) Irrigation, loans to purchase and install irrigation systems and equipment; 5) Product Processing, loans to build and equip facilities to process Alaska agricultural products; and 6) Clearing, loans to provide for land clearing.
Eligible Users:	Alaskan resident farmers, ranchers, homesteaders, partnerships or corporations
Eligible Project Types:	To be used to Finance operating expenses, purchase equipment or livestock, purchase real property, construct non-residential improvements, install irrigation systems.
Website:	www.dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_arlf.htm

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Agency:	California Coastal Rural Development Corporation
Program/Project Title:	SBA 504 Certified Development Company
Overview:	This program includes larger fixed asset long term loans primarily for real estate purchases. The maximum 504 loan amount is \$5 million and the total project cost cannot exceed \$12 million.
Eligible Users:	Small businesses
Eligible Project Types:	To buy property, build or expand facilities; purchase long term equipment.
Website:	www.calcoastal.org/loan-programs/504-loan/

Agency:	California Coastal Rural Development Corporation
Program/Project Title:	Micro Loan Program
Overview:	This program provides start-up and expansion funding for small businesses rangin from \$5,000 - \$50,000.
Eligible Users:	Existing, small businesses and start-up businesses
Eligible Project Types:	Inventory, accounts receivable, machinery and equipment leasehold improvements, and working capital.
Website:	www.calcoastal.org/loan-programs/micro-loan/

Agency:	California Coastal Rural Development Corporation
Program/Project Title:	Loan Guarantee Program
Overview:	This program promotes small enterprises with special emphasis on assisting those that will create or retain jobs. Maximum guarantee of 80% of loan amount, up to \$2,500,000 per borrower.
Eligible Users:	Diversified small businesses
Eligible Project Types:	Inventory, accounts receivable, equipment acquisitions, farm production, revolving lines of credit, short and intermediate term loans.
Website:	www.calcoastal.org/loan-programs/loan-guarantee/

Agency:	California Coastal Rural Development Corporation
Program/Project Title:	Intermediary Relending Program
Overview:	This program provides loans to non-farm rural businesses ranging from \$25,000 - \$250,000.
Eligible Users:	Rural Businesses
Eligible Project Types:	Working capital, equipment acquisition, plant improvements and inventory
Website:	www.calcoastal.org/loan-programs/intermediary-relending/

Agency:	California Coastal Rural Development Corporation
Program/Project Title:	Farm Loan Program
Overview:	This program provides loans to family farms eligible for an FSA Guarantee. Variable interest rates for \$10,000 - \$1,399,000.
Eligible Users:	Small farmers/Small businesses
Eligible Project Types:	Funds are for crop production, harvest, farm ownership, improvements or equipment acquisition. Funds may also be used for non-farm rural development projects and micro loans.
Website:	www.calcoastal.org/loan-programs/farm-loan/

Agency:	California Coastal Rural Development Corporation
Program/Project Title:	Community Advantage 7(A) Loan Program
Overview:	Provides assistance for start-up and existing small businesses with financing for a variety of general business purposes.
Eligible Users:	Small/Rural Businesses
Eligible Project Types:	Establishment of a new business or to assist in the operation, acquisition or expansion of an existing business.
Website:	www.calcoastal.org/loan-programs/community-advantage-7a-loan-program/

COLORADO

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Agency:	Colorado Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Specialty Crop Block Grant
Overview:	The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) which partners with state departments of agriculture to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop producers in areas such as marketing, promotion, education, research, trade and nutrition.
Eligible Users:	Colorado farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include those that enhance the competitiveness of Colorado grown specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets.
Website:	www.colorado.gov/pacific/agmarkets

Agency:	Colorado Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Enrich Colorado Ag Grant Program
Overview:	The Enrich Colorado Ag Grant Program was created by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) to provide necessary funding for technical and operational issues, research, sales and marketing needs for food and agricultural products that are grown, raised or processed in Colorado.
Eligible Users:	Colorado farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Established for technical and operational issues, research, sales and marketing needs for food and agricultural products that are grown, raised or processed in Colorado.
Website:	www.colorado.gov/pacific/agmarkets

Agency:	Colorado Agricultural Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Beginning Farmer Loan Program
Overview:	The Beginning Farmer Loan Program uses tax-exempt bonds to assist first-time farmers and ranchers in purchasing farmland and equipment.
Eligible Users:	Beginning farmers
Eligible Project Types:	For the purchase of agricultural land and depreciable agricultural property.
Website:	www.cadafarmloan.com

Agency:	Colorado Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Advancing Colorado's Renewable Energy (ACRE) Program
Overview:	The ACRE3 program promotes the development and implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects for Colorado's agricultural producers and processors under the direction of the Colorado Agricultural Value-Added Development Board.
Eligible Users:	Agricultural Processors
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include those that cut energy costs, develop energy resources, create markets for agriculturally-derived energy and fuels.
Website:	www.colorado.gov/pacific/agmarkets

CONNECTICUT

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Agency:	Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Farm Viability Grant Program
Overview:	The Farm Viability Grant is a competitive matching grant program open to municipalities, regional planning organizations, association of municipalities, and 501c(3) agricultural non-profits. The maximum grant award is \$49,999.
Eligible Users:	Producers, non-profits, and agriculture cooperatives
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include those that implement local land use or agricultural regulations, farmland protection strategies, provide educational workshops for farmers, fund advertising for local or regional agriculture, establish local farmers' markets, among others.
Website:	www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&q=419408

Agency:	Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Farm Transition Grant
Overview:	The Farm Transition Grant Program is a competitive matching grant program. The purpose of the program is to strengthen the economic viability of Connecticut farmers and agricultural cooperatives. Producers and agriculture cooperatives applying for this grant may be awarded up to \$49,999 in matching funds.
Eligible Users:	Established Farmers and farmer cooperatives
Eligible Project Types:	Projects which allow a farm to expand, diversify, and improve the existing operation are allowable.
Website:	www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&q=419410

Agency:	Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Farm Reinvestment Grant Program
Overview:	This program is a matching grant program for diversity or expansion of existing farm family businesses. There is a cap of \$40,000; applicants must attend an educational seminar and present a business plan that shows farm viability for ten years. Dollars are released on a first come, first served basis based on accomplishment of criteria.
Eligible Users:	Farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for projects that expand, diversify, and improve existing working farms. Not to be used toward equipment or employees.
Website:	www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&Q=398988&PM=1

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Agency:	Georgia Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	S.T.A.R.T. Program
Overview:	This is a loan program intended for beginning farmers, beginning ranchers, beginning agribusiness operators, and/or applicants with limited financial resources and or assets. Dependent upon availability of funds. Only for Georgia residents.
Eligible Users:	Beginning Farmer, Rancher and/or agribusiness operator
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for purchasing agricultural land, agriculture improvements, depreciable agricultural chattels such as equipment, machinery and breeding livestock, refinance of agricultural bridge or construction loans.
Website:	www.gdaonline.com

Agency:	Georgia Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Farm and Agribusiness Loans
Overview:	The GDA has an active loan program for agricultural and agribusiness purposes. These loans can be made for terms as long as 30 years and are offered with adjustable and fixed rates. Loans can be sold to local banks and are 100% insured for a ½% retained servicing fee. Only for Georgia residents.
Eligible Users:	Stable Georgia farmers and small agribusinesses
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for agricultural and agribusiness purposes.
Website:	www.gdaonline.com

HAWAII

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Agency:	Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Loan Division
Program/Project Title:	Qualified Farmer Loan
Overview:	Qualified Farmer Loans are for applicants who are full-time farmers. A full-time farmer is a person who devotes most of their time to farming or derives most of their income from farming operations. Types of loans include: Farm Ownership and Improvement; Farm Operating Micro-Loans; Facility; and Farm Operating.
Eligible Users:	Full-time Farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for purchasing farm equipment and livestock; payment of production and marketing expenses including materials, labor, and services; payment of living expenses; liquidation of indebtedness incurred for the foregoing purposes.
Website:	www.hawaii.gov/hdoa/agl

Agency:	Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Loan Division
Program/Project Title:	Part-Time Farmer Loan
Overview:	Part-Time Farmer Loans are for applicants who are part-time farmers. A part-time farmer is a person who devotes a portion of their time to farming or derives between twenty-five to fifty per cent of the person's net cash income from direct participation in farming operations.
Eligible Users:	Part-time Farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for the purchase, construction, and improvement of farm production and/or growing structures; and the purchase of farm equipment and/or livestock; and the payment of production and marketing expenses, including materials, labor, and services.
Website:	www.hawaii.gov/hdoa/agl

Agency:	Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Loan Division
Program/Project Title:	New Farmer Loan
Overview:	New Farmer Loans are for applicants who intend to farm full-time. A full-time farmer is a person who devotes most of their time to farming or derives most of their income from farming operations. A down payment or equity contribution equal to 15% of the total project cost is required from the applicant.
Eligible Users:	New Farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for purchasing farm equipment and livestock; payment of production and marketing expenses including materials, labor, and services; payment of living expenses; liquidation of indebtedness incurred for the foregoing purposes.
Website:	www.hawaii.gov/hdoa/agl

Agency:	Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Loan Division
Program/Project Title:	Food Manufacturing Loans
Overview:	Food manufacturing loans are for applicants who are eligible food manufacturers. Must possess a minimum of two years of relevant processing or manufacturing experiences as acceptable to the department of agriculture. Two types of loans available include: Facility Loans and Operating Loans.
Eligible Users:	Food Manufacturers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed to purchase or improve land, buildings, and equipment. Finance inventories of supplies and materials, warehousing, marketing expenses and shipping commodities.
Website:	www.hawaii.gov/hdoa/agl

Agency:	Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Loan Division
Program/Project Title:	Aquaculture Loan Program
Overview:	Aquaculture loans are for applicants who intend to devote full-time to aquaculture. A full-time aquaculturist is defined as a person who devotes most of their time to aquaculture or derives a major portion of their income from aquaculture farming operations. Loan types include: Farm Ownership & Improvement Loan; Operating Loan; Facility Loan; Operating Loan.
Eligible Users:	Aquaculturists
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for the purchase or improvement of aquaculture farmland; purchase of aquatic equipment, fishstock; payment of production and marketing expenses including materials, labor, & services; and living expenses; purchase or improve land, building and equipment; provide operating capital to finance inventories, warehouse, and shipping commodities, extension of consumer credit to justified members and other normal operating expenses.
Website:	www.hawaii.gov/hdoa/agl

Agency:	Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Loan Division
Program/Project Title:	Agricultural Loans
Overview:	The objective of this program is to promote the agricultural development of the state by stimulating, facilitating and granting loans to qualified farmers, and providing related financial services.
Eligible Users:	Farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Agricultural projects for which applicants have been denied credit from private sector lenders.
Website:	www.hawaii.gov/hdoa/agl

IDAHO

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Agency:	Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Idaho Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program
Overview:	The Idaho Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program offers financing and assistance to individuals and organizations in Idaho whose projects or efforts will provide for rural economic development in Idaho and who cannot obtain credit from conventional sources. Maximum loan per recipient is \$60,000.
Eligible Users:	Agriculture-related individuals or companies
Eligible Project Types:	Projects or efforts that will provide for rural economic development.
Website:	www.agri.idaho.gov/agri/index.php

ILLINOIS

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Agency:	Illinois Finance Authority (IFA)
Program/Project Title:	Young Farmer Guarantee Program
Overview:	In this program, applicants work with local lenders to arrange financing for such things as land, buildings, breeding livestock, machinery and equipment. The lender receives a guarantee of 85 percent of the principal and interest. The guarantee provides credit enhancement, resulting in more favorable terms and more financing opportunities for young farmers. Guarantees are backed by the full faith and credit of the state. They are exempt from banks' legal lending limits. The applicant pays a closing fee equal to 1 percent of the loan. Of this, 1/4 percent is paid to the lender and 3/4 percent is retained by IFA for operating expenses. The lender also pays a 1/4 percent administrative fee annually. A loss reserve fund has been established by the state. Maximum loan size is \$500,000.
Eligible Users:	Each eligible applicant must be a resident of the State of Illinois; be at least eighteen years of age; be the principal operator of a farm who derives or will derive at least 50% of annual gross income from farming (i.e., gross farm revenues must exceed nonfarm income); have a debt to asset ratio of between 40% and 70%; and have adequate cash flow and collateral.
Eligible Project Types:	Loan funds may be used for new purchases of capital assets such as land, buildings, machinery, equipment, breeding livestock, soil and water conservation projects, etc. In some cases, up to 50% of the loan proceeds may be used to refinance existing debt.
Website:	www.il-fa.com/programs/agriculture http://www.il-fa.com/sites/default/files/Ag_Young_Farmer_Summary_05_16.pdf

