

Minnesota Farm Service Agency Seeking Candidates for Internships Across the State



The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) currently is hiring for multiple internship positions at locations across Minnesota. These are paid internships for college students, and there are 27 internship positions currently open for application throughout the state.

This program provides students the opportunity to explore federal careers while still in school. Students who are currently enrolled or accepted for enrollment on at least a half-time basis at a qualifying educational institution in a certificate, degree or diploma program with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale are eligible to apply.

FARM PROGRAM INTERN POSITIONS

Locations for the interns who will be working with farm programs are: Albert Lea, Alexandria, Buffalo, Cambridge, Clarkfield, Detroit Lakes, Farmington, Fergus Falls, Foley, Goodhue, Litchfield, Little Falls, Luverne, Mankato, Moorhead, Mora, Morris, Olivia, Perham, Rochester, Sleepy Eye, St. Paul, Thief River Falls, Wadena, Waite Park, and Willmar.

The link to the announcement can be found here: [USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#) and the closing date to apply is Oct. 31, 2023.

Up to \$3,000 incentive upon onboarding!

FARM LOAN INTERN POSITION

The location for the intern who will be working with farm loan programs is: Preston.

The link to the announcement can be found here: [USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#) and the closing date to apply is Oct. 31, 2023.

Up to \$3,000 incentive upon onboarding!

All positions are posted in usajobs.gov, and the application process also runs through that website. Those interested in applying are encouraged to begin the application process as soon as possible. For questions about the positions or for questions regarding the usajobs.gov application process, please contact Krista Manor at the Minnesota FSA State Office at (651) 602-7713 or krista.manor@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

USDA's Conservation Reserve Program Pays More Than \$1.77 Billion to America's Producers in Support of Conservation and Climate-Smart Agriculture

Agricultural producers and landowners have chosen conservation on more than 23 million acres of private land nationwide.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued more than \$1.77 billion this year to agricultural producers and landowners through its Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a critical piece of the Department's efforts to support climate-smart agriculture and forestry on working lands. This year, CRP's more than 667,000 participants received payments from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) for their voluntary conservation efforts on more than 23 million acres of private land. Since 2021, CRP has grown by 21% in terms of acres enrolled, testament to the Biden-Harris administration's program improvement efforts.

Top five states for CRP participant payments:

- Iowa, \$402,508,900
- Illinois, \$172,723,800
- Minnesota, \$150,773,400
- South Dakota, \$129,545,200
- Missouri, \$99,849,600

Improvements to CRP

Since 2021, FSA has made improvements to the program:

- **Introducing a new climate-smart practice incentive** for CRP general and continuous signups designed to reward participants who implement conservation practices that increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - **Enabling additional soil rental rate adjustments** or rate flexibilities, including a possible increase in rates where appropriate.
-

- **Increasing payments for practice incentives** from 20% to 50%. This incentive, in addition to cost share payments, for continuous CRP practices is based on establishment cost.
- **Increasing payments for water quality practices rates** from 10% to 20% for certain water quality benefiting practices available through the CRP continuous signup, such as grassed waterways, riparian buffers and filter strips.
- **Establishing a Grassland CRP minimum rental rate** benefitting more than 1,000 counties with rates currently below the \$13 minimum.

Additionally, FSA made significant improvements to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) that reduce barriers by making the partnership program more accessible to a broader cross-section of agricultural producers and new conservation partners. These program improvements include the flexibility for partners to provide matching funds in the form of cash, in-kind contributions, or technical assistance and the ability for FSA to invest in additional, full-time staff devoted to working directly with our CREP partners and program specialists in FSA's state offices.

Since 2021, FSA has also entered into the first-ever Tribal Nations CREP agreements in partnership with the Cheyenne River, Rosebud, and Oglala Sioux Tribes. And in 2022, USDA entered into the Big Sioux River Watershed CREP agreement with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks to assist farmers, ranchers and agricultural landowners to improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance wildlife habitat, and create public hunting and fishing access. These CREP agreements reflect priorities and goals of USDA to broaden the scope and reach of its voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs to engage underserved producers.

FSA's conservation programs had a strong showing in 2023. FSA partnered with producers and landowners to enroll 3.9 million CRP this year –including 927,000 enrolled acres through General CRP, 2.3 million acres enrolled in Grassland CRP and 694,000 acres enrolled in Continuous CRP. These results underscore the continued importance of CRP as a tool to help producers invest in the long-term health, sustainability, and profitability of their land and natural resources.

More Information

CRP is a voluntary program contract with agricultural producers through which environmentally sensitive agricultural land is devoted to conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

To learn more about CRP and other FSA programs, producers can contact their local [USDA Service Center](#).



USDA Announces 2024 Tribal Scholarships and Fellowships



The application deadline is December 1, 2023.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced two tribal higher education opportunities to train the next generation of agricultural professionals and strengthen ties with tribal higher education institutions. The USDA 1994 Tribal Scholars Program offers a fast-track career path with USDA, and the Terra Preta do Indio Tribal Faculty Fellowship engages tribal college faculty with USDA resources and research. These programs reflect USDA's commitment to advance equity and remove barriers to service for tribal nations and encourage tribal workforce development. This announcement also marks the 29th anniversary of the day legislation was signed to give tribal colleges land-grant status.

[Read the full USDA announcement.](#)

Minnesota USDA Farm Service Agency

375 Jackson Street, Suite 400
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Phone: 651-602-7700
Fax: 855-719-9917

**Minnesota Farm
Service Agency
State Executive
Director:**
Whitney Place

To find contact information for your local USDA Farm Service Agency Office go to: www.fsa.usda.gov/mn

Division Leaders:
Cassie Buck
Lee Crawford
Calvin Gellatly
Angela Hanson
Daniel Mahoney
Glenn Schafer

Minnesota State Committee:
Eunice Biel, Committee Chairperson
Hannah Bernhardt, Committee Member
Kurt Blomgren, Committee Member
Lisa Brunner, Committee Member
Tim Velde, Committee Member

SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).



USDA Farm Service Agency
www.fsa.usda.gov | [contact us](#)



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:
[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Help](#)