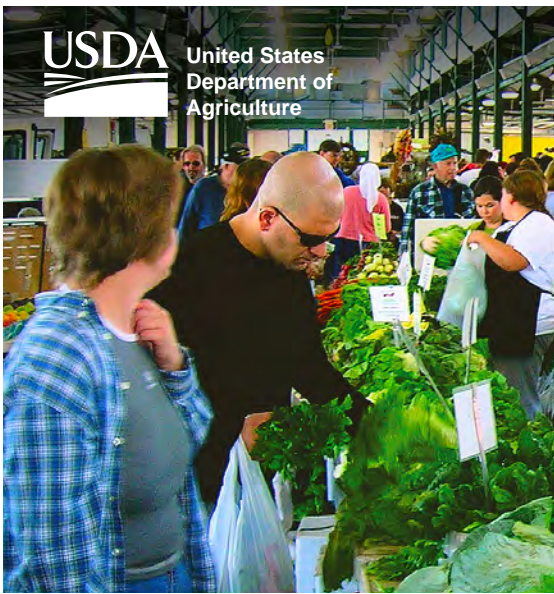




United States
Department of
Agriculture



Your guide to the new

Farm Bill

Local and Regional Food Systems

Below is a quick summary of changes to USDA local and regional food programs made under the new Farm Bill, enacted on February 7, 2014. To get started with USDA's local and regional food programs, visit www.usda.gov/knowyourfarmer to find resources and tools.

The laws governing some programs expire and must be reauthorized by Congress to extend the programs' lifespan. In addition to reauthorizations, the Farm Bill also includes funding for some programs, but most are funded through separate appropriations by Congress.

	USDA Programs	The New Farm Bill
Producer Tools	Value-Added Producer Grant Program	Provides \$63 million over the life of the bill and targets small and mid-sized farms, beginning and socially-disadvantaged producers, and veterans.
	Microloan Program	Continues microloan program targeted to smaller producers with streamlined application process.
	Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program	Restores and expands funding to \$100 million to train beginning farmers and ranchers, many of whom market their products locally.
Local Food Infrastructure	Business & Industry Guaranteed Loans	Continues a 5% set-aside of funds for local and regional food projects.
	Community Facilities Loans and Grants	Continues support for infrastructure in rural communities under 20,000 people, including community kitchens, farmers markets, food banks and other local food projects.
Marketing and Promotion	Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program	Expands the popular Farmers Market Promotion Program to include supply chain initiatives such as food hubs; boosts funding to \$30 million a year.
	Specialty Crop Block Grants	Increases funding to \$72.5 million per year through 2017 and \$85 million per year thereafter.
Healthy Food Access	Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives Program	Launches \$100 million program to help low-income consumers purchase fruits and vegetables, including locally-grown produce, by providing incentives at the point of purchase.
	Healthy Food Financing Initiative	Provides new authority for USDA to develop program; authorizes but does not appropriate \$125 million in funds.
	Community Food Projects	Funding increases to \$9 million in FY2015 and each year thereafter.