



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Beginning Farmers and Ranchers



With half of all current farmers likely to retire in the next decade, beginning farmers and ranchers will be more important than ever as they feed growing populations in their local communities and throughout the world. However, these new farmers face unique challenges. To assist them, USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provides grants to organizations that offer training and assistance through education, outreach, mentoring, and internships programs.



**T**he primary goal of NIFA's Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program is to increase the number of beginning farmers and ranchers and enhance their sustainability by providing them and their families the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to make informed decisions.

#### **STANDARD PROJECTS**

These local and regional projects address the unique training, education, outreach, and technical assistance needs of beginning farmers and ranchers, such as land acquisition, business and financial management, farming practices, conservation, risk management, legal strategies, market strategies, etc.

#### **EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT TEAMS**

Educational Enhancement Teams review beginning farmer and rancher curriculums and programs, identify gaps, and develop and disseminate recommendations and materials to address these gaps. Educational Enhancement Teams do not train beginning farmers and ranchers but may train the trainers and help enhance other beginning farmer and rancher education programs in the nation.

#### **START2FARM ONLINE INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE WWW.START2FARM.GOV**

USDA's National Agricultural Library developed Start2Farm, a national, one-stop, online source of all beginning farmer and rancher education and training materials and information. Start2Farm includes information on beginning farmer and rancher projects funded by USDA and other entities.

Visit us at [www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/beginningfarmerandrancher.cfm](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/beginningfarmerandrancher.cfm)