



Next steps:
Enterprise Specific Training for Latinos in Nebraska and Iowa

Magdalena Barrios



Location: Lexington, Nebraska



This case study series showcases Latino farmers in Nebraska. It highlights three separate farmers and how they run their operations, what they produce, and lessons they have learned that might be helpful and educational to other aspiring Latino farmers. The Center for Rural Affairs is able to assist by providing resources and training opportunities. Visit cfra.org/farmers for more information.

Magdalena's story



Magdalena Barrios has been involved in agriculture since she was a child. Her dream has always been to have her own farm and start a livestock business. She first bought land from a neighbor who was retiring from farming.



Magdalena and her husband work full-time jobs in addition to growing alfalfa to support their cattle, which they sell at livestock auctions.



Magdalena is talking with another close neighbor about purchasing their land so she can add more cattle.



She is looking into U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) financing options.

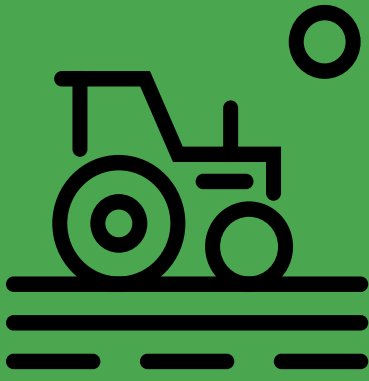
Operation

Magdalena and her husband, Vicente Acevedo, have worked at Tyson Foods for 28 and 22 years, respectively. At the end of their shifts, they work on their farm and take care of their livestock. They have about 50 head of cattle.

“ In our agricultural operation, we are dedicated to growing alfalfa and pasture for the maintenance of our own livestock. Growing alfalfa and grass was the right investment to continue expanding our business and profits over time.

-Magdalena ”





Acquiring land

“ Years ago, a neighbor would pass by our house every day and watch us gather grass from the stream to feed our few cows that we had at that time. As time went by, we became great friends and my husband and I helped him and his wife on his farm and with his livestock.

Realizing the great effort, sacrifice, and work that my husband and I were doing to maintain our cows, he offered us his farm, since he was planning to retire soon.

-Magdalena



Facing challenges and making sales

“ At the moment, the only market we are selling our product to is the livestock auction. I have been selling our cattle at the Broken Bow Livestock auction for several years now.

We have realized that today racism/discrimination against Hispanics and people of color still exists in some auctions in our surroundings. We have chosen to go only to Broken Bow, where our cattle have been paid fairly for their value.

-Magdalena



Working with USDA

“ Magdalena has received assistance from USDA, including farm loans for her alfalfa crop and pasture, as well as information on programs for which she qualifies.

I have had the opportunity to work with great people in the USDA offices. They have given me their support and trust to move forward.

I would recommend that they offer English and bilingual informational meetings on how to receive help from the USDA and what steps to follow to start your own farm. And also having people who are dedicated to guiding people, in ways that support them feeling more confident about how to start their business.

-Magdalena



Advice to aspiring Latino farmers

“ When I started, I wish I would've known the best time and place to sell my cattle to make the best profits. To young people who want to start their own farm or ranch, be aware that it is seven days a week of work, effort, and dedication.

-Magdalena



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