



# NRCS AND URBAN AGRICULTURE

## Who We Are

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service helps farmers care for the natural resources on their land – soil, water, air, plants, and animals.

## How We Help Urban Farmers

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to growers in:

- **Soil Health** - As experts in soil health, NRCS conservationists can advise urban growers on their soils. Financial assistance can be provided for soil building practices including cover crops and composting.
- **Irrigation and Water Conservation** - We can help urban growers conserve water by assisting with drip irrigation, mulching, and roof run-off structures.
- **Weeds and Pests** - By planting buffers for beneficial insects, mulching, and various other means, we can help manage weeds and pests.
- **High Tunnels** - NRCS has financial assistance for high tunnels, used to extend the growing season and to protect plants from harsh weather. By making local produce available for more months in the year, fewer resources are used to transport food to plates.

## Steps to Get Started

1. Register your land and complete eligibility paperwork with the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Call 207-289-2824 or email [mescarborough-fsa@usda.gov](mailto:mescarborough-fsa@usda.gov) to make an appointment. You will be asked to bring your deed and a tax map.
2. Complete the NRCS program application available at the NRCS office next door to FSA in Scarborough.
3. NRCS will work with you to schedule a site visit and develop a conservation plan for your land.

## Things to Know

- Expect to complete 10-15 documents as part of the application process for funding. Application deadline is August 2023. Funding announced spring 2024.
- Funding comes in the form of reimbursement via direct deposit. Historically Underserved applicants are eligible for advanced payment.
- Funding is intended to cover 50-75% of costs.
- Any funding received by the USDA may or may not be considered taxable income. Consult your tax advisor.
- If selected for funding, you will be subject to meeting Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act.

**For more information contact [cheyanne.rico@usda.gov](mailto:cheyanne.rico@usda.gov) | 207-883-2808**

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