Today’s Agenda

Nation to Nation Tribal Consultation
August 18, 2020
10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Lunch Break – 12:00 P.M. To 1:00 P.M.

Moderator: Dr. Carol Crouch, State Tribal Liaison, NRCS

Opening
Traditional Prayer – Jason Burwell, Chickasaw Nation
Traditional Song Flute – Jason Burwell, Chickasaw Nation
National Anthem in Muscogee Creek Language – Pearl Thomas
Troy Marshall, USDA NASS – Overview of Virtual Tools (including the use of polling questions) and Questions for Comment

Welcome

Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Jack Hicks, OTCAC Executive Director
Art Muller, Board Member & Treasurer

USDA Leadership Welcome & Covid-19 Assistance
Gary O Neill, State Conservationist, NRCS
James Bellmon, Risk Management Agency, RMA
Troy Marshall, State Statistician, National Agriculture Statistics Service, NASS
Eddie Longoria, Food & Nutrition Service, FNS
Scott Alls, Animal Plant & Health Inspection Service, APHIS
Dr. Lee Denney, Executive State Director, Rural Development, RD

COVID-19 Assistance
Scott Biggs, State Director, Farm Service Agency, FSA & Madeline Alevine, FSA

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)
Today’s Agenda Continued

Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
Blayne Arthur, Secretary
COVID-19

Tribal Success Story – Rural Development (RD)
Cherokee, Chickasaw & Choctaw Nation Water Project – Ronnie Jones, RD
Cherokee Nation Success, Rural Economic Development – Brian Wiles, RD

Tribal Success Story – NRCS
Marissa Fahrig – Modoc Nation – Seasonal High Tunnel
Jack Hicks – Choctaw Producer – Advance Payment

Reminder: Consultation Polling Questions
Troy Marshall

Highlights of Tribal Success in 2020
Break for Lunch – 12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M.
Today’s Agenda Continued

1:00 P.M. Consultation Continues

Introduction & Recognition – Tribal Leaders
Gary O Neill, State Conservationist, NRCS

Tribal Success Story – Farm Service Agency – Madeline Alewine
Tribal Producer Success with FSA Farm Loans
Cherokee Producer – Bobby Stamps
FSA, Carol Stipe

Consultation & Open Discussion
How Can We Improve Tribal Customer Service?
Are There Barriers Preventing Access to USDA Programs?
Answers and Discussion to Tribal Comments to Polling Questions

Closing Remarks
Gary O Neill, State Conservationist, NRCS

10th Annual USDA Leadership and Nation to Nation Consultation Meeting
Save the Date: August 17 and 18th
Hosting Tribe: Chickasaw Nation
Artesian Hotel: Sulphur, Oklahoma

2:45 P.M. Closing Prayer, Justin Neely, Citizen Potawatomi Nation

THANK YOU
Save the Date
August 17 & 18, 2021
10th Annual
“Nation to Nation” Consultation
Host: Chickasaw Nation
USDA Leadership & Tribal Leaders
Producers can continue to work with their Approved Insurance Providers, or AIPs, on policies, claims, and agreements. Farmers with crop insurance questions or needs should continue to contact their insurance agents about conducting business by telephone or email.

USDA’s Risk Management Agency is working with those insurance providers to provide additional flexibilities in response to COVID-19, including:

- Enabling producers to send notifications and reports electronically.
- Extending the date for production reports.
- Providing additional time and deferring interest on premium and administrative fee payments.
- Extending the correction time period for acreage reports and other forms.
- Modifying the sales period for Dairy Revenue Protection.
- Authorizing replant self-certification.
- Waiving the witness signature requirement for approval of Assignments of Indemnity.
- Allowing dumped milk to be counted as milk marketings for the Dairy Revenue Protection or actual marketings for the Livestock Gross Margin for Dairy programs.
- Allowing phone and electronic transactions for 2021 crop year sales and reporting dates, including options and endorsements.
- Extending the deadline for some perennial crop Pre-Acceptance Inspection Reports.
- Waiving the 2021 crop year inspection requirements for the Nursery and Nursery Value Select programs in certain cases.
- Authorizing AIPs to allow organic producers to report acreage as certified organic, or transitioning to organic, for the 2020 crop year if they can show they have requested a written certification from a certifying agent by their policy’s acreage reporting date.
Electronic Notifications

Notifications and information may be sent by phone or electronic methods between policyholders and their crop insurance agents to do the following:

- Written agreement issues, acreage and production reporting, and upcoming sales closing dates (deadlines to buy crop insurance)
- 2021 Crop Year Sales and Reporting: To make policy elections, such as coverage level, and to report acreage and production
- Reporting Deadline for Options, Endorsements and Forms: To select options and endorsements occurring for the sales closing, production reporting date and acreage reporting deadline

Notice of the policyholder’s election may be provided over the phone with appropriate documentation of the call or using electronic methods followed by their confirmation of such election in writing (via a signed, or e-signed, form) no later than July 15, 2020.

Production Reporting Dates

For the 2020 crop year, AIPs may accept production reports through the earlier of the acreage reporting date or 30 days after the production reporting date for crops insured under the Common Crop Insurance Policy Basic Provisions with a PRD of March 15, 2020, or later. Generally, the PRD for crops insured under the Common Crop Insurance Policy Basic Provisions is the earlier of the ARD or 45 days after the cancellation date.

More Time and Deferred Interest on Payments

AIPs are authorized to provide additional time for policyholders to make payment of premium and administrative fees. USDA announced on May 29 that interest accrual on premium payments and administrative fees will be waived to the earliest of an additional 60 days from the scheduled payment due date or the termination date on policies with premium billing dates between March 1, 2020, and July 31, 2020. AIPs were also authorized to provide additional time for policyholders to make payment for Written Payment Agreements due between March 1, 2020, and July 31, 2020. Payments may be extended up to 60 days from the scheduled payment due date and considered a timely payment.

On August 5, USDA announced that RMA authorizes AIPs to extend deadlines for payments, defer interest accrual, and provide other continued flexibilities to help farmers, ranchers, and insurance providers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, RMA authorized AIPs:

- to provide policyholders additional time to pay premium and administrative fees.
- to waive the resulting accrual of interest to the earlier of 60 days after their scheduled payment due date or the termination date on policies with premium billing dates between August 1, 2020, and September 30, 2020.
- to provide up to an additional 60 days for policyholders to make payment and waive additional interest for Written Payment Agreements due between August 1, 2020, and September 30, 2020.

