

Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Contact: Holle Evert | 402-310-8354 | holle.evert@nebraska.gov

NDA encourages and promotes the interests of agriculture through advocacy and education. In addition, NDA regulates the agriculture industry to ensure the health and safety of all Nebraskans. RFSI Grant information can be found on NDA's website at nda.nebraska.gov/promotion/rfsi.

Center for Rural Affairs

Contact: Meg Jackson | 402-309-9096 | megj@cfra.org

The Center for Rural Affairs offers loan financing for food, farm, meat, and poultry businesses; free business development training and resources; and farm business planning and technical assistance.

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Contact: Jacob Clark | jclark@nebraskachildren.org

Food sourcing for food hubs via LFPA.

Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Coordinated Student Support Services

Contact: Sarah Smith | 402-525-3128 | sarah.e.smith@nebraska.gov

NDE Farm to School provides training, technical assistance, and networking opportunities.

Nebraska Department of Economic Development

Contact: Kelly Gewecke | 308-627-3151 | kelly.gewecke@nebraska.gov

NDED manages over 50 grant programs and initiatives – all dedicated to growing Nebraska and supporting citizens and businesses throughout the state.

Nebraska Extension – Heartlandfoodbusiness.org

Contact: Ben Jewell | bmcschane-jewell2@unl.edu

Heartland Food Business Center will provide technical assistance for those applying for the Business Builder Grants and can assist with referrals for services.

Nebraska USDA Farm Service Agency

Contact: Bobbie Kriz-Wickham | 402-437-5896 | bobbie.krizwickham@usda.gov

Nebraska FSA provides farmers and ranchers with support through assistance programs such as financial safety net programs, disaster recovery financial assistance programs, conservation program assistance, and financing needs through farm/ranch loan programs.

Southeast Nebraska Development District / Southeast Nebraska Dev., Inc.

Contact: Kelly Gentrup | kgentrup@sendd.org

SENDDD currently has four revolving loan funds, and SEND, Inc. (501c3 nonprofit) has one revolving loan fund that provides gap financing for small businesses, which can include producers and food businesses. Loan amounts can be between \$50,000 - \$200,000 with variable terms and interest rates based on the project type. Loan activities can be for acquisition, improvements, working capital, or equipment.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Contact: Brach Johnson | 402-239-6633 | brach.johnson@usda.gov

USDA-NRCS has technical and financial assistance available to individuals and entities on working private lands, especially for urban and small-scale growers. The flagship conservation program for urban and small-scale growers is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. For experienced growers, there's the Conservation Stewardship Program.

USDA Rural Development

Contact: Jolene Jones (Kearney), jolene.jones@usda.gov
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Marla Marx (Scottsbluff), marla.marx@usda.gov

- The Rural Energy for America Program is a grant and loan program for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that lower fossil fuel usage.
- The Value-Added Producer Grant program is planning or working capital grants for producers to assist in expanding markets for value-added products. (Does not pay for equipment or bricks and mortar.)
- Business and Industry Loans are guaranteed loans for lenders to help transfer of ownership, business expansion or new startup.