Farmer Resources for the Southern

This guide connects farmers across the Southern United States with organizations, educational materials, and resources to support their farming operations.

We encourage farmers to start locally! Contact your local Cooperative Extension office and state or regional farmer organizations to learn about resources and opportunities available in your area. These organizations can connect you with agricultural specialists, educational programs, technical assistance, and other farmers. From there, explore the national organizations and educational resources listed in this guide for additional support.

Look Locally for Farm Supplies and Services

- **Farm Inputs:** Seeds, soil amendments, compost, fertilizers, pest management products, and other production supplies.
- **Farm Equipment:** Implements, tools, irrigation equipment, and equipment rental services.
- **High Tunnel Companies:** High tunnel manufacturers, suppliers, and local installation contractors.
- **Well and Irrigation Companies:** Licensed well drilling contractors, irrigation system designers, installers, and equipment suppliers.
- **Livestock Supplies and Infrastructure:** Fencing materials, livestock watering systems, pipelines, feeders, and grazing equipment.
- **Farm Infrastructure and Construction:** Contractors for land preparation, drainage, storage structures, and other farm improvements.
- **Marketing and Business Services:** Local printing companies, graphic designers, packaging suppliers, website developers, and marketing consultants.

Cooperative Extension and Land-Grant Universities

Every Southern state has a land-grant university system that provides Cooperative Extension services. Many states have both an 1862 and an 1890 land-grant institution. Start by contacting your local Cooperative Extension office. Extension agents can help connect you with agricultural specialists, soil testing, production recommendations, educational workshops, and local resources.

- USDA Land-Grant University Directory

- USDA Cooperative Extension Information

State and Regional Farmer Organizations

These organizations offer opportunities to connect with other farmers, attend trainings and field days, and access agricultural resources.

Alabama	Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network (ASAN)
Arkansas	Arkansas Local Food Network (ALFN)
Florida	Florida Organic Growers (FOG)
Georgia	Georgia Organics
Kentucky	Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK)
Louisiana	Organic Louisiana
Mississippi	Mississippi State University Extension Service
North Carolina	Organic Growers School
North & South Carolina	Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA)
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Local Agriculture Collaborative (OLAC)
South Carolina	South Carolina Black Farmers Coalition
Tennessee	Tennessee Local Food
Texas	Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (TOFGA)
Virginia	Virginia Association for Biological Farming (VABF)

Additional Southern Farmer Networks

- Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) — Farmer education, local food markets, and farm business support in the Southern Appalachians.
- Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS) — Agricultural research, sustainable production, and farmer training.
- Future Harvest — Farmer-to-farmer education and sustainable agriculture support in the Chesapeake region.
- Southeastern African American Farmers' Organic Network (SAAFON) — Supports Black farmers, land stewardship, and sustainable agriculture.

National Farmer Resources

These organizations provide resources that can benefit farmers throughout the Southern United States.

National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)	Sustainable agriculture education, technical assistance, and farm business resources
ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture	Free publications, videos, webinars, and practical farming guidance
Southern SARE	Sustainable agriculture grants, research, farmer education, and resources
Rodale Institute	Organic and regenerative agriculture research, farmer education, and technical assistance
Organic Farmers Association	Organic farmer advocacy, education, and policy resources
National Young Farmers Coalition	Young farmer advocacy, land access, and policy education
American Farmland Trust	Farmland protection, conservation, and farmer support
USDA Farmers.gov	Federal agricultural programs, loans, disaster assistance, and conservation resources

Farm Business and Marketing Resources

These organizations provide resources to help farmers strengthen their business operations, develop marketing strategies, access new markets, and improve farm profitability.

- USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) — Resources for agricultural marketing, market development, local and regional food systems, and accessing new market opportunities.
- USDA Local and Regional Food Systems — Resources and programs supporting local food markets, direct-to-consumer sales, food hubs, and regional food system development.
- ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture – Marketing and Business — Free publications, educational materials, and resources covering farm business planning, direct marketing, pricing, and profitability.
- USDA Farmers.gov – Farm Business — Information on farm business planning, financial management, agricultural loans, and programs that support farm operations.
- Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) — Free or low-cost business counseling and educational resources to support business planning, financial management, and business growth.

- SCORE — Free business mentoring, workshops, and resources to help farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs strengthen their business operations.
- MarketMaker — An online platform designed to connect agricultural producers with buyers, food businesses, and market opportunities.

Organic Certification and Production Resources

- USDA National Organic Program – Farmer Resources — Information on transitioning to organic production, certification, and organic standards.
- Find a USDA-Accredited Organic Certifier — Official directory and guidance for selecting an organic certifier.
- Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) — Resources for evaluating inputs used in organic production.
- eOrganic — Research-based organic production information and educational materials.
- Carolina Farm Stewardship Association – Organic Production Resources — Organic transition and certification assistance, input guidance, and production resources.

Farmer Education and Agricultural Practices Resources

Explore these free educational resources to learn more about sustainable and organic farming practices, soil health, conservation, crop and livestock production**,** and farm management.

- SARE – Educational Resources and Publications — Free guides, books, and publications covering cover crops, soil health, crop rotation, grazing management, and sustainable farming practices.
- SARE – Educational Videos — Educational videos featuring practical farming techniques, farmer experiences, and sustainable agriculture research.
- Rodale Institute – Free Educational Resources — Free guides, publications, and educational materials focused on organic farming, regenerative agriculture, soil health, and transitioning to organic production.
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – YouTube Channel — Educational videos on soil health, conservation practices, grazing management, water conservation, and technical assistance programs for farmers and landowners.