Acreage Reporting Corrections

The correction time period is extended an additional 30 days for an acreage report or other forms that must be submitted by the acreage reporting date to be consistent with the recent Farm Service Agency acreage reporting 30-day late file fee waiver in Notice CP-757. This will allow producers to make certain that the information they provide for the FSA 578 Report of Acreage form is correct and consistent with the acreage report filed with their crop insurance agent.
**Dairy Revenue Protection Sales Period Modification**

The sales period over weekends is modified for Dairy Revenue Protection (DRP) because of the high volatility of milk prices. Starting June 5, 2020, the sales period will begin no later than 4:30 p.m. Central Time (CT) when the coverage prices and rates are published and will end at 9:00 a.m. CT of the following business day or 9:00 a.m. CT on Sunday, whichever is earlier. The next sales period will begin no later than 4:30 p.m. CT on the following business day. This change only impacts when milk producers can purchase DRP quarterly endorsements, not the timing of indemnity payments. This modification will also be incorporated into the DRP policy for the 2022 crop year.

**Replant Self-Certification**

For the 2020 crop year only, AIPs are authorized to allow self-certification replant inspections for up to 100 gross acres (before considering share) per unit in lieu of 50 acres.

Authorized crops for self-certification of up to 100 acres for replant include: barley and wheat not covered by the Winter Coverage Endorsement (both initially planted winter and spring crops), buckwheat, canola and rapeseed, corn, dry beans, flax (spring-seeded only), grain sorghum, mustard, oats (spring-seeded only), popcorn (including popcorn revenue), peanuts, safflowers, soybeans, sugar beets, and sunflower seed.

**Assignment of Indemnity**

AIPs are authorized to waive the witness signature requirement for approval of Assignments through July 15, 2020. The insured’s and creditor’s signature on the Assignment will be required in a pen and ink signature and in the hand of the person whose signature is required or an acceptable electronic (digital) signature in accordance with the AIPs' established Electronic Business Implementation Plan and applicable RMA procedures.

**Adjustments for Dumped Milk**

COVID-19 shutdowns have caused disruption in the milk market, and dairy producers are dumping milk as a result. For the 2020 calendar year, RMA is allowing AIPs to count dumped milk toward the milk marketings for the Dairy Revenue Protection or actual marketings for the Livestock Gross Margin for Dairy programs regardless of whether the milk was sold. Producers will still have to provide to the AIPs supporting documentation from the cooperative or milk handler verifying the actual pounds dumped and that the milk was dumped.

**Deadline Extensions for Perennial Inspections:**

- Florida Citrus Fruit Dollar and Florida Fruit Tree Programs: The deadline is extended to July 15, 2020, from June 14.
- New Apple Tree Program: AIPs must ensure inspections are completed by July 1, 2020, the date insurance attaches to the crop.
- Pecan Tree Program: AIPs must ensure inspections are completed by July 1, 2020, the date insurance attaches to the crop.
- All Other Perennial Crop Policies: The deadline is extended an additional 30 days for applicable perennial crop policies with an inspection deadline due on or before May 30, 2020.
Waiving of Inspection Requirements

RMA is authorizing AIPs to waive the 2021 crop year inspection requirements when an inspection report exists in the policyholder’s file for the Nursery Crop Provisions and Nursery Value Select for the 2017, 2018, 2019 or 2020 crop years. For the 2022 crop year, AIPs must inspect those policies that had a crop year 2021 waiver. Nursery Value Select is a new program for the 2021 crop year, with a deadline for signup of May 1, 2020, and insurance attaching on June 1. Normally, any inspections should be conducted in May for insurance to begin, as scheduled, on June 1.

Organic Certification Flexibilities

AIPs may allow organic producers to report acreage as certified organic, or transitioning to organic, for the 2020 crop year if they can show they have requested a written certification from a certifying agent by their policy’s acreage reporting date. In addition, policyholders who have requested but not received an organic certificate, organic plan, or other written documentation must notify their insurance agent within 30 days after the certifying agent informs them of their organic plan or certificate status. The policyholder notification may be made by phone, email, text, or other electronic communication method, and the AIPs must document the policyholder’s notification. Policyholders will be required to either sign digitally at the time of submission or must follow up with properly signed forms no later than July 15, 2020.

For more information, visit our website at: www.rma.usda.gov.
• This annual meeting is important to the collaborative work we do to find innovative ways to make our programs work strategically and effectively to serve tribal communities, especially during these difficult times we’re facing with COVID-19.

• This fiscal year FNS completed a regional realignment and the Southwest Region gained Arizona and Utah. Including:
  
  o Oversight responsibilities over eight additional Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) administering FDPIR and two administering WIC.
    
    § FDPIR ITOs include: Colorado River, Gila River, Quechan, San Carlos Apache, White Mountain Apache, Navajo Nation, and Tohono O’odham Nation, and in Utah - the Ute Tribe.
    
    § WIC programs: Navajo Nation and Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona.

• In March 2020, we hired Tribal Liaison Monika Lacka. She hit the ground running right as COVID-19 starting impacting our states. She serves as a conduit between SWRO and your communities on issues related to our 15 nutrition programs.

• When the pandemic was declared a national emergency in mid-March, FNS responded quickly by granting our partners significant program flexibilities and contingencies to best serve program participants across our 15 nutrition assistance programs. The waivers we issued intend to help ease program operations and protect the health of participants.

• Additionally, Congress provided additional funding for our programs:
  
  • Under the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act), FDPIR received $100 million - $50 million for administration (equipment and facility improvements to support social distancing) and $50 million for food.
    
    o The Southwest Region is projected to receive approximately $17 million for equipment and facility improvements.
    
    o The funding related to food costs will begin in the fall of 2020 and FDPIR will receive “Bonus Food Packages” that every participant will be eligible to receive.
  
  • Under the *Families Coronavirus Response Act* (FFCRA)
    
    o WIC received an additional $500 million.
Many ITO WIC agencies have been granted program waiver requests and flexibilities.

FNS approved a number of requests for additional funding ($8.7 million) related to increasing remote delivery of care and educational services and decreasing COVID spread by limiting person to person contact in ITO WIC clinics.

The region has also supported projects exploring remote delivery of WIC foods where WIC participants will have the added protection of online ordering, remote delivery, and curbside pickup of WIC food items. Five ITO WIC Programs received awards and bonuses ($25k) for their Breastfeeding Promotion this year: ACL, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Navajo Nation, San Felipe, and ITC Oklahoma.

FNS addressed supply challenges and allowed substitutions when WIC foods weren’t available.

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) received an additional $15,810,000,000 to be expanded by September 30, 2021, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally. Of the amount provided, $15,510,000,000 is a contingency reserve to be allocated as the Secretary deems necessary to support participation if cost or participation exceed budget estimates to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

Key Program Flexibilities worth mentioning include:

- **Emergency Allotments** - states are able to issue emergency supplements to SNAP households that normally receive less than the maximum benefit.

- **Pandemic EBT** - states provide benefits (similar to SNAP or “food stamps”) to children who normally receive free or reduced-price school meals.

- **SNAP Online Purchasing** - FNS rapidly expanded SNAP online purchasing to support social distancing, bringing access to nearly three-quarters of the states, covering 90% of SNAP households.

