Value-Added Stock Loan Program

The Value-added Agricultural Product Loan Program helps farmers finance the purchase of stock in a cooperative, limited liability company, or limited liability partnership, or the purchase of stock in a stock cooperative, to support the growth of an agricultural enterprise. The program also assists farmers in the production and marketing of value-added products, such as value-added crops, livestock, and equipment.

Beginning Farmer/Aggie Bond Loan Program

The Aggie Bond Loan Program offers affordable financing for a qualified beginning farmer. This is accomplished by securing a reduced interest rate on the loan, the applicant is submitting for approval. Qualifying beginning farmers may purchase livestock, equipment, or land, buildings, and other permanent structures, including equipment incorporated in or permanently affixed to the land, buildings, or structures, which are useful for and intended to be used for the purpose of raising livestock. This loan program is designed to assist livestock producers with financing the sale of their farm by providing a portion of the financing. (The seller agrees to participate in the program.)

Manure Digester Loan Program

The Methane Digester Loan Program helps supplement the funds needed for livestock producers to install on-farm energy projects, such as wind, solar, and other renewable energy projects, that will help reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by livestock operations. This program is designed to help farmers invest in equipment and the construction of a system that will use manure to produce electricity.

The Farm Opportunity Loan Program

The Farm Opportunity Loan Program is designed to finance the purchase of equipment to add value to crops or livestock, adopt best management practices, reduce depreciable agricultural property such as livestock used for breeding purposes or dairy products (feeder cattle, feeder pigs or feeder lambs do not qualify), and farm machinery.
## Quick Reference to Assistance Programs