Agency:	Illinois Finance Authority (IFA)
Program/Project Title:	Working Capital Guarantee Program
Overview:	<p>The Working Capital Guarantee Program (WCG) is a guarantee program designed to enhance credit availability for a farmer, producer or agribusiness for needed input costs related to and in connection with planting and raising agricultural crops and commodities in the State of Illinois. Eligible input costs include, but may not be limited to, fertilizer, chemicals, feed, seed, fuel, parts, and repairs. Generally, the farmer, producer or agri-business must be able to provide the originating lender with a first lien on the proposed crop or commodity to be raised, and an assignment of Federal Crop Insurance sufficient to secure the WCG Loan. Additional collateral may be required as deemed necessary by the lender and the IFA.</p> <p>All WCG Loans are made through conventional lenders. IFA will provide up to 85% guarantee of principal and interest on the loan made to a qualified borrower. The applicant must be able to demonstrate the loan will cash flow on a projected cash flow statement and provide sufficient collateral for the loan. The WCG Loan shall be repaid annually and may be renewed annually at the discretion of the IFA for a period not to exceed three (3) years.</p> <p>Local lenders act as the lead lender, with IFA participating in the funding by purchasing a portion of the loan from the originating lender. Initial term of IFA commitment is 5 years, with the option of one 5 year extension. Loans may include a balloon with longer amortization when applicable. Collateral is shared with IFA on a "Parri Passu" basis. The applicant pays an application fee of \$200. Maximum loan size is \$500,000 or 50 percent of the project cost, whichever is less. The IFA funded portion of the loan is loaned at an interest rate of 1.00 percent less the then primary lender's interest rate. Interest rates may be fixed up to 5 years.</p>
Eligible Users:	Each eligible applicant must be a resident of the State of Illinois; be at least eighteen years of age; be the principal operator of a farm who derives or will derive at least 50% of annual gross income from farming (i.e., gross farm revenues must exceed nonfarm income); have a debt to asset ratio of between 40% and 70%; and have adequate cash flow and collateral.
Eligible Project Types:	Loan funds may be used for needed input costs related to and in connection with planting and raising agricultural crops and commodities in the State of Illinois. Eligible input costs include, but may not be limited to, fertilizer, chemicals, feed, seed, fuel, parts, and repairs. Also, the applicant must certify that all of his/her debts are current at the time the WCG loan is closed.
Website:	<p>www.il-fa.com/programs/agriculture</p> <p>http://www.il-fa.com/sites/default/files/Ag_Working_Capital_Summary_05_16.pdf</p>

Agency:	Illinois Finance Authority (IFA)
Program/Project Title:	Specialized Livestock Guarantee
Overview:	<p>In this program, the applicant pays a closing fee equal to 1 percent of the loan. Of this, 1/4 percent is paid to the lender and 3/4 percent is retained by IFA for operating expenses. The lender also pays a 1/4 percent administrative fee annually. A loss reserve fund has been established by the state. Maximum loan size is \$1,000,000. Local lenders provide financing; IFA guarantees 85 percent of the principal and interest. Loans may be used for the construction, remodeling or acquisition of facilities and can also be used to finance related machinery, equipment and breeding livestock. The guarantee assists lenders in providing credit for specialized operations that may have highly improved real estate. It also allows the lender an opportunity to finance new types of relationships among producers, vendors and suppliers in various livestock industries. Guarantees are backed by the full faith and credit of the state. They are exempt from banks' legal lending limits.</p>
Eligible Users:	Farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Established for acquiring, constructing or remodeling specialized livestock facilities, including but not limited to swine, dairy and beef operations. May be contract or independent producers.
Website:	www.il-fa.com/programs/agriculture

Agency:	Illinois Finance Authority (IFA)
Program/Project Title:	Beginning Farmer Bond Program (Aggie Bond)
Overview:	In this program, a beginning farmer benefits by receiving an interest rate which is below market. Local lenders are able to offer the lower rate because the bonds are federally tax-exempt. Bonds can be used together with FSA's down payment loan program. Bonds are also available for use with qualified contract for deed sales. Borrowers pay a closing fee of 1.5 percent. These federally tax exempt bonds are subject to the state's bond cap.
Eligible Users:	First time farmland buyers with a net worth of less than \$500,000. Applicants are also subject to the federal restrictions concerning aggie bonds.
Eligible Project Types:	Established for Agriculture Land, Agricultural Improvements, & Depreciable Agricultural Property.
Website:	www.il-fa.com/programs/agriculture

Agency:	Illinois Finance Authority (IFA)
Program/Project Title:	Agri-Industry Guarantee
Overview:	In this program, local lenders provide financing; IFA guarantees 85 percent of the principal and interest. Guarantees are backed by the full faith and credit of the state. They are exempt from banks' legal lending limits. The applicant pays a loan closing fee of $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 percent. The lender also pays a $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent of the outstanding principal balance as the administrative fee annually. A loss reserve fund has been established by the state. Maximum loan size is \$1 million, although some exceptions can be made and borrowers may add additional loans in future years.
Eligible Users:	Entities that are processing or otherwise adding value to Illinois farm commodities. Also, farmers that are producing commodities not commonly produced in Illinois. Examples include poultry, fruit and vegetable production and processing, livestock processing and retail meat, viticulture, and wineries. Also, other agri-businesses located in Illinois. Examples include grain elevators, machinery and equipment, parts manufacturing related to the agricultural industry.
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include those that add value to Illinois farm commodities or produce commodities not commonly produced in Illinois.
Website:	www.il-fa.com/programs/agriculture

Agency:	Illinois Finance Authority (IFA)
Program/Project Title:	Agricultural Restructuring Debt Guarantee
Overview:	In this program, the applicant pays a closing fee equal to 3/4 of 1 percent of the loan. Of this, 1/4 percent is paid to the lender and 1/2 percent is retained by IFA for operating expenses. The lender also pays a 1/4 percent administrative fee annually. A loss reserve fund has been established by the state. Maximum loan size is \$500,000. Local lenders use this loan guarantee program to refinance and restructure an applicant's existing debt. Debt held by one or more lenders is consolidated and guaranteed through this program. The lender receives a guarantee of 85 percent of the principal and interest. The guarantee provides credit enhancement, and provides more favorable terms including lower interest rates and smaller principal payments. Guarantees are backed by the full faith and credit of the state. They are exempt from banks' legal lending limits.
Eligible Users:	Existing farm operations that need to restructure or refinance existing debt.
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include those that add value to Kentucky-grown commodities through processing, loan opportunities that provide marketing potential for Kentucky farmers.
Website:	www.il-fa.com/programs/agriculture

INDIANA

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Agency:	Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC)
Program/Project Title:	Capital Access Program (CAP)
Overview:	In this program, the borrower, the lender and the IEDC each contribute a percentage of the loan into the lender's reserve fund, which pools contributions from all CAP loans. The program creates a cash reserve fund as security for the lender.
Eligible Users:	Small Businesses
Eligible Project Types:	Loans are for equipment, livestock, buildings, operating lines of credit, and other farm related or business needs.
Website:	www.iedc.in.gov/programs/capital-access-program

Agency:	Indiana Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Aggie Bond Program
Overview:	IFA sets aside \$10 million of volume cap each year for aggie bonds. Includes loans between \$25,000 and \$501,000.
Eligible Users:	Farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Established for Land, real estate improvements and personal property of a character subject to depreciation, all of which are used for Agricultural Property.
Website:	http://www.in.gov/ifa/2389.htm

IOWA

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Agency:	Iowa Agricultural Development Division of Iowa Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Loan Participation Program
Overview:	This program assists qualified low-income farmers to more readily secure loans from participating lenders by supplementing the borrowers' down-payment. It also reduces lender's risk since the IADD provides a "last in-last out" loan participation for the financial institution. Maximum loan amount of \$150,000. Closing fee of 1.25 percent of participated amount.
Eligible Users:	Low-income and beginning farmers.
Eligible Project Types:	IADD's participation can be used to supplement the borrower's down payment, thereby helping a farmer secure a loan more readily.
Website:	www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/IADD

Agency:	Iowa Agricultural Development Division of Iowa Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Custom Farming Tax Credit Program
Overview:	This program offers a state tax credit to anyone hiring a beginning farmer to do agricultural contract work for the production of crops or livestock in Iowa. Contract terms are set by those contracting the custom work and must be less than 12 months. Payment for custom work must be verified and those contracting the work will receive a 7% tax credit on the amount actually paid.
Eligible Users:	Anyone hiring a qualifying beginning farmer to do agricultural contract work
Eligible Project Types:	A Qualifying beginning farmer doing agricultural contract work.
Website:	www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/IADD

Agency:	Iowa Agricultural Development Division of Iowa Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Program
Overview:	This program provides asset owners a tax credit of 5 percent of rental income received under a cash rental agreement or 15 percent of the value owners' share under a share agreement. Lease term must be a minimum of two years and a maximum of five years.
Eligible Users:	Owners of capital ag assets who lease those assets to qualifying beginning farmers.
Eligible Project Types:	The leasing of agricultural land, depreciable machinery or equipment, breeding livestock and buildings.
Website:	www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/IADD

Agency:	Iowa Agricultural Development Division of Iowa Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Beginning Farmer Loan Program
Overview:	This program is a tax-exempt bond program available to individuals who have had no substantial ownership interest in farmland. Items that can be financed include agricultural land, agricultural improvements, depreciable agricultural property such as new and used equipment and breeding stock. Loans can be made up to a maximum of \$62,500 for used depreciable agricultural property, \$125,000 for new depreciable agricultural property, \$250,000 for farm improvements and up to the maximum for agricultural real estate; no minimum amount. Loans can be made for this program with lenders or contract-for-deed sellers.
Eligible Users:	Low-income and beginning farmers.
Eligible Project Types:	For acquiring agricultural property.
Website:	www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/IADD

KANSAS

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Agency:	Kansas Development Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Beginning Farmer Loan Program
Overview:	This program is available to individuals who have had no substantial ownership interest in farmland. Loans can be made up to a maximum of aggregate base amount of \$509,600, indexed annually for inflation per person for a lifetime use, with no minimum amount and no net worth requirements. Loans can be made for this program with lenders, contract-for-deed sellers or individuals acting as the bond purchasers.
Eligible Users:	Beginning Farms
Eligible Project Types:	Items that can be financed include agricultural land, agricultural improvements, depreciable agricultural property such as new and used equipment and breeding stock.
Website:	www.kdfa.org

KENTUCKY

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Agency:	Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation
Program/Project Title:	Large Animal Veterinary Loan Program
Overview:	The Large/Food Animal Veterinary Loan Program (VET) is to assist individuals licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Kentucky. This program has a limit of \$100,000 or 50 percent of the project cost.
Eligible Users:	Veterinarians who are serving large/food farm animal producers
Eligible Project Types:	To construct, expand, equip or buy into a practice serving large farm animal producers, including goat, sheep, swine and other smaller food animals.
Website:	kafc.ky.gov

Agency:	Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation
Program/Project Title:	Beginning Farmer Loan Program
Overview:	The Beginning Farmer Loan Program (BFLP) is designed to assist individuals with some farm experience who wish to create, expand or buy into a farming operation. This program has a limit of \$250,000 or 50 percent of the outstanding debt held by the participating lender. Projects under \$1M will be required to be a participation loan. Projects over \$1M may be a direct loan with interest based on the Wall Street Journal prime rate. Direct loans cannot exceed 20 years.
Eligible Users:	Beginning farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Loan funds may be used to purchase land, equipment, livestock, facilities, or to buy into an existing partnership or LLC.
Website:	kafc.ky.gov

