The USDA Farm Loan Programs are administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), an agency of USDA. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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Loan Process
Here’s what to expect on your FSA Youth Loan journey.

Work on Your Application
- Review Youth Loan eligibility requirements.
- Work with your project advisor (leader of your agricultural youth organization such as 4-H, FFA, etc.) to develop your project plan.
- Determine which USDA Service Center to visit.
- Discuss the requirements with a Loan Officer.
- Develop a project budget and get it signed by your project advisor and parent/guardian.
- Complete the required FSA form.
- If you are 18 or older, gather required additional items.

Finalize and Submit Your Application

Receive Loan Decision Letter by Mail

Close Loan
Review all the closing requirements and accept the loan conditions presented in the approval letter.

Receive the Money
Funds will be disbursed by a Loan Officer.

Loan Servicing
Make sure to account for all loan funds (including providing receipts for items you buy).

Complete Your Project!
Partner With A Loan Officer

Service Center employees are here to assist you throughout your loan journey.

Loan Officers will:
• Assist you during the entire loan process.
• Help to educate you on how a Youth Loan works.
• Give feedback and suggestions on your business plan and project.
• Provide supervision throughout the life of the loan.
• Work with you in person, via email, and on the phone.

Are you ready to connect with a Loan Officer?

Follow These Steps:

1. Find your local Service Center online at: https://www.farmers.gov/service-locator or contact an agriculture representative to find out where a Service Center is located.

   Call before visiting a Service Center. If the Service Center you call does not have Farm Loan Programs employees, you will be directed to a Service Center that does.

2. Call to schedule an appointment with a Loan Officer at a Service Center. (Walk-ins are welcome, but Loan Officers may be unavailable at that time.)
Eligibility Requirements

These are general eligibility requirements that you need to meet in addition to the project requirements.

Youth Loan applicants must:

• Be between the ages of 10 and 20 years at the time of loan closing; and parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) must consent to the loan application (if under 18).
• Be a United States citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified legal alien.
• Have no controlled substance convictions.
• Have no past due debt problems.
• Have not caused the Government a financial loss on previous loan assistance.

Note: There may also be additional requirements that your Loan Officer will discuss with you.

What is a Youth Loan?

Loan Purposes
You can only use Youth Loan funds to pay the expenses associated with your approved project. You can use the funds to:
• Buy livestock or equipment.
• Rent or repair needed tools and equipment.
• Pay operating expenses for the project such as seed, feed, and supplies.

Note: Funds cannot be used to finance exotic birds, tropical fish, dogs, or horses used for racing, pleasure, show, and boarding or any other enterprises not typically associated with human consumption, fiber or draft use.

Project Requirements
The approved project you are financing must:
• Produce sufficient income to repay the loan amount plus accrued interest in full (if not, a co-signer is required).
• Be related to agriculture.
• Be educational.
• Be part of an organized and supervised program such as 4-H, FFA, etc. to develop your project plan.

Loan Amount
The maximum loan amount is $5,000. There is no minimum loan amount. The funding comes from congressional appropriations as part of the USDA budget. Interest rates are calculated monthly and are posted on the 1st of each month; view them here: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans.
FSA Required Form and Items

These are some of the items you will need to complete your application.

Check the box below once you have completed the form. A Loan Officer can provide you with an application form. You can also download the form as a PDF on the FSA Youth Loans webpage (https://www.fsa.usda.gov/youthloans).

✅ Item Name

☐ FSA-2301: “Request for Youth Loan”

If you are 18 years or older, supply these additional items too.

☐ Credit report fee, using personal or bank check, made payable to the Farm Service Agency

☐ Verification of income, debts, and assets (for example, recent pay stubs and statements for credit cards, loans, and bank accounts)
Still Need Help?

The following online resources can help answer your questions.

Talk to a Loan Officer, 4-H or FFA representative, or your state’s 4-H extension agent to learn more. If you do not have internet access, a Loan Officer can send you resources and provide state-specific resources.

**Farmers.gov**
https://www.farmers.gov

Farmers.gov provides farmers, ranchers, private foresters, and agricultural producers with educational materials, engagement opportunities, and business tools to increase efficiency and productivity.

**Find Your Local Service Center**
https://www.farmers.gov/service-locator

Use this online tool to search for your Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Risk Management Agency Service Centers by state and county.

**Youth Loans**
https://www.fsa.usda.gov/youthloans

Here you will find more in-depth information about applying for a Youth Loan.