Further, FFCRA and CARES Acts provided $850 million for food bank administrative costs and USDA food purchases, of which a minimum of $600 million was designated for food purchases.

Under the Child Nutrition Programs key flexibilities include:

- **Nationwide Meal Times Waiver** – we allow for meals to be served to kids outside traditional times to maximize flexibility for meal pick-up, through the 2020-2021 school year.

- **Nationwide Non-congregate Feeding Waiver** – allows meals to be served in non-group settings to support social distancing, through the 2020-2021 school year.
- **Nationwide Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Up Waiver** - allows parents/guardians to pick-up meals and bring them home to their children, through the 2020-2021 school year.

- I’d also like to highlight the Meals-to-You Program and the Disaster Household Distribution (DHD).

  - Meals-to-You is an innovative public-private partnership between USDA, the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty, McLane Global, and PepsiCo. It began as a summer pilot project in 2019 but has been successfully leveraged as emergency Meals-to-You to address pandemic-related nutrition needs in rural areas. Meals-to-You boxes are delivered directly to children’s homes via the U.S. Postal Service or another delivery service. Children in several tribal communities in our region have been served through this very successful program.

  - FNS approved 30 ITOs for the Disaster Household Distribution program, including two Southwest tribes, Acoma Pueblo and Cherokee Nation.
    - Acoma Pueblo served 450 individual participants – resulting in 4,026 pounds of USDA foods distributed during the months of May and June.
    - Cherokee Nation served 7,149 individuals - distributing 156,499 pounds of USDA foods through the months of April to mid-June.

- As FNS continues to work towards progress in our programs we’re using three main themes to guide us, customer service, program integrity, and self-sufficiency.

  - This meeting is a great example of how USDA agencies collaborate with our tribal partners on the ways our programs can assist their communities.

  - In order to meet the needs of those they serve, the federal nutrition assistance programs must be operated with the utmost integrity. Program integrity efforts protect our programs by ensuring resources are spent: properly, effectively, efficiently, and as intended.

  - The work you do is empowering individuals and families most in need toward self-sufficiency by ensuring they have nutritious food to eat while helping to pave a pathway to long-term success.
B&I CARES Act

• What does this program do?
  • Offers loan guarantees to lenders for their loan to rural business and agricultural producers to supplement their working capital to prevent, prepare for and respond to the economic impacts of the coronavirus.
  
• Must be in business by February 15, 2020.
• 90% guarantee with a 2% guarantee fee.
• Maximum 10 years loan term.

• For more information and to apply, visit https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-and-industry-cares-act-program
Rural Business Service Contacts

• Brian Wiles – Program Director
  • Brian.wiles@usda.gov
  • 405-742-1061

• Amy Cowley – Grant Specialist
  • Amy.Cowley@usda.gov
  • 405-742-1039

• Claire Burnett – Energy Technician
  • Claire.burnett@usda.gov
  • 405-742-1063
Distance Learning and Telemedicine

Distance Learning

• Distance Learning means the real-time, interactive delivery of curriculum via telecommunications and promotes the connection of students and teachers at remote sites.
  • Provide educational programs, instruction, or information originating in one area, whether rural or not, to students and teachers who are in rural areas; or
  • Connect teachers and students, located in one rural area with teachers and students who are in a different rural area.

Telemedicine

• Telemedicine is a real-time, interactive, telecommunications link to an end user from medical professionals at separate sites in order to exchange health care information for the purpose of providing improved health care services to residents of rural areas.
  • Benefits rural residents both in reduced travel and improved access to service

For more info, visit https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/DLT_WebinarSlides_2020_FOA_2.pdf
Rural Broadband

- The Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program (Broadband Program)
  - furnishes loans and loan guarantees to provide funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide service at the broadband lending speed in eligible rural areas.

- For more information on other programs administered by RUS Telecommunications please visit: [http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/telecom-programs](http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/telecom-programs)
Broadband & DLT Contact

  - Robert.Machado@usda.gov
  - 202-934-0601

- Dr. Lee Denney – State Director
  - Lee.Denney@usda.gov
  - 405-742-1070

- Caitlin Stehr – RBS Loan Technician
  - Caitlin.stehr@usda.gov
  - 405-742-1033
COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide

USDA and its Federal partners have programs that can be used to provide immediate and long-term assistance to rural communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. These programs can support recovery efforts for rural residents, businesses and communities through:

• technical, training, and management assistance;
• financial assistance; and
• state and local assistance.

This resource matrix organizes funding opportunities identified in stimulus bills and other federal resources that can help support rural America. Opportunities are categorized by customer and assistance type.

For more information on the immediate actions USDA is taking to respond to COVID-19, visit usda.gov/coronavirus.

To learn about USDA's COVID-19 response for rural communities, visit rd.usda.gov/coronavirus.

For the latest news from the CDC on COVID-19, visit coronavirus.gov.
### COVID-19 Federal Response Resource Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rural Customer</th>
<th>Technical Assistance/Training/Management</th>
<th>Financial Assistance</th>
<th>General State/Local Resources</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **For-Profit Businesses:** Corporations, Limited Liability Companies, sole proprietorships, Lenders, etc. | • USDA Agriculture Marketing Service: FAQ’s: Related to COVID-19 impact on the Fruit and Vegetable industry  
• SBA: COVID-19 Small Bus Guidance and Loan Resources  
• Small Business Development Centers: Small Business Resources  
• Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE): Small Business Resource Hub  
• SCORE: Remote mentoring  
• Benefits.gov Coronavirus resources  
• DOL: Families First Coronavirus Response Act Notice-FAQS  
• FDA-COVID-19-Related Guidance Documents for Industry, FDA Staff, and Other Stakeholders | • USDA Rural Development Business and Industry Loan Guarantee  
• USDA Farm Service Agency: Microloan Programs  
• SBA Paycheck Protection Program  
• SBA COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan  
• SBA: COVID-19 Small Bus Guidance and Loan Resources  
• DOL: National Health Emergency Dislocated Worker Grants  
• DOL: Wage and Hour Division: COVID-19 and the American Workplace  
• **NEW:** IRS Coronavirus Tax Relief and Economic Impact Payments  
• **NEW:** USDA RD Rural Energy for American Program-Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Fact Sheet  
• **NEW:** USDA RD Single Family Home Loan Guarantees Fact Sheet | • Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond  
• Coronavirus.Gov-Breakdown of Assistance  
• **NEW:** Multi-Family Housing Direct Loan COVID-19 Fact Sheet |
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| Agricultural Producers and Ranchers: | • USDA Continues Focus on Service During COVID-19 Outbreak  
• H-2A Visa Program COVID-19 Related Resources  
• Farm Loan Discovery Tool  
• Farm Service Agency: Guaranteed Loans-Lender Toolkit  
• USDA Agriculture Marketing Service: FAQ’s: Related to COVID-19 impact on the Fruit and Vegetable industry | • Farmers.gov: Funding for Farmers, Ranchers, and forest landowners  
• Farm Loan Discovery Tool  
• USDA Farm Service Agency: Microloan Programs  
• Find your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office  
• SBA Paycheck Protection Program  
• NEW: IRS Coronavirus Tax Relief and Economic Impact Payments  
• NEW: USDA Rural Energy for American Program-Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Fact Sheet | • NEW: Farmers.gov Latest Updates and Resources  
• NEW: “Sunnyside of the Farm” Podcasts: USDA’s Work During COVID-19  
• NEW: AMS-USDA Farmers to Families Food Box (part of Coronavirus Farm Assistance Program) |
# COVID-19 Federal Response Resource Matrix