Agency:	Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation
Program/Project Title:	Agricultural Processing Loan Program
Overview:	The Agricultural Processing Loan Program (APLP) provides loan opportunities to companies that add value to Kentucky grown commodities through processing. KAFC will also consider loan opportunities that provide marketing potential for Kentucky farmers. For projects under \$1M the program has a limit of \$150,000 or 50 percent of the project. For projects over \$1M the program has a limit of \$5M. Projects under \$1M will be required to be a participation loan. Projects over \$1M may be a direct loan with interest based on the Wall Street Journal prime rate. Direct loans cannot exceed 20 years.
Eligible Users:	Beginning farmers & value-added processing companies
Eligible Project Types:	Not available
Website:	kafc.ky.gov

Agency:	Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation
Program/Project Title:	Agricultural Infrastructure Loan Program
Overview:	The Agricultural Infrastructure Loan Program (AILP) is designed to assist Kentucky's farmers in financing long-term projects that will improve their financial viability. Applicants must receive 20 percent of their gross income from farming. KAFRC participation is limited to \$150,000 or 50 percent of the project, whichever is less, for producers who can document tobacco history and \$100,000 or 50 percent of the project, whichever is less, for producers without documented tobacco history.
Eligible Users:	Kentucky agricultural producers
Eligible Project Types:	These funds can be used to expand, remodel or construct buildings or farm structures for agricultural purposes only.
Website:	kafc.ky.gov

LOUISIANA

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MAINE

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Agency:	Finance Authority of Maine / Maine Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Potato Marketing Improvement Fund
Overview:	The Potato Marketing Improvement Fund Program provides low-interest financing to help Maine potato growers and packers improve the quality and marketing of their potatoes. Potato Marketing Improvement funds may also be used to improve the economic viability of the potato industry. The program is administered in conjunction with the Maine Potato Board and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.
Eligible Users:	Maine potato growers and packers
Eligible Project Types:	Used for new construction or improvements to storage and packing facilities, purchase of packing, sizing, washing and drying equipment.
Website:	www.famemaine.com

Agency:	Finance Authority of Maine / Maine Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Nutrient Management Loan Program
Overview:	This program provides low interest direct loans, up to \$450,000, for the construction of livestock manure and milk room waste containment/handling facilities, and for other agricultural non-point source abatement projects related to water quality maintenance or improvement, as set forth by the Nutrient Management Act, 7 MRS §4201 et seq., and the Maine Department of Agriculture's Nutrient Management Rules (Chapter 565). The program funding is provided by the State Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund. This program is administered by FAME and was developed in cooperation with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (DACF); the Maine Department of Environmental Protection; and the Maine Bond Bank.
Eligible Users:	Dairy and beef farmers, composters
Eligible Project Types:	To fund nutrient management projects such as diversion, irrigation, anaerobic digesters, composting or treatment facilities.
Website:	www.famemaine.com

Agency:	Finance Authority of Maine / Maine Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Linked Investment Program for Agriculture
Overview:	This program helps reduce your borrower's interest rate. Loans are approved and funded by the financial institution according to their own policies. The Maine State Treasurer will make a deposit in the form of a Certificate of Deposit (CD) with the originating lender at up to 2% less than prevailing rate, provided a similar discount is applied to the interest rate on the lender's loan to the business. FAME works in conjunction with the Maine State Treasurer to implement this program.
Eligible Users:	Farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Must be applied to an agricultural operating loan (specifically for the purchase of seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, veterinary services, labor, production related energy and/or other production), and not loans for capital projects.
Website:	www.famemaine.com

Agency:	Finance Authority of Maine / Maine Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund
Overview:	The Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund (AMLF) provides low cost financing to help farmers, food processors and aquaculture operations adopt new and innovative equipment and facilities in order to improve and enhance the manufacturing, marketability and production of Maine products. The Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund is funded through the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. FAME administers the program.
Eligible Users:	Farmers, food processors and aquaculture operations
Eligible Project Types:	Used for the design, construction or improvement of commodity and storage buildings and packing and marketing facilities, or for the construction, renovation or acquisition of land, buildings, equipment, docks, wharves, piers, or vessels, located in the State of Maine and used in connection with an agricultural enterprise.
Website:	www.maine.gov/agriculture/mpd

MARYLAND

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Agency: Maryland Agricultural and Resource - Based Industry Development Corp.

Program/Project Title: Vineyard Planting Loan Fund (MVPLF)

Overview: This program entails low-interest (3-5% APR) loans to help meet the unique financing needs of Maryland's rural landowners wanting to plant grapes and develop wineries. The maximum loan amount is \$100,000 and an interest only option is available. A referral from a commercial lender is required as well as a site evaluation approval letter from the wine/grape industry's viticulture committee. The requested financial assistance must relate to the installation of new vineyards, including the prepping of land for vineyard installation, purchase of vines, vineyard equipment and supplies. The purchase of tractors, pick-up trucks, and wine-making equipment are not eligible for financing under this particular program.

Eligible Users: Maryland's rural landowners

Eligible Project Types: To plant vineyards.

Website: www.marbidco.org

Agency:	Maryland Agricultural and Resource - Based Industry Development Corp.
Program/Project Title:	Urban Agriculture Commercial Lending Incentive Grant (MUACLIG)
Overview:	Offered with the financial support of Farm Credit, the Urban Agriculture Commercial Lending Incentive Grant provides an incentive for beginning urban farmers to seek commercial lender financing for the development of their agricultural enterprises. The maximum amount of the grant is \$7,500, calculated at no more than 20% of the project's total cost and no more than 25% of the amount of the approved commercial loan for the project. (The minimum grant amount \$1,000, with an approved commercial loan of at least \$4,000.) The participation of a commercial bank, farm credit association or FSA in providing project financing is required.
Eligible Users:	Urban farmers producing on small acreages (often in high tunnels).
Eligible Project Types:	The development of agricultural enterprises.
Website:	www.marbidco.org

Agency:	Maryland Agricultural and Resource - Based Industry Development Corp.
Program/Project Title:	The Maryland Shellfish (Oyster) Aquaculture Financing Fund (MSAL)
Overview:	Working in collaboration with Maryland DNR and using a combination of State capital and federal (NOAA) funds, eligible projects include commercial aquaculture enterprises with feasible oyster or shellfish production and business plans. The loan proceeds can be used to purchase shell, seed, spat or equipment (depending on the source of funds). The borrower makes interest-only payments (at 3.0% APR) for the first three years while the oysters are growing to market size. After that, if borrowers have been consistent in making their quarterly payments, a portion of the principal balance will be forgiven and borrowers will fully repay the remaining amount of the loan over two additional years at a slightly higher interest rate. These loans are unsecured and only the personal guarantees of the borrowers and/or businesses would be required (although the loss of a DNR shellfish aquaculture lease is also at risk).
Eligible Users:	Watermen (and others) who wish to transition from wild oyster harvesting to start or expand underwater shellfish farming enterprises using leased growing areas in the Chesapeake or Coastal Bays (which as a by-product would also greatly contribute to estuarine water quality enhancement).
Eligible Project Types:	The start or expansion of underwater shellfish farming enterprises
Website:	www.marbidco.org

Agency:	Maryland Agricultural and Resource - Based Industry Development Corp.
Program/Project Title:	Rural Business Working Capital & Equipment Loan Fund (RBEWCL)
Overview:	This program offers low-interest (5% APR) loans for natural resource businesses and ag producers for working capital and equipment purchases. The maximum loan amount is \$75,000. A referral from a commercial lender is required. Certain eligibility restrictions may also apply if federal funds are being used (e.g., USDA-Rural Development funds).
Eligible Users:	Agriculture and Resource based businesses in Maryland
Eligible Project Types:	To be used for working capital and equipment purchases.
Website:	www.marbidco.org

Agency:	Maryland Agricultural and Resource - Based Industry Development Corp.
Program/Project Title:	Rural Business Energy Efficiency Improvement Loan Fund (RBEEIL)
Overview:	<p>This program offers low-interest (4% APR) micro loans for energy efficiency projects implemented from the recommendations of a third-party energy auditor. The minimum loan amount is \$2,500 and the maximum is \$30,000. Borrowers who are in good standing on making their payments will receive a grant of up to 10% of the loan amount (not to exceed \$1,000). Loan advances may not exceed the borrowers cost of actually making the improvements. Loans made under this program are unsecured and only the personal guarantees of the borrowers and/or businesses would be required. Loans will be fully amortized with terms not exceeding the anticipated savings payback period. A referral from a commercial lender is required.</p>
Eligible Users:	Maryland's food and fiber producers and processors
Eligible Project Types:	For energy efficiency projects.
Website:	www.marbidco.org

Agency:	Maryland Agricultural and Resource - Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO)
Program/Project Title:	Remote Setting Shellfish Aquaculture Loan Fund (MRSA)
Overview:	<p>Working in collaboration with DNR, Remote Setting is a process for growers to produce seed oysters for aquaculture cost-effectively. The grower purchases larvae from a hatchery and places it in a tank containing cultch for the larvae to set on. Larvae are circulated through the tank to keep them in suspension while they cement themselves to the cultch and begin growing as spat. Spat on shell setting systems consist of a tank, pump, piping and valves, and a blower to provide low pressure air to circulate larvae during setting. A heater may be required during early or late season setting. Cultch-less setting systems are smaller and contain microchips, or small ground shell pieces, and are used to produce seed for contained aquaculture systems such as cages or floats. These are operated as downweller systems and require a pump, piping and valves, and blower. The University of Maryland Extension (UME) is also contributing to this effort by providing training and business planning assistance to current and prospective shellfish growers. Information on setting system design and operation, as well as training in their use and business planning assistance, is available from University of Maryland Extension. Eligible Expenses include items related to commercial remote setting aquaculture projects, with approved business plans, to raise oysters or clams in Maryland including the following equipment items: seed (larvae), shell (substrate), tanks, pumps, blower, valves and tank heaters. Minimum/Maximum Loan Amounts: \$5,000 to \$30,000.</p>
Eligible Users:	Commercial watermen who want to start or expand shellfish remote setting (nursery) aquaculture operations.
Eligible Project Types:	The start or expansion of shellfish remote setting aquaculture operations.
Website:	www.marbidco.org

Agency:	Maryland Agricultural and Resource - Based Industry Development Corp.
Program/Project Title:	Maryland Value Added Producer Matching Grant (MVAMPG)
Overview:	This program is designed to encourage participation in USDA's highly competitive Value Added Producer Grant Program (which has both planning and working capital components). The USDA VAPG Program requires a financial matching commitment and each application for the USDA VAPG must include a "verification of matching funds". MARBIDCO's grants can be applied for up to \$15,000 and \$30,000, respectively not to exceed 15% of the USDA grant award. To be eligible to apply to MARBIDCO for funding, a grant applicant must also be eligible under the USDA VAPG Program and funds will only be awarded to those who actually receive the USDA VAPG award.
Eligible Users:	Producers participating in the USDA's value added producer grant program.
Eligible Project Types:	Grant applicant must also be eligible under the USDA VAPG Program and funds will only be awarded to those who receive the USDA VAPG award.
Website:	www.marbidco.org

Agency:	Maryland Agricultural and Resource - Based Industry Development Corp.
Program/Project Title:	Maryland Value Added Producer Grant (MVAMPG-CAO)
Overview:	This program is designed to help purchase new equipment or construct facilities that can increase sales and job opportunities for farms and other businesses in Maryland wanting to expand or diversify their operations. Matching funds are required and must be at least equal to the amount of grant funds requested and must be spent at a rate equal to or greater than the rate at which grant funds are expended. Funds and matching funds must be used for projects that are defined as capital assets by MARBIDCO and that have a useful life of seven years or more.
Eligible Users:	Farmers, forest products operations, seafood processors and agricultural cooperatives who have been in business at least two years.
Eligible Project Types:	To expand or diversify operations with “value-added” products.
Website:	www.marbidco.org

