

Getting Started with United States Department of Agriculture

Michigan Food & Farming Systems
Supporting the Many Faces of Farming



Jennifer Silveri
Director of Field Operations



Our mission:
Connecting beginning & historically underserved farmers to each other and to resource opportunities; ensuring social justice, environmental stewardship, and profitability.



Michigan Food &
Farming Systems - MIFFS
Supporting the Many Faces of Farming

Serving population-specific producer networks



- Veterans in Agriculture
- Women in Agriculture
- Multicultural Producers

Technical Services & Educational Outreach

- Experts in food safety, USDA Programs, environmental stewardship, and farming
- Workshops, field days, conferences
- Field specialists
- Michigan Family Farms Conference, Kalamazoo MI- First weekend in February
- Meet the Buyers – Great Lakes Fruit, vegetable and farm Market EXPO



Farm Development Centers & USDA Demonstration Sites

- Tilian Farm Development Center
4400 Pontiac Trail Ann Arbor, MI



- Women-in-Ag (WIA) Farm
3181 Pollock Rd. Grand Blanc, MI
GENESYS Health Park



[The Good Food Movement in Flint: A Snapshot](#) video



Farm Bill 101

- Comprehensive legislature that governs a wide assortment of federal farm, food, fiber, forestry, programs and rural policies that began in 1930
 - Dust Bowl 1930's (1934 Black Sunday-massive 2 day dust storm)
 - Great Depression (1929-1939)
- Congress drafts and attempts to pass a new farm bill every 4 years



Farm Bill 101

- Long freight train with two powerful engines
- Engine 1: farm commodity program support (corn, soybeans, other feed grains, wheat, rice, peanuts, dry peas, lentils, beans, oilseeds, sugar, cotton, and dairy. Federal crop insurance policy and subsidies
- Engine two: farm bill is the controlling legislation for federal nutrition programs, most importantly the food stamp program or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).



Farm Bill 101

- Freight Cars: Conservation programs, credit programs, renewable energy, rural development, horticulture, agricultural research, forestry and more
- Caboose: miscellaneous title that is a catch-all for whatever does not fit elsewhere, topic that frequently change from farm bill to farm bill
 - Beginning farmer programs, Veterans initiatives and Underserved Farmer programs, research & Infrastructure

<http://www.safsf.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/2018-Farm-Bill-Primer-for-SAFSF1.pdf>



“It’s like a Swiss Army knife.”

- President Obama 2/7/14

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)101

- Develops and executes federal laws related to farming, agriculture, forestry, and food. It aims to meet the needs of farmers and ranchers, promote agricultural trade and production, work to assure food safety, protect natural resources, foster rural communities and end hunger in the United States and internationally (Wikipedia)
- May 15, 1862, Abraham Lincoln established the independent Department of Agriculture
- February 9, 1889, President Grover Cleveland signed a bill into law elevating the Department of Agriculture to Cabinet level



