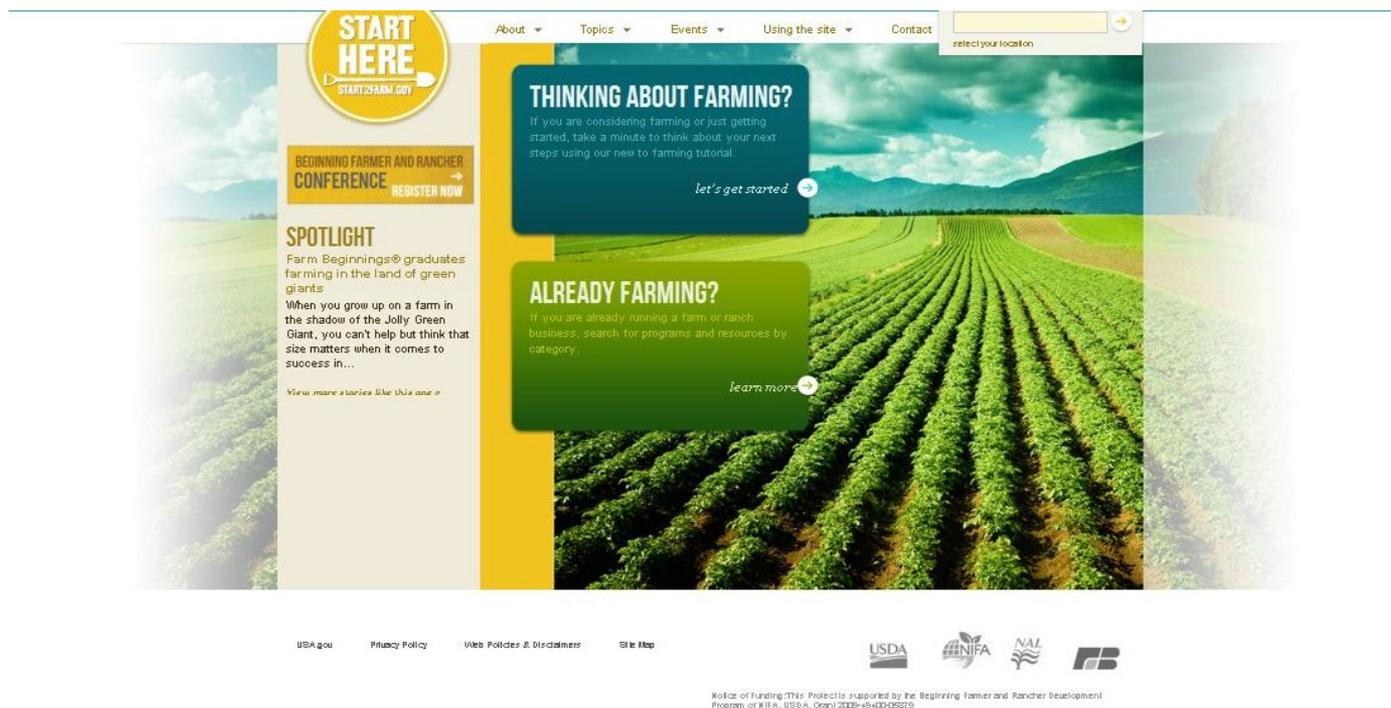


# Start2Farm.gov

An Introduction to the Website

# Welcome, to the Start2Farm website located at [Start2Farm.gov](http://Start2Farm.gov).

This brief tutorial will walk you through the features of this site.



Start2Farm is a special project of the  
Beginning Farmer and Rancher  
Development Program  
of the USDA National Institute of Food  
and Agriculture (NIFA).

Grant# 2009-49400-05879

# The two reasons for Start2Farm

1. To create a clearinghouse of available training and services for beginning farmers and ranchers. The clearinghouse is what you are accessing when you use Start2Farm.gov.
2. To provide a national conference for beginning farmers and ranchers.

The first thing you may notice is the large, yellow Start2Farm logo located in the upper left corner. Click this logo at any time to return to the [home page](#).



# Using the Site

The two main features of the home page are the **Thinking About Farming** and **Already Farming** buttons. To start using the site simply click the one that applies to you.

For more information about searching the site please access the 'Using the site' tutorial located in the [site help](#) section.