## Rural Customer

### Technical Assistance/Training/Management
- USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Data and Analysis
- USDA FAS Overseas Office Directory
- USDA FAS Programs
- FNS Coronavirus Website
- National Park Service Public Health Update
- FEMA: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response
- FEMA Coronavirus Rumor Control
- Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points: CDC
- FCC: Service Providers Pledge(s)
- Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency: Critical Infrastructure Guidance

### Financial Assistance
- USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Response to COVID-19
- Meals to You: Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty (FNS Announcement)
- USDA Rural Development: COVID-19 Resource Website
- USDA Rural Development ReConnect Program
- VA Homeless Housing Assistance
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): Coronavirus Resources
- Emergency Medical Services. EMS.gov: Coronavirus/COVID-19 Resources
- HUD: COVID-19 Resources and Fact Sheets
- EPA: Water Utility Resources
- DOJ: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
- DOJ: Office of Justice Programs (OJP)
- DOJ: Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
- **NEW:** USDA RD Water and Environmental Programs COVID-19 Fact Sheet

### General State/Local Resources
- U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) - COVID-19 Resources
- FCC: Home Network Tips for the Coronavirus Pandemic
- Appalachian Regional Commission: Real-Time Data Maps Spread of Coronavirus at Regional Level
- USA.Gov State Specific COVID-19 Resources: Links to each State from this site
- **NEW:** Food and Nutrition Service: Response to COVID-19 (WIC/SNAP etc)
- **NEW:** USDA RD Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Deferral Fact Sheet
- **NEW:** CDC Resources for Parks and Recreational Facilities
- **NEW:** FEMA COVID-19 Supplemental Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
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| **Nonprofits:** Economic Dev. Corps., universities, schools, libraries, faith-based organizations, etc. | • USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources  
• FNS: How to become a Summer Site Sponsor  
• U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) - COVID-19 Resources  
• CDC: Information for Healthcare Professionals  
• NEW: US Dept. of Health & Human Services: Child Care and Development Fund  
• NEW: FNS: COVID-19 Congregate Meal Waivers & Q&As on Summer Meal Delivery Using Existing Authority | • USDA Rural Development, Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT)  
• SBA COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan  
• U.S. Economic Development Administration  
• NEW: NIFA Grant: Rapid Response to Novel Coronavirus Impacts across Food and Agricultural Systems  
• NEW: USDA RD Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Deferral Fact Sheet | • FNS: How to become a Summer Site Sponsor  
• DOE COVID-19 Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel  
• NEW: FEMA: COVID-19 Response-How can I help?  
• NEW: Food and Nutrition Service: Response to COVID-19 (WIC/SNAP etc)  
• NEW: FCC-COVID-19 Telehealth Program  
• NEW: AMS-USDA Farmers to Families Food Box (part of Coronavirus Farm Assistance Program)  
• NEW: Multi-Family Housing Direct Loan COVID-19 Fact Sheet |
| **Cooperatives** | • USDA Cooperative Programs Site: Publications and Research | • SBA Paycheck Protection Program  
• SBA COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan  
• NEW: Farm Service Agency: Loans to For-Profit Farm Cooperatives | • USDA RD Funded Rural Cooperative Development Center listing  
• NEW: Multi-Family Housing Direct Loan COVID-19 Fact Sheet |
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<tr>
<td>• USDA Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)</td>
<td>• Food Finder: Connects families to feeding sites</td>
<td>• NEW: FEMA: COVID-19 Response- How can I help?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• ChooseMyPlate: Food Planning during the Coronavirus Pandemic</td>
<td>• USDA RD Single Family Guaranteed Housing Loan Program Website</td>
<td>• NEW: USDA National Hunger Hotline</td>
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<tr>
<td>• VA: Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)</td>
<td>• USDA Meals for Kids Site Finder</td>
<td>• NEW: Foods and Nutrition Service: Find Meals for Kids</td>
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<tr>
<td>• COVID-19: Social Insurance and Other Income-Support Options for Those Unable to Work</td>
<td>• DOL: Wage and Hour Division: COVID-19 and the American Workplace</td>
<td>• NEW: US Dept of Health and Human Services: Administration for Community Living (Older Adults and People with Disabilities)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Workplace Leave and Unemployment Insurance for Individuals Affected by COVID-19</td>
<td>• VA: Housing Assistance</td>
<td>• NEW: Medicare.gov’s COVID-19 information for beneficiaries</td>
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<td>• Food Safety and Inspection Service: Common questions about Food Safety and COVID-19</td>
<td>• VA: Homeless Housing Assistance</td>
<td>• NEW: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Protecting Finances Information/Resources</td>
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<td>• NEW: US. Dept of Health and Human Services: American Sign Language COVID-19 Resource links</td>
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<td>• NEW: USAJobs hiring to help respond to COVID-19 national emergency</td>
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• Medicare Telehealth Frequently Asked Questions  
• HHS Partnership Office-Preventive Practices and FAQs for Faith-based and Community Leaders  
• HHS-What do Older Adults and People with Disabilities Need to Know?  
• Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program (CTAP) | • Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services  
• HHS Awards $100 Million to Health Centers for COVID-19 Response  
• VA Public Health Response to COVID-19  
• FCC Expands Broadband Access in Response to COVID-19  
• HHS COVID-19 Tribal funding  
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**NEW:** USDA Rural Development, Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT)  
**NEW:** FCC-COVID-19 Telehealth Program | • HHS-CMS Long-Term Care Nursing Homes Telehealth and Telemedicine Tool Kit  
**NEW:** Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions – Federal Office of Rural Health Policy |
## COVID-19 Federal Response Resource Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rural Customer</th>
<th>Technical Assistance/Training/Management</th>
<th>Financial Assistance</th>
<th>General State/Local Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Federally-recognized Tribes, or Tribal organizations | • USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Response to COVID-19  
• Intertribal Agriculture Council: COVID-19 Resources  
• Indian Health Service: Coronavirus (COVID-19)  
• FEMA: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response  
• COVID-19 Resources for Indian Country: National Congress of American Indians  
• **NEW:** HUD COVID-19 Resources and Fact Sheets  
• **NEW:** Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis COVID-19 Resources for Indian Country  
• **NEW:** US Dept. of Health & Human Resources: Office of Child Care-Child Care and Development Fund  
• **NEW:** Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) | • Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)  
• USDA Rural Development, ReConnect Program  
• USDA Rural Development, Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT)  
• Institute of Museum and Library Services: Grants to expand digital network access etc.  
• HUD Native American Programs: IHBG and ICDBG funds  
• Indian Health Services: Increased funding in multiple programs  
• Bureau of Indian Affairs: Indian Affairs Operation of Indian Programs  
• $8 billion set-aside for tribal nations from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to use for expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency  
• SBA: COVID-19 Small Bus Guidance and Loan Resources  
• **NEW:** USDA RD Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Deferral Fact Sheet  
• **NEW:** USDA RD Water and Environmental Programs COVID-19 Fact Sheet | • Housing and Urban Development (HUD) COVID-19 Resources and Fact Sheets  
• EPA: Water Utility Resources  
• DOJ: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)  
• DOJ: Office of Justice Programs (OJP)  
• DOJ: Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)  
• **NEW:** FCC-COVID-19 Telehealth Program  
• **NEW:** Multi-Family Housing Direct Loan COVID-19 Fact Sheet |
Glossary of Terms