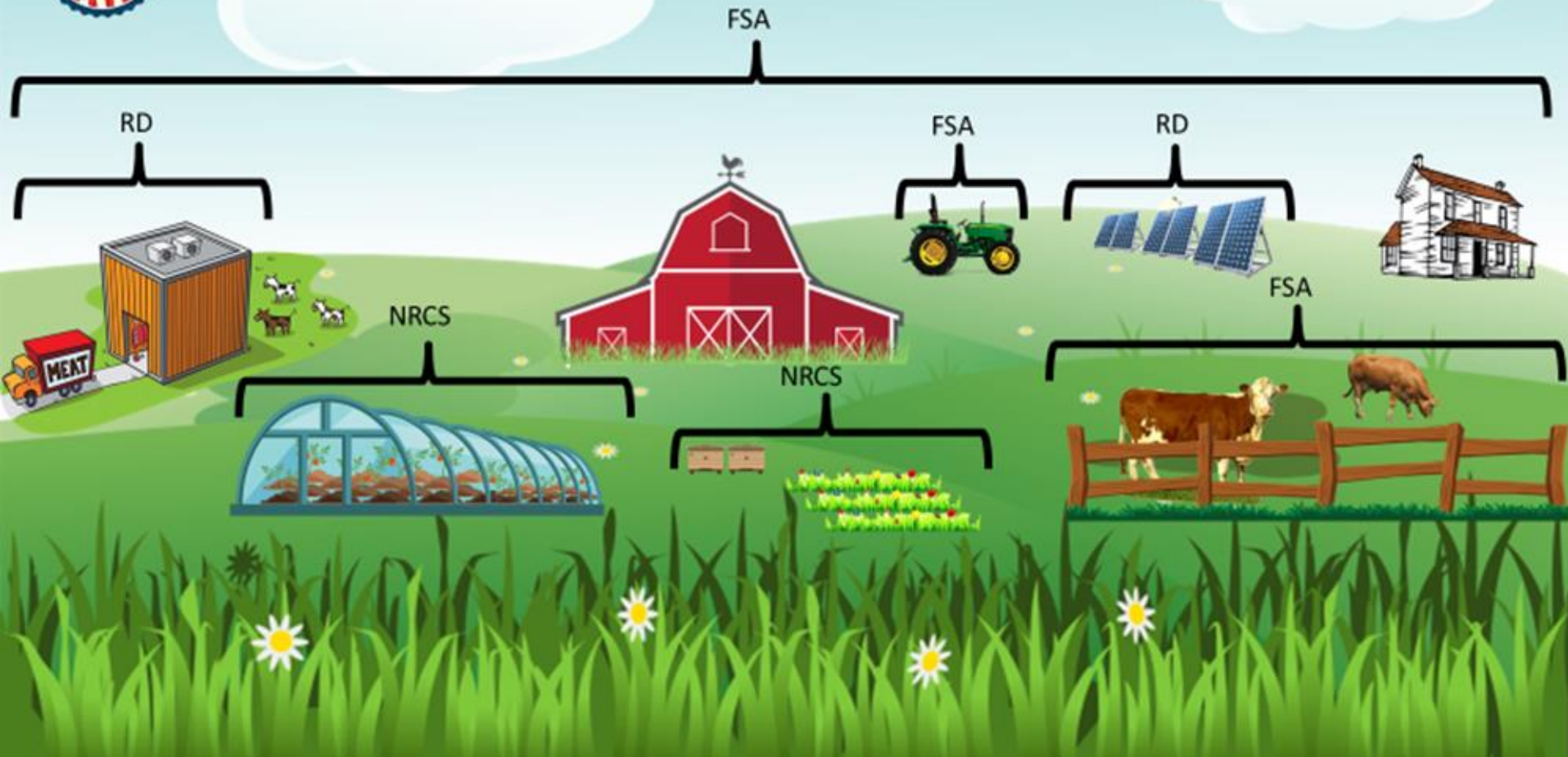
Three Main Farmer Agencies

- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
 - Record Keeping Agency for Farm Programs
 - Programs: Crop Insurance, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Loan Programs
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - Conservation Programs and technical assistance
 - Programs: Environmental quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Conservation Innovation Program
- Rural Development (RD)
 - Economic Development of Rural Communities (Urban as well)
 - Guaranteed loan programs, Value Added Producer grants, Socially Disadvantaged Cooperative Program, infrastructure programs including emergency services,





USDA and Your Farm



How to Register for a Farm Number at FSA

- USDA Definition of a Farm: any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year. Smallest parcel that can be mapped is 20'x20'
- Farm Number: How USDA identifies your farms
- Tract Number: How USDA identifies your fields and connects them with your farm number



When to Get a Farm Number

- You should apply for a Farm Number as soon as you decide you want to participate in USDA Programs
- DO NOT wait until a program application period or deadline is announced
 - Don't wait until NRCS EQIP Sign UP is announced
 - It takes time for USDA to process paperwork
- Don't go when farms are reporting planting or production information
- It is always a good idea to schedule an appointment (734) 205-1578



How to Register for a Farm Number

- Call FSA to schedule an appoint
 - Tell FSA if you are applying for a farm number to apply for a program with another USDA Agency
 - Tell then the size of your farm, what you producer (vegetables, eggs, livestock, etc.)
- What to take to your FSA appointment
 - ID or Drivers License
 - Legal Description of the Property
 - GPS coordinates, parcel number from tax documents, Plat Map (County, Township, Section & Range), deed, lease or rental agreements
 - Tax ID Number, Social Security Number
 - Lease or rental agreement showing you have control of the land
- **Patience!** You will be filling out government paperwork



Be Ready to For Government Paperwork

- 4 forms you should fill out
- AD 2047 – Customer Data Worksheet
 - Name, Address, SSN or TIN, preferred contact method
 - Sign up for govDelivery!