Agency:	Maryland Agricultural and Resource - Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO)
Program/Project Title:	Local Government Ag/RBI Project Cost Share Program
Overview:	<p>This program provides a portion of the patient capital investment needed by agricultural cooperatives during the period that business operations are beginning or significantly expanding. The maximum amount of equity funding that MARBIDCO can provide to an individual cooperative is \$100,000 in any single year. MARBIDCO equity investments are repayable after several years and can convert to debt. Some additional public sector financial participation is ordinarily required for any cooperative that receives an equity investment from MARBIDCO. This program is designed to lend support to local and regional rural business development efforts. MARBIDCO will consider a project cost-share request from a local or regional economic development office for a project or activity that assists in some fashion Maryland's farming, forestry, or seafood industries. If a project directly benefits an individual farmer or rural business owner, then the farmer or business owner must be willing to make a financial contribution to help support the implementation of the project. MARBIDCO's participation in the cost share project cannot exceed that of the local government. The only exception to this requirement is that a county designated as "One Maryland" jurisdiction (i.e., a severely economically distressed county) may qualify for a match from MARBIDCO of up to 200% of the county's contribution.</p>
Eligible Users:	Local government economic development offices and regional rural development councils.
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for local and regional rural business development efforts.
Website:	www.marbidco.org

Agency:	Maryland Agricultural and Resource - Based Industry Development Corp.
Program/Project Title:	Installment Purchase Agreements Program
Overview:	<p>This program is designed to encourage participation in USDA’s highly competitive Value Added Producer Grant Program (which has both planning and working capital components). The USDA VAPG Program requires a financial matching commitment and each application for the USDA VAPG must include a “verification of matching funds”. MARBIDCO’s grants can be applied for up to \$15,000 and \$30,000, respectively not to exceed 15% of the USDA grant award. To be eligible to apply to MARBIDCO for funding, a grant applicant must also be eligible under the USDA VAPG Program and funds will only be awarded to those who actually receive the USDA VAPG award. This program works in conjunction with the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) and county governments to enable the purchasing of easements on agricultural properties using tax advantaged financial arrangements structured to benefit both landowners and the State. MARBIDCO uses government easement purchase payment revenues to purchase U.S. Treasury securities (SLGS or STRIPS) on behalf of rural land conservation easement sellers. MARBIDCO can also use Aggie Bonds to assist counties with both their young/beginning farmer and rural land preservation programs.</p>
Eligible Users:	Agriculture landowners selling their easements to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation and other rural land conservation programs.
Eligible Project Types:	Not available
Website:	www.marbidco.org

Agency:	Maryland Agricultural and Resource - Based Industry Development Corp.
Program/Project Title:	Industry Financing Fund (MRBIFF)
Overview:	This program offers low-interest (3.25% APR initially) loans for established agricultural and resource based businesses for the purchase of land and capital equipment for production and processing activities (or environmental enhancement projects). The maximum loan amount is \$400,000. Some priority is given to value-added and niche market oriented projects as well as beginning or transitioning producers and processors. MARBIDCO provides up to 50% of financing needed for a project, and a commercial lender and/or a public instrumentality must also have an equal financial commitment in any transaction. MARBIDCO typically takes a subordinate position on the collateral security with MRBIFF loans.
Eligible Users:	Agriculture and Resource based businesses in Maryland
Eligible Project Types:	For the purchase of land and capital equipment.
Website:	www.marbidco.org

Agency:	Maryland Agricultural and Resource - Based Industry Development Corp.
Program/Project Title:	Forestry Equipment and Working Capital Loan Fund (FEWCL)
Overview:	This program offers low-interest (4.75-10% APR), depending on the level of credit and collateral risk, loans to Maryland's forest products businesses with respect to working capital and equipment purchases. The maximum loan amount is \$150,000. A referral from a commercial lender is required. In a special effort to better serve the forest products industry in Maryland, MARBIDCO utilizes slightly more liberal underwriting guidelines than normal for making loans under this program (including the utilization of a minimum debt service coverage ratio of 1.0/1.0, as well as partially relaxed collateral security requirements, where appropriate).
Eligible Users:	Maryland's forest products businesses.
Eligible Project Types:	For forestry equipment.
Website:	www.marbidco.org

Agency:	Maryland Agricultural and Resource - Based Industry Development Corp.
Program/Project Title:	Agricultural Cooperatives Equity Investment Fund
Overview:	This program provides a portion of the patient capital investment needed by agricultural cooperatives during the period that business operations are beginning or significantly expanding. The maximum amount of equity funding that MARBIDCO can provide to an individual cooperative is \$100,000 in any single year. MARBIDCO equity investments are repayable after several years and can convert to debt. Some additional public sector financial participation is ordinarily required for any cooperative that receives an equity investment from MARBIDCO.
Eligible Users:	Agricultural cooperatives.
Eligible Project Types:	Agricultural cooperatives during the period that business operations are beginning or significantly expanding.
Website:	www.marbidco.org

MASSACHUSETTS

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Agency:	Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
Program/Project Title:	Farm Viability Enhancement Program (FVEP)
Overview:	The objective of this program is to assist farmers in planning their operations such as feasibility studies of potential enterprises, business plans and environmental plans; Awards of up to \$75,000 may go to farmers with at least 135 acres, agreeing to a ten year covenant.
Eligible Users:	Massachusetts farmers with 5 acres in agricultural use
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for agricultural related purchases.
Website:	www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/

MICHIGAN

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MINNESOTA

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Agency:	Minnesota Rural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Value-Added Ag Product Loan Program
Overview:	Helps farmers finance the purchase of stock in an existing value-added cooperative or LLC or in a proposed new cooperative or LLC processing facility in Minnesota. The RFA participation is 45 percent up to \$40,000.
Eligible Users:	Low-equity farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Not available
Website:	www.mda.state.mn.us

Agency:	Minnesota Rural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Seller-Assisted Loan Program
Overview:	This program is similar to Beginning Farmer program with one exception -- it permits the sellers of a farm to fund a portion of the financing. The seller agrees to subordinate their financing to the lender/RFA. The lender and RFA provide the balance of the funds with a first mortgage.
Eligible Users:	Low-equity and beginning farmers
Eligible Project Types:	To purchase real estate.
Website:	www.mda.state.mn.us

Agency:	Minnesota Rural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Restructure II Loan Program
Overview:	Under this program, the RFA works with a local lender to help farmers reorganize their debt. This program is for farmers who remain in good standing with local lender, but are having trouble with cash flow due to adverse conditions beyond their control. Only debt of an agricultural nature is eligible. Borrower net worth cannot exceed \$859,000. The RFA will participate on 45% of the loan principal up to \$525,000.
Eligible Users:	Low to mid equity farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Only debt of an agricultural nature is eligible.
Website:	www.mda.state.mn.us

Agency:	Minnesota Rural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Methane Digester Loan Program
Overview:	This program provides for either a direct loan from the RFA or a loan participation with an eligible lender to an eligible farmer for the purchase of necessary equipment and the construction of a system that will utilize manure to produce electricity. A direct loan or loan participation may not exceed \$250,000. The financing provided by the RFA under this program must be at no interest. Maximum term is 10 years.
Eligible Users:	Livestock farmers
Eligible Project Types:	The purchase of necessary equipment and the construction of a system that will utilize manure to produce electricity.
Website:	www.mda.state.mn.us

Agency:	Minnesota Rural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Livestock Expansion Loan Program
Overview:	This program creates affordable financing for new, state-of-the-art improvements to land, buildings, and other permanent structures used for livestock production. A borrower (1) must be actively engaged in a livestock operation, (2) have the ability to repay the loan, and (3) have a total net worth not exceeding \$859,000 (indexed). The RFA may participate on a loan up to 45% of the loan principal to a maximum of \$525,000.
Eligible Users:	Livestock Farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Creation of permanent structures used for livestock production.
Website:	www.mda.state.mn.us

Agency:	Minnesota Rural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Livestock Equipment Loan Program
Overview:	This program creates affordable financing for the purchase of livestock related equipment. The borrower must have a total net worth not exceeding \$455,000 (indexed). The RFA may participate on a loan up to 45% of the loan principal to a maximum of \$40,000. Financing on RFA's portion is at 2% interest rate.
Eligible Users:	Low-equity livestock farmers
Eligible Project Types:	To purchase of livestock related equipment.
Website:	www.mda.state.mn.us

Agency:	Minnesota Rural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Beginning Farmer Loan Program
Overview:	In this program, borrowers must 1) have sufficient education, training or experience to succeed in the type of farming operation they intend to pursue; 2) have a total net worth not exceeding \$459,000 (indexed); 3) agree to enroll in a farm business management program; and 4) agree to carry credit life insurance for the amount of the loan program. The RFA participation is limited to 45% of the loan principal up to \$400,000.
Eligible Users:	Low-equity and beginning farmers
Eligible Project Types:	To purchase real estate.
Website:	www.mda.state.mn.us

Agency:	Minnesota Rural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Agricultural Improvement Loan Program
Overview:	This program provides financing for farm improvements including grain handling facilities, machine storage, erosion control, wells and manure systems. Borrowers must not have a total net worth exceeding \$455,000 (indexed). RFA participation is 45% of the loan principal up to \$400,000.
Eligible Users:	Low-equity farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Farm improvements, such as grain handling facilities, machine storage, erosion control, wells and manure systems.
Website:	www.mda.state.mn.us

Agency:	Minnesota Rural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Agricultural Development Bond Program
Overview:	This program helps a young farmer receive an interest rate which is below market. Local lenders are able to offer the lower rate because the interest received is federally tax-exempt. Bonds can be used together with FSA's down payment loan program. Bonds are also available for use with qualified contract for deed sales which also makes the interest received both state and federally tax-exempt. Items that can be financed include agricultural land, agricultural improvements, depreciable agricultural property such as new and used equipment and breeding stock. Net worth cannot exceed \$455,000 (indexed for inflation) and applicant cannot have owned any substantial amount of farmland.
Eligible Users:	Low-equity farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Items that can be financed include agricultural land, agricultural improvements, depreciable agricultural property such as new and used equipment and breeding stock.
Website:	www.mda.state.mn.us

Agency:	Minnesota Rural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Disaster Recovery Loan Program
Overview:	Finance, repair, or replacement of structures and resources are not covered by insurance after a natural disaster. In the event of avian influenza, funds can be used to replace flocks, make building improvements, or cover the loss of revenue. Maximum term of 10 years with a 0% interest rate. RFA participation is 45% up to \$200,000.
Eligible Users:	Farmers who have been affected by a disaster
Eligible Project Types:	Operation must be located within a county that was the subject of a state or federal disaster declaration.
Website:	www.mda.state.mn.us

Agency:	Minnesota Rural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Farm Opportunity Loan Program
Overview:	This program provides financing to purchase equipment that will add value to crops or livestock, adopt best management practices, reduce agricultural inputs to improve the environment, and increase on-farm energy production. RFA participation is 45% of the loan up to \$45,000 individual or 45% of the loan up to \$180,000 per group. Maximum loan term is 10 years with an interest rate of 2%.
Eligible Users:	Not available
Eligible Project Types:	To be used for the Purchasing of equipment to add value to crops or livestock, adopt best management practices, reduce agricultural inputs to improve the environment, and increase on-farm energy production.
Website:	www.mda.state.mn.us

MISSISSPPI

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Agency: Mississippi Development Authority

Program/Project Title: Agribusiness Loan Program

Overview: This program was designed to encourage the extension of conventional financing by lending institutions by providing interest-free loans to agribusiness. An eligible agribusiness is any aquaculture, horticulture, or agriculture-related industrial, manufacturing, research and development, or processing enterprise. The maximum agribusiness loan is 20 percent of the total project cost or \$200,000, whichever is less. Proceeds may be used to finance buildings and equipment and for cost associated with the purchase of land (appraisals, title searches, etc.). However, proceeds cannot be used to purchase land. All loans must be guaranteed by the direct lender.

