

MARYLAND BEGINNING FARMER

Resource Guide



CHESAPEAKE BAY
FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure



PLAN

University of Maryland Extension Farm Business Planning Workbook

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/farm-business-planning/>

The Farm Business Planning Workbook is designed to organize and thoroughly document your thoughts and objectives for farm businesses.

Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

<https://www.marylandsbdc.org/>

SBDC provides advice, consulting, and support to entrepreneurs and small businesses across Maryland.

SCORE: Help for Farmers and Ranchers

<https://www.score.org/usda>

SCORE is the nation's largest network of volunteer, expert business mentors dedicated to helping small businesses plan, launch, manage, and grow.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Building a Sustainable Business

<https://www.sare.org/resources/building-a-sustainable-business/>

Building a Sustainable Business is SARE's guide to developing a business plan for farms and rural businesses. This guide brings the business planning process alive to help today's alternative and sustainable agriculture entrepreneurs transform farm-grown inspiration into profitable enterprises.

University of Maryland Extension Maryland Rural Enterprise Development Center

<https://extension.umd.edu/programs/agriculture-food-systems/program-areas/farm-and-agribusiness-management/maryland-rural-enterprise-development-center/>

The development center provides successful rural business innovation strategies for your farm business plan and your production management techniques.

Chesapeake Agriculture Innovation Center

<https://caic.org/producers-business-resources/>

The innovation center provides agricultural producers with advice, guidance, technology, and other resources needed to scale their businesses to a viable level of success.

JUST THE BEGINNING

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) How to Start a Farm

<https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers>

This USDA webpage is designed to assist beginning farmers and ranchers in discovering the support available to them from the USDA.

University of Maryland Extension County Offices

<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/>

Use this website to access to your county extension office and to connect with an agriculture educator.

University of Maryland Extension First Steps to Farming

<https://extension.umd.edu/programs/agriculture-food-systems/program-areas/integrated-programs/beginning-farmer-success/first-steps-farming/>

The extension's resource website designed to help beginning farmers get started with their farming enterprise.



LEARN

Future Harvest Beginning Farmer Training Program

<https://futureharvest.org/programs/beginner-farmer-training-program/>

Future Harvest provides a 12-month immersive training experience that combines a comprehensive classroom curriculum with hands-on learning.

ECO City Farms Beginning Farmer Training Program

<https://www.ecoffshoots.org/education/beginning-farmer-training-program/>

This program is designed to help beginning farmers learn the information and practice the skills they need to farm from the ground up.

Farm Alliance of Baltimore Black Butterfly Urban Farmer Academy

<https://farmalliancebaltimore.org/theacademy/>

Farm Alliance of Baltimore offers this nine-month training program that focuses on sustainable agriculture methods and farm business planning through classroom sessions, on-farmwork, and field days.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)—Outreach Publications

<https://www.sare.org/sare-outreach-publications/>

SARE provides a variety of resources on sustainable agriculture and you can discover competitive grants designed to support farmers in their innovation efforts on their website.

University of Maryland Beginning Farmer Success Guidebook

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/beginning-farmer-guidebook/>

This University of Maryland Extension guidebook provides farmers with tools and education to explore, refine, develop, and implement farm businesses.



OPERATE

U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA): Price Support Programs

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/Index>

The FSA webpage includes information on a variety of FSA price support initiatives, loan, and market loss assistance programs available.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency (RMA)

<https://www.rma.usda.gov/>

RMA's website includes information about crop insurance for American farmers and ranchers.

Taxes and USDA Programs: Farmers.gov

<https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/taxes>

This website provides information and resources related to USDA program payments, asset protection, and the important relationships between federal income taxes and USDA farm programs.



FORM

Farm Commons Choosing a Business Structure

<https://farmcommons.org/pathway/im-not-sure-which-business-structure-is-the-right-one-for-my-farm-ranch-where-do-i-start/>

Farm Common's article and webpage offer helpful resources farmers can use to help determine where to start when deciding which business structure is the right one for their farm.

University of Maryland Agriculture Law Education Initiative

<https://umaglaw.org/>

The Agriculture Law Education Initiative helps farmers understand and comply with state, federal, and local laws and regulations.

Maryland Business Express Choose a Business Structure

<https://businessexpress.maryland.gov/plan/choose-business-structure>

Maryland Business Express provides information on types of business structures to choose from for your farm business.



FUND

U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA): Farm Loan Programs

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/index>

FSA offers loans to help farmers and ranchers get the financing they need to start, expand, or maintain a farm.

Farm Credit: Maryland

<https://farmcredit.com/state/maryland>

Farm Credit provides loans to farmers and ranchers and supports agriculture with credit and financial services.

Maryland Agricultural & Resource Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO)

<https://www.marbidco.org/loan-programs>

MARBIDCO assists qualifying farms in securing affordable capital and credit for equipment, commercial facilities, and real estate purchases.

Foodshed Capital: Loans

<https://www.foodcap.org/loans>

Foodshed Capital's goal is to build more equitable and regenerative foodsheds.

CONSERVATION FUNDING

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives>

EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/csp-conservation-stewardship-program/maryland/conservation-stewardship-program#contact>

After establishing a conservation plan with NRCS, CSP offers annual payments for implementing these practices and operating and maintaining existing conservation efforts.

Low Interest Loans for Agricultural Conservation (LILAC)

https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/counties/LILAC.pdf

LILAC offers low interest loans to help farmers install best practices on their farms, purchase conservation equipment, and adopt new technologies to protect natural resources.



OTHER RESOURCES

Maryland Department of Agriculture Small Farm and Urban Agriculture Program

https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/Small-Farm-and-UrbanAgricultureProgram.aspx

This agriculture program from the Department of Agriculture provides financial assistance to support small-scale agricultural operations located in urban, peri-urban, rural, and suburban areas.

Maryland Farm Bureau

<https://mdfarmbureau.com/about-us/>

The bureau advocates for the interests of Maryland farmers, promoting agricultural education, policy, and community support.

Million Acre Challenge

<https://millionacrechallenge.org/>

Million Acre Challenge is an initiative aimed at improving soil health and agricultural resilience in Maryland by implementing regenerative farming practices on one million acres of land.

Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC)

<https://smadc.com/>

SMADC supports and promotes the region's agricultural industry by providing resources, programs, and services to enhance the viability and sustainability of local farms and agribusinesses.

American Farmland Trust

<https://farmland.org/>

American Farmland Trust is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting farmland, promoting sound farming practices, and supporting farmers.

National Young Farmers Coalition

<https://www.youngfarmers.org/>

The coalition is an advocacy organization dedicated to supporting, representing, and empowering young and beginning farmers.



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visit cbf.org/mdfarmresourcepdf or scan:



And for a more thorough look at available resources,
check our interactive resource guide at cbf.org/mdfarmresource.