# Thinking About Farming

If you are *Thinking About Farming*, click the first button and take a minute and read through the [New to Farming tutorial](#). It is a brief guide to some important considerations when starting a farm.

At the end, you will have the option of returning to the topics pages to find more in depth resources.



The screenshot shows the Start2Farm.gov website. At the top left is a yellow circular logo with the text "START HERE" and "START2FARM.GOV" below it. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with links for "About", "Topics", "Events", "Using the site", and "Contact". Below the menu is a "Home" link. On the far right is a search bar with the placeholder text "select your location" and a search button. The main content area features a large image of a woman in a pink shirt and white visor standing in a tomato field. A small white box in the top right corner of the image says "slide 1 of 6". To the right of the image is the title "THE 4 'P'S FOR NEW FARMERS" in blue. Below the title is a paragraph of text: "Welcome to Start2Farm.gov. If you are considering starting a farm but are new to farming, you've found the right place." This is followed by two paragraphs of text explaining the benefits of farming and the importance of preparation. Below the text is a section titled "So take a moment to check out the 4 Ps for New Farmers:" followed by a numbered list: 1. Purpose, 2. Plan, 3. Product, 4. People. At the bottom right of the slide is a "Next" button.

**START HERE**  
START2FARM.GOV

About Topics Events Using the site Contact

select your location

Home

slide 1 of 6

## THE 4 "P'S FOR NEW FARMERS

*Welcome to Start2Farm.gov. If you are considering starting a farm but are new to farming, you've found the right place.*

Successful farmers will tell you that there is no better life than being a farmer. Farmers take good care of the land and water for future generations. Physical work helps farm families stay healthy. Farmers work together with their neighbors to build strong, close knit communities. Farmers feed families, individuals, and communities who may be close by or located throughout the world.

But being a farmer or rancher is not simply a job change. It is a life change. This short introduction will alert you to a few of the questions you need to consider before taking on a farm or ranch business.

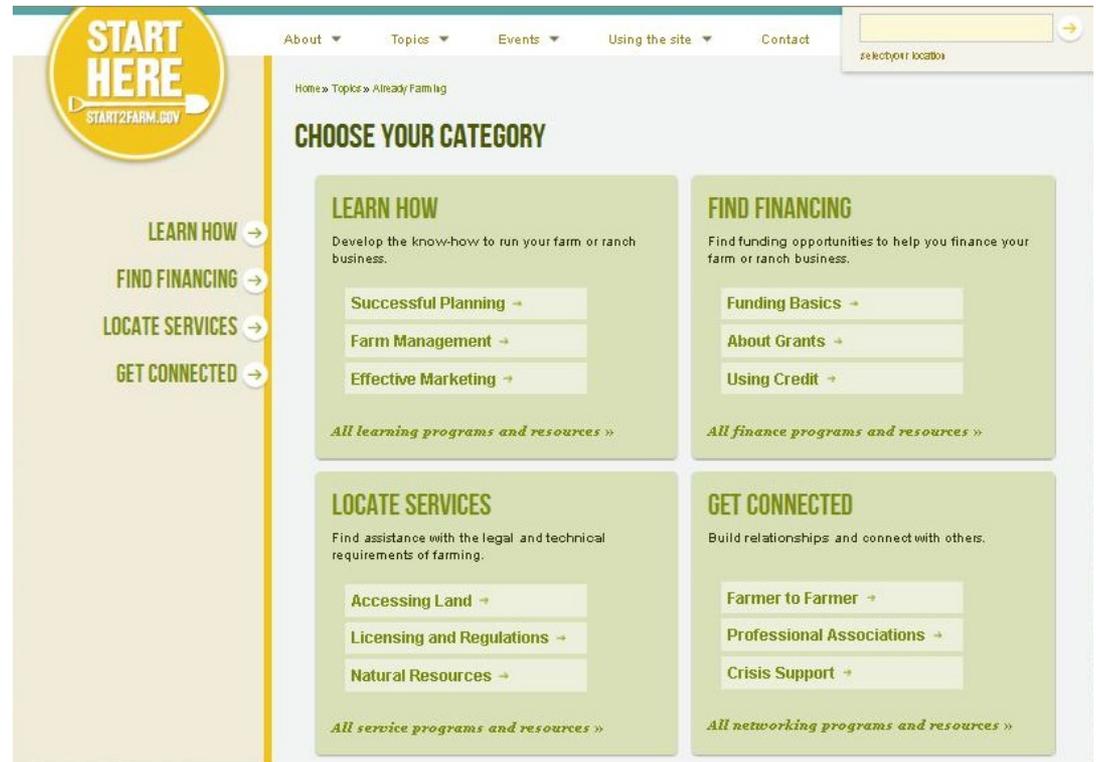
*So take a moment to check out the 4 Ps for New Farmers:*