Eligible Users: Any agribusiness located in the state of Mississippi

Eligible Project Types: Designed for purchasing or renovating buildings or equipment.

Website: <https://www.mississippi.org/home-page/our-advantages/target-industries-overview/agribusiness/>

MISSOURI

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Agency:	Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Wine and Grape Production Tax Credit Program
Overview:	This program assists vineyards and wine producers with the purchase of new equipment and materials by granting a tax credit for a portion of the purchase price.
Eligible Users:	Wine and grape producers
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include new equipment and materials used directly in the growing of grapes or production of wine.
Website:	www.mda.mo.gov/abd/financial

Agency:	Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Single-Purpose Animal Facilities Loan Guarantee Program
Overview:	This program provides a 50 percent first loss guarantee to lenders making loans for single-purpose livestock facilities or expansion of existing livestock operations.
Eligible Users:	Livestock/poultry producers
Eligible Project Types:	To finance the acquisition, construction, improvement, rehabilitation, or operation of land, buildings, facilities, equipment, machinery, and animal waste facilities used to produce poultry, hogs, beef or dairy cattle or other animals in a single purpose.
Website:	www.mda.mo.gov/abd/financial

Agency:	Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Qualified Beef Tax Credit Program
Overview:	This program provides for a \$.10 per pound tax credit to beef producers who put on an additional 200 lbs. per head in Missouri over an established baseline weight.
Eligible Users:	Missouri beef producers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for new equipment and materials used directly in the beef production process.
Website:	www.mda.mo.gov/abd/financial

Agency:	Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	New Generation Cooperative Incentive Tax Credit Program
Overview:	This program provides a state tax credit equal to 50 percent of members investment in eligible new generation processing entity. Maximum tax credit is \$15,000 per producer member investor.
Eligible Users:	At-risk producer members investing in new generation processing entities.
Eligible Project Types:	A project based on agricultural production that invests cash funds to an eligible new generation cooperative or eligible generation processing entity.
Website:	www.mda.mo.gov/abd/financial

Agency:	Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Missouri Value-Added Loan Guarantee Program
Overview:	This program provides a 50 percent first loss guarantee to lenders making loans for value added agricultural projects including loans for land, building, equipment, or stock loans for membership in value-added processing entities.
Eligible Users:	Missouri farmers and agribusiness
Eligible Project Types:	Not available
Website:	www.mda.mo.gov/abd/financial

Agency:	Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Missouri Value Added Grant Program
Overview:	This program provides funding for feasibility studies, marketing studies, and business planning for proposed value-added enterprises. The maximum grant is \$200,000.
Eligible Users:	Missouri farmers and agribusinesses
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include feasibility studies, marketing studies, legal assistance, marketing plans, business plans, prospectus development for cooperatives, and operational consulting.
Website:	www.mda.mo.gov/abd/financial

Agency:	Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Livestock Feed and Crop Input Loan Guarantee Program
Overview:	This program provides a 50 percent first loss guarantee to lenders making loans for livestock feed and crop inputs.
Eligible Users:	Livestock and crop producers
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds are to be used for the purchase of livestock feed which is used to produce livestock and inputs used to produce crops for the feeding of livestock.
Website:	www.mda.mo.gov/abd/financial

Agency:	Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Family Farm Breeding Livestock Tax Credit Program
Overview:	This program provides a Missouri tax credit to lenders in lieu of the first year interest being paid on breeding livestock loans made to small farmers with less than \$250,000 in gross agricultural products sales per year.
Eligible Users:	Missouri's small farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for purchasing breeding livestock.
Website:	www.mda.mo.gov/abd/financial

Agency:	Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Eligible Facility Borrower Program
Overview:	This program provides for the approval and qualification for facility borrowers under the MISSOURI linked deposit program.
Eligible Users:	Renewable fuel production facilities or product development facilities.
Eligible Project Types:	Not available
Website:	www.mda.mo.gov/abd/financial

Agency:	Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Beginning Farmer Loan Program
Overview:	This program is for individuals who have no substantial ownership interest in farmland. Items that can be financed include agricultural land, agricultural improvements, depreciable agricultural property such as new and used equipment and breeding stock. Loans can be made up to a maximum of \$488,600 with no minimum amount.
Eligible Users:	Beginning farmers with a minimum age requirement of 18 years.
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include agricultural Land, farm buildings, farm equipment, and breeding livestock.
Website:	www.mda.mo.gov/abd/financial

Agency:	Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Animal Waste Treatment System Loan Program
Overview:	This program provides loans to finance animal waste treatment systems for independent livestock and poultry producers whose projects have been approved by the Department of Natural Resources.
Eligible Users:	Independent livestock/poultry producers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for animal waste treatment systems.
Website:	www.mda.mo.gov/abd/financial

Agency:	Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Alternative Loan Program
Overview:	The Missouri Department of Agriculture offers direct loans through the Agriculture Development Fund to finance the production, processing and marketing needs of an alternative agricultural enterprise.
Eligible Users:	Missouri Farmers and Agribusiness
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include Horticulture production, Aquaculture, Apiaries, Tree Farming, Fee Hunting areas, Greenhouses, Irrigation, landscaping, and organic production.
Website:	www.mda.mo.gov/abd/financial

Agency:	Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Agricultural Product Utilization Contributor Tax Credit Program
Overview:	This program provides a state tax credit equal to up to 100 percent of persons' contribution to the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority.
Eligible Users:	Missouri Taxpayers
Eligible Project Types:	Funds must be used for financial or technical assistance to rural agricultural business concepts as approved by the authority.
Website:	www.mda.mo.gov/abd/financial

Agency:	Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Agribusiness Revolving Loan Fund
Overview:	The Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority's (MASBDA) Missouri Agribusiness Revolving Loan Fund offers financing to Qualifying Missouri Agribusinesses. This funding is provided, in part, by the USDA Rural Development's Intermediary Relending Program.
Eligible Users:	Value-added agriculture enterprises, agriculture support businesses, marketers or retailers of agricultural products, and businesses with emerging agricultural technology.
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include feasibility studies, marketing studies, legal assistance, marketing plans, business plans, prospectus development for cooperatives, and operational consulting.
Website:	www.mda.mo.gov/abd/financial

MONTANA

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Agency: Montana Department of Agriculture

Program/Project Title: Specialty Crop Block Grant

Overview: The Specialty Crop Block Grant offers grant funds to Montana's specialty crop industry solely to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in Montana: fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture). Funds are provided from the federal USDA Farm Bill.

Eligible Users: Montana Farmers and Agribusiness

Eligible Project Types: Eligible projects include enhancing food safety; investing in specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes; developing new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops; pest and disease control; and development of organic and sustainable production practices; increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops; assisting all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain in developing "Good Agricultural Practices," "Good Handling Practices," "Good Manufacturing Practices," and in cost-share arrangements for funding audits of such systems for small farmers; packers and processors; improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems; developing local and regional food systems; and improving food access in under-served communities.

Website: www.agr.mt.gov

Agency:	Montana Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Rural Assistance Loan Program
Overview:	This program was designed to loan 80 percent of collateral value with maximum loan of \$75,000. Loans may be used for operating expenses, livestock purchases, capital expenditures and real estate. The term is 1, 7 or 10 years. The total assets cannot exceed \$450,000.
Eligible Users:	Small or beginning agricultural producers
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds go towards projects that bring housing, community facilities, business guarantees, utilities and other services to rural America.
Website:	www.agr.mt.gov

Agency:	Montana Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant Program
Overview:	The Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant program provides for research and development of innovative weed management techniques including biological control, and supports research and educational projects.
Eligible Users:	Montana Farmers and Agribusiness
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds are to be used for noxious weed research projects, state and community education/development projects, and local cooperative - landowner cost share grants.
Website:	www.agr.mt.gov

Agency:	Montana Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Junior Agriculture Loan Program
Overview:	This program Loans 90 percent of first year costs up to \$8,500 with a five year maximum term.
Eligible Users:	4-H & FFA youth
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds can be used for projects that assist a young person in acquiring experience and education in agriculture-related skills.
Website:	www.agr.mt.gov

Agency:	Montana Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) Program
Overview:	The Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) program is a grant and loan program established by the Montana Legislature to strengthen and diversify Montana's agricultural industry through development of new agricultural products and processes. The GTA program is administered by the Montana Department of Agriculture with counsel from the Agriculture Development Council.
Eligible Users:	Montana Farmers and Agribusiness
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include projects that add value to Montana's agricultural products and have the potential to create and/or retain jobs in Montana.
Website:	www.agr.mt.gov

Agency:	Montana Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Beginning Farm & Ranch Loan Program
Overview:	A tax-exempt bond program designed to aid financial institutions in assisting beginning farmers/ranchers to purchase agricultural land, improvements, or depreciable agricultural property.
Eligible Users:	Beginning farmers and ranchers
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies. They can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.
Website:	www.agr.mt.gov

NEBRASKA

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Agency: Nebraska Investment Finance Authority

Program/Project Title: Beginning Farmer/Rancher Program

Overview: This program has assisted Nebraska farmers and ranchers in obtaining low interest agricultural loans since 1981. Eligibility requirements, other than net worth, are defined by federal tax law. Loans can be used to purchase agricultural land, make permanent agricultural improvements to land, or to purchase depreciable personal property (including breeding livestock). The total amount of loans to finance farm land, together with any portion of the loans allocated to financing depreciable property, may not exceed \$534,600* (*as of 1/1/18; this figure is indexed to inflation and revised annually). Of this amount, no more than \$250,000 may be used to finance any depreciable property and no more than \$62,500 of such amount may be used to finance used depreciable property. Borrower current net worth cannot be in excess of \$500,000 and the borrower cannot have owned (either currently or in the past) farm land which is/was greater than 30% of the median size (in acres) of farms for that county in which the parcel is/was located.

Eligible Users: Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Eligible Project Types: Proceeds can be used for land or depreciable property used for an agricultural purpose.

Website: www.nifa.org

Agency:	Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Governor's Agricultural Excellence Awards
Overview:	NIFA-sponsored awards given in the name of and co-presented with the Governor of Nebraska. The awards are to allow 4-H and FFA members to explore careers in agriculture by strengthening their educational programs which emphasize agricultural and life skills, and also for strengthening the image of agriculture in local communities. \$25,000 is given to the top 4-H Clubs and \$25,000 is given to the top FFA Chapters, which compete for the award. It is stressed that the award is funded by NIFA discretionary funds and no tax dollars are used.
Eligible Users:	4-H Club and FFA Chapter members
Eligible Project Types:	Not available
Website:	www.nifa.org

NEVADA

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Agency:	Nevada Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Junior Agricultural Loan Program
Overview:	Junior Agricultural Loans are funded by the Rural Rehabilitation Fund and guaranteed by the recipients' parents. Applicants can apply for a maximum loan of \$10,000 for a term of no more than 5 years with a (current) 6 percent interest rate. Applicant must develop a marketable agricultural project that, through production and marketing of an agricultural commodity, can pay back the loan through its earnings. The project must produce income to repay the loan and can be used to buy animals, equipment, or supplies; buy, rent, or repair needed tools and equipment; or pay operating expenses for the project. Funds can be utilized for a 4-H project or other educational agricultural project with income producing capability.
Eligible Users:	Youth ages 9-21 years old; 4-H and FFA membership is not required.
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds are used to finance a project of modest size, educational, and initiated, developed and carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H, FFA or a similar organization. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work.
Website:	www.agri.state.nv.us

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW YORK

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NORTH CAROLINA

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Agency:	North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Tax Exempt Agricultural Development Bonds
Overview:	Acting as conduit issuer for agribusiness processing, Ag related manufacturing or Ag waste disposal, in order to facilitate lower (tax exempt) interest rates. NCAFA has statewide bond authority.
Eligible Users:	All agribusinesses
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for projects that include processing and manufacturing of agricultural products.
Website:	http://www.ncagr.gov/agfinance/

