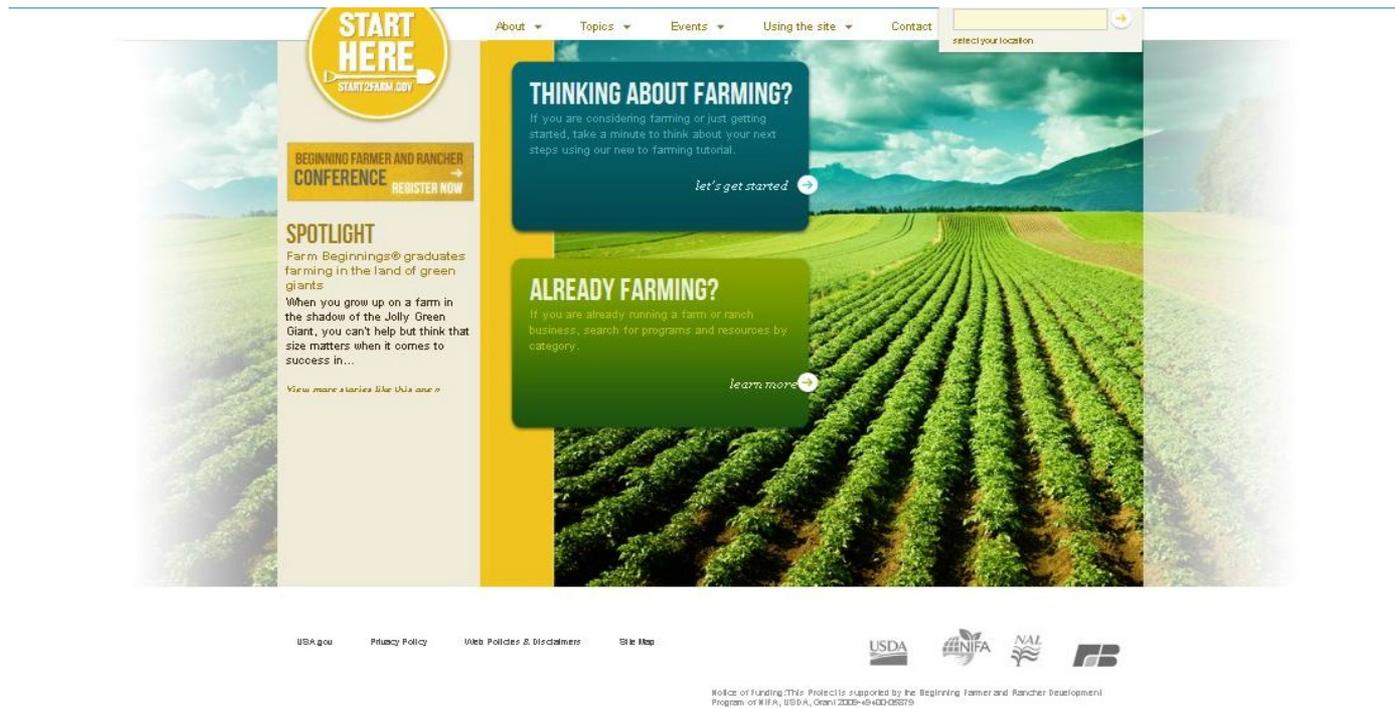


Start2Farm.gov

**Searching the Website**

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

This brief tutorial will show you how to search this site for information.