1. *Purpose*
2. *Plan*
3. *Product*
4. *People*

Next

# Already Farming

The ***Already Farming*** button will take you to our [topics pages](#) where you can browse through our most requested topics to find resources.





You are able to access the **Thinking About Farming** and **Already Farming** sections from any page using the **Topics** tab located at the top of the page.

The screenshot shows the Start2Farm website interface. At the top left is a circular logo with the text 'START HERE' and 'START2FARM.GOV'. The navigation bar includes 'About', 'Topics', 'Events', 'Using the site', and 'Contact'. A search box is located on the right. The 'Topics' dropdown menu is open, showing 'New to Farming' and 'Already Farming' with a right-pointing arrow. Below the navigation is a 'Home » About' breadcrumb. The main content area features the heading 'ABOUT S' and 'What is Start2Farm?'. A paragraph describes the site as a project of the National Agricultural Library in partnership with the American Farm Bureau Federation, funded through a USDA, NIFA, and Beginning Farming and Ranching Development Program grant. Below this are logos for USDA, NIFA, NAL, and a red and black logo. A paragraph of legislative authority follows. Three bolded questions are listed: 'What is the purpose of Start2Farm?', 'What will I find on Start2Farm.gov?', and 'What if my program or resource appears on Start2Farm.gov?'. At the bottom is a table with two columns: 'Attachment' and 'Size'.

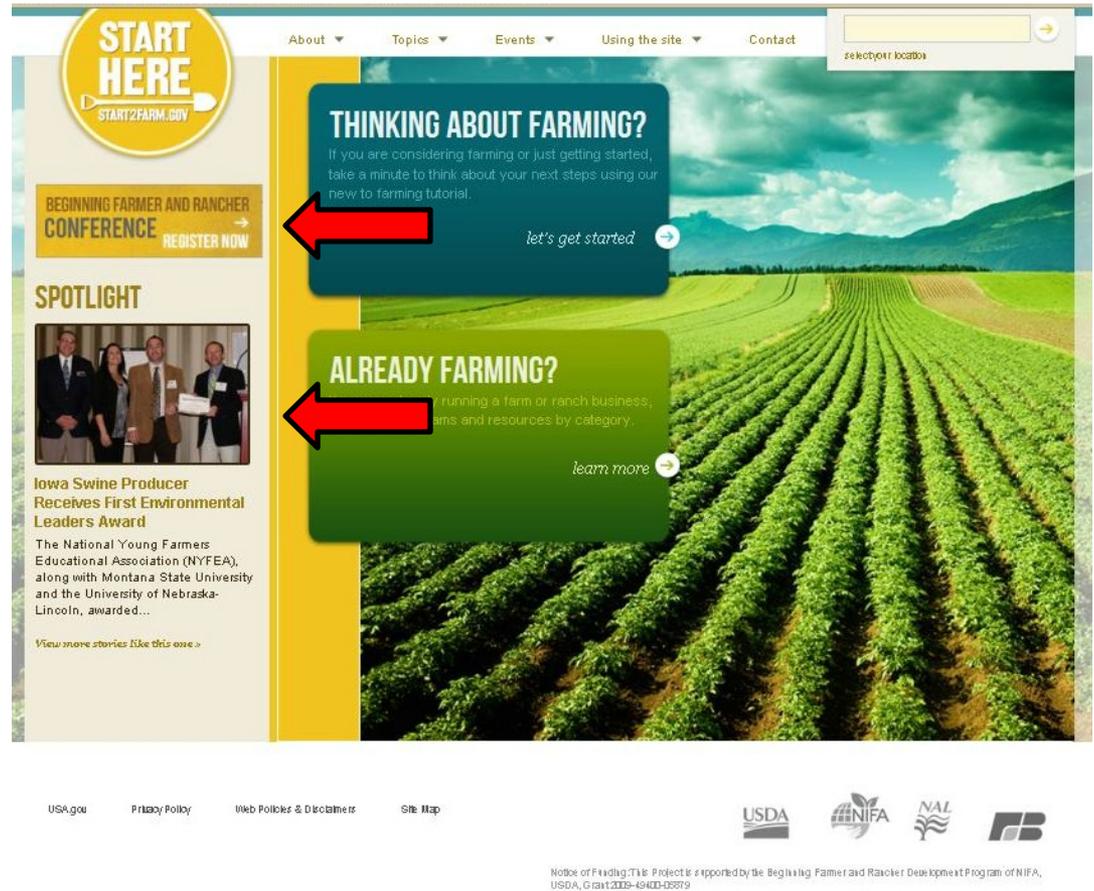
Attachment	Size
<a href="#">START2FARM Linking Policy</a>	110.79 KB
<a href="#">START2FARM Collection Development Policy</a>	124.34 KB
<a href="#">s2f-logo.gif</a>	6.95 KB