Keep up with USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) news with:

GovDelivery Emails and Text Messages

No office? No problem!

- Deadline Reminders
- Program Notifications
- Reporting Requirements
- Local Outreach Events

This form is available electronically. Form Approved - OMB No. 0568-0065

AD-2047
(10-04-13)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Farm Development
Natural Resource Conservation Service

**CUSTOMER DATA WORKSHEET REQUEST FOR SCIMS RECORD CHANGE
(FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY)**

(Use Data 2 for Priority Annual Research Production Consensus)

PART A - CUSTOMER INFORMATION

1A. Customer's Full Legal Name or Business Name

1B. Customer or Business Address (including Zip Code)

1C. Home Telephone Number (Area Code)

1D. Business Telephone Number (Area Code)

1E. Other Telephone Number (Area Code)

2. SSN or Tax ID Number (9 Digits)

3. E-Mail Address

3A. Does the customer want to receive mail by USPS? YES NO

3B. Does the customer want to receive emails via GovDelivery? YES NO

3C. Does the customer want to receive Separate Producer or Farm Specific related emails? YES NO

3. Producer is Customer of One or More of the Following Agencies. (Check Appropriate Agency(ies) below.)
 FSA RD MROS Not Participating

4. Is the Customer a Multi-County Producer? YES (if YES, list States within Counties below) NO

7. Reason for Request (Check appropriate boxes below):
 New Producer Address Change Telephone Change Sale/Purchase Life Event
 Other (Specify)

8. Enter the name of the Customer requesting the record change(s). If documentation is received by FSA or from a trusted source (i.e., USPS), attach documentation to this form. City Part A, Item 1A, and Part B shall be completed. If the request was received by telephone, complete appropriate notes necessary to document the request and enter the requestor's name in Item 9A. Requestor's signature is not required. (The only time the customer is required to sign Item 8B is when they are physically at a Service Center and submitting a PSX with applicable information.)

8A. Name of Customer Requesting Change

8B. Signature

8C. Date of Record Change (MM/DD/YYYY)

PART B - SERVICE CENTER ACTION

9A. Agency which received Request: (Check one below)
 FSA MROS RD

9B. Date of Program Monitoring Request (if Different than Item 8C)

9C. Date Service Center Employee Received the Request (MM/DD/YYYY)

10. How Was Request for Change was Received:
 Office Visit Telephone FAX USPS Other (Specify)

11. Remarks if Applicable:

12A. Signature of Employee Updating SCIMS if not listed in Item 9B:

12B. Date Service Center Employee Updating SCIMS (MM/DD/YYYY)

FOR DISTRICT DIRECTOR/AREA COMMISSIONER USE ONLY (OPTIONAL)

13A. If correctly not correct the above items have been properly updated: Correct Do Not Correct

13B. Name of District Director/Area Commissioner for Spot Check

13C. Signature of District Director/Area Commissioner for Spot Check

13D. Title

13E. Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

CCC 941-Adjusted Gross Income Certification and Tax Disclosure

Do you make less than \$900,000 per year?

or

Do you make more than \$900,000?