# There are two ways to search the Start2Farm clearinghouse

- *Browsing* through the topics
- *Searching* using keywords



Browsing

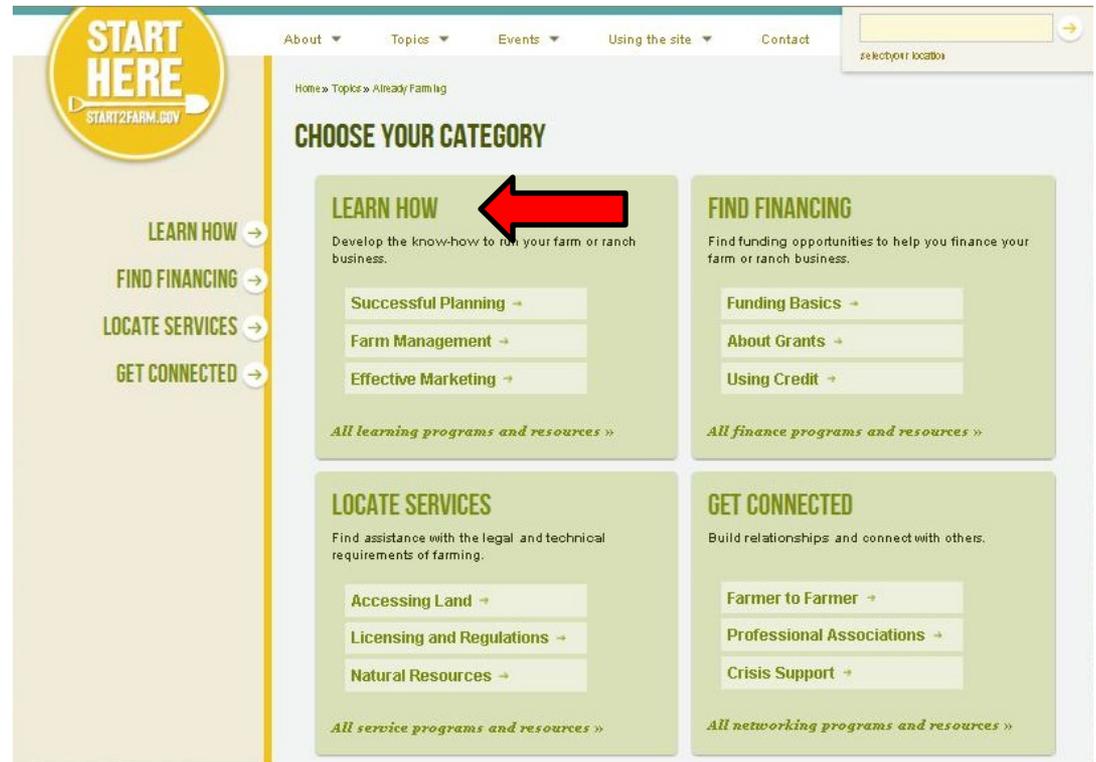
# Browsing

To browse the site use the **Already Farming** button to access the most frequently requested topics.



## Browsing- Categories

Click on one of the four categories to get a longer list of topics or select a topic to get a list of programs and resources.



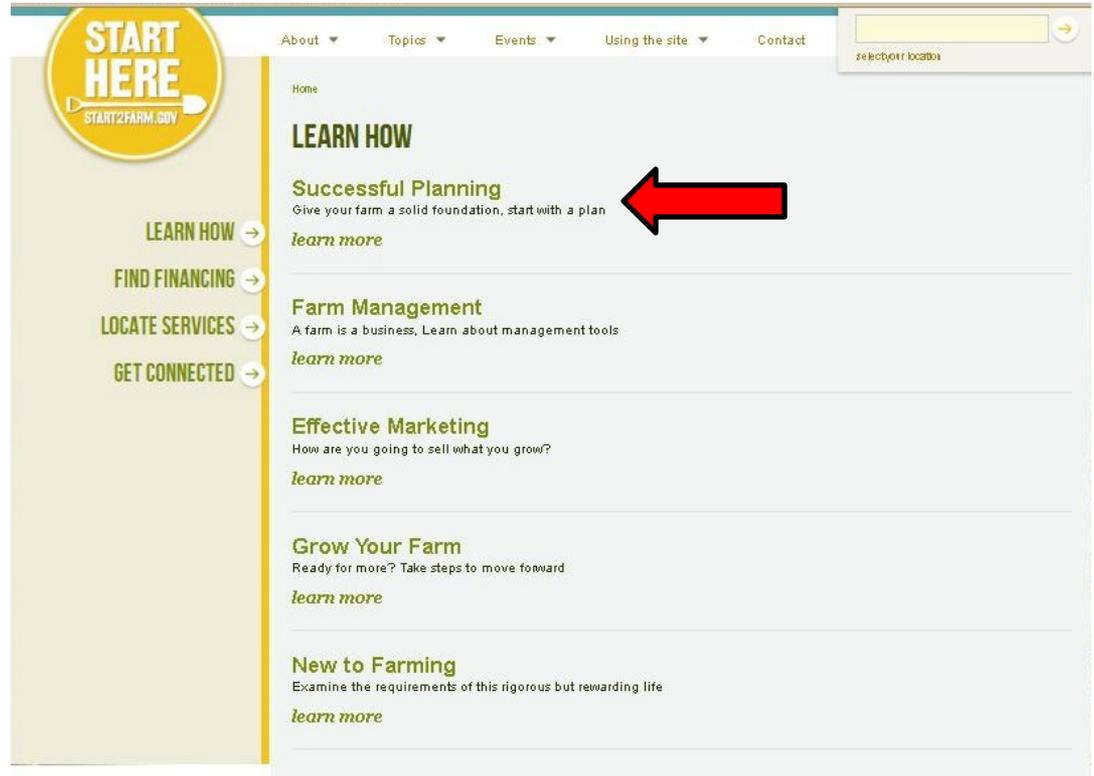
The screenshot shows the 'START HERE' website interface. At the top left is a circular logo with 'START HERE' and 'START2FARM.GOV'. The navigation bar includes 'About', 'Topics', 'Events', 'Using the site', and 'Contact'. A search bar is located at the top right. Below the navigation, the breadcrumb trail reads 'Home » Topics » Already Farming'. The main heading is 'CHOOSE YOUR CATEGORY'. There are four category boxes arranged in a 2x2 grid:

