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I am an enrolled member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and own trust allotted lands in which I operate an alfalfa business. I am very dissatisfied with the outreach to disadvantaged farmers and ranchers by USDA and FSA. When I asked the Bingham county FSA how many tribal farmers and ranchers there were on our Reservation? Their response was one of bewilderment and eventually was told to submit a Freedom of Information request.

I comment here because I was unaware of an Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (also known as the 2501 Program). This program should be readily shared with existing socially disadvantaged Indian people. And gathering of information is greatly needed to determine client case load and conducting outreach services to Indian peoples. USDA needs to do a better job of determination of potential clients and get them the needed program and financial assistance.