

AgFTAP: A Comprehensive Program for Finance, Tax, and Asset Protection Education

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Overview

The Agricultural Finance, Tax, and Asset Protection (AgFTAP) education program aims to equip farmers and ranchers with the necessary knowledge to effectively navigate farm business tax and asset protection strategies. This USDA-FSA-supported initiative is delivered through an online portal, [AgFTAP.org](https://agftap.org), which offers several educational courses, farmer resources, and a network of technical assistance service providers. Training offered through AgFTAP focuses on agricultural tax issues. This can include filing accurate and complete tax returns, business planning strategies and asset protection, such as managing future tax liabilities related to debt-financed construction and loan servicing assistance.

This program also established a nationwide network of grass-roots educators/trainers known as Farm Champions, who serve as topic experts and provide resources and training to aid producers in understanding their business environment. AgFTAP collaborates with 1862, 1890, and Hispanic-Serving Land-Grant institutions to maintain a nationwide network of educators and trainers dedicated to supporting farmers and ranchers. This program's vast network seeks to establish Farm Champions in every U.S. state and territory.



AgFTAP Introduction and the Online Portal

The AgFTAP.org portal serves as a one-stop repository and educational hub for farmers, ranchers and educators interested in learning – or helping to educate others – about on-farm financial literacy and technical assistance (Figure 1). The AgFTAP portal is easily accessible to the public and does not require an account to access any available resources¹. A Spanish version of the portal is also available (<https://agftap.org/>). The AgFTAP portal uses an intuitive, menu-driven system, allowing users to explore program workshops, free online courses, print/video resources and the FARM Champions network.

Workshops

The workshop tab lists upcoming online and in-person workshops. Users can identify workshops to attend by choosing specific states and pro-

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¹Some certificate course links may redirect to the institution's website that is providing the training. In this case, a user may have to create an account to access the course materials. It's important to note that even if a collaborator's website requires account creation, credit card or payment system information is never requested or required.



Figure 1. AgFTAP.org, Dashboard

gram curricula (Figure 3). Workshop curricula are offered in the following program areas: asset protection, business structures, heir's property/fractionated land, estate planning & taxes, farm tax planning, 1099 forms, Schedule F (Form 1040), loan servicing assistance, agricultural finance and record keeping. Upcoming workshops are displayed and contain a brief overview, the presenter's affiliation, the date, the type of workshop (webinar, in-person, or both) and physical workshop location. It's worth noting that you do not have to live in the workshop organizer's state to attend.

Be sure to check often, as workshop availability is continually updated. Educators who have successfully completed an AgFTAP train-the-trainer session may also register to become program educators, which allows them to promote upcoming training on the workshop calendar. Please contact Dr. Allison Vetter (avetter@uada.edu) or Dr. Ron Rainey (rrainey@uada.edu) for program educator inquiries. The trained program educators are also allowed a log-in account that allows access to additional educator resources to support outreach activities.