- LEARN HOW**: Develop the know-how to run your farm or ranch business. Includes links for 'Successful Planning', 'Farm Management', and 'Effective Marketing'. A red arrow points to this category.
- FIND FINANCING**: Find funding opportunities to help you finance your farm or ranch business. Includes links for 'Funding Basics', 'About Grants', and 'Using Credit'.
- LOCATE SERVICES**: Find assistance with the legal and technical requirements of farming. Includes links for 'Accessing Land', 'Licensing and Regulations', and 'Natural Resources'.
- GET CONNECTED**: Build relationships and connect with others. Includes links for 'Farmer to Farmer', 'Professional Associations', and 'Crisis Support'.

Each category box has a link at the bottom: 'All learning programs and resources', 'All finance programs and resources', 'All service programs and resources', and 'All networking programs and resources' respectively.

## Browsing- Topics

Click on a topic to get a list of programs and resources.



The screenshot shows the 'START HERE' website interface. At the top left is a circular logo with 'START HERE' and 'START2FARM.GOV'. The top navigation bar includes links for 'About', 'Topics', 'Events', 'Using the site', and 'Contact'. A search box with the placeholder 'select your location' is in the top right. The main content area is titled 'LEARN HOW' and lists several topics, each with a brief description and a 'learn more' link. A red arrow points to the 'Successful Planning' link.

**START HERE**  
START2FARM.GOV

About Topics Events Using the site Contact

select your location

Home

**LEARN HOW**

**Successful Planning**  
Give your farm a solid foundation, start with a plan  
[learn more](#)

**Farm Management**  
A farm is a business. Learn about management tools  
[learn more](#)

**Effective Marketing**  
How are you going to sell what you grow?  
[learn more](#)

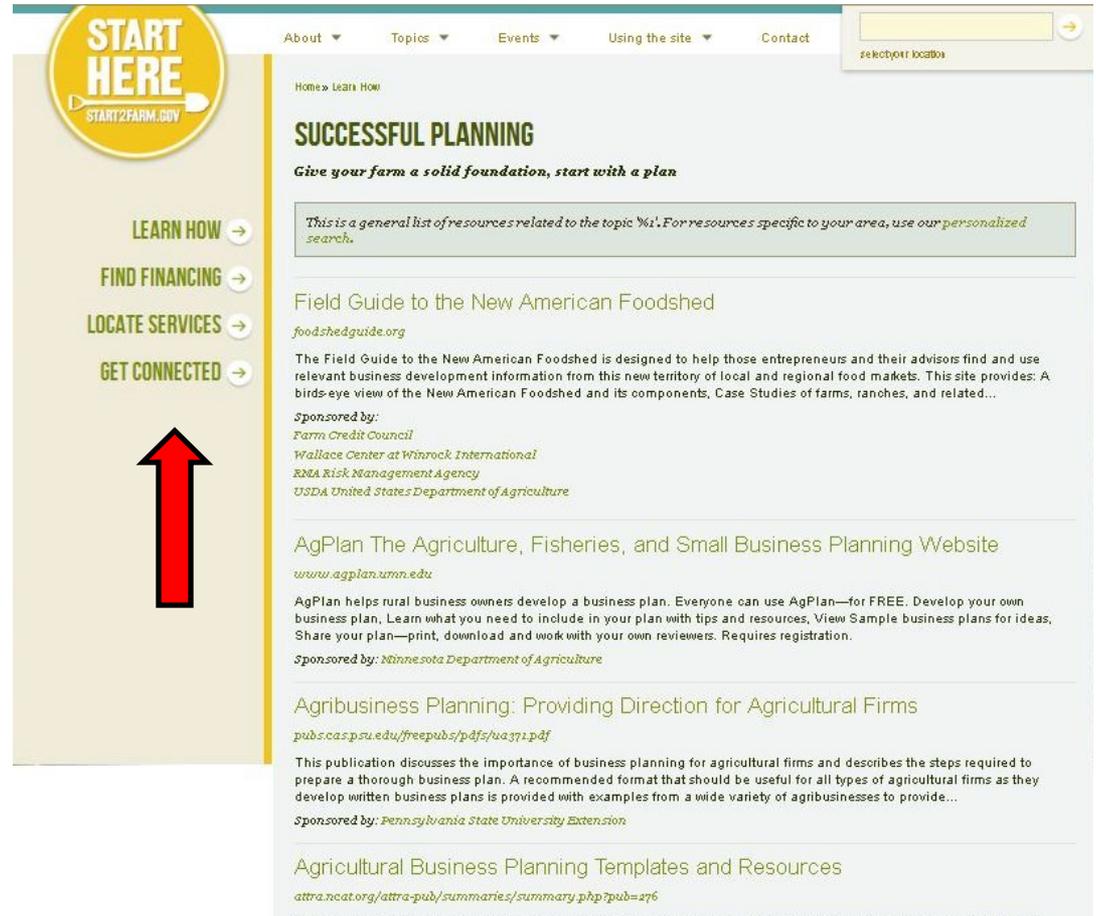
**Grow Your Farm**  
Ready for more? Take steps to move forward  
[learn more](#)

