

**§ 3430.600 Applicability of regulations.**

The regulations in this subpart apply to the program authorized under section 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f).

**§ 3430.601 Purpose.**

The purpose of the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) is to establish a beginning farmer and rancher development program that provides local and regional training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers and ranchers.

**§ 3430.602 Definitions.**

The definitions applicable to the program under this subpart include:

*Beginning farmer or rancher* means a person that has not operated a farm or ranch or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years, and meets such other criteria as the Secretary may establish.

*Clearinghouse* means an online repository that will make available to beginning farmers or ranchers education curricula and training materials and programs, and which may include online courses for direct use by beginning farmers or ranchers.

*Limited resource beginning farmers or ranchers* means beginning farmers or ranchers who have: (1) direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the sales amount established by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in each of the previous two years (in current dollars, adjusted for inflation each year, based on the October 2002 Prices Paid by Farmer Index compiled and updated annually by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), and (2) a total household income at or below the National Poverty Level for a family of four or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous 2 years as determined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), using the Census Poverty Data.

**§ 3430.603 Eligibility.**

To be eligible to receive an award under this subpart, the recipient shall

be a collaborative State, tribal, local, or regionally-based network or partnership of public or private entities, including:

- (a) A State cooperative extension service;
  - (b) A Federal, State, or tribal agency;
  - (c) A community-based and non-governmental organization;
  - (d) A college or university (including a junior college offering an associate's degree) or foundation maintained by a college or university;
  - (e) A private for-profit organization;
- or
- (f) Any other appropriate partner, as determined by the Secretary.

**§ 3430.604 Project types and priorities.**

(a) *Standard BFRDP projects.* For standard BFRDP projects, competitive grants will be awarded to support programs and services, as appropriate, relating to the following focus areas and activities:

- (1) Mentoring, apprenticeships, and internships.
- (2) Resources and referral.
- (3) Assisting beginning farmers or ranchers in acquiring land from retiring farmers and ranchers.
- (4) Innovative farm and ranch transfer strategies.
- (5) Entrepreneurship and business training.
- (6) Model land leasing contracts.
- (7) Financial management training.
- (8) Whole farm planning.
- (9) New and emerging issues, facing farmers and ranchers, including climate change and changing world markets.
- (10) Conservation assistance.
- (11) Risk management education.
- (12) Diversification and marketing strategies.
- (13) Curriculum development.
- (14) Understanding the impact of concentration and globalization.
- (15) Basic livestock and crop farming practices, forestry and range management.
- (16) Acquisition and management of agricultural credit.
- (17) Environmental compliance.
- (18) Information processing.
- (19) Other similar subject areas of use to beginning farmers or ranchers.