Growing GRASS

Start to Finish with Ag Resource X

USDA funding for beef cattle and bison producers

Ag Resource X | November 2026

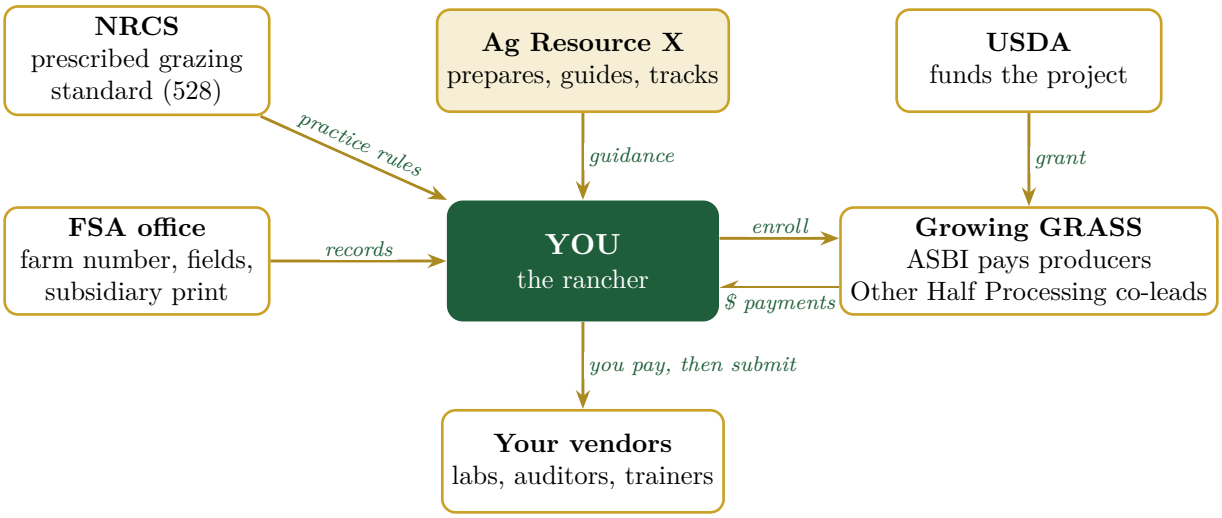
$3,000	$24,000	$0	$500
paid for enrolling	cap per producer through June 2027	match required no acreage minimum	Ag Resource X fee only on success

What Growing GRASS Is

Growing GRASS is a USDA-funded research and demonstration project. It pays beef cattle and bison producers who graze their livestock to take part. The project's goal is to show the value of grass-based grazing and to build better-paying markets for hides, organs, and other byproducts from those animals.

- **Funded by:** USDA's Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) initiative, federal award NR233A750004G059.
- **Money set aside for producers:** about $24 million, paid directly to 1,000+ producers by June 2028.
- **Where:** anywhere in the United States. No farm-size minimum or maximum. Leased land works.
- **What it pays:** $3,000 for enrolling, then reimbursement for approved audits, certifications, grazing training and travel, and soil, forage, nutrient-density, and biodiversity testing.

Who's Involved



Who	Their part
You, the rancher	Graze under Practice 528, keep FSA records current, enroll, sign the contract, and request funds.
Ag Resource X	Checks fit, preps your paperwork, plans your funding requests, and keeps the deal clear of other programs.
FSA office	Issues your farm number, registers your fields, and provides your subsidiary print.
NRCS	Sets the prescribed grazing standard (Practice 528) you follow.
American Sustainable Business Institute	Holds the USDA grant and pays producers.
Other Half Processing	Co-leads the project and builds markets for hides and byproducts.
USDA	Funds the project and receives limited enrollment data.

Your Role as the Rancher

What you do

- Graze beef cattle or bison under NRCS prescribed grazing (**Practice 528**), and keep a simple written grazing plan.
- Have an **active FSA farm number**, your grazed fields registered, and a **current subsidiary print**.
- Complete the enrollment survey and sign the contract **yourself**. You certify that your answers are true.
- Get **approval before** you spend on any audit, test, or training you want reimbursed.
- Pay the vendor, keep receipts, and submit them for reimbursement.
- Agree to share operation data for research.