This form is available electronically. Form Approved - OMB No. 0568-0050

AD-2047
(18-04-12)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Farm Development
Natural Resources Conservation Service

**CUSTOMER DATA WORKSHEET REQUEST FOR SOMS RECORD CHANGE
(FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY)**

(See Part 2 for Purpose and Reporting Instructions for Customers)

PART A - CUSTOMER INFORMATION

1A. Customer's Full Legal Name or Business Name

1B. Customer or Business Address (Including Zip Code)

1C. Home Telephone Number (Area Code)

1D. Business Telephone Number (Area Code)

1E. Other Telephone Number (Area Code)

2. SSN or Fax ID Number (9 Digits)

3. E-Mail Address

4A. Does the customer want to receive mail by USPS? YES NO

4B. Does the customer want to receive e-mails via e-Delivery? YES NO

4C. Does the customer want to receive Sensitive Product or Farm Specific related e-mails? YES NO

5. Producer is Customer of One or More of the Following Agencies. (Check Appropriate Agency(ies) Below)

FSA NR NRCS Not Participating

6. Is the Customer a Multi-County Producer? YES (if YES, list States and/or Counties below) NO

7. Reason for Request (Check appropriate box(es) below)

New Producer Address Change Telephone Change Sale/Purchase Life Event

Other (Specify):

8. Enter the name of the customer requesting the record change(s). If documentation is received by Fax or from a trusted source (i.e., USPS), attach documentation to this form. Only Part A, Item 1A and Part B shall be completed. If the request was received by telephone, complete applicable blocks necessary to document the change(s) and enter the requestor's name in Item 9A. Requestor's signature is not required. (The only time the customer is required to sign Item 9B is when they are physically at a Service Center and providing FSA with verifiable information.)

9A. Name of Customer Requesting Change

9B. Signature

9C. Date of Record Change (MM/DD/YYYY)

PART B - SERVICE CENTER ACTION

10. Agency Who Received Request (Check one below)

FSA NRCS NR

10A. Initials of Employee Receiving Request (if Different than Item 10A)

10B. Date Service Center Employee Received the Request (MM/DD/YYYY)

11. How Was Request for Change was Received?

Office Visit Telephone FAX USPS Other (Specify):

11. Remarks if Applicable:

12A. Signature of Employee Updating SOMS if not listed in Item 10A

12B. Date Service Center Employee Updating SOMS (MM/DD/YYYY)

FOR DISTRICT DIRECTOR/AREA COMMISSIONER USE ONLY (OPTIONAL)

13A. If comments not correct the above items have been properly updated. Concur Do Not Concur

13B. Name of District Director/Area Commissioner for Spot Check

13C. Signature of District Director/Area Commissioner for Spot Check

13D. Title

13E. Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

CCC 860 – Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher

- **Socially disadvantaged:** I am a member (or if applicable, members) of a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. (Women, Farmers of Color, Native Americans)
- **Beginning Farmer:** I have not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years
- **Limited Resource:**

This form is available electronically. (See Page 2 for Definitions.)

CCC-860 (04-02-14) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Community Credit Corporation

1A. County FSA Office Name and Address (Including Zip Code)

1B. Telephone No. (Area Code) 1C. Program Year

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED, LIMITED RESOURCE AND BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER CERTIFICATION

2. APPLICANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS

INSTRUCTIONS:
Complete Parts A, B and/or C as applicable. Read the information relating to false certification below Part D. Return this form to the address in Item 1A above.

INFORMATION: If a legal entity requests to be considered a "socially disadvantaged", "limited resource", or "beginning farmer or rancher", the entity must meet the definition as provided on Page 2 of this form. Farmer or rancher includes: "owners", "operators" and "other producers".

PART A – CERTIFICATION OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER OR RANCHER

3. I certify that the following is true by checking the box below:

I am a member (or if applicable, members) of a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

PART B – CERTIFICATION OF LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER OR RANCHER

4. I certify that the following statements are true by checking the appropriate boxes below:

My/our direct or indirect gross farm sales do not exceed the amount in Table 1 on page 2 of this form in each of the 2 calendar years that provide the complete taxable year before the relevant program year, adjusted upwards in later years for any general inflation.

AND:

My/our total household income was at or below the national poverty level for a family of four in each of the same 2 previous years referenced in paragraph (1) of this definition.

Note: A limited resource farmer or rancher status can be determined by using a web site available through the Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher Online Self-Determination Tool through National Resource and Conservation Service at <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

PART C – CERTIFICATION OF BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER

5. I certify that the following statements are true by checking the appropriate boxes below:

A. I (or if applicable, the entity or joint operation) have not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years.