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| **RFA Beginning Farmer Loan Program** | **No loan maximum**                     | Purchase of farm real estate                                                     | **RFA portion - 2.0% interest rate**                             | **RFA: $50 application fee (non-refundable)** | **Must farm unit, be or intend to become full-time farmer**  
Net worth of less than $581,000 (including spouse and dependents)  
Have sufficient education, training or experience to succeed in intended farming practice  
Agree to enroll in farm business management program and consult with your local Soil and Water Conservation District office  
Agree to obtain credit life insurance for the amount of debt incurred to purchase the property |
| **RFA Seller-Assisted Loan Programs** | **RFA participation: 45% of first mortgage to a maximum of $400,000** | Purchase of farm real estate from seller willing to finance a portion of the purchase | **RFA portion - 2.0% interest rate**                             | **RFA: $50 application fee (non-refundable)** | **Same as Beginning Loan, plus**  
*Certify as the principal operator of the farm and that farming is the principal future occupation, and that the farm will be used for agricultural purposes only* |
| **RFA Agricultural Improvement Program** | **No limits, but RFA participation 45% of first mortgage to a max. of $400,000** | Finance capital improvements to farming operation. Can be used to improve land and/or structures, efficiency, productivity, or increase farm income. Also includes wind energy conversion up to one megawatt limited refinancing | **RFA portion - 2.25% interest rate**                             | **RFA: $50 application fee (non-refundable)** | **Must farm unit, be or become full-time farmer**  
Net worth of less than $581,000 (including spouse and dependents)  
Have sufficient education, training or experience to succeed in intended farming practice  
Consult with your local Soil and Water Conservation District office |
| **RFA Livestock Expansion Program** | **No limits, but RFA participation 45% of first mortgage to a max. of $250,000** | Finance improvements to livestock facilities (purchase of livestock not allowed) | **RFA portion - 2.5% interest rate**                             | **RFA: $50 application fee (non-refundable)** | **Must farm unit and farm full-time; at least one of the applicants must be the principal operator and actively engaged in a livestock operation**  
Net worth of less than $1,809,000 (including spouse and dependents) |
| **RFA Restructure II Program**    | **No limits, but RFA participation 45% of first mortgage to a max. of $250,000** | Restructure of agricultural debt for farmers in good credit standing but are having trouble meeting cash flow due to adverse events | **RFA portion - 2.5% interest rate**                             | **RFA: $50 application fee (non-refundable)** | **Must farm unit and farm full-time; at least one of the applicants must be the principal operator and actively engaged in a livestock operation**  
Net worth of less than $1,809,000 (including spouse and dependents) |
| **RFA Livestock Equipment Loan Program** | **No limits, but RFA participation 45% of equipment loan to a max. of $200,000** | Finance the purchase of livestock equipment for housing, confinement, feeding, watering, fencing, milk production and waste management (no refinancing) | **RFA portion - 2% fixed interest rate**                          | **RFA: $50 application fee (non-refundable)** | **Must farm unit and farm full-time; at least one of the applicants must be the principal operator and actively engaged in a livestock operation**  
Net worth of less than $484,266 (including spouse and dependents)  
**Show financial need and ability to repay loan** |
| **RFA Disaster Recovery Loan Program** | **RFA participation: 45% of loan up to a maximum of $200,000** | Finance, repair or replacement of structures and resources not covered by insurance after natural disaster. Replace floods, make building improvements, or cover loss of revenue due to avian influenza | **0% fixed interest rate**                                      | **RFA: $50 application fee (non-refundable)** | **Certify that the damage or loss was sustained within a county that was the subject of a state or federal disaster declaration, or due to avian influenza**  
**50% of average annual gross income from farming for the past three years** |
| **RFA Value-Added Stock Loan Program** | **RFA participation: 45% of loan up to a maximum of $40,000** | Finance the purchase of stock shares in commodity processing business | **2% fixed interest rate**                                      | **RFA: $50 application fee (non-refundable)** | **Be a grower of the agricultural product which is to be processed by an agricultural product processing facility**  
Have a total net worth of less than $484,266 (indexed for inflation), including the assets and liabilities of their spouse and dependents  
Security value must be 150% of total loan amount |
| **Methane Digester Loan Program** | **$250,000** | Finance the purchase and construction of a system designed to produce electricity from manure May be used as match for Federal loan/grant | **0% interest rate**                                            | **$100 application fee (non-refundable)** | **Provide evidence that the practices implemented and capital assets purchased will be properly managed and maintained**  
**Have not received a loan under this program** |
| **Farm Opportunity Loan Program** | **45% of the principal amount up to $100,000 per individual; 45% of the principal amount up to $250,000 per group** | Finance machinery or equipment to add value to crops or livestock; adopt best management practices; reduce or improve management of ag inputs resulting in environmental improvements; or increase production of on-farm energy (no refinancing) | **2% fixed interest rate for 10 years**                          | **RFA: $50 application fee (non-refundable)** | **Must farm unit and farm full-time**  
**Show financial need and ability to repay loan** |
| **Agricultural Microloan Program** | **$20,000** | Finance the production of specialty crops or eligible livestock | Interest rate to the intermediary lender is set at 0%. The lender may charge a rate of up to 10% to the farmer. Max loan term is 6 years | None | **Be a member of a protected group. Be a grower of a specialty crop or livestock. A borrower may receive loan funds up to 70% of the estimated value of the crop or livestock** |
| **RFA Beginning Farmer/Aggie Bond Loan** | **$552,500 maximum loan amount** | Purchase of farmland, buildings, new or used depreciable agricultural property such as breeding livestock, dairy livestock (feeder livestock excluded), and farm machinery (No refinancing) | **Reduced interest rate for buyer and tax benefit for lender**  
Average depreciable asset loan: 1-10 years  
Average real estate loan: 20-40 years | **RFA: $50 application fee (non-refundable)** | **Net worth of less than $851,000**  
Never have owned more than 30% of county median size farm where you reside  
Have sufficient education, training or experience to succeed in intended farming practice  
Agree to enroll in farm business management program and consult with your local Soil and Water Conservation District office  
Consult with your local Soil and Water Conservation District office |

*Note: All programs have specific criteria and requirements that must be met. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District office for more information.*