Agency:	North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Series III “Ag Start” Beginning Farmer Loans
Overview:	Joint farm real estate lending program with Farm Credit Services (North Carolina) NCAFA makes 50 percent of loan with FSA guarantee subordinated to FCS loan.
Eligible Users:	Beginning Farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include construction, improvement or repair of farm homes and service buildings; improvement of on-farm water supplies, installation of pollution controls; soil and water conservation measures to develop, conserve or make proper use of land and water resources, irrigation systems, drainage improvements, refinancing debts, establishing or improving forests and providing for production of fish under controlled conditions.
Website:	http://www.ncagr.gov/agfinance/

Agency:	North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Series II Beginning Farmer Loan Program
Overview:	NCAFA loans 60 percent of need to farmers who obtain 30 percent from FSA's down payments loan program; farmer makes 10 percent down payment; interest rate is prime plus 3/4 percent variable.
Eligible Users:	Young farmers beginning land ownership
Eligible Project Types:	The program is designed for purchasing farmland, including existing improvements.
Website:	http://www.ncagr.gov/agfinance/

Agency:	North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Series I Farm Real Estate Loans
Overview:	This program can be used to purchase real estate (land, buildings, improvements); up to 15-year term for as much as 95 percent of appraised value; interest rate is prime plus 1.75 percent variable; North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority (NCAFA) must be able to obtain FSA guarantee on loan; NCAFA is lender and services loan.
Eligible Users:	Farmers having difficulty qualifying for conventional loans
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds may be used to buy, improve or enlarge farms; Construction, improvement or repair of farm homes and service buildings; Improvement of on-farm water supplies; Installation of pollution control; Soil and water conservation measures to develop, conserve or make proper use of land and water resources, irrigation systems, drainage improvements; Refinancing debts; Establishing or improving forests; Providing for production of fish under controlled conditions.
Website:	http://www.ncagr.gov/agfinance/

Agency:	North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECB)
Overview:	The Authority has created a Green Community Program in order to provide financing throughout the State for persons and entities who are installing and operating qualified conservation projects on agricultural land. Any person or entity who meets the criteria set forth in this Program description and the application is eligible to participate.
Eligible Users:	Renewable Energy
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for projects that include installing and operating qualified conservation projects on agricultural land.
Website:	http://www.ncagr.gov/agfinance/

Agency:	North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Facilities Disaster Loans
Overview:	NCAFA makes low interest loans to repair farm buildings and structures. State appropriation.
Eligible Users:	Farmers sustaining damage to farm buildings and structures due to natural disasters.
Eligible Project Types:	A program designed for repairing property damage from natural disasters.
Website:	http://www.ncagr.gov/agfinance/

Agency:	North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority
Program/Project Title:	Agribusiness Loans
Overview:	A loan guarantee program provided by Rural Economic and Community Development, USDA.
Eligible Users:	Agribusinesses that are providing value added processing support for other facets of agriculture.
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds are to be used to assist agribusinesses in obtaining capital to start up, increase or make changes to their business.
Website:	http://www.ncagr.gov/agfinance/

NORTH DAKOTA

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Agency:	Bank of North Dakota
Program/Project Title:	Livestock Waste Management System Program
Overview:	The Livestock Waste Management System Loan Program funds construction, renovation or relocation of an approved waste management system.
Eligible Users:	Livestock producers
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds may be used to purchase materials and/or services for the design or construction of an approved waste management system.
Website:	bnd.nd.gov

Agency:	Bank of North Dakota
Program/Project Title:	FSA Guaranteed Loan Purchase Program
Overview:	The FSA (Farm Service Agency) Guaranteed Loan Purchase provides low interest rate loans to North Dakota farmers with bank financing that includes a loan guarantee from a federal government program. BND participates by purchasing the guaranteed portion of the promissory note. The purchase is conditioned upon the borrower receiving the benefit of the lower interest rate on the purchased portion of the note.
Eligible Users:	North Dakota resident with an FSA guarantee; line of credit guarantees cannot be purchased.
Eligible Project Types:	Not available
Website:	bnd.nd.gov

Agency:	Bank of North Dakota
Program/Project Title:	First Time Farmer Finance Program
Overview:	Family Farm Loan Program is a tax-exempt bond program that assists first time farmers and ranchers in North Dakota to acquire agricultural property at low interest rates.
Eligible Users:	North Dakota farmer with no substantial farmland ownership and net worth of less than \$750,000.
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for the purchase of land suitable for use in farming, the construction or purchase of improvements located on agricultural land, or the purchase of personal property suitable for use in farming.
Website:	bnd.nd.gov

Agency:	Bank of North Dakota
Program/Project Title:	Farm Real Estate Loan Guarantee Program
Overview:	Borrowers may purchase farm real estate or restructure farm real estate loans under this program. This loan assists farmers with purchasing or restructuring agricultural real estate loans by providing a financial institution with a 75 percent guarantee of total loans that do not exceed \$400,000 to an individual borrower.
Eligible Users:	North Dakota residents
Eligible Project Types:	Designed to guarantee a loan made by the lead lender to a farmer or rancher.
Website:	bnd.nd.gov

Agency:	Bank of North Dakota
Program/Project Title:	Farm Operating Loan Program
Overview:	The Farm Operating Loan Program funds operating expenses.
Eligible Users:	North Dakota resident owning or operating a farm/ranch with debt-to-asset ratio of 50 percent or greater or net worth of less than \$750,000.
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds may be used for the current operating year of an existing farm or ranch. The loan may not be used to make any interest payment, principal payment or capital expenditure.
Website:	bnd.nd.gov

Agency:	Bank of North Dakota
Program/Project Title:	Farm and Ranch Participation Loan Program
Overview:	The Farm and Ranch Participation Loan Program assists a financial institution with a borrower who wants to fund an ag-related activity including real estate, equipment, livestock and operating expenses.
Eligible Users:	The loan must serve the legitimate credit needs of the state and is made on a sound and collectible basis.
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds must be used for construction, conversion, expansion, repair and update of farm improvements, purchase of real estate, purchase of livestock, purchase, repair and update equipment, operating needs, refinancing an existing loan, for any other reasonable agricultural purpose.
Website:	bnd.nd.gov

Agency:	Bank of North Dakota
Program/Project Title:	Family Farm Loan Program
Overview:	The Family Farm Loan Program allows a farmer to purchase or refinance land, equipment or livestock or to restructure operating debt.
Eligible Users:	Farmers or ranchers with farming experience and training to operate a family farm and net worth of \$750,000 or less
Eligible Project Types:	Purchase or refinancing agricultural real estate, permanent improvements to agricultural real estate, purchase or refinancing farm equipment, purchase or refinancing livestock, restructure of operating debt carryover.
Website:	bnd.nd.gov

Agency:	Bank of North Dakota
Program/Project Title:	Established Farmer Real Estate Loan Program
Overview:	The Established Farmer Real Estate Loan assists a farmer or rancher with financing of agricultural purposes.
Eligible Users:	North Dakota residents involved in farming
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for agricultural purposes.
Website:	bnd.nd.gov

Agency:	Bank of North Dakota
Program/Project Title:	Biofuels PACE Program
Overview:	Biofuels PACE Program provides interest buy down on loans to biodiesel, ethanol or green diesel production facilities and livestock operations. The loan is used to reduce the interest rate on loans which have been approved by a local lender and BND. There is no community match required. Biofuels PACE recipients are not eligible for regular PACE funds. Loan funds may not be used to refinance any existing debt or for relocation within the state.
Eligible Users:	Biodiesel facilities that produce biodegradable, combustible liquid fuel derived from vegetable oil or animal fat which is suitable for blending with diesel fuel for use in internal combustion diesel engines. Ethanol production facilities that produce agriculturally derived denatured Ethanol which is suitable for blending with a petroleum product for use in internal combustion engines. Livestock operations that feed, handle, milk, or hold Livestock while using a byproduct produced at a Biodiesel or an Ethanol production facility. This also includes the purchase or construction of real property, expansion of facilities, and purchase or installation of equipment including a biodigester system. Green diesel facilities that produce fuel derived from non-fossil renewal resources which is suitable for blending with diesel fuel for use in internal combustion diesel engines.
Eligible Project Types:	To Purchase or construct real property, expand facilities, purchase or install equipment including a biodigester system.
Website:	bnd.nd.gov

Agency:	Bank of North Dakota
Program/Project Title:	Beginning Farmer Real Estate Loan Program
Overview:	The Beginning Farmer Real Estate Loan assists the farmer or rancher with the purchase of farm real estate.
Eligible Users:	Farmers or ranchers with a net worth of \$750,000 or less and must not have owned more than 30 percent of the average farm size for the county in which the land is located.
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds are used for the purchasing of agricultural real estate.
Website:	bnd.nd.gov

Agency:	Bank of North Dakota
Program/Project Title:	Beginning Farmer Chattel Loans
Overview:	The Beginning Farmer Chattel Loan program assists beginning ranchers with the purchase of equipment and livestock.
Eligible Users:	Farmers or ranchers with a net worth of \$750,000 or less and must not have farmed for more than 15 years.
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds are to be used for the purchasing of equipment or livestock.
Website:	bnd.nd.gov

Agency:	Bank of North Dakota
Program/Project Title:	AG PACE Program
Overview:	The Ag PACE loan provides interest buydown on loans to farmers or ranchers investing in nontraditional agriculture activities to supplement farm income. The loan is used to reduce the interest rate on loans which have been approved by a local lender and BND.
Eligible Users:	Farmers or ranchers
Eligible Project Types:	Funds can be used for field tiling projects, the purchase of irrigation equipment on new irrigated acreage, the purchase of shares in the start-up or expansion of processing plants processing North Dakota-grown products, purchase of capital improvements for retention of livestock, purchase of capital improvements for dairy operations, or for the purchase of equity shares in a condominium grain storage entity.
Website:	bnd.nd.gov

OHIO

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OKLAHOMA

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Agency:	Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry
Program/Project Title:	Beginning Farmer Loan Program
Overview:	This program is available to individuals who have had no substantial ownership interest in farmland. Items that can be financed include agricultural land, agricultural improvements, depreciable agricultural property such as new and used equipment and breeding stock. Loans can be made up to a maximum of \$250,000 with no minimum amount. Loans can be made for this program with lenders or contract-for-deed sellers.
Eligible Users:	Beginning farmers with a net worth of less than \$200,000.
Eligible Project Types:	Loan proceeds assist farmers with operational and family living expenses; marketing opportunities; diversified operations; and so much more.
Website:	www.oda.state.ok.us

Agency:	Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry
Program/Project Title:	Agriculture Linked Deposit Program
Overview:	Joint program with the State Treasurer's Program; the Treasurer's Office invests funds in financial institutions at 300 basis points under market rates. The institution then lends funds to qualified borrowers, resulting in rates reduced by 300 to 500 basis points.
Eligible Users:	"At risk" and "alternative enterprise" borrowers
Eligible Project Types:	Not available
Website:	www.oda.state.ok.us

Agency:	Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry
Program/Project Title:	Agriculture Enhancement and Diversification Program
Overview:	The Oklahoma Agriculture Enhancement and Diversification Program provides funds in the form of 0% interest loans or grants for the purpose of expanding the state's value added processing sector and to encourage farm diversification.
Eligible Users:	Oklahoma Farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Not available
Website:	www.oda.state.ok.us

OREGON

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Agency: Oregon Department of Agriculture

Program/Project Title: Aggie Bond Program

Overview: This program provides affordable financing to new farmers for financing capital purchases. Proceeds may be used to finance the following agriculture related purposes: Up to \$250,000 for the purpose of depreciable agricultural property (including equipment, livestock, feed, fertilizer and seeds) for first time farmers; up to \$62,600 on used equipment for first time farmers; and/or up to \$509,600 for farmland purchases.

Eligible Users: Beginning and Expanding Farmer

Eligible Project Types: Loans may be used to acquire agricultural land, new depreciable property or used depreciable property in conjunction with agricultural land.