B. I (or if applicable, the entity or joint operation) substantially participate in the operation.

C. I (or if applicable, the entity or joint operation) began farming in _____ (Date/Month/Year)

PENALTY FOR FALSE CERTIFICATION:
The penalty for false certification is loss of all benefits for the crop year in which the false certification was made.

6A. Applicant's Signature (S)

6B. Title/Positioning of the Individual Signing in the Representative Capacity

6C. Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

NOTE: The "beginning operation" or "beginning farmer or rancher" status is determined by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-76). The information will be used to certify that an individual, legal entity or joint operation is a member of a socially disadvantaged group, qualifies as a limited resource CCC producer, or qualifies as a beginning farmer or rancher. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, tribal agencies, and non-governmental entities that have been authorized access to the information to decide or assist in applying for applicable benefits (such as identified in the System of Records Notice for Operations of Farm Records Information and USDA/FSIS/Agriculture). Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmer or rancher program benefits.

The information collection is approved from the Paperwork Reduction Act as specified in the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-76, Title 7, Subtitle F, Administration). The provisions of control and anti-fraud policy and other statute may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**

Table 1: Direct and Indirect Gross Sales

Program Year	Corresponding Years	Amount
2012	2009 and 2010	\$163,200
2013	2010 and 2011	\$172,800
2014	2011 and 2012	\$176,800
2015 and subsequent years		See http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/

<https://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

AD 1026 Highly Erodible Lands and Wetlands Conservation Certification

5. Check one of these boxes if the statement applies; otherwise continue to Part B.

A. The producer in Part A does not have interest in land devoted to agriculture. Examples include bee keepers who place their hives on another person's land, producers of crops grown in greenhouses, and producers of aquaculture AND these producers do not own/lease any agricultural land themselves. **Note:** Do not check this box if the producer shares in a crop.

- Do you grow indoors or produce goods on other peoples farmland? Bees, aquaculture, greenhouse production AND do not own or lease farmland

B. The producer in Part A meets all three of the following:

- does not participate in any USDA program that is subject to HELC and WC compliance except Federal Crop Insurance.
- only has interest in land devoted to agriculture which is exclusively used for perennial crops, except sugarcane, and
- has not converted a wetland after February 7, 2014.

- When in doubt check YES!

PART B - HELC/WC COMPLIANCE QUESTIONS		
Indicate YES or NO to each question. <i>If you are unsure of whether a HEL determination, wetland determination, or NRCS evaluation has been completed, contact your local USDA Service Center.</i>	YES	NO
6. During the crop year entered in Part A or the term of a requested USDA loan, did or will the producer in Part A plant or produce an agricultural commodity (including sugarcane) on land for which an HEL determination has not been made?		
7. Has anyone performed (since December 23, 1985), or will anyone perform any activities to:		
A. Create new drainage systems, conduct land leveling, filling, dredging, land clearing, or excavation that has NOT been evaluated by NRCS? If "YES", indicate the year(s): _____		
B. Improve or modify an existing drainage system that has NOT been evaluated by NRCS? If "YES", indicate the year(s): _____		
C. Maintain an existing drainage system that has NOT been evaluated by NRCS? If "YES", indicate the year(s): _____ Note: Maintenance is the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of the capacity of existing drainage systems to allow for the continued use of wetlands currently in agricultural production and the continued management of other areas as they were used before December 23, 1985. This allows a person to reconstruct or maintain the capacity of the original system or install a replacement system that is more durable or will realize lower maintenance or costs.		
Note: If "YES" is checked for Item 7A or 7B, then Part C must be completed to authorize NRCS to make an HELC/WC and/or certified wetland determination on the identified land. If "YES" is checked for Item 7C, NRCS does not have to conduct a certified wetland determination.		

AD 1026 Continued

- Is your landlord not in compliance with conservation practices and you don't have any control over their violations?