CARES Act: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

FAQS: Frequently Asked Questions

Data

• NEW: Census Bureau Launches COVID-19 Data Hub
• ESRI Impact Planning for COVID-19: Community Indicators related to decision making around COVID-19 Impact
• Tableau Data Visualization Hub (looking at data from multiple perspectives)
• COVID-19 Data Repository
• COVID-19 Model by Johns Hopkins University
• John Hopkins Corona Virus Resource Center - COVID Tracking
• COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic – world aggregate of cases and by country breakdown
• COVID-19 Data Center from Data World

NEW: Denotes a new resource link added since last version 04/09/20.
### Additional Federal Agency COVID-19 Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMS</td>
<td>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHCO</td>
<td>Chief Human Capital Officers Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFPB</td>
<td>Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNCS</td>
<td>Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CISA</td>
<td>Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAU</td>
<td>Defense Acquisition University</td>
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<tr>
<td>DeCA</td>
<td>Defense Commissary Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture (USDA)</td>
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<td>DoD</td>
<td>Department of Defense (DoD)</td>
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<td>DOE</td>
<td>Department of Energy (DOE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHS</td>
<td>Department of Homeland Security (DHS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUD</td>
<td>Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEA</td>
<td>Drug Enforcement Administration Diversion Control Division</td>
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<td>DOL</td>
<td>Department of Labor (DOL)</td>
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<td>DOS</td>
<td>Department of State (DOS)</td>
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<td>USDOT</td>
<td>Department of the Treasury</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODNI</td>
<td>Director of National Intelligence</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXIM</td>
<td>Export-Import Bank of the United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAA</td>
<td>Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOP</td>
<td>Federal Bureau of Prisons</td>
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<tr>
<td>FCC</td>
<td>Federal Communications Commission (FCC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDIC</td>
<td>Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED</td>
<td>Federal Student Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTC</td>
<td>Federal Trade Commission (FTC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTA</td>
<td>Federal Transit Administration (FTA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDA</td>
<td>Food and Drug Administration (FDA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSA</td>
<td>General Services Administration (GSA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td>Indian Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMLS</td>
<td>Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRS</td>
<td>Internal Revenue Service (IRS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSPG</td>
<td>Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB)</td>
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<td>MCFP</td>
<td>Military Community and Family Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>National Archives</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCPC</td>
<td>National Capital Planning Commission</td>
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<td>NPS</td>
<td>National Park Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>NREL</td>
<td>National Renewable Energy Laboratory</td>
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<td>NSF</td>
<td>National Science Foundation (NSF)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NMCPHC</td>
<td>Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>USNRC</td>
<td>Nuclear Regulatory Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASPR</td>
<td>Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPM</td>
<td>Office of Personnel Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBA</td>
<td>Small Business Administration (SBA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>USDA RD</td>
<td>USDA Rural Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSA</td>
<td>Transportation Security Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>U.S. Agency for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>USCIS</td>
<td>U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>USFA</td>
<td>U.S. Fire Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>USNORHCOM</td>
<td>U.S. Northern Command</td>
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<tr>
<td>USPTO</td>
<td>U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>USSOCOM</td>
<td>U.S. Special Operations Command</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHS</td>
<td>Washington Headquarters Services</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
USDA is providing critical support to our nation’s farmers and ranchers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). CFAP provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities with financial assistance that gives them the ability to absorb sales losses and increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overview

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability Act (CARES Act) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act authorized the funds for the CFAP. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administer the program.

FSA is accepting applications for CFAP from May 26, 2020, to September 11, 2020.

Who is Eligible?

Eligible producers (person or legal entity) of specified agricultural commodities who have suffered a five percent-or-greater price decline as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and who face substantial marketing costs for inventories are eligible for CFAP payments. These specified commodities include certain specialty crops, non-specialty crops, wool, dairy, aquaculture, nursery crops and cut flowers, eggs, and livestock.

For a list of eligible commodities and payment criteria, visit farmers.gov/cfap.

USDA may reconsider excluded commodities if credible evidence is provided. More information about request for consideration of additional commodities can be found at farmers.gov/cfap.

Producers may have some commodities that are currently eligible for CFAP while others are not. Producers are encouraged to apply for CFAP now for their eligible commodities. If a commodity is added to the program, producers will have an opportunity to amend their application.

To be eligible for payments, a person or legal entity must either:

• have an average adjusted gross income of less than $900,000 for tax years 2016, 2017, and 2018; or
• derive at least 75 percent of their adjusted gross income from farming, ranching, or forestry.

Persons and legal entities also must:

• comply with the provisions of the “Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation” regulations, often called the conservation compliance provisions;
• if a foreign person, provides land, capital, and a substantial amount of active personal labor to the farming operation; and
• not have a controlled substance violation.

Payment Limitation

CFAP payments are subject to a per person and legal entity payment limitation of $250,000. This limitation applies to the total amount of CFAP payments for all eligible commodities.
Unlike other FSA programs, special payment limitation rules apply to participants that are corporations, limited liability companies, and limited partnerships (corporate entities). These corporate entities may receive up to $750,000 based upon the number of shareholders (not to exceed three shareholders) who are contributing at least 400 hours of active personal labor or active personal management.

**For a corporate entity:**
- With one such shareholder, the payment limit for the entity is $250,000;
- With two such shareholders, the payment limit for the entity is $500,000 if at least two members contribute at least 400 hours of active personal labor or active personal management, or combination thereof, with respect to the operation of the corporate entity; and
- With three such shareholders, the limit is $750,000 if at least three members contribute at least 400 hours of active personal labor or active personal management, or combination thereof, with respect to the operation of the corporate entity.

