

530.141J Administrative Review Beginning Farmer or Rancher Letter

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

<<Date>>

<<Name and address of participant>>

<<Program & Contract #>>

Dear <<Participant name>>:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) reviews a random selection of contracts each year to verify self-certifications made by applicants at the time of application. You self-certified that you are a beginning farmer or rancher on your <<insert contract year>> <<insert program name (program abbrev.)>> application for the subject contract. NRCS determined that you were eligible for higher payment rates or eligible to compete for designated funding due to this self-certification.

Your self-certification has been randomly selected for review. In order to verify your status, we are asking that you provide documentation that confirms your eligibility as a beginning farmer or rancher from the time of obligation. For applications filed by an entity, this information is required for every member of the entity.

For agricultural operations associated with farm or ranchland, please submit one of the following:

- One Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1040 from the last 10 years showing that you did not file an IRS Form 1040, Schedule F.
- A letter from a certified public accountant, enrolled agent, or attorney certifying that you meet the eligibility requirements for a beginning farmer or rancher.
- Other evidence that adequately documents that you have not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 consecutive years.

For agricultural operations that are limited to nonindustrial private forestland and for which a schedule F is not typically filed, please submit evidence that you meet the requirements of a beginning farmer or rancher. This may include—

- Documentation showing that you have not owned any land in the operation or managed any land in the operation for forest production for more than 10 consecutive years.
- If you have owned any land in the operation for more than 10 consecutive years, provide justification by addressing items related to forest production such as the following for the entire time you have owned the land in the operation:
 - Your level of management of the land in the operation;
 - Your participation in the management of the land in the operation if managed by others;
 - Any harvest of timber or other forest products.

Please provide the requested information within 30 calendar days of receipt of this letter. If you are unable to provide the requested information, please contact the office to determine

appropriate corrective action to avoid contract violation. If NRCS determines that the information you provide does not support your beginning farmer or rancher status, your contract may be in violation and subject to either of the following:

- A modification and return of overpayments.
- Your contract may be terminated. Recovery of cost may apply.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. You may securely view and interact with your NRCS Conservation Records through www.Farmers.gov. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at <<(XXX) XXX-XXXX>> or email at <<first.lastname>>@usda.gov.

Respectfully,

<<Enter DC name>>
District Conservationist