

Appendix 5: Worksheet to Prepare for Your First Visit with USDA

This worksheet is provided as a tool to help you reflect on and clarify the needs of your operation. If you choose to fill it out, be sure to bring it along with you for your first visit to a USDA service center to help facilitate the discussion and get the help you need. Please select as many of the options below as apply to you and your operation.

I meet the USDA definition of a (select all that apply, see Are You a Historically Underserved Farmer or Rancher? on page 4):

- Beginning Farmer or Rancher
- Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher
- Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher
- Veteran Farmer or Rancher

I am interested in:

- Farm Number to enable me to participate in USDA financial assistance programs
- Loan
- Insurance
- Disaster Assistance
- Market Risk and Facilitation
- Conservation Plan
- Person to recommend resources in my area to help me gain experience or learn more about farming before I start

My current operation is:

- Conventional
- Certified Organic
- Transitioning to Organic
- Exempt from Organic Certification (sales below \$5,000/year)
- Mixture of Organic and Conventional
- Heirs' Property (see Navigating Complex Land Ownership on page 30)

I operate:

total acres including these land use types: rangeland pastureland forestland cropland

(If applicable) I currently produce: _____

I am considering producing the following agricultural products: _____

My conservation goals include:

- Soil** - reducing or preventing soil erosion; improving soil health and quality.
- Water** - irrigation and drainage water management; reducing flood damage; improving water quality on and off my farm.
- Air** - minimizing emissions and drift of particulate matter, pesticides, odors, and greenhouse gases.
- Plants** - improving plant productivity and health, increasing biodiversity, minimizing pests, and reducing wildfire threat.
- Animals** - providing feed, forage, water, and shelter for livestock; enhancing wildlife habitat or biodiversity.
- Humans** - economic and social considerations.
- Energy** - improving energy efficiency of equipment, facilities, practices, and field operations; reduction of emissions from nutrients and animal waste.
- Meeting National Organic Program (NOP) regulations.
- Extending the growing season and improving plant health with a high tunnel system.
- Other: _____

I want to:

- learn about serving on my local county committee.
- sign up for USDA email updates and/or learn how to get a farmers.gov profile.

Appendix 6: Notes and Service Center Information:

My local Service Center (farmers.gov/service-center-locator) is:

- Address: _____

- Phone Number: _____

Notes: _____