**Where to File the Application**
FSA staff at your local USDA Service Center will work with producers to file applications. Applications may be submitted via mail, fax, hand delivery, or via electronic means. Please call your office prior to sending applications electronically.

The CFAP application and associated forms are available online at [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap).

**More Information**
This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information about the CFAP program, visit farmers.gov/cfap or contact your local FSA office.

To find your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap).
Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers direct and guaranteed loans to farmers and ranchers to promote, build, and sustain family farms for a thriving agricultural economy.

Farm ownership, operating, and emergency loans are available under the Direct Loan Program. Farm ownership, operating, and conservation loans are available under the Guaranteed Loan Program. FSA offers two types of guarantees under the Land Contract Guarantee Program.

The goal of FSA’s farm loan programs is to help farmers and ranchers obtain commercial credit. Once you are able to obtain credit from a commercial lender, our mission of providing temporary, supervised credit is complete.

Direct Farm Loans

FSA’s Direct Loan Program is designed to help farmers start, purchase, or expand their farming operation. From beginning farmers who have limited financial history to qualify for commercial credit to farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural disasters, FSA offers a variety of loans to provide additional resources farmers need to establish and maintain profitable farming operations. Farmers may apply for direct loans at their local FSA offices.

Guaranteed Farm Loans

FSA guaranteed loans are available to farmers who may not meet loan qualifications from a commercial lender. Guaranteed loans are made and serviced by commercial lenders, such as banks, Farm Credit System institutions, or credit unions. Under a guaranteed loan, a commercial lender makes and services the loan, and FSA guarantees it against loss up to a maximum of 90 percent in most cases or 95 percent in limited circumstances. FSA approves eligible loan guarantees and provides oversight of lenders’ activities. Contact a local FSA office for a list of participating lenders.

Farm Ownership Loans

Farm Ownership Loans may be used to purchase a farm, enlarge an existing farm, construct new farm buildings and/or improve structures, pay closing costs, and promote soil and water conservation and protection. The direct loans are available up to a maximum of $600,000. Microloans are also available. FSA will guarantee farm ownership loans through a commercial leader up to $1,776,000. The maximum repayment term is 40 years for both direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans.
Farm Operating Loans

Farm Operating Loans may be used for normal operating expenses, machinery and equipment, minor real estate repairs or improvements, and refinancing debt. The direct loans are available up to a maximum of $400,000. Microloans are also available. FSA will guarantee farm operating loans through a commercial lender up to $1,776,000. The repayment term may vary, but it cannot exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are generally repaid within 12 months or when the commodities produced are sold. Direct operating loans require applicants to have sufficient education, training, or at least one year’s experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch within the last five years.

Down Payment Program

The Down Payment loan assists socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers in purchasing a farm.

Requirements:

- The applicant must make a cash-down payment of at least 5 percent of the purchase price;
- The maximum loan amount does not exceed 45 percent of the least of the purchase price of the farm to be acquired, the appraised value of the farm to be acquired or $667,000 (Note: This results in a maximum loan amount of $300,150);
- The term of the loan is a maximum of 20 years. The interest rate is 4 percent below the direct farm ownership rate, but not lower than 1.5 percent;
- The remaining balance may be obtained from a commercial lender or private party. FSA can provide up to a 95 percent guarantee if financing is obtained from a commercial lender. Participating lenders do not have to pay a guarantee fee
- Financing from participating lenders must have an amortization period of at least 30 years and cannot have a balloon payment due within the first 20 years of the loan.

Youth Loans

Youth loans may be made to young persons who are sponsored by a project advisor, such as a 4-H club, FFA, tribal youth organization, or similar agriculture affiliated group. The project must provide an opportunity for the young person to acquire experience and education in agriculture-related skills. These loans are only available as direct loans with a maximum loan amount of $5,000. Youth loans are available to those between the ages of 10 and 20 years at the time of loan closing.
Emergency Loans

Emergency loans help farmers and ranchers who have suffered a loss caused by natural disasters that damaged their farming or ranching operation. Emergency loan funds may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize the farming operation, and refinance certain debts. The county or counties where the farm is located must be declared a disaster area by the President or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture. For production loss loans, applicants must demonstrate a 30 percent loss in a single farming enterprise. Applicants may receive loans up to 100 percent of production or physical losses.

These loans are only available as direct loans from FSA with a maximum loan amount of $500,000.

Conservation Loans

Conservation Loans provide access to credit for farmers and ranchers who want to implement conservation measures on their land. These loans are available to both smaller and less financially established farmers and ranchers, and to larger and financially stronger farmers and ranchers. The family farm and test for credit requirements are not applicable to Conservation Loans.

Farmers and ranchers may use conservation loans to complete any conservation activity included in a USDA approved conservation plan or Forestry Management Plan. The maximum loan amount is $1,776,000 with a maximum repayment term of 30 years. Conservation Loans are available as guaranteed loans only.

Loans for Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

Each year, Congress targets a percentage of farm ownership and farm operating loan funds to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. Providing loan programs is important as these groups of farmers have historically experienced more difficulties obtaining financial assistance. FSA offers several loan programs to assist beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers (refer to the fact sheets titled Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Loans for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers). FSA’s Down Payment Program is offered to assist socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers in purchasing a farm with a maximum loan amount of $300,150.
Land Contract Guarantees

FSA also offers financial guarantees for land sale contracts to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer. The seller may request either of the following:

- Prompt Payment Guarantee: A guarantee up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance.
- Standard Guarantee: A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

The purchase price of the farm cannot exceed the lesser of $500,000 or the market value of the property. The buyer must provide a minimum down payment of 5 percent of the purchase price of the farm. The interest rate is fixed at a rate not to exceed the direct farm ownership loan interest rate in effect at the time the guarantee is issued, plus three percentage points. The guarantee period is 10 years for either plan regardless of the term of the land contract. The contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. Balloon payments are prohibited during the 10-year term of the guarantee.

Who Is Eligible?

Eligibility requirements:

- Be a family farmer;
- Have a satisfactory credit history;
- Be a citizen of the United States, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Marshall Islands; a U.S. non-citizen national or a qualified alien under federal immigration law;
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to meet actual needs;
- Have the legal capacity to incur the obligations of the loan;
- Not have outstanding unpaid judgments obtained by the U.S. in any court, excluding judgments filed in U.S. Tax Courts;
- Not be delinquent on a federal debt;
- Must not have provided FSA with false or misleading documents or statements in the past;
- Not have been convicted under federal or state laws of planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting, or storing a controlled substance within the last 5 crop years;
- Not have received debt forgiveness from FSA (certain exceptions apply); and
• Be within the time restrictions as to the number of years they can receive FSA assistance.

Applications may also be made by entities. Entities are corporations, cooperatives, joint operations, partnerships, trusts, and limited liability companies. Their members/stockholders must meet these same eligibility requirements. The entity must also be authorized to operate a farm or ranch in the state where the land is located.