**New to Farming**  
Examine the requirements of this rigorous but rewarding life  
[learn more](#)

LEARN HOW →  
FIND FINANCING →  
LOCATE SERVICES →  
GET CONNECTED →

## Browsing- Topic Lists

You may use the options menu on the left side to return to one of the broader categories.



The screenshot shows the 'START HERE' website interface. On the left, a vertical sidebar contains a 'START HERE' logo and four menu items: 'LEARN HOW', 'FIND FINANCING', 'LOCATE SERVICES', and 'GET CONNECTED'. A red arrow points to the 'LEARN HOW' option. The main content area features a navigation bar with 'About', 'Topics', 'Events', 'Using the site', and 'Contact'. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'SUCCESSFUL PLANNING' with the subtitle 'Give your farm a solid foundation, start with a plan'. A text box explains that the page is a general list of resources. The main content lists three resources: 'Field Guide to the New American Foodshed', 'AgPlan The Agriculture, Fisheries, and Small Business Planning Website', and 'Agribusiness Planning: Providing Direction for Agricultural Firms'. Each resource includes a brief description and a list of sponsors.

**START HERE**  
START2FARM.GOV

About Topics Events Using the site Contact

select your location

Home » Learn How

### SUCCESSFUL PLANNING

*Give your farm a solid foundation, start with a plan*

This is a general list of resources related to the topic %1. For resources specific to your area, use our personalized search.

**LEARN HOW** →

**FIND FINANCING** →

**LOCATE SERVICES** →

**GET CONNECTED** →

Field Guide to the New American Foodshed  
*foodshedguide.org*

The Field Guide to the New American Foodshed is designed to help those entrepreneurs and their advisors find and use relevant business development information from this new territory of local and regional food markets. This site provides: A birds-eye view of the New American Foodshed and its components, Case Studies of farms, ranches, and related...

*Sponsored by:*  
Farm Credit Council  
Wallace Center at Winrock International  
EMA Risk Management Agency  
USDA United States Department of Agriculture

AgPlan The Agriculture, Fisheries, and Small Business Planning Website  
*www.agplan.umn.edu*

AgPlan helps rural business owners develop a business plan. Everyone can use AgPlan—for FREE. Develop your own business plan. Learn what you need to include in your plan with tips and resources. View Sample business plans for ideas. Share your plan—print, download and work with your own reviewers. Requires registration.

*Sponsored by: Minnesota Department of Agriculture*

Agribusiness Planning: Providing Direction for Agricultural Firms  
*pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/wa371.pdf*

This publication discusses the importance of business planning for agricultural firms and describes the steps required to prepare a thorough business plan. A recommended format that should be useful for all types of agricultural firms as they develop written business plans is provided with examples from a wide variety of agribusinesses to provide...