8. Check one or both boxes, if applicable; otherwise, continue to Part C or D.

- A. Check this box only if the producer in Part A has FCIC reinsured crop insurance and filing this form represents the first time the producer in Part A, including any affiliated person, has been subject to HELC and WC provisions.
- B. Check this box if either of the following applies to the producer and crop year entered in Part A:
- Is a tenant on a farm that is/will not be in compliance with HELC and WC provisions because the landlord refuses to allow compliance, but all other farms not associated with that landlord are in compliance. (AD-1026B, Tenant Exemption Request, must be completed).
 - Is a landlord of a farm that is/will not be in compliance with HELC and WC provisions because of a violation by the tenant on that farm, but all other farms not associated with that tenant are in compliance. (AD-1026C, Landlord or Landowner Exemption Request, must be completed).

WHEW! You Made it!

Ask for a Receipt for Service. It's your right.

All USDA representatives must provide you with a receipt upon request, for any approved, denied, or requested services.

This form is available electronically.
AD-2088
(01-19-12)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Rural Development

RECEIPT OF REQUEST FOR BENEFIT OR SERVICE OFFERED BY

NOTE: FSA, NRCS, and RD must provide a current or prospective producer or landowner a receipt service or benefit requested. Original receipt is provided to requestor and a copy must be retained by the agency.

2. Agency (Check One):
 FSA NRCS RD

3. Office Name/Location

4. Address of Requestor (Include City, State, and Zip)

5. Method of Service (Check One):
 In Person By Telephone By e-Mail
 By FAX By Mail

6. Date of Request (MM-DD-YYYY)

Summary of Benefit or Service Requested

Don't leave without it.

Should you experience any problems obtaining a Receipt for Service, call the USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach Toll-Free at

1-800-880-4183

MIFFS USDA Resources

- 2017 MIFFS Vets-in-Ag Network Farm Number Registration Webinar introduces farmers to MIFFS Vets in Ag Network and Walks you through how to fill out FSA Forms to register for a Farm Number (Jump to 8min 30sec to skip the intro)
(<https://www.facebook.com/MIVetsInAg/videos/874263256061422/>)
- Farmer Friendly USDA Guides created by MIFFS & our partners

A Farmer's Guide: Getting Started with USDA



MICHIGAN FOOD AND FARMING SYSTEMS
Supporting the Many Faces of Farming!



REGISTERING WITH USDA
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

MICHIGAN FOOD & FARMING SYSTEMS



The MIFFS Farmer's Guide to **APPLYING FOR EQIP** USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



THE MIFFS FARMERS' GUIDE TO EQIP

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Michigan Food & Farming Systems



- <https://3.basecamp.com/3952209/join/JRCzgGSDM1Tg>

Resources to Learn More!

- National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition:
Grassroots Guide to federal **farm & food**
programs
<http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/>
- National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition:
Growing Opportunity: A Guide to USDA
Sustainable Farming Programs
<http://sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FSA-Guide-Final.pdf>



Join MIFFS on Basecamp!

