

# OVERVIEW OF FARM RANCH AND STRESS ASSISTANCE NETWORK ACTIVITIES, PROGRESS, FUNDING

Reauthorized in the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 and funded for the first time through the FY 2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act, the **Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network** (FRSAN) launched to provide stress assistance programs to individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupations. In FY20, USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) awarded three-year continuation awards totaling \$28.7 million to four regional entities to help ensure vulnerable agricultural producers and their families have increased options for access to supportive services where they live and work. The suite of services offered through FRSAN include:

1. Farm telephone helplines and websites
2. Training, including training programs and workshops, for the following:
  - a. advocates for individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other occupations relating to agriculture
  - b. other individuals and entities that may assist individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other occupations relating to agriculture, and are in crisis
3. Support groups; and
4. Outreach services and activities, including the dissemination of information and materials.

The four regions, associated states, lead entities, and project directors are reflected below.

<b>NORTH CENTRAL:</b>	<b>NORTHEAST REGION:</b>	<b>SOUTHERN REGION:</b>	<b>WESTERN REGION:</b>
University of Illinois Josie Rudolphi <a href="mailto:josier@illinois.edu">josier@illinois.edu</a>	National Young Farmers Coalition Martin Lemos <a href="mailto:martin@youngfarmers.org">martin@youngfarmers.org</a>	University of Tennessee Heather Sedges <a href="mailto:hsedges@utk.edu">hsedges@utk.edu</a>	Washington State University Don McMoran <a href="mailto:dmc Moran@wsu.edu">dmc Moran@wsu.edu</a>
Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin	Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, District of Columbia	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands	Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam

When Congress reauthorized the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network in the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress provided a roadmap for Cooperative Extension, tribal partners, and non-governmental organizations to collaborate in providing the kinds of supports needed to ease stress associated with agricultural production. As a result, Cooperative Extension and its partners are providing farm stress management resources in every U.S. state and territory.

Recognizing the additional stressors that producers and supply chain workers are experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress provided \$28 million in funding under Section 766 of Division M (Coronavirus Response and Relief Act, 2021) of the FY 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act (**H.R. 133**), for State Departments of Agriculture (SDA) to expand or sustain stress assistance programs for individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupations. Each SDA was able to request up to \$500,000 through NIFA to implement a state plan and to coordinate, where possible, with current FRSAN awardees. **50 SDAs are actively engaged in alleviating stress for producers in their states.**