*Sponsored by: Pennsylvania State University Extension*

Agricultural Business Planning Templates and Resources  
*attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=276*



Searching using Keywords

## Searching with keywords

To search the site, simply type a keyword into the search box located in the upper right hand corner of your screen and click enter.



# Search Results

Once you have entered a term, a list of programs and resources will appear that are relevant to your search term.

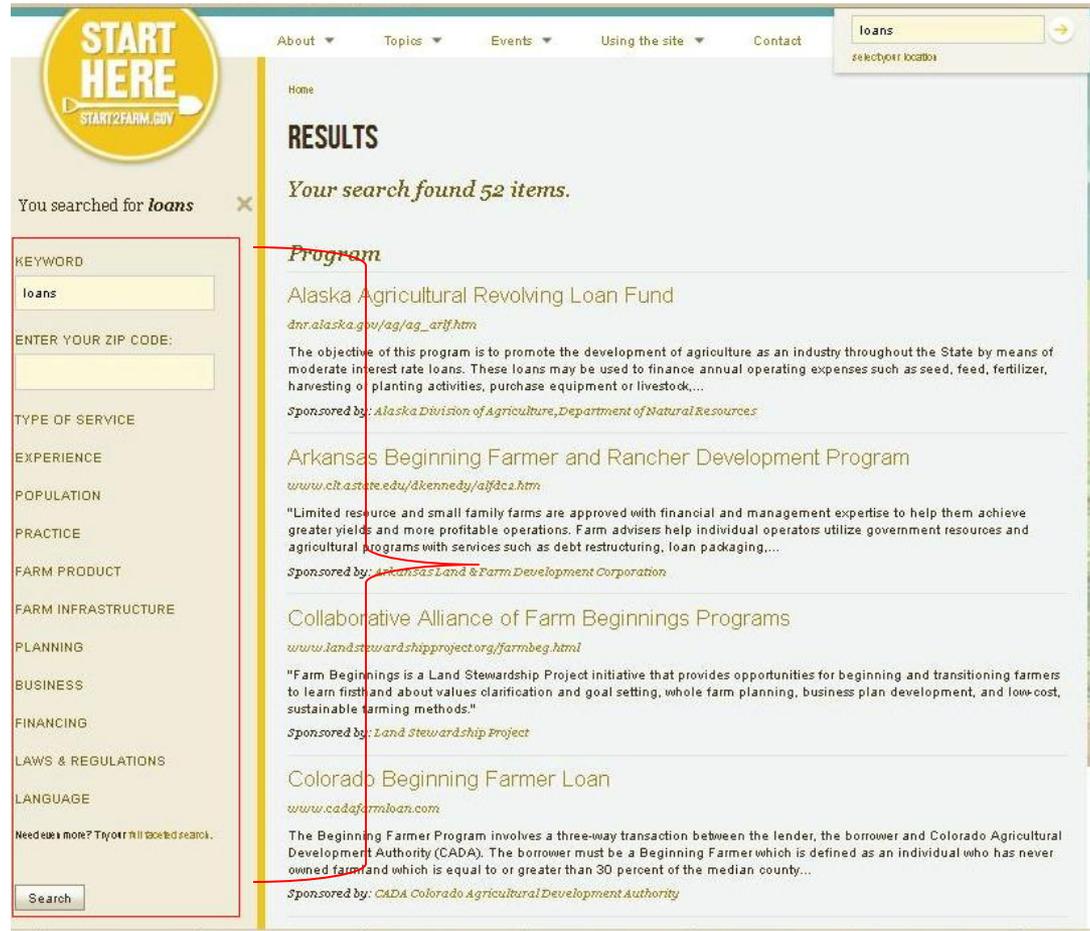
The screenshot shows the 'START HERE' website interface. At the top left is a circular logo with 'START HERE' and 'START2FARM.GOV'. The top navigation bar includes 'About', 'Topics', 'Events', 'Using the site', and 'Contact'. A search bar at the top right contains the term 'loans' and a 'select your location' dropdown. The main content area displays 'RESULTS' and states 'Your search found 52 items.' Below this, three search results are listed:

