

Resources for Fishy Finances: Tips to Help Fund Your Fish Farm

Specialized Financial Services

Farm Credit Mid-America

e-farmcredit.com

Farm Credit Mid-America is a financial services cooperative in Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee that provides loans for real estate, operating costs, equipment, housing and related services for farmers and rural residents. Find a local branch at e-farmcredit.com/find-locations.

Contact a State or Regional Representative About Grant Programs

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

sare.org

A decentralized competitive grants and education program operating in every state and island protectorate, SARE is divided into four different regions that operate as separate entities and run grant programs for their states. Farmers can directly apply to programs such as the Farmer Rancher grant, Youth Educator grant, and Partnership grant. Search previously funded projects at projects.sare.org/search-projects.

North Central SARE northcentral.sare.org

Northeast SARE northeast.sare.org

Southern SARE southern.sare.org

Western SARE western.sare.org

U.S. Regional Aquaculture Centers

Established by the United States Congress for aquaculture research, development and demonstration and as the vehicle to implement USDA's National Aquaculture Development Plan, each center funds single- and multi- year projects that address critical and regionally important aquaculture issues. Aquaculture program contact Dr. Tim Sullivan can be reached at timothy.sullivan@usda.gov.

Center for Tropical & Subtropical Aquaculture ctsa.org

North Central Regional Aquaculture Center ncrac.org

Northeastern Regional Aquaculture Center agnr.umd.edu/research/research-and-education-centers-locations/northeastern-regional-aquaculture-center

Southern Regional Aquaculture Center srac.msstate.edu

Western Regional Aquaculture Center depts.washington.edu/wracuw

Also contact your state Department of Agriculture to find out what grant programs they have!



go.osu.edu/fishyfinances

USDA Grant Programs

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

nifa.usda.gov

USDA NIFA provides leadership and funding for programs that advance agriculture-related sciences. Find documentation and reporting on funded projects using the Current Research Information System (CRIS): cris.nifa.usda.gov

Small Business Innovation Research Program

nifa.usda.gov/program/small-business-innovation-research-program-sbir

USDA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program offers competitively awarded grants to qualified small businesses to support high quality research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefits. Aquaculture Program Contact Dr. Tim Sullivan can be reached at timothy.sullivan@usda.gov.

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)

nifa.usda.gov/program/beginning-farmer-and-rancher-development-program-bfrdp

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program provides grants to organizations for education, mentoring, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers or ranchers. BFRDP Program Contact Denis Ebodaghe can be reached at denis.ebodaghe@usda.gov.

USDA Rural Development

rd.usda.gov

Rural Development administers over 40 programs and supports rural communities with loan and grant investments of over \$50 billion annually. Find your state's office at rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices.

Rural Energy for America Program

The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) provides grants and loans to farmers and rural businesses interested in making energy efficiency improvements. The program also supports the purchase of wind, solar or other renewable energy systems, and provides grants to help farmers with energy audits and renewable energy development. It offers two types of assistance:

Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audits & Renewable Energy Development Grants rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency-improvement-guaranteed-loans

Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Loans & Grants rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency-improvement-guaranteed-loans

Value-Added Producer Grant

A value-added producer grant (dollar for dollar grant) can be used for planning, expansion, feasibility studies, business plan development, working capital to expand a market, or to develop new packaging. rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/value-added-producer-grants

USDA Farm Service Agency

fsa.usda.gov

The Farm Service Agency offers loans to help farmers and ranchers get the financing they need to start, expand or maintain a family farm. Find state offices at fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/index.

Farm Loan Discovery Tool farmers.gov/loans/farm-loan-discovery-tool

Disaster assistance programs fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index

Voluntary conservation-related programs fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/index

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation and disaster recovery programs nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home.

Grants Advising

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute

michaelfields.org

Assists farmers in acquiring resources to help them grow and market local products while using practices that benefit environmental and human health. A free service for farmers, agricultural entrepreneurs and institutions in the Upper Midwest (Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin).

Compilations of Grant Opportunities

ATTRA, the **National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service** keeps a list of grants with upcoming deadlines. attra.ncat.org/funding

National SARE has a downloadable guide, “Building Sustainable Farms, Ranches and Communities: A Guide to Federal Programs for Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry, Entrepreneurship, Conservation, Food Systems and Community Development.” sare.org/resources/building-sustainable-farms-ranches-and-communities

The **National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition** has an online guide that offers good concise information about basic requirements for programs and grants, the “Grassroots Guide to Federal Farm and Food Programs.” sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide

NOAA Fisheries has a downloadable guide, “Guide to Federal Aquaculture Grant and Financial Assistance Services 2021.” fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/guide-federal-aquaculture-grant-and-financial-assistance-services-2021

Webinar Resources

Great Lakes Aquaculture Collaborative Fishy Finances webinar recording

ohioseagrant.osu.edu/p/g5lbq originally held November 17, 2021

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USDA Rural Development

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USDA NIFA

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Great Lakes Aquaculture Collaborative

greatlakesseagrant.com/aquaculture The collective supports aquaculture via relevant, science-based initiatives. The website includes upcoming and past events along with on-going research.

Great Lakes Fresh Fish Finder

freshfishfinder.org Find fish businesses in the Great Lakes region, along with information on how to add your business.

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