Website: www.oregon.gov/ODA/

PENNSYLVANIA

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Agency:	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	USDA Farm Service Agency Guaranteed Loans
Overview:	The First Industries Loan Guarantee Program provides a 50 percent guarantee on a lending institution's loan(s) to an eligible borrower. The maximum guarantee amount is \$2,500,000 and can be used on loans for land and buildings, machinery and equipment, and/or working capital and can include the refinance of existing debt.
Eligible Users:	Existing and new farmers; agriculture processors
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds go to help small, new or underserved family farmers with early financial assistance.
Website:	www.pagrows.pa.gov

Agency:	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	USDA Farm Service Agency Direct Loans
Overview:	Direct farm loans are made by the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) with government funds. The FSA services these loans and provides their direct loan customers with supervision and credit counseling so they have a better chance for success. Farm ownership, operating, emergency and youth loans are the main types of loans available under the direct program. Direct loan funds are also set aside each year for loans to minority applicants and beginning farmers.
Eligible Users:	Farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Farm ownership and operation projects.
Website:	www.pagrows.pa.gov

Agency:	Pennsylvania Dept. of Community and Economic Development
Program/Project Title:	The Next Generation Farmer Loan Program
Overview:	The Next Generation Farmer Loan Program uses federal tax-exempt mortgage financing to reduce a farmer's interest rate for capital purchases, such as the purchase of farm land or agricultural machinery and equipment. Maximum loan amount of \$470,000 with no more than \$62,500 being used toward the purchase of used equipment. The lender determines the interest rate and terms of repayment.
Eligible Users:	Permanent Pennsylvania resident who are at least 18 at the time of the loan application Must meet lender's credit standards Access to adequate working capital, farm equipment, etc. Borrower must not have had any prior ownership of a substantial portion of land.
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include agricultural land, agricultural improvements, and depreciable property.
Website:	www.newpa.com/find-and-apply-for-funding/funding-and-program-finder/next-generation-farmer-loan-program

Agency:	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Small Business First
Overview:	<p>This loan can be used to acquire land and buildings, construct and renovate buildings, and acquire machinery and equipment. Loan amounts are \$200,000 or 50 percent of the total project cost, whichever is less. The term of the loan matches the life of the asset. Loans up to \$200,000 or 50% of total eligible project costs, whichever is less. Maximum loan amount for working capital is \$100,000 or 50% of total eligible project costs, whichever is less. Up to a 15-year term for land and building. Up to a 10-year term for machinery and equipment. Up to 3-year term for working capital Processors must create/save one job per \$25,000 of loan. An interest Rate project where land is enrolled in a farmland preservation program or an Agricultural Security Area (ASA) or a project involving urban or rural supermarkets may receive a 1% reduction in the interest rate normally assessed for MELF loans, but the interest rate to be applied may not be less than 2%.</p>
Eligible Users:	New and existing farmers, ag processors with 100 employees or less.
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include land and building acquisition and construction, Machinery and equipment purchases and upgrades, Working capital.
Website:	www.pagrows.pa.gov

Agency:	Pennsylvania Dept. of Community and Economic Development
Program/Project Title:	Small Business First
Overview:	A program designed to provide funding for small businesses, including: low-interest loan financing for land & building acquisition and construction machinery and equipment purchases working capital. Interest rate is fixed at 3.5% until December 31. \$25,000 cost per full-time job retained or created. Up to a 15-year term, for land and building. Up to 10-year term for machinery and equipment. Up to a three-year term for working capital. Interest rate is fixed and is based on market conditions. The Small Business First (SBF) program has been consolidated and is now part of the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) loan program.
Eligible Users:	A for-profit small business (100 full-time employees or less) which are: manufacturing industrial agricultural enterprises research and development construction computer-related services hotels, motels, or restaurants municipal or commercial recyclers defense-related child day-care.
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include land and building acquisition and construction machinery and equipment purchase and upgrades working capital.
Website:	www.newpa.com/find-and-apply-for-funding/funding-and-program-finder/small-business-first-sbf

Agency:	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Small Business Administration 504
Overview:	The 504 Loan Program is a fixed asset financing program for expanding farms. It is the first federal financing tool to recognize the importance of small businesses in the job creation process through their physical expansion. The “504” is the Economic Development Program of the U.S. Small Business Administration. A farmer must have less than 500 employees. Net worth must not exceed \$6 million and its average net income after taxes for the preceding two years must not exceed \$2 million.
Eligible Users:	Existing and new farmers; ag processors
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible projects include land acquisition, site improvements (including grading, street improvements, utilities, parking lots and landscaping), acquisition of existing building, building renovation, leasehold improvements, new construction, machinery and equipment with a useful life of at least 10 years and certain soft costs, such as engineering fees, architectural fees, appraisal fees, and environmental fees.
Website:	www.pagrows.pa.gov

Agency:	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Loans for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers
Overview:	Technical assistance initiative to help farmers understand new program opportunities, paperwork on state programs as well as other lenders such as Farm Service Agency, SBA 504, Farm Credit and private lenders to develop the best possible financing package.
Eligible Users:	Not available
Eligible Project Types:	Not available
Website:	www.keepPAgrowing.com

Agency:	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Next Generation Farmer Loan Program
Overview:	The Next Generation Farmer Loan Program provides an effective means for federal-state-industry partnerships and provide next generation farmers the opportunity to purchase land and other capital-intensive assets to begin their agriculture enterprise. This collaborative program is a partnership between the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The program uses federal tax-exempt finances to reduce a farmer's interest rate for capital purchases.
Eligible Users:	Next generation farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds are used for land and improvements and other depreciable assets such as machinery and equipment.
Website:	www.pagrows.pa.gov

Agency:	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Minority and Women Farmers and Ranchers
Overview:	Targeted FSA funds are available for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants (SDA): women, African Americans, Alaskan Natives, American Indians, Hispanics, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. All SDA loan processes and requirements are identical to all non SDA processes and requirements.
Eligible Users:	Minority and women farmers and ranchers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for farm ownership and operation projects.
Website:	www.pagrows.pa.gov

Agency:	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Microloan
Overview:	The Microloan program was developed to serve the unique financial needs of beginning, niche and family farms by modifying its Operating Loan application, eligibility and security requirements. The program offers more access to credit and will serve as an alternative for smaller farm operations. The application process has been simplified and requirements for managerial experience and loan security have been modified to accomodate smaller farms, beginning farmers and those with no farm management experience.
Eligible Users:	Beginning, niche, and family farms
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds are used for direct Farm Ownership Microloans; Make a down payment on a farm, Build, Repair, or Improve farm buildings, service buildings, farm dwelling, Soil and Water Conservation Projects, May be used as a Downpayment Farm Ownership Loan, May be used in Joint Financing Direct Farm Operating Microloans; Essential tools, Fencing and trellising, Hoop houses, Bees and bee equipment, Milking and pasteurization equipment, Maple sugar shack and processing equipment, Livestock, seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, family living expenses, and other materials essential to the operation, Irrigation, GAP (Good Agricultural Practices), GHP (Good Handling Practices), and Organic certification costs, Marketing and distribution costs, including those associated with selling through Farmers' Markets and Community Supported Agriculture operations, Pay for qualifying OSHA compliance standards (Federal or State).
Website:	www.pagrows.pa.gov

Agency:	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Machinery and Equipment Loan Fund
Overview:	This program is designed to stimulate growth and assist the retention of business in Pennsylvania by providing low-interest loan financing for a portion of the cost of machinery, equipment and livestock purchases to eligible farmers in the Commonwealth. MELF is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and has been adapted to meet specific needs of farmers.
Eligible Users:	New and existing farmers, agricultural processing
Eligible Project Types:	Activities that use best management practices for agricultural waste, waste products and byproducts or fertilizer, Agribusiness, Energy related activities affecting production agriculture or agribusiness, Farmers markets, Fruit trees, Machinery and equipment acquisition and upgrading, Engineering and installation costs directly related to the operations or processes, The sale of farm commodities by urban and rural supermarkets located in underserved areas, The wholesale of farm commodities.
Website:	www.pagrows.pa.gov

Agency:	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Loans for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers
Overview:	FSA makes and guarantees loans to beginning farmers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial lenders. Each fiscal year, FSA targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loan funds to beginning farmers.
Eligible Users:	Beginning farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Not available
Website:	www.pagrows.pa.gov

Agency:	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program
Overview:	The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The FSA is authorized to implement the program through USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).
Eligible Users:	Farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Loan proceeds are used to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.
Website:	www.pagrows.pa.gov

PUERTO RICO

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Agency:	Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Collateral Funds
Overview:	The program provides funding to guarantee financial security for farmers that apply for our finance programs at the Puerto Rico Economic & Development Bank.
Eligible Users:	Farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Not available
Website:	www.agricultura.gobierno.pr

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Agency: South Dakota Department of Agriculture

Program/Project Title: Value Added Agribusiness Relending Program

Overview: A direct loan program which allows agricultural businesses in rural areas of South Dakota to obtain low interest loans to acquire new businesses, expand existing businesses, create employment opportunities or to save existing jobs, and to add value to South Dakota agricultural commodities through further processing or marketing. Maximum loan term is 10 years. Interest rate is determined on the date of approval. Maximum of 50 percent of project, up to \$150,000.

Eligible Users: Agricultural businesses

Eligible Project Types: Eligible uses of the loan proceeds include, but are not limited to: business and industrial acquisitions when the loan will keep the business from closing, prevent the loss of employment opportunities, or provide expanded job opportunities; business construction, conversion, enlargement, repair, modernization, or development; purchase and development of land, easements, rights-of-way, buildings, facilities, leases, or materials; purchase of equipment, leasehold improvements, machinery, or supplies; pollution control abatement; transportation services; start-up operating costs and working capital; interest during the period before the facility becomes income producing, but not to exceed three years; feasibility studies; debt refinancing; and revolving lines of credit under certain circumstances. If construction is involved, Environmental reports may be required prior to any work being done.

Website: sdda.sd.gov

Agency:	South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	VALU Livestock Guarantee
Overview:	This program allows farmers/ranchers to obtain livestock “purchase money” with up to 50 percent guarantee from the Department with a maximum guarantee of \$100,000 for a term not greater than 26 months.
Eligible Users:	Farmers/ranchers
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds are to be used on Livestock purchases only.
Website:	sdda.sd.gov

Agency:	South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Rural Development Ag Loan Participation Program
Overview:	This program provides a lower cost participation loan for value-added production, processing, and marketing projects. Eligible uses include land, buildings, improvements, and equipment. Production agriculture land is not eligible. Participation amounts cannot exceed the lesser of 80 percent of the loan amount or \$500,000.
Eligible Users:	Value added production, processing, and marketing projects
Eligible Project Types:	Projects eligible for this loan participation include those, which demonstrate the potential of adding value to, or creating innovative uses for, South Dakota agricultural products, especially those of which there is a surplus. The program may also be used in developing viable new agricultural products and subsequent markets or enhancing the economic viability of the applicant or the rural community. All projects must demonstrate a positive projected cash flow.
Website:	sdda.sd.gov

Agency:	South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Livestock Nutrient Management Program
Overview:	Tax-exempt bond program for new and existing projects that involve livestock nutrient facilities. Tax exempt interest rates. Nutrient facilities include property or any portion thereof used for the collection, storage, treatment, utilization, processing, or final disposal of livestock nutrients.
Eligible Users:	Livestock producers
Eligible Project Types:	Not available
Website:	sdda.sd.gov

Agency:	South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Livestock Loan Participation Program
Overview:	The Livestock Loan Participation Program allows farmers/ranchers to obtain livestock loans with the Department participating up to 50 percent in the loan with a local lender. The maximum loan is \$400,000 with a maximum participation amount of \$200,000. Maximum term of 7 years.
Eligible Users:	Farmers/ranchers
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds are to be used on Livestock purchases only.
Website:	sdda.sd.gov

Agency:	South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Beginning Farmer Down Payment Guarantee
Overview:	A qualifying beginning farmer participating in the beginning farmer bond program can obtain a guarantee on a bank loan (down payment): maximum is 20% of the bond amount.
Eligible Users:	Beginning Farmers and Ranchers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for first time or disadvantaged farmers beginning a career in agriculture.
Website:	sdda.sd.gov