# Home Page Features

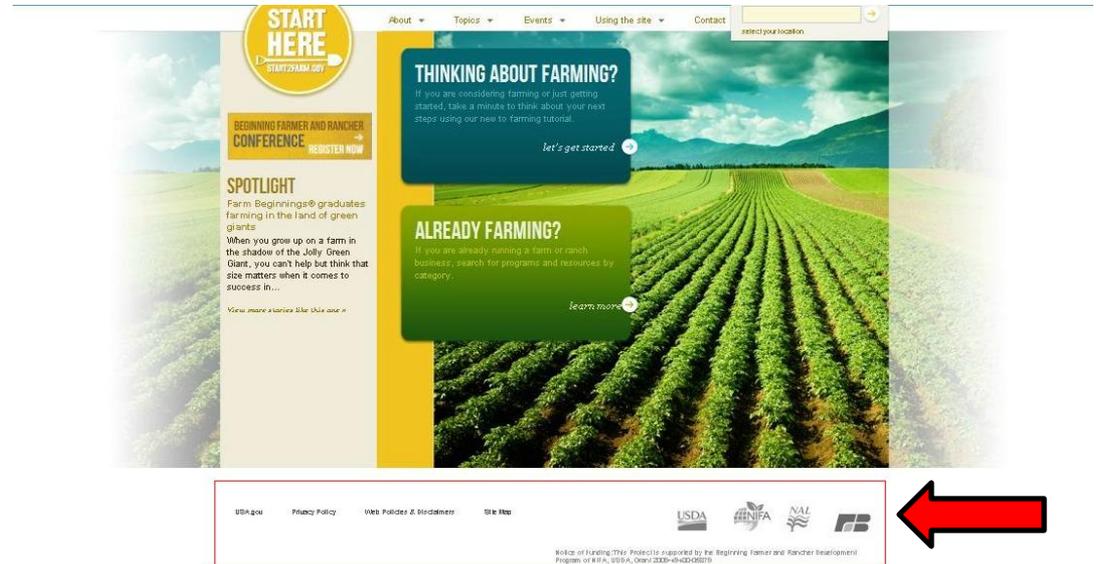
Below the logo you will find a space for special action items.

Currently it is directing users to register for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher conference.

The ***Spotlight*** section highlights the work and achievements of other programs funded through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program.