- Alaska Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund**  
[dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag\\_arlf.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_arlf.htm)  
The objective of this program is to promote the development of agriculture as an industry throughout the State by means of moderate interest rate loans. These loans may be used to finance annual operating expenses such as seed, feed, fertilizer, harvesting or planting activities, purchase equipment or livestock...  
*Sponsored by: Alaska Division of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources*
- Arkansas Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program**  
[www.clt.astate.edu/akenedy/alfaca.htm](http://www.clt.astate.edu/akenedy/alfaca.htm)  
"Limited resource and small family farms are approved with financial and management expertise to help them achieve greater yields and more profitable operations. Farm advisers help individual operators utilize government resources and agricultural programs with services such as debt restructuring, loan packaging,....  
*Sponsored by: Arkansas Land & Farm Development Corporation*
- Collaborative Alliance of Farm Beginnings Programs**  
[www.landstewardshipproject.org/farmbeg.html](http://www.landstewardshipproject.org/farmbeg.html)  
"Farm Beginnings is a Land Stewardship Project initiative that provides opportunities for beginning and transitioning farmers to learn firsthand about values clarification and goal setting, whole farm planning, business plan development, and low-cost, sustainable farming methods."  
*Sponsored by: Land Stewardship Project*

Below these results is the 'Colorado Beginning Farmer Loan' section, which is partially visible. The left sidebar contains a search filter for 'loans' and a list of categories including 'TYPE OF SERVICE', 'EXPERIENCE', 'POPULATION', 'PRACTICE', 'FARM PRODUCT', 'FARM INFRASTRUCTURE', 'PLANNING', 'BUSINESS', 'FINANCING', 'LAWS & REGULATIONS', and 'LANGUAGE'. A 'Search' button is located at the bottom of the sidebar.

# Narrowing Search Results

Once you receive results, you will notice that there are options for narrowing your search on the left hand side of the page.



## Searching in your area

To reorder your search results by area, enter your zip code and click 'Search'.



**START HERE**  
START2FARM.GOV

About Topics Events Using the site Contact

loans  
select your location

Home

### RESULTS IN YOUR AREA

Your search found 10 local resources.

#### Service Centers

Name	Agency Type	Site Name	Address	City	State	Zip
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY	Farm Service Agency	UPPER MARLBORO SERVICE CENTER	5301 MARLBORO RACE TRACK RD	UPPER MARLBORO	MD	20772
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY SERVICE CENTER	Natural Resources Conservation Service	UPPER MARLBORO SERVICE CENTER	5301 MARLBORO RACE TRACK RD	UPPER MARLBORO	MD	20772

*This is a list of USDA Service Centers that serve counties near you.*

#### Program

##### Farm Operating Loan Program

[www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmip&topic=dfi-do](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmip&topic=dfi-do)

"Operating Loans may be used to purchase items such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other operating expenses. Operating Loans can also be used to pay for minor improvements to buildings, costs associated with land and water development, family subsistence, and to..."

*Sponsored by: FSA Farm Service Agency*

##### FSA Direct Farm Ownership Loan

[www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmip&topic=dfi-di](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmip&topic=dfi-di)

"With a Direct Farm Ownership Loan, you can purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings and other fixtures, and promote soil and water conservation." See your State Farm Service Agency office of Applications: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateOffices?area=stoffice&subject=landing&topic=landing>

*Sponsored by: FSA Farm Service Agency*

##### FSA Emergency Farm Loan Program

You searched for **loans** near zip code **20705**

KEYWORD: loans

ENTER YOUR ZIP CODE: 20705

TYPE OF SERVICE

EXPERIENCE

POPULATION

PRACTICE

FARM PRODUCT

FARM INFRASTRUCTURE

PLANNING

BUSINESS

FINANCING

LAWS & REGULATIONS

LANGUAGE

Need more? Try our related search.

## Narrowing by category

You may also use the categories to narrow your search.

Click on a category to open the available options and select the topics that are closest to your criteria.

Then click 'search'.

You searched for **loans** near zip code **20705**

KEYWORD:

ENTER YOUR ZIP CODE:

TYPE OF SERVICE

EXPERIENCE

POPULATION

PRACTICE

FARM PRODUCT

FARM INFRASTRUCTURE

- <ANY>
- BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES
- ENERGY / POWER
- EQUIPMENT
- LAND ACQUISITION / LEASING
- LAND / RANGE MANAGEMENT
- SEED
- SOIL MANAGEMENT
- TECHNOLOGY
- TRANSPORT
- WASTE MANAGEMENT
- WATER MANAGEMENT

### RESULTS IN YOUR AREA

Your search found 10 local resources.

