

The First Financial Difference

At First Financial, our Food and Ag team has specialized knowledge and experience you won't find anywhere else. We:

- Do business with our boots on – our entire team is from rural communities in our footprint.
- Are or have been involved in some sort of production agriculture or agribusiness venture including the credit team.
- Have over a decade of experience with FSA & USDA Guaranteed Lending.
- Are committed to the industry with over 150 years of food & agribusiness banking.
- Are committed to the communities we serve with much of our footprint covering towns with populations less than 50,000.



What is the USDA Food Supply Chain Program?

The USDA's newest loan program provides financing to borrowers and projects for the start-up or expansion of activities in the middle of the food supply chain. The program's objective is to increase capacity and help create a more diverse, resilient and secure food chain, with a focus on aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesaling or distribution. USDA is making \$1 billion available through the American Rescue Plan Act and applications will be taken until the funds run out.

Who May Qualify?

- For-profit or non-profit businesses
- Cooperatives
- Federally recognized tribes
- Public bodies
- Individuals engaged or proposing to engage in a business

Borrowing Restrictions

- Individual borrowers must be citizens of the United States or reside in the U.S. after being legally admitted for permanent residence.
- Private-entity borrowers must demonstrate that loan funds will remain in the U.S. and the facility being financed will primarily create new or save existing jobs

Fees: None

Maximum Loan Amount: \$40MM

Eligible Use of Funds

Loan funds will remain in the United States and the facility being financed and the uses of the loan funds will support the start-up or expansion of activities in the middle of the food supply chain, particularly the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesaling or distribution of food.