



Legal and Financial Services Referral

ASAP is offering referrals for farmers located in the Southern Appalachian region to engage legal and financial services to build business capacity and profitability. Benefits of participation can include consultation with Ward and Smith, P.A. Ward and Smith is a full-service law firm providing a variety of legal counsel to farmers through a one-hour consultation. Also, participants can access up to ten hours of CPA services from Austin CPA which may include tax assistance, long-term planning, and strategic financial advice. These services are provided at no charge to participants.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must farm within the 60-county Appalachian Grown service region, which includes the following counties in the Southern Appalachian region:
 - **Georgia:** Fannin, Franklin, Gilmer, Habersham, Lumpkin, Pickens, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, White
 - **North Carolina:** Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yancey
 - **South Carolina:** Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg
 - **Tennessee:** Blount, Bradley, Carter, Cocke, Greene, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Monroe, Polk, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington
 - **Virginia:** Carroll, Grayson, Scott, Smyth, Washington, Wythe
- Applicant farms must be Appalachian Grown certified. There is no cost to the farm for Appalachian Grown certification. For complete details on becoming Appalachian Grown certified, click [here](#).
- Priority will be given to limited-resource and financially distressed farms. Limited-resource farm households are defined as "A person with direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than \$246,000 in each of the previous two years. AND a person with a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four (\$38,778) or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years." [Use this tool](#) to determine your status if you are unsure. A financially distressed farm has concerns about meeting future debt obligations or cash flow needs.

If selected for a referral, participants are responsible for scheduling a mutually agreeable consultation time with Ward and Smith, P.A. and/ or Austin CPA. Note: Some times of the year are busier than others and scheduling flexibility will likely be necessary.

Applicants will be notified of their application status within one month. If you have questions, contact jason@asapconnections.org. To apply for a referral, click [here](#).

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