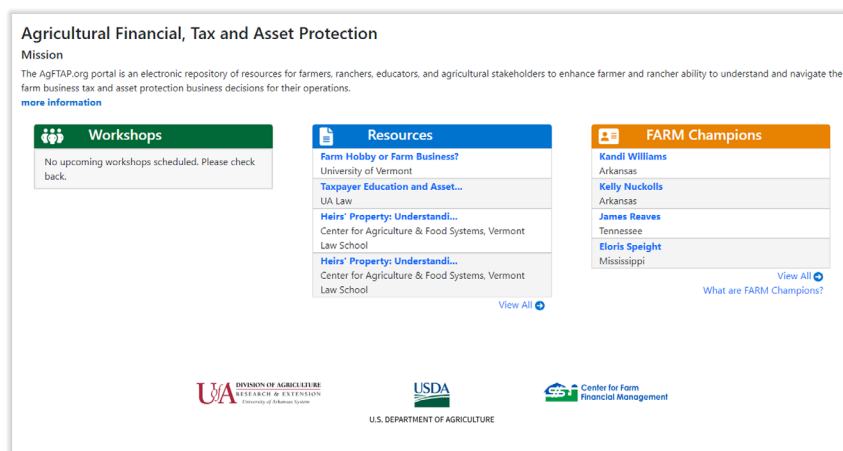


Figure 2. AgFTAP.org, Mission Statement & Available Resources

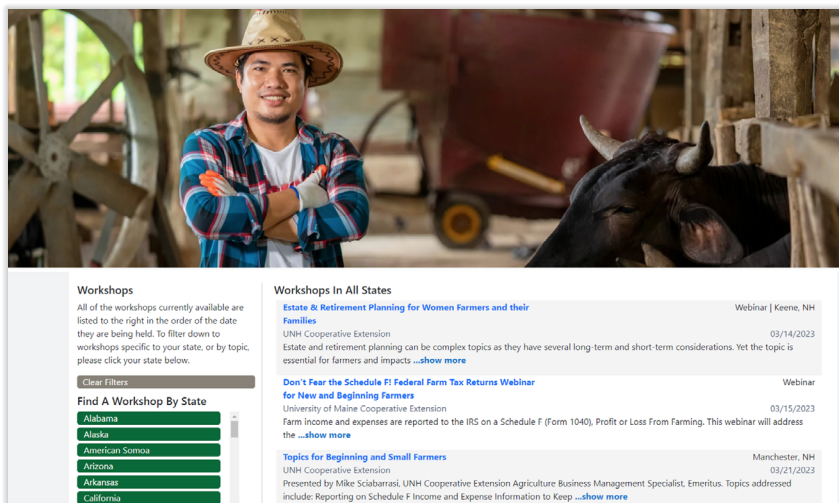


Figure 3. AgFTAP.org, Workshop Portal

AgFTAP Resources

While navigating the AgFTAP dashboard, you'll notice the "Resources" tab. AgFTAP resources provide a variety of educational curricula via the online portal to enhance farmers' and ranchers' financial literacy and on-farm decision-making (Figure 4). Topics include the same program areas as defined in the workshops.

Users can search for specific topics or by format type such as recorded presentations (both audio and video), written educational materials, online courses or other useful web-sites. Several workshop materials are uploaded to the resource section and retained for future educational purposes following completion of the training. Materials are continuously added to the repository after a workshop's completion. Therefore, there is value in regularly visiting the website to check for resource updates.

Farm Champions

Farm Champions are individuals and organizations dedicated to supporting farmers and ranchers by promoting resources, hosting training sessions and conducting outreach to enhance agricultural resilience and economic viability. These program collaborators have trusted relationships and credibility within agricultural communities through their demonstrated outreach and engagement.

Farm Champions are available to help train farmers on important farm operation issues, such as

strategic business planning, financial management and the effective utilization of applicable USDA programs. The Farm Champion community includes representatives from land-grant institutions, farmer cooperatives, community-based organizations and non-profits committed to creating farmer and rancher success stories. The heart of Farm Champions serves farmers' and ranchers' educational needs to help them understand and strategically navigate their environment. The portal displays each Champion's state/territory, organization, and contact information (email) (Figure 5).