Agency:	South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Beginning Farmer Bond Program
Overview:	The program is a tax-exempt bond program available to individuals and partnerships that have never held substantial ownership or ownership interest in farm land. The program allows for the financing of agricultural land, improvements, and depreciable agricultural property. The aggregate maximum for the program is \$509,600 in 2014 and indexed annually. Loans can be made by local lenders, contracts for deed, or individual bond purchasers.
Eligible Users:	Beginning farmers and ranchers
Eligible Project Types:	Eligible for first time farmers who wish to finance agricultural land, make agricultural improvements or purchase land from a close relative.
Website:	sdda.sd.gov

Agency:	South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Bridge Loan Program
Overview:	Bridge Loans are structured for interest-only payments while the Bridge Loan is in place. The current interest rate is 4%. Once funds are available at FSA, the Bridge Loan is paid off with FSA funds and any interest accrued is paid by the borrower.
Eligible Users:	To be eligible, borrowers must be approved for FSA financing using the farm ownership program.
Eligible Project Types:	Bridge Loans are available for FSA approved borrowers to finance land purchases when funds are not readily available at FSA.
Website:	sdda.sd.gov

Agency:	South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Agribusiness Bond Program
Overview:	The program is a tax-exempt bond program available for value-added agriculture businesses. Maximum for this program is \$10 million per project. Must meet IRS definition of manufacturing and processing.
Eligible Users:	Agricultural processing and manufacturing businesses
Eligible Project Types:	Not available
Website:	sdda.sd.gov

TENNESSEE

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Agency: Texas Department of Agriculture

Program/Project Title: Young Farmer Interest Rate Reduction Program

Overview: The Young Farmer Interest Rate Reduction (YFIRR) Program is intended to facilitate a lower interest rate to agricultural producers or agribusiness owners who are between 18 and 46 years of age through a commercial lender. The YFIRR program provides an interest reduction to the borrower on a qualifying bank loan for an eligible project. The Comptroller of Public Accounts for the State of Texas deposits funds in a bank (which must be a state approved depository) at a below market interest rate. The bank issues a loan of like amount, at no more than 4% above the interest rate on the state's deposit. The program does not offer a guaranty or participation by the Authority in the loan. Program funds are distributed through the Texas Agricultural Fund. A borrower may have more than one linked deposit loan. The total of linked deposit loans to any one borrower cannot exceed \$500,000. All linked deposits under this program shall expire upon the expiration of the biennium; however, subject to legislative authorizations and approvals, expired linked deposits may be renewed.

Eligible Users: Eligibility includes any person who is 18 years of age but younger than 46 years who proposes to use loan proceeds for the creation or expansion of an agricultural business in Texas.

Eligible Project Types: Loan proceeds may be used for any agriculture-related operating expense, including the purchase or lease of land; fixed asset acquisition or improvement; and/or any enterprise based on agriculture, as identified in the application. A loan under this program may be applied to existing debt only when required by the lender to finance the expansion of an eligible project.

Website: www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/TexasAgriculturalFinanceAuthority/YoungFarmerInterestRateReductionProgram.aspx

Agency:	Texas Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Young Farmer Grant Program
Overview:	The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance in the form of matching grant funds to young farmers and ranchers for the purpose of creating or expanding an agricultural business in this state. The TAFA Board determines funding level on an annual basis. The grants range in size from \$5,000 to a maximum of \$10,000. The program is offered two times per year and the grant is administered as a 50% reimbursement of eligible expenses but not to exceed the individual grant awarded. Capital expenditures that exceed \$5,000 are not eligible.
Eligible Users:	Any person who is 18 years of age but younger than 46 years who proposes to use loan proceeds for the creation or expansion of an agricultural business in Texas.
Eligible Project Types:	Loan proceeds may be used for any agriculture-related operating expense, including: The purchase or lease of land; A fixed asset acquisition or improvement; and/or Any enterprise based on agriculture, as identified in the application. A loan under this program may be applied to existing debt only when required by the lender to finance the expansion of an eligible project.
Website:	www.texasagriculture.gov

Agency:	Texas Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Interest Rate Reduction Program
Overview:	The Interest Rate Reduction (IRR) Program is intended to facilitate lower interest rates to eligible applicants through a commercial lender. Through this program, lenders are able to receive capital for their loans from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, who is authorized by the Legislature to offer below-market interest rates. These lower rates are then passed along to the borrowers, who may benefit from interest rate reductions of several percentage points.
Eligible Users:	Any person who proposes to use loan proceeds for the creation or expansion of an agricultural business in Texas.
Eligible Project Types:	Loan proceeds may be used for any agriculture-related operating expense, including: The purchase or lease of land; A fixed asset acquisition or improvement; and/or Any enterprise based on agriculture, as identified in the application. A loan under this program may be applied to existing debt only when required by the lender to finance the expansion of an eligible project.
Website:	www.texasagriculture.gov

Agency:	Texas Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	Agricultural Loan Guarantee Program
Overview:	The Texas Agricultural Finance Authority (TAFA) Agricultural Loan Guarantee Program (ALG) provides financial assistance to establish or enhance farming or ranching operations or to establish an agricultural-related business. This program provides assistance in the form of guarantees based on a tiered structure, not to exceed \$750,000 or 70% of the loan amount, whichever is less.
Eligible Users:	Agricultural Producers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for any agricultural related purpose, including: Working capital for operating a farm or ranch; Lease of facilities; Purchase of machinery and equipment; and/or Purchase of real estate, as identified in recipient's documentation submitted in support of the application.
Website:	www.texasagriculture.gov

UTAH

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Agency: Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

Program/Project Title: Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program

Overview: The Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program is another source of low-interest loans for farms and ranches. The current interest rates for these loans are from 5-6 percent. This loan fund was augmented by the Legislature to assist distressed farmers in 1992, and has since grown as a result of additional appropriations and internal growth through earnings. The program contains both state and federal funds. Total assets for this fund are \$8.5 million with \$7.7 million out in individual loans. Delinquencies in all loan programs are very low.

Eligible Users: Farmers or ranchers who cannot qualify for conventional financing.

Eligible Project Types: Proceeds can be used to buy, begin or improve an agricultural operation.

Website: ag.utah.gov

Agency:	Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
Program/Project Title:	Petroleum Storage Tank Loans
Overview:	In addition to the agriculture loans, the loans section manages the Petroleum Storage Tank Loan program in cooperation with the Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Loans can be made for a maximum of 80% of the cost of the work, up to \$150,000 per facility or \$50,000 per tank, if you have fewer than three tanks. The interest rate on loans made after July 1, 2014 is 0%. Acceptable security is required for loans greater than \$30,000.
Eligible Users:	Farmers or Ranchers
Eligible Project Types:	Loan proceeds can be used for upgrading, replacing, or permanently closing underground storage tanks (USTs).
Website:	ag.utah.gov www.deq.utah.gov

Agency:	Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
Program/Project Title:	Agriculture Resource Development Loan Program (ARDL)
Overview:	Low-interest ARDL loans are available through the Utah Conservation Commission in cooperation with the division's program. ARDL loans are made for a maximum of 15 years at 2.5 to 3 percent interest with a one-time administration fee of 4 percent.
Eligible Users:	Farmers or ranchers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for projects that conserve soil and water resources; Increase agricultural yields for croplands, orchards, pasture, range, and livestock; Maintain and improve water quality; Conserve and/or develop on-farm energy; Reduce damages to agriculture as a result of flooding, drought, or other natural disasters; Provide and maintain protection of crops or animal resources.
Website:	ag.utah.gov

VERMONT

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Agency:	Vermont Economic Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation (VACC)
Overview:	VACC, a program of VEDA, is a nonprofit corporation which provides credit to Vermont farmers. Farm loans are available to strengthen existing farm operations, encourage diversification, support beginning farmers, and to encourage marketing and processing of Vermont agricultural and forestry products.
Eligible Users:	Farmers who are not having their credit needs fully met by conventional agricultural credit sources at reasonable rates and terms.
Eligible Project Types:	Projects include acquiring or enlarging a farm, agricultural facility or forest products business; Make capital improvements, including construction, purchase and improvement of buildings; Promote soil and water conservation and protection; Refinance indebtedness incurred for farm/business purposes. Farm Operating Loans may be used to: Purchase livestock, machinery and equipment, or fixtures; Pay annual operating expenses of a farm operation, forest products business or agricultural facility; Pay loan closing costs; Refinance indebtedness incurred for operating loan purposes; Finance lines of credit.
Website:	www.veda.org

Agency:	Vermont Economic Development Authority
Program/Project Title:	Agricultural Energy Loan Program
Overview:	This program helps Vermont agricultural and forest product-based businesses to finance qualifying renewable energy generation and energy efficiency improvement projects, and to adopt technologies that enhance or support the development and implementation of renewable energy or energy efficiency, or both.
Eligible Users:	Vermont agriculture or forest product-based company
Eligible Project Types:	For renewable energy generation and/or energy efficiency improvements and/or energy technology; Purchase of land and buildings, new construction or existing facility renovations or refurbishment; Purchase and installation of machinery and equipment; Payment for design, engineering and permit fees relating to an eligible project.
Website:	www.veda.org

VIRGINIA

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WASHINGTON

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Agency:	Washington State Housing Finance Commission
Program/Project Title:	Beginning Farmer/Rancher Loan Program
Overview:	The Washington State Housing Finance Commission, in partnership with Northwest Farm Credit Services, provides low-interest loans to help new farmers get started with land, equipment, buildings, and even animals.
Eligible Users:	Beginning farmer or rancher
Eligible Project Types:	Proceeds can be used for agricultural land (no homes), buildings—new or existing, agricultural improvements, machinery and equipment, and animal stock.
Website:	www.wshfc.org

WEST VIRGINIA

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Agency:	West Virginia Department of Agriculture
Program/Project Title:	West Virginia Rural Rehabilitation Loan Fund (WVRRRLF)
Overview:	The West Virginia Department of Agriculture Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program (WVDARRLP) is a low-interest program to assist emerging agribusinesses and to help agribusinesses, farm operations, livestock operations, or other ag-related endeavors with expansion plans. The WVDARRLP makes its own loans and is partnered with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) to provide real estate loans to farmers who cannot obtain other forms of credit.
Eligible Users:	Farmers and Agribusiness
Eligible Project Types:	Designed for retention, expansion, or development of new or existing agricultural enterprises.
Website:	www.wvagriculture.org

WISCONSIN

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Agency:	Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)
Program/Project Title:	Farm Asset Reinvestment Management Guarantee (FARM)
Overview:	FARM is a loan guarantee for agricultural producers who want to start, expand or modernize their operations. Farm features lower interest rates, longer term and amortization, and reduced risk for the lender.
Eligible Users:	Wisconsin farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed to start, expand or modernize farm operations.
Website:	www.wheda.com

Agency:	Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)
Program/Project Title:	Credit Relief Outreach Program Guarantee (CROP)
Overview:	CROP is a financing resource for farmers that provides guarantees on agricultural production loans. CROP features: lower interest rates which lower monthly payments, use for working capital, reduces risk for the lender which makes it easier to approve a loan, and it is low cost.
Eligible Users:	Wisconsin farmers
Eligible Project Types:	Designed to start, expand or modernize farm operations.
Website:	www.wheda.com

WYOMING

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Agency:	Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments
Program/Project Title:	Farm Loans
Overview:	Loans are available to Wyoming farmers who want to purchase land or livestock, or to construct improvements.
Eligible Users:	Wyoming farmers and ranchers
Eligible Project Types:	The program is designed for the purchase of land used principally for raising agricultural products, livestock, or dairying; Purchase livestock, fertilizers, and equipment calculated to maintain or increase the earning capacity of the borrower's agricultural operation; Purchase, construct, or install improvements calculated to maintain or increase the earning capacity of the borrower's agricultural operation; or Liquidate debts of the borrower incurred in the furtherance of the borrower's agricultural operation; or Enhance or restore livestock numbers in the state.
Website:	lands.wyo.gov