For socially disadvantaged members, they must hold a majority interest in the entity applicant to receive targeted funding.

Working with Farmers and Ranchers

FSA does more than just provide credit - it works with farmers and ranchers to identify strengths and opportunities for improvement in farm production and management. FSA helps farmers and ranchers find alternative options, so they can achieve success. Learning and improving business planning and financial insight through FSA’s credit management is the difference between success and failure for many farm families.

FSA works to keep farmers and ranchers farming. FSA may be able to support direct loan borrowers whose accounts are distressed or delinquent, including:

• Re-amortization, rescheduling, consolidation, and/or deferral of loans;
• Rescheduling at a lower interest rate;
• Acceptance of conservation contracts on environmentally sensitive land in exchange for reduction of debt; and
• Writing down the debt.

If none of these options results in a feasible farm operating plan, FSA will work with borrowers to determine if they are eligible for consideration to retain the homestead and up to 10 acres. Borrowers may be offered the opportunity to pay off their debt for an amount below the full debt if that amount represents the market value of the loan collateral.

Farms that come into FSA ownership are sold at market value, with preference given to socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers.

More Information

For more information, visit fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or farmers.gov. Find your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/service-locator.
Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans of up to $5,000 to eligible individual youths ages 10 to 20 to finance income-producing, agriculture-related projects. The project must be of modest size, educational, and initiated, developed, and carried out by youths participating in 4-H clubs, FFA, tribal youth organizations, or similar agricultural-affiliated groups.

The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience in agriculture-related skills.

Who May Borrow

To qualify for a loan, the applicant must:

• Comply with FSA’s general eligibility requirements; and
• Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work.

How Loan Funds May Be Used

These loans can finance many kinds of income-producing agricultural projects. The loan funds may be used to:

• Buy livestock, seed, equipment, and supplies;
• Buy, rent, or repair needed tools and equipment; and
• Pay operating expenses for the project.

How It Works

To apply, the applicant must submit completed plans and budgets signed by the project advisor and parent or guardian along with the FSA application for loan assistance.

These loans:

• Have a maximum loan amount of $5,000 (total principal balance owed at any one time cannot exceed this amount);
• Have an interest rate that is determined based on the cost of money to the federal government (after the loan is made, the interest rate for that loan will not change);
• Will be secured, in addition to promissory notes, by liens on the products produced for sale and on chattel property, including livestock, equipment, and fixtures purchased with loan funds; and
• Have a repayment schedule that varies depending on the type of project for which the loan is made. For example, if it involves raising livestock or crops, the loan is paid when the animals or produce are normally sold.

More Information

For more information, visit fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or farmers.gov. Find your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/service-locator.
Community Programs Team Servicing Area
Ronnie Jones, Community Programs Director, Muskogee, Oklahoma
918-913-3209 – ronnie.jones@usda.gov
MODOC NATION

OTTAWA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

Tribal Success Story
Seasonal High Tunnel Project

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Strike Force 2019
Purpose

- To extend the growing season for vegetables and cultural significant plants.
Planning

• The tribe plans to use this space to raise traditional plants and vegetables to help feed their people

• Also plan to use this space for Education for tribal youth
Seasonal High Tunnel
Sides roll down to help regulate heat in summer months
Seasonal High Tunnel

• During spring and fall sides can be kept up to help control temperature and hold in heat
The tribe selected a site that had better soils, building close for tool storage and education, and access to water for irrigation from existing well.
Marissa Fahrig
Business Development and Grant Writing

Video
Future

2021 holds plans to repair, restore, and extend riparian area along Modoc Valley Creek where tribe grazes buffalo. The goal is to help protect/prevent more soil loss from flooding.
Choctaw Producer Success Utilizing NRCS Advance Payment

Mr. Jack Hicks
J & L Ranch
Hugo, Oklahoma
I have worked with NRCS for 25 years, this was the first time I utilized the advance payment for the installation of a conservation practice in any of my Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts.
You may also choose the “vendor direct deposit,” for which NRCS pays the vendor or contractor directly.

- I applied for the NRCS advance payment
  - For Socially Disadvantaged Producers
- I was required to implement both structures within 90 days
- For Both Structures
  - I received $11,649.00
  - 50% of the cost planned in my contract
- Having the opportunity to apply for the advance payment made a difference in being able to get these structures built.
- The payment helped offset up-front costs.
Grade Stabilization #1
Grade Stabilization #2
I encourage any Tribe or Producer To Contact your local NRCS Office if you have any questions.

Thank you

Mr. Jack Hicks
J & L Ranch
Jack Hicks
jackhicks@choctawnation.com
Dr. Carol Crouch
USDA – NRCS
State Tribal Liaison
100 USDA, Suite 235
Stillwater, Oklahoma

405-742-1203
CAROL.CROUCH@USDA.GOV
FARMERS’ GUIDE TO FARM BILL PROGRAMS

Learn more at: farmers.gov

Find your local USDA Service Center at: farmers.gov/service-locator

Contact a crop insurance agent at: rma.usda.gov/agent

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FARM SERVICE AGENCY | NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE | RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY
FARMERS’ GUIDE TO 2018 USDA FARM BILL PROGRAMS

This guide describes assistance for farmers, ranchers, and forest managers available through the 2018 Farm Bill.

To learn more, visit your local USDA Service Center or farmers.gov.

FUND — Opportunities to access capital to fund your operation.

- **Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)**: Provides incentives that help farmers grow bioenergy feedstocks (crops well suited for conversion to energy) and connect with qualified biomass conversion facilities.

- **Down Payment Loans**: Provide a low-interest Government loan, made in conjunction with a loan from a commercial lender and borrower down payment, to help begin, minor, minority, and women farmers purchase a farm or ranch.

- **Farm Operating Loans**: Help producers pay for normal operating expenses, including machinery and equipment, seed, livestock feed, and more. Direct (up to $400,000) and guaranteed (up to $1.75 million) operating loans are available.

- **Farm Ownership Loans**: Help producers become owner-operators of family farms as well as improve and expand current operations. Direct (up to $600,000) and guaranteed (up to $1.75 million) ownership loans are available.

- **Farm Storage Facility Loans**: Provide low-interest loans to build, purchase, or upgrade facilities and equipment used to store, handle, or transport eligible commodities.

- **Marketing Assistance Loans**: Provide interim financing at harvest time for producers to meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices typically are at harvest time low.

- **Microloans**: Provide farm loans for annual operating expenses, equipment, livestock, and real estate tailored to small, beginning, underserved, and veteran farmers and diversified farming operations serving local markets. Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans of up to $50,000 each are available.

- **Organic Certification Cost Share Assistance**: Provides up to 75 percent of organic certification costs for producers, not to exceed $750 per certification scope.