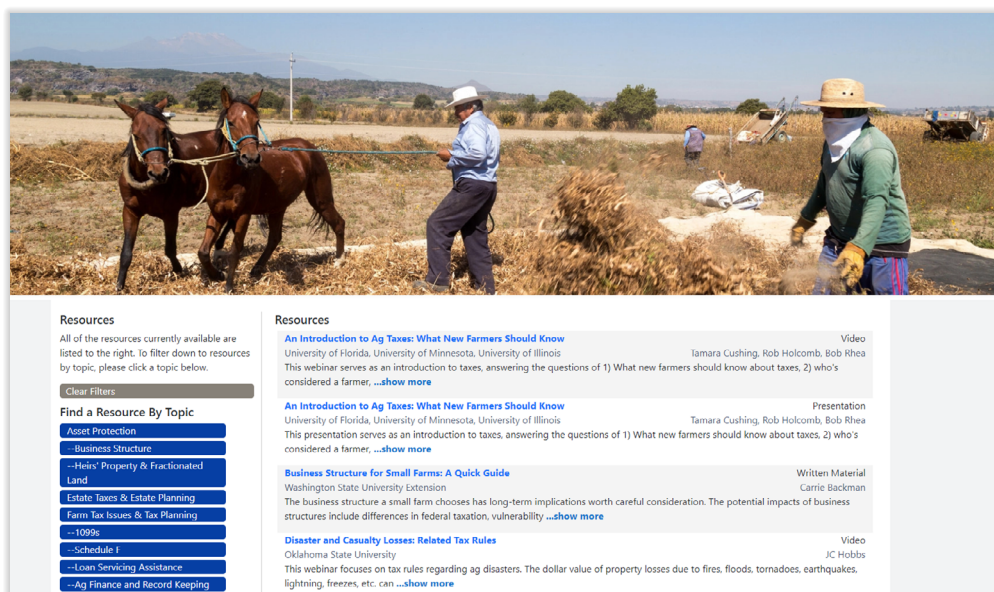


Figure 4. AgFTAP.org, Resource Portal

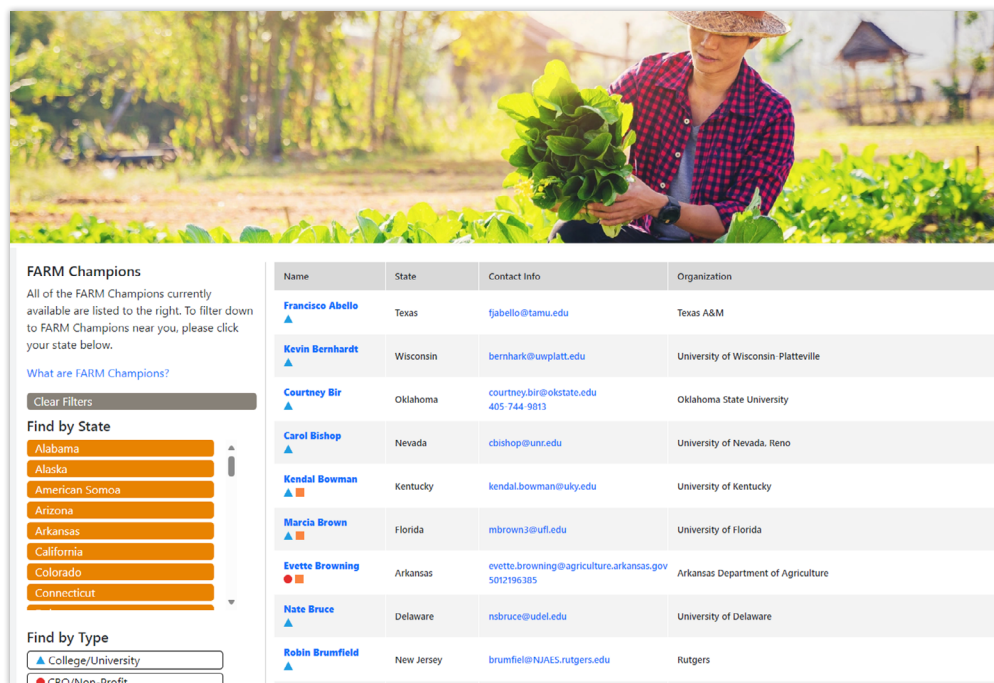


Figure 5. AgFTAP.org, FARM Champion Portal

Certificate Courses

Certificate courses, or short-term training programs, are offered in the Certificate Courses portal (Figure 6). These one-on-one, self-paced training opportunities seek to educate farmers and ranchers on AgFTAP program topics and provide valuable best-practice skills and industry insights. All certificate courses available on AgFTAP are 100 percent free to the public. This approach offers a flexible and cost-effective alternative to the traditional online degree (or certificate) program. Users are encouraged to check the portal often since course offerings are frequently updated.

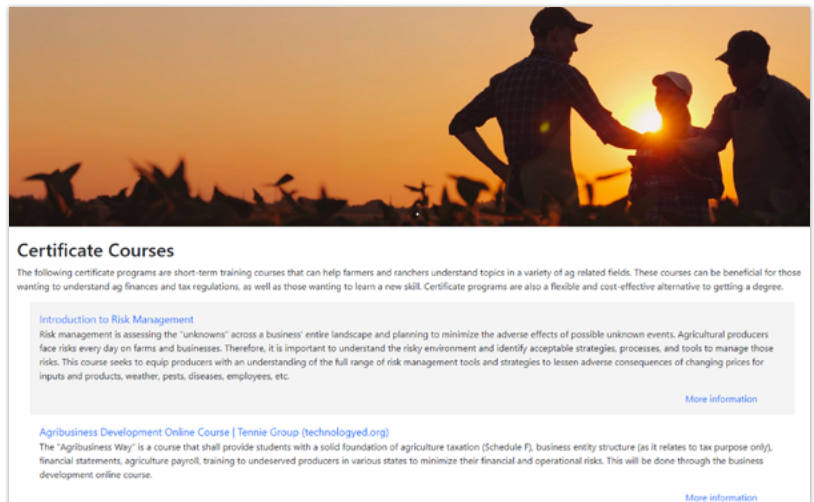


Figure 6. AgFTAP.org, Certificate Course Portal

AgFTAP Program Collaborators

The AgFTAP Program is led by the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture's Southern Risk Management Education Center. SRMEC and AgFTAP Project Director, Ron Rainey, built upon the capacity of the land-grant system to develop a national outreach program. All educational materials in AgFTAP are recommended by a curriculum advisory council or program partners, the Extension Tax Education Committee and the University of Arkansas Law School LL.M program. The advisory council includes extension economists, academic leaders and outreach professionals from land-grant institutions, program collaborators and community-based organizations.

To learn more about the AgFTAP program, reach out to the following program managers:

- Allison Vetter, Project Director:
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- Celise Weems, Program Manager (Land-Grant Colleges and Universities point of contact):
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Resources

Agricultural Finance, Tax, and Asset Protection (AgFTAP). AgFTAP. Retrieved February 5, 2025, from <https://agftap.org>.

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