# Home Page Features

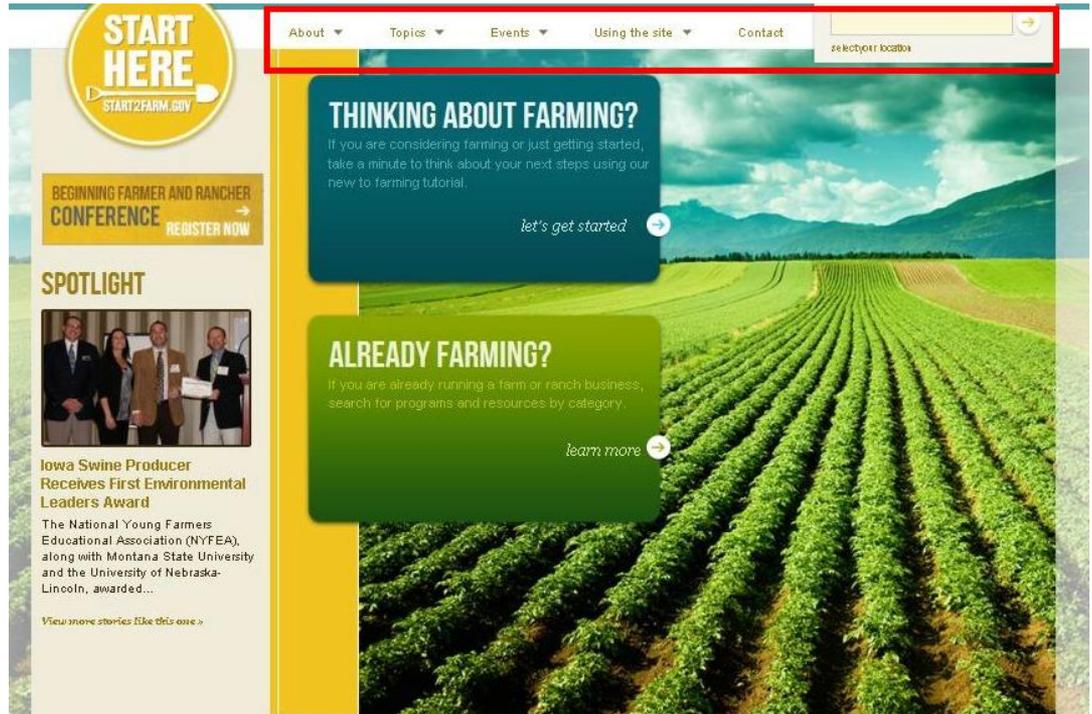


Along the bottom of the page you will find access to all site policies and links to our partners.

# Home Page Features

The top of the page includes all site navigation tabs and the search box.

For more information about searching the site please view the *'Using the site'* tutorial located in the [site help](#) section.

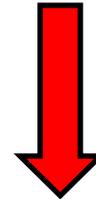


## About Start2Farm

The first navigation tab takes you to the [About](#) sections of the website.

This section provides a more in depth explanation of [Start2Farm](#), the [Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program](#), and other [USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher](#) programs.

Please take some time to review these sections and learn more about Beginning Farmer and Rancher initiatives at the USDA.



## Events- Calendar

The events tab includes a calendar of training events.

You may view the entire calendar by clicking [View Entire Calendar](#) in the left menu.

A screenshot of the 'Start Here' website. The top navigation bar includes 'About', 'Topics', 'Events', 'Using the site', and 'Contact'. A search box is on the right. The left sidebar features a 'START HERE' logo and a 'VIEW ENTIRE CALENDAR' link with the text 'Learn how to add your event to this calendar.' The main content area is titled 'UPCOMING EVENTS' and lists the 'Future Harvest Beginner Farmer Training Program (BFTP) 2012 Program Year' on October 25, 2011, in the Chesapeake region. Below this, there is a detailed description of the program, including application information and contact details for Cathy Tipper.

START HERE  
START2FARM.GOV

VIEW ENTIRE CALENDAR  
Learn how to add your event to this calendar.

Home » Events

### UPCOMING EVENTS

*Future Harvest Beginner Farmer Training Program (BFTP) 2012 Program Year*

October 25, 2011  
all day  
Chesapeake region

Now Accepting Applications for the 2012 Beginner Farmer Training Program  
Future Harvest-Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture is now accepting applications from new farmers across the Chesapeake region interested in participating in the Beginner Farmer Training Program (BFTP) 2012 program year.

We recruit five to ten trainees, mostly college graduates with some farming experience and a commitment to a career in sustainable and/or organic agriculture. The program is free to participants. Email a statement of interest, resume, and 3 professional references to Cathy Tipper, [crtipper@aol.com](mailto:crtipper@aol.com), by November 30, 2011. For more information about the program, visit [www.futureharvestoasa.org](http://www.futureharvestoasa.org) or call Cathy at 410-218-3620.

## Events- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Conference

The Start2Farm conference mandate is fulfilled by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Conference which is put on jointly each year with the Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers conference.