• <https://3.basecamp.com/3952209/join/JRCzgGSDM1Tg>

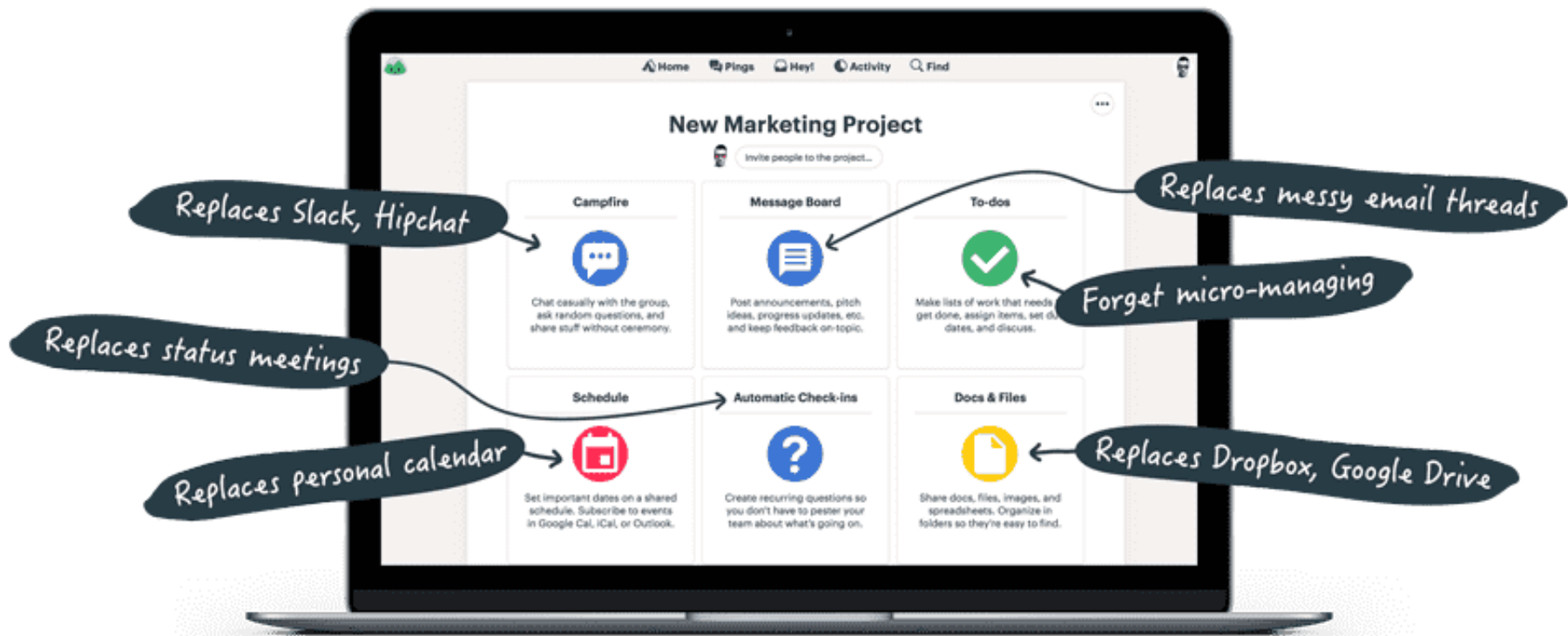
- Interact online or download the App
- Create an Account using your email address (MIFFS will never share any personal contact information!)
- Download USDA Guides & FSA Farm Number Paperwork
- Ask Questions
- Network at the
- FREE of charge!!

The screenshot shows a Basecamp project page titled "Farming for All: USDA 101". The navigation bar at the top includes "Home", "Pings", "Hey!", "Activity", and "Find". Below the title, there is a profile picture and a button that says "Invite people to the project...". The main content area is divided into six functional blocks:

- Campfire**: Represented by a teal speech bubble icon. Description: "Chat casually with the group, ask random questions, and share stuff without ceremony."
- Message Board**: Represented by a blue speech bubble icon. Description: "Post announcements, pitch ideas, progress updates, etc. and keep feedback on-topic."
- To-dos**: Represented by a green checkmark icon. Description: "Make lists of work that needs to get done, assign items, set due dates, and discuss."
- Schedule**: Represented by a red calendar icon. Description: "Set important dates on a shared schedule. Subscribe to events in Google Cal, iCal, or Outlook."
- Automatic Check-ins**: Represented by a blue question mark icon. Description: "Create recurring questions so you don't have to pester your team about what's going on."
- Docs & Files**: A grid of document thumbnails, including "USDA and Your Farm (one page graphic) (1) icon", "Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm ...and 1 more", "USDA Guide_...", and "NYFC_F..."

Basecamp Tutorial

- <https://basecamp.com/how-it-works>
A 2 Minute video Tutorial is embedded at the top of the page



Please stay in touch!

Jennifer Silveri
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www.miffs.org

Newsletter & Network sign up
<http://www.miffs.org/join>

Connect on Social Media
MIFFS Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/RiseUpDigIn>
MIFFS Vets in Ag Network
<https://www.facebook.com/MIVetsInAg>
Tilian Farm Development Center
<https://www.facebook.com/tilianfarm>
MIFFS Women-in-Ag Network
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/miffswomeninag/>



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