What you can't do

- Get paid back for costs you paid **before** enrolling and being approved.
- Use the money for **land, livestock, fencing, water systems, infrastructure, or equipment**.
- Enroll the same farm or acres in **another USDA AMP beef or bison project**.
- Run a **CAFO** (confined feeding operation) on the registered farm.
- Get paid twice for the same expense, or use Growing GRASS money as another grant's **match**.

How It Could Affect You

Most producers come out ahead, but go in with eyes open.

Risk	What it means	How to handle it
You front the costs	Beyond the $3,000, you pay first and get reimbursed later. Turnaround times aren't published.	Request approval first and spend only what's approved.
Approval isn't guaranteed	Each funding request is reviewed on its own.	Don't spend until you have approval in writing.
Colorado tax credit conflict	Colorado's Agricultural Stewardship Tax Credit can be denied if you received a grant tied to the same land and practice that year. That credit can be worth up to $300,000 a year.	Enroll different FSA fields in each program, or get CDA's written OK first.
Other AMP programs	You can't run two AMP beef or bison projects on the same acres. Some state grants may be AMP-funded.	We check every program you're in before you enroll.
Taxes	Grant payments are generally taxable income.	Tell your tax preparer, and keep receipts.
Program funding	The project was paused once in 2025 and restarted. Caps reset in June 2027.	Enroll early and take the $3,000 while it's there.
You certify your grazing	Practice 528 is self-certified on a federal program.	Keep a written grazing plan and follow it.
Data sharing	USDA gets your name, county, address, farm and field numbers, acres, livestock type, and enrollment date.	Survey answers stay with the project team. Buyers see only anonymous totals unless you agree otherwise, and data is never sold.

Our Role: Ag Resource X

What we do for you

- Confirm you qualify, and check Growing GRASS against every other grant, cost-share, and tax credit you're in or planning.
- Give you an FSA checklist so your farm number, fields, and subsidiary print are in order.
- Help you put your prescribed grazing plan in writing.
- Prepare your enrollment survey answers and documents, and walk you through the contract.
- Plan your funding requests so you use as much of the $24,000 as makes sense for your operation.
- Track approvals, receipts, and reimbursements.

Our fee: $500 flat, only on success

You pay nothing up front. Our $500 fee is due only when your $3,000 enrollment payment arrives. If you aren't paid, you owe nothing. The fee is paid by you and isn't reimbursed by Growing GRASS.

What we don't do: we don't sign or certify anything for you, we can't guarantee approval of any request, and we aren't part of Growing GRASS, ASBI, Other Half Processing, or USDA.

Start to Finish: The Timeline

Week 1	1	**Intro call with Ag Resource X.** Free. We confirm you qualify and check for conflicts with your other programs.
Weeks 1–3	2	**FSA paperwork.** Get or confirm your farm number, register grazed fields, and request a current subsidiary print. Allow a few weeks for your FSA office.
Weeks 2–3	3	**Grazing plan.** We help you put your Practice 528 prescribed grazing plan in writing.
Weeks 3–4	4	**Enroll.** You complete the online survey with our prep, upload your FSA documents, and sign the contract.
After approval	5	**$3,000 enrollment payment** arrives from ASBI. Our $500 fee is due then, and only then.
Through June 2027	6	**Optional funding requests.** Pick an audit, test, or training. Get approval, pay the vendor, submit receipts, get reimbursed. Repeat up to the $24,000 cap.
June 2027	7	**New caps announced.** Growing GRASS publishes new payment caps and offerings.
June 2028	8	**Program ends.** Producer payments are scheduled to wrap up.

Timing for FSA paperwork and payments varies by office and isn't published by the program. We'll keep you posted as we confirm it with Growing GRASS.

What to Have Ready

- Your USDA farm number
- For each grazed field: field name, FSA tract number, FSA field number, and acres
- Your current FSA subsidiary print
- Your lease or landowner letter, if you graze leased ground
- A list of other grants, cost-share contracts, or tax credits on your land

Ready to see if you qualify?

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Program details are from ggrass.org as of November 2026 and can change. Ag Resource X is an independent consultant and is not affiliated with Growing GRASS, the American Sustainable Business Institute, Other Half Processing, or USDA. This guide isn't tax or legal advice.