



## *Farm Service Agency*

Information necessary to establish a Farm Serial Number (FSN) with the Farm Service Agency:

- 1) Legal description
- 2) Proof of ownership
- 3) Specific proof of ownership when land ownership is transferred.

**Examples** of proof of ownership may include the following:

- copy of the deed, if recorded
- unrecorded deed, if specific program does not require a recorded deed
- land purchase contract or other similar document that affirms ownership interest
- certification of an heir that may not be able to provide a legal documentation to confirm ownership of the property

**Note:** The certification will need to be accompanied by documentation such as:

- real estate tax assessment or bill
- proof of gift tax
- will
- affidavit of ownership
- other documentation as may exist under State law.

4) Establishment of relationship to the land if not the owner. For example, a lease.

5) Establishment of a FSN does not necessarily establish eligibility to receive financial benefits from, or to participate in, programs administrated by FSA or any other USDA agency. The land must be part of a farming operation, a business enterprise engaged in the production of agricultural products, commodities, or livestock, operated by a person, legal entity, or joint operation that is eligible to receive payments, directly or indirectly, under one or more USDA programs.

**NOTE:** Impediments to obtaining a FSN include, but are not limited to, incomplete ownership deeds, incomplete successions, etc.

Please contact your local FSA office for more information. To find an FSA office near you, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).