Farm return records: Schedule F, Form 943 and Form 4562

Start once the elevator, the co-op and the FSA office have mailed their year-end statements. Keep one folder per enterprise if you run both crops and livestock.

Client or engagement

Farm income

- [ ] Grain elevator settlement sheets and sale barn statements
  Every sale in the calendar year, by crop or class of animal
- [ ] Direct-sale and farmers market log
  Cash, card and app sales by date
- [ ] Form 1099-G for program and CRP payments
  From the Farm Service Agency, one per program year paid
- [ ] CCC marketing loan papers and the market gain Form 1099-G
  Loan date, loan rate, repayment date and amount repaid
- [ ] Form 1099-PATR from each cooperative
  Patronage dividends and per-unit retains
- [ ] Crop insurance and disaster payment statements
  With the date the crop was damaged
- [ ] Form 1099-MISC or 1099-NEC for custom work you did
  Plus invoices for jobs with no form
- [ ] Breeding, dairy or draft livestock sold
  Purchase date and cost of each animal bought, for Form 4797

Operating costs

- [ ] Feed, seed, fertilizer, lime and chemical invoices
  With payment and delivery dates for prepaid items
- [ ] Vet, breeding, custom hire and trucking bills
  Twelve months, by enterprise
- [ ] Machinery repair and parts receipts
  Named by machine
- [ ] Fuel receipts with gallons used in farm equipment
  For the fuel tax credit on Form 4136
- [ ] Cash rent leases and payments for rented land
  Lease and proof of each payment
- [ ] Farm insurance premiums
  Property, liability, crop and livestock policies

Assets, loans and land

- [ ] Bills of sale for machinery, bins and buildings bought
  Trade-in value and date each was ready for use
- [ ] Farm loan statements showing interest paid
  Farm Credit, FSA or bank, for the year
- [ ] Form 1098 for farm real estate loans
  From the lender, by January 31
- [ ] Property tax bills for farm land and buildings
  Paid in the year
- [ ] Conservation cost records tied to an NRCS plan
  Invoices and the plan approval
- [ ] Land sale closing statement and Form 1099-S
  Plus the buyer's details if you elect the farmland installment payments

Labor and prior years

- [ ] Form 943 and the Forms W-2 and W-3 filed for farm workers
  With payroll records for the year
- [ ] W-9 from each custom operator or contract crew
  With the 1099-NEC you sent any operator paid $2,000 or more for 2026 work
- [ ] Farm truck use: 75% claim or a mileage log
  Same method as the year the truck was placed in service; prior Schedule F shows it
- [ ] Returns for the three prior years
  Needed for Schedule J income averaging
- [ ] Prior-year Form 4562 depreciation schedule
  Shows assets still being written off