

Grants & Financial Resources for Farmers*

Think of government grants as a public investment in agricultural innovation and community development.

About USDA Grants

There are **no grants to start a farm**, and there are very few grants for individual farmers.

Generally, grants **do not pay** for equipment, buildings, land, or production costs.

Grants can pay for education, outreach, marketing, and processing.

Grants usually require cash or in-kind match contributions and are paid as reimbursements (i.e. you spend \$1 to get a \$1). **They are not free money.**

The main grant-making USDA agencies are Rural Development and Agricultural Marketing Service. FSA offers special financing, and NRCS specializes in cost-share for conservation practices (Environmental Quality Incentives Program).

What You Can Do

Obtain a farm # from and register with FSA (for payments, not grants).

Create a profile with the System for Award Management (SAM):
www.sam.gov (free).

Review opportunities on
www.grants.gov and
www.teamagriculturega.org/grants.

Research the **Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG)**: 50%+ reimbursement for processing & marketing (www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants).

Explore partnerships with local nonprofits & cooperatives (**be an expert on an education grant**).

*Stay Informed

This is an unprecedented time for grants and financial support for agriculture. Currently, the USDA is committed to building a broader, more resilient food system that supports local supply chains, organic and value-added products, and the full diversity of farmers. The Department is continuing to roll out new, targeted programs on a monthly basis. Continue to visit grants.gov for more information.

SOURCE: TEAMAGRICULTURE.ORG
COOPERAGRICULTURE.COM

Resources

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants> (Farmers Market Promotion Program, Local Food Promotion Program)
- www.farmers.gov
- <http://newfarmers.usda.gov>
- www.grants.gov
- www.georgiagrown.com
- www.agsouthfc.com (Farm Credit)
- www.aggeorgia.com (Farm Credit)
- www.georgiaorganics.org
- <https://sustainableagriculture.net>

USDA Grants

Relevant Grants by USDA Agency

USDA Rural Development

- Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG).
 - Can pay for processing and marketing costs of value-added product
- Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP).
 - Loans and grants for renewable energy equipment
- Socially Disadvantaged Group Grant.
 - Technical assistance from cooperatives

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

- Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP).
- Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP).
- Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP).
 - All of these grant opportunities support local and regional food systems, and farmers can apply as long as there are multiple beneficiaries.

USDA NRCS

- Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG).
 - Develop conservation and resource management practices
- Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP).
 - Flexible program to support new farmers
- Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR).
 - Supports research to bring new products and systems to market

Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

- Producer Grant
 - Farmer-led research to overcome production and marketing problems

Beginning Farmers

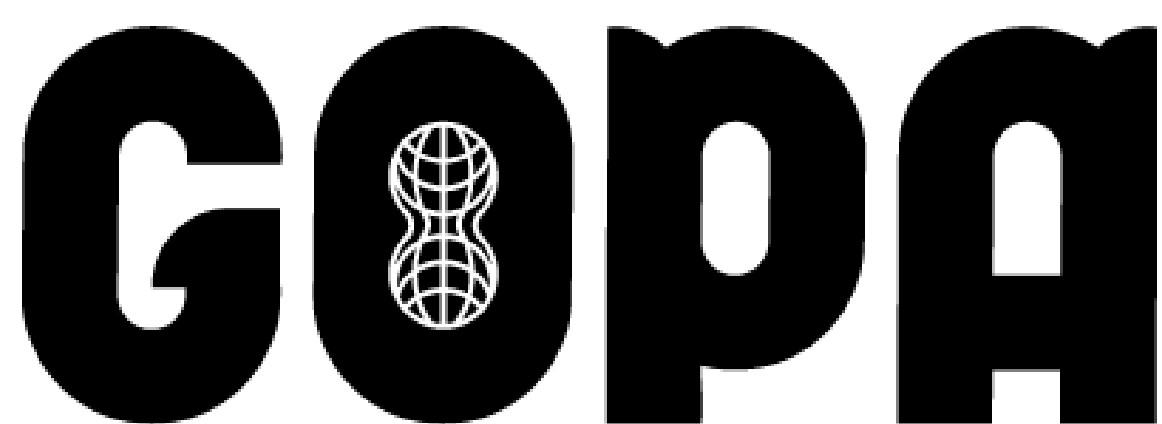
Do you grow row crops (peanuts, corn, wheat, etc.)?

Are you interested in learning more about organic production and markets?

The Georgia Organic Peanut Association is offering free mentoring and educational opportunities for new and beginning farmers.

For more info, visit

- www.organicpeanuts.farm
- info@organicpeanuts.farm



Georgia Organic Peanut Association

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