

## Financial Assistance Program for Historically Underserved Producers

### Introduction

Adopting and integrating conservation practices into a commodity crop rotation can significantly increase the level of management needed by a producer, with hurdles for transition often magnified for Historically Underserved Producers (HUPs). To support this challenging transition, American Farmland Trust (AFT) will provide Financial Assistance (FA) to Historically Underserved Producers for adopting Climate Smart Practices (Practice) on acres producing corn, soybeans, wheat, and/or cotton as part of the rotation.

AFT will reference the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) list of Historically Underserved Producers (HUPs) to determine eligibility. This means that Beginning Farmers, Limited Resource Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, and Veteran Farmers are invited to apply. For this Project, Women Farmers are also considered historically underserved and are eligible to apply for FA. It's important to note that HUPs must be first-time adopters of the Practice on the acreage enrolled. In other words, the acreage to be enrolled must not have received any federal or state public funding for the Practice to be adopted.

### PROGRAM DETAILS

- No-Till: \$20/ac (enrollment cap = 150 acres)
- Reduced-Till: \$20/ac (enrollment cap = 150 acres)
- Cover Crops: \$80/ac (enrollment cap = 40 acres)
- Combination of Cover Crops and No-Till or Cover Crops and Reduced-Till \$100/ac (enrollment cap = 30 acres)

### ENROLLMENT PERIOD

- Producers may enroll starting March 1, 2025, until filled, for crop year 2026. This includes cover crops planted in the fall of 2025 and no-till or reduced-till at planting. If producers enroll for crop year 2026, they are also allowed to enroll a second time for the 2027 crop year.
- Producers may enroll starting March 1, 2026, for crop year 2027. This includes cover crops planted in the fall of 2026 and no-till or reduced-till at planting.
- Producers will sign one-year contracts

### ELIGIBLE FIELDS

- Fields located in states served by AFT's Midwest, Southeast, New York, Mid-Atlantic, and New England Regions and by Soil Health Advisors trained by this Project.



- Fields with FSA subsidiary print for current crop year (2026 or 2027) and FSA certified field map with farm, tract, and field ID numbers.
- Fields that have not received any federal or state public funding for the Practice to be adopted.

### ELIGIBLE CROPS

- Corn (grain, silage, specialty)
- Soybeans
- Wheat (grain, silage)
- Cotton

### ESTIMATED TIMELINE FOR FA PAYMENT

Two months after Practice verification and data reporting.

### PRACTICE VERIFICATIONS/DATA REPORTING

To verify that Practices have been implemented according to their Conservation Practice Standard, Producers will need to provide the following data points:

- **No-Till:** acres enrolled, date and type (depth) of last tillage pass, date of planting, and crop type.
- **Reduced-Till:** acres enrolled, date and type (equipment used and depth) of last tillage pass, date of planting, and crop type.
- **Cover Crops:** acres enrolled, cover crop type and amount (seed tags), date of planting, and date and type of termination.

Additional data collected may include three historical years or a full rotation of historical data (whichever is longer), marketing information on the current commodity crop (2026 or 2027), land use history, demographic information, and project evaluation surveys or interviews.

*Supported by USDA agreement #NR233A750004G016. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*