- **Youth Loans**: Provide operating loans of up to $5,000 to youth ages 10 to 20 to finance income-producing, agricultural projects that are developed and carried out through Future Farmers of America, Tribal youth organizations, or similar agricultural-affiliated groups.

MANAGE — Opportunities to mitigate risk on your operation.

- **Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Programs**: Protect farm revenue from changes in market conditions. Provides a safety net to farmers and ranchers when there is a substantial drop in revenue or prices for covered commodities.

- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**: Provides financial assistance to conserve grasslands through a single opportunity to enroll in a 5-year contract. Eligible lands are limited to cropland for which base acres have been maintained under USDA ARC/PLC and were planted to grass or pasture, including idle or fallow, during a specific period. Enrolled acreage must be managed consistently with a conservation plan.

- **Dairy Margin Coverage Program (DMC)**: Replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy. Offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

- **Federal Crop Insurance (FCI)**: Offers hundreds of different insurance products. Product offerings include coverage for production loss, revenue loss, and price decline. Insurance covers row crops, livestock, specialty crops, organic, dairy, grazing land, and more.

- **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**: Provides financial assistance to producers of certain eligible crops for which catastrophic risk protection plan of insurance is not available when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to an eligible cause of loss.

CONSERVE — Opportunities to implement conservation on your operation.

- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**: Helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements.

- **Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)**: Helps agricultural producers manage financial risk through diversification, marketing, or natural resource conservation practices. NRCS administers the conservation provisions while USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service and RMA implement the production diversification and marketing provisions.

- **Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)**: Awards competitive grants that drive innovation and develop the tools, technologies, and strategies for next-generation conservation efforts on working lands. Grantees leverage the Federal investment through matching requirements. Through CIG’s new On-Farm Trials, partners provide incentive payments to producers to offset the risk of implementing innovative approaches.

- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**: Encourages landowners to sell or lease long term to beginning, socially disadvantaged, and retired farmers and ranchers willing to implement sustainable practices or transition to organic production by providing 2 years of additional payments for enrolling CRP-landlord.

- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**: Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits, such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

- **Conservation Reserve Program Grassland Easement Initiative**: Provides incentive payments to enroll grasslands into conservation easements. Landowners receive incentive payments for 10 years to cover costs associated with the easements.

- **Emergency Assistance for Agriculture and Rural Communities (EAARC)**: Provides financial assistance to farmers and ranchers to minimize losses due to adverse weather, disease, or other conditions that cause a substantial and unexpected decrease in farm or ranch income.

- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**: Provides assistance to producers and landowners to address priority natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits, such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

- **Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)**: Provides assistance to producers and landowners to address priority natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits, such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

- **Emergency Loans**: Provides loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)**: Provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on land that is native or improved pasturesland with permanent vegetative cover or that is planted specifically for grazing.

- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**: Provides benefits to livestock owners for livestock deaths or injuries in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government or protected by Federal law. Benefits also are available for reduced sale prices for own owned livestock due to injury caused by eligible loss conditions.

- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)**: Provides financial cost-share assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines damaged by or lost due to a natural disaster.

- **Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP)**: Provides State and Tribal governments with funding or incentives to expand or improve habitat in existing public access programs.
USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment.

Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) advance payment option limits out-of-pocket conservation costs for historically underserved producers. EQIP provides at least 50 percent of the contracted payment for each conservation practice up front, before the practice is implemented, to purchase materials or contract services.

Advance payments are only available under EQIP. EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to address natural resource concerns resulting in environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

Under the general EQIP payment process, a producer is reimbursed after a conservation practice is implemented. This process often means that producers must pay up front costs, which can be cost prohibitive for many historically underserved producers. The advance payment must be expended within 90 days of receipt, and the practice completed as agreed to on the EQIP plan of operations.

Who is Eligible?

Historically Underserved Producers:

- **Beginning Farmer or Rancher** – is someone who has never operated a farm or ranch, previously, or has operated a farm or ranch for less than 10-consecutive years.

- **Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher** – is a member of a group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of that group without regard to their individual qualities.

- **Veteran Farmer or Rancher** – has served in the armed forces and has not operated a farm or ranch, has operated a farm or ranch for less than 10-consecutive years, or first obtained veteran status during the last 10 years.

- **Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher** – has a household income at or below the national poverty level. Eligibility can be determined by using the Limited Resources Farmer or Rancher Tool online at https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/.

How It Works

All EQIP practices are eligible for advance payments, including vegetative, structural, and management practices, and conservation activity plans. Producers can use the option for as many or as few practices as they choose and can change their decision before they receive payment.

Historically underserved farmers producers are also eligible for a higher payment rates.

How was the advance payment changed under the 2018 Farm Bill?

The 2018 Farm Bill requires NRCS to offer proactively the advance payment option to all historically underserved EQIP participants.

NRCS field staff are required to document the producer’s decision to select (or not select) the advance payment on a contract item basis.
Important Note: Any funds not expended within 90 days of receipt must be returned to NRCS. Therefore, participants should make sure that the advance payment is for an immediate need, and that the design or job sheet, as well as any additional funding needed to purchase materials, is ready and available before requesting the funds.

Example: A beginning farmer applies for and is approved for an EQIP contract to plant cover crops on 40 acres of land. If the payment rate for implementation of a cover crop practice is $56.81 per acre. Multiplying that rate by 40 acres, the total payment that beginning farmer would receive for planting cover crops through EQIP would be $2,272.40. Under the advance payment rate of 50%, that beginning farmer would be eligible to receive $1,136.20 in advance of implementing the practice, thus making it possible to offset some of the up-front costs such as purchasing the seed. The beginning farmer would then receive the remaining payment upon completing the cover crop practice.

How to Apply

EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis and contracts awarded through a competitive process. Historically underserved producers who are approved for an EQIP contract may elect to receive advance payments on form NRCS-CPA-1155 “Conservation Plan of Operation.” Producers with EQIP contracts who are ready to purchase materials or to contract services may request the advance payment by contacting their NRCS office.

More Information

For more information, visit nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill or farmers.gov.

Find your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/service-locator.
Bobby and Danel Stamps
Nowata County FSA Producers
A success story that began with a 2014 Microloan

- Started a relationship with the FSA with a 2014 microloan for cattle
  - Purchased 5 cows to go on 25 leased acres
- Acquired an 80-acre lease
  - Later in 2014, they received one more loan for additional cattle.
Advancing forward in 2015

- Received an additional Farm Ownership loan
  - purchased 200 acres
- Later in 2015
  - purchased an additional 40 acres
Monumental Strides in 2020

Received an additional farm ownership loan purchased an adjoining 68 acres

Grew their real estate 308 acres since 2015

Today, they have 93 head of cattle

Received a guaranteed loan to refinance 3 real estate debts
  Resulting in long term fixed low interest rates
Nowata County Office
918-273-3074

Farm Loan Manager:
Carol Stipe