Information about the current and previous conferences, including registration, is available in the events section under [BFR Conference](#).

Start2Farm and the American Farm Bureau Federation PRESENT

### 2nd Annual Beginning Farmer and Rancher Conference

February 18-20, 2012 in Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Conference Sessions Include:**

- > Legal and Tax Issues
- > Knowing Your Farm Insurance
- > Experience Sharing
- > Business Planning
- > Marketing and MORE!!

**Register by December 15 for Early Bird Discount!**  
Registration closes January 17

To register or for more information visit [www.start2farm.gov](http://www.start2farm.gov) or call 1-800-633-7701

**START HERE**  
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

TO REGISTER

# Using the Site



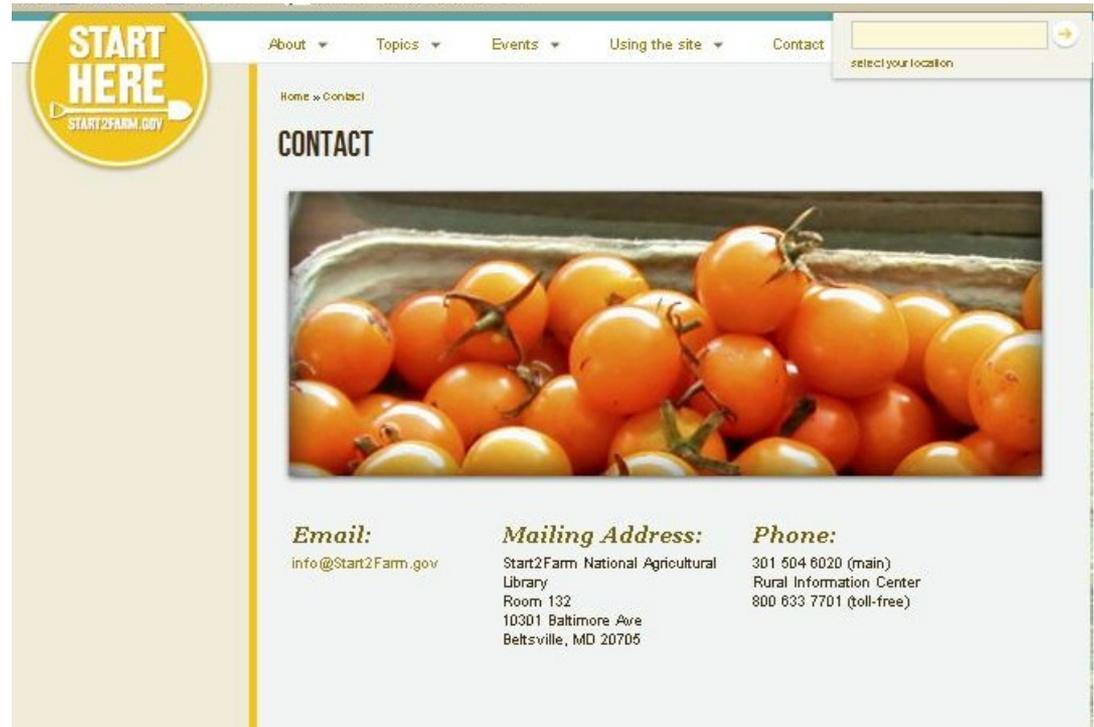
The [Using the Site](#) tab contains tutorials on using Start2Farm in a variety of formats.

You may also use this tab to access the [site map](#).



## Contact Start2Farm

If you need help using the site or if you have questions please [Contact](#) us.



The screenshot shows the 'CONTACT' page of the Start2Farm website. At the top left is a circular logo with 'START HERE' and 'START2FARM.GOV'. The navigation menu includes 'About', 'Topics', 'Events', 'Using the site', and 'Contact'. A dropdown menu for 'select your location' is open, indicated by a red arrow. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail 'Home » Contact' and the heading 'CONTACT'. A large image of a basket of yellow cherry tomatoes is displayed. Below the image, contact information is provided in three columns: Email (info@Start2Farm.gov), Mailing Address (Start2Farm National Agricultural Library, Room 132, 10301 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705), and Phone (301 504 6020 (main), Rural Information Center, 800 633 7701 (toll-free)).

This concludes our introduction to  
Start2Farm.gov

