



A point of emphasis for American Farmland Trust's Climate-Smart Commodity Row Crop Project (Project) is the adoption of Climate-Smart Practices by Historically Underserved Producers.

This Project will use NRCS's definition of Historically Underserved Producers which can be found [here](#) and includes four categories of farmers: Beginning Farmers; Socially Disadvantaged Farmers; Veteran Farmers; and Limited Resource Farmers. In addition, Women Farmers will be considered historically underserved for this Project, even though they are not covered by the NRCS definition. The following provides a description of each historically underserved category.

Beginning Farmers

Producers who have not operated a farm or who have operated a farm for not more than 10 consecutive years, and who will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm.

Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

Producers who identify as a member of a socially disadvantaged group. Socially disadvantaged groups include the following:

- Black or African American
- Hispanic
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Veteran Farmers

Producers who have served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the reserve component thereof, and:

- have operated a farm for not more than 10 consecutive years; or
- first obtained veteran status during the most recent 10-year period.

Limited Resource Farmers

Producers who have a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four (for 2024 this was equal to or less than \$30,000/year) **OR** less than 50% of county median household income, which is specific for each county in the US. County-specific data can be found [here](#). A self-determination tool used by NRCS to determine a Limited Resource Farmer can be found [here](#).

Women Farmers

For this Project, Women Producers are recognized as a stand-alone category.

Producers participating in this Project will self-identify as Historically Underserved.

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