#### Service Centers

Name	Agency Type	Site Name	Address	City	State	Zip
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY	Farm Service Agency	UPPER MARLBORO SERVICE CENTER	5301 MARLBORO RACE TRACK RD	UPPER MARLBORO	MD	20772
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY SERVICE CENTER	Natural Resources Conservation Service	UPPER MARLBORO SERVICE CENTER	5301 MARLBORO RACE TRACK RD	UPPER MARLBORO	MD	20772

*This is a list of USDA Service Centers that serve counties near you.*

#### Program

##### Farm Operating Loan Program

[www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fm/loans&topic=dl-fo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fm/loans&topic=dl-fo)

"Operating Loans may be used to purchase items such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other operating expenses. Operating Loans can also be used to pay for minor improvements to buildings, costs associated with land and water development, family subsistence, and to..."

*Sponsored by: FSA Farm Service Agency*

##### Direct Farm Ownership Loan

[www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fm/loans&topic=dl-dfo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fm/loans&topic=dl-dfo)

"With a Direct Farm Ownership Loan, you can purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings and other fixtures, and promote soil and water conservation." See your State Farm Service Agency office of Applications: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateOffices?area=stoffice&subject=landing&topic=landing>

*Sponsored by: FSA Farm Service Agency*

##### FSA Emergency Farm Loan Program

[www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/flp\\_emergency\\_farm\\_loans.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/flp_emergency_farm_loans.pdf)

"USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. Loan Uses Emergency loan funds may be used to: Restore or replace essential property; Pay all or part of production costs..."

*Sponsored by: FSA Farm Service Agency*

# Search String

Any search criteria you select will appear at the top of the left hand column.

To deselect search criteria simply click the 'X' next to the term.

The deselected term will disappear from your search string and you will retrieve a new set of results based on the criteria that are still selected.

**START HERE**  
START2FARM.GOV

About | Topics | Events | Using the site | Contact

loans  
select your location

Home

### RESULTS IN YOUR AREA

Your search found 4 local resources.

**loans**

Name	Agency Type	Site Name	Address	City	State	Zip
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY	Farm Service Agency	UPPER MARLBORO SERVICE CENTER	5301 MARLBORO RACE TRACK RD	UPPER MARLBORO	MD	20772
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY SERVICE CENTER	Natural Resources Conservation Service	UPPER MARLBORO SERVICE CENTER	5301 MARLBORO RACE TRACK RD	UPPER MARLBORO	MD	20772

*This is a list of USDA Service Centers that serve counties near you.*

#### Program

##### Maryland Vineyard Planting Loan Fund

[www.marbidco.org/loans/mvplf.html](http://www.marbidco.org/loans/mvplf.html)

Low-interest (3-5% APR) loans to help meet the unique financing needs of Maryland's rural landowners wanting to plant grapes and develop wineries. The maximum loan amount is \$100,000 and an interest only option is available. A letter of referral from a commercial lender is required as well as a site evaluation...

*Sponsored by: MARBIDCO Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation*

##### MRBIFF Maryland Resource-Based Industry Financing Fund Loan

[www.marbidco.org/loans/mrbif.html](http://www.marbidco.org/loans/mrbif.html)

The Maryland Resource-Based Industry Financing Fund offers low-interest loans to established agricultural and rural business industry firms for the purchase of land and capital equipment for production and processing activities. Monies may also be used to help finance environmental or water-quality enhancement...

*Sponsored by: MARBIDCO Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation*

KEYWORD: loans

ENTER YOUR ZIP CODE: 20705

TYPE OF SERVICE

EXPERIENCE

POPULATION

PRACTICE

FARM PRODUCT

FARM INFRASTRUCTURE

PLANNING

BUSINESS

FINANCING

LAWS & REGULATIONS

LANGUAGE

# Trouble Shooting

1. If you get too few or no results, deselect some of your search criteria.
2. If you get too many results, select more criteria.

Please note-

- The chance of one program or resource fulfilling all of your needs is limited. It is more likely you will need to use multiple programs and resources to meet your needs. Adding too many search terms will limit the results of your search.
- Although some programs are available nationally many are only available at state or local levels. Not all programs are available in all areas.
- Many new farmer and rancher programs are still being developed. Start2Farm continually adds resources to the site so please check back often.

# Thank you for using Start2Farm.gov



For more help to using programs and resources found on Start2Farm please [contact us:](#)

[info@start2farm.gov](mailto:info@start2farm.gov)

301-504-6020