



In This Issue:

- [Apply Now! October Deadlines Approaching for Three Critical USDA Pandemic Assistance Programs](#)
- [Availability of Low-Interest Physical Loss Loans for Producers Affected by Natural Disasters](#)
- [USDA Designates Maricopa County, Arizona, as a Primary Natural Disaster Area](#)
- [Application Period Opens for Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program](#)
- [Share Your 2021 Harvest](#)
- [Higher Loan Limit Now Available for USDA Guaranteed Farm Loans](#)

Apply Now! October Deadlines Approaching for Three Critical USDA Pandemic Assistance Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture offers financial assistance for a broad set of customers – from farmers and ranchers to timber harvesters and haulers – through our [Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative](#). Signup deadlines for three critical programs are quickly approaching:

- [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2](#) – Oct. 12
- [Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program](#) – Oct. 12
- [Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers Program](#) – Oct. 15

To those who haven't yet applied: There's still time, and we're here to help. If you're not sure which program(s) best fit your operation, Farm Service Agency Administrator Zach Ducheneaux shares three questions to consider. [Learn More](#)

Availability of Low-Interest Physical Loss Loans for Producers Affected by Natural Disasters

Physical loss loans can help producers repair or replace damaged or destroyed physical property essential to the success of the agricultural operation, including livestock losses. Examples of property commonly affected include essential farm buildings, fixtures to real estate, equipment, livestock, perennial crops, fruit and nut bearing trees and harvested or stored crops and hay.

State: Arizona

Triggering Disaster: Wildfire that occurred June 1, 2021 and continuing.

Application Deadline: Feb. 28, 2022

Primary Counties Eligible: Gila and Pinal

Contiguous Counties also Eligible: Coconino, Graham, Maricopa, Navajo, Pima and Yavapai

More Resources

On farmers.gov, the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), and [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#) can help you determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

USDA Designates Maricopa County, Arizona, as a Primary Natural Disaster Area

This Secretarial natural disaster designation allows the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through [emergency loans](#). Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinance of certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

Impacted Area: Arizona

Triggering Disaster Event: Rain, flash floods and winds that occurred from August 1 through August 13, 2021.

Application Deadline: May 13, 2022

Primary County Eligible: Maricopa

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible: Gila, La Paz, Pima, Pinal, Yavapai and Yuma

More Resources

On farmers.gov, the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), and [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#) can help you determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

Application Period Opens for Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a [Request for Applications](#) (RFA) for the new Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grant program and encourages eligible entities to apply now for funds. Applications must be submitted electronically through the grant portal at <https://usda-prs.grantsolutions.gov/usda> by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, November 22, 2021**. Approximately \$650 million in funding is available for the PRS grants, which are funded by the Pandemic Assistance provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

The PRS Grant program will assist small businesses in certain commodity areas, including specialty crop producers, shellfish farming, finfish farming, aquaculture, and apiculture; specialty crop, meat, and other processors; distributors; and farmers markets. Small businesses and nonprofits in these industries can apply for a grant to cover COVID-related expenses such as workplace safety measures (e.g., personal protective equipment (PPE), retrofitting facilities for worker and consumer safety, shifting to online sales platforms, transportation, worker housing, and medical costs. The minimum funding request is \$1,500 and the maximum funding request is \$20,000.

The [RFA](#) and the [PRS Grant Portal](#) provide more details about eligibility for the grant. Eligible entities are required to obtain a free DUNS Number from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) BEFORE applying for this program. USDA has created a custom PRS DUNS number portal at <https://support.dnb.com/PandemicResponse>.

Application resources including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), tip sheets in English and Spanish on applying for a DUNS Number, videos on “How to Apply” and more are available on the [PRS Grant Portal](#).

For more information, you can also reach out to the PRS help desk, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. ET at (301) 238-5550 or usda.ams.prs@grantsolutions.gov.

Check your eligibility, obtain a DUNS number, and learn more about the application process at the [PRS Grant Portal](#).

Share Your 2021 Harvest

This past spring, many of you shared with us photos and videos of the seeds and seedlings you sowed, and your hopes for the coming season. (View the storymap: <https://arcg.is/0Lq1z5>)

This fall as you reap the rewards of your work, we want to hear from you once again. Did the year go as you expected, or did you experience some surprises? Is your harvest bountiful, or were you impacted by conditions like drought, flood, or pests? Did our pandemic or farm programs benefit your operation this year? Did you try any new tactics or equipment, and if so, how did it go?

Send photos and videos of your operation's harvest activities, along with a few sentences reflecting your thoughts on the above questions **by October 27** to SM.FP.Social@usda.gov. You may be featured on Farmers.gov national social media channels, a national storymap, and/or our wrap-up blog scheduled to publish in late October. For more details and examples, read our short blog story: <https://go.usa.gov/xMUan>.

Higher Loan Limit Now Available for USDA Guaranteed Farm Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a higher loan limit will be available for **borrowers seeking a guaranteed farm loan starting Oct. 1, 2021**, from \$1.776 million to \$1.825 million.

FSA farm loans offer access to funding for a wide range of producer needs, from securing land to financing the purchase of equipment. Guaranteed loans are financed and serviced by commercial lenders. FSA provides up to a 95% guarantee against possible financial loss of principal and interest. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

In fiscal year 2021, FSA saw continued strong demand for guaranteed loans. FSA obligated more than \$3.4 billion in guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans. This includes nearly \$1.2 billion for beginning farmers. The number of guaranteed borrowers has grown by 10% to more than 38,750 farmers and ranchers over the last decade. FSA expects the increasing demand for farm loans to continue into fiscal year 2022.

Disaster Set-Aside Extension

USDA has additional support available to producers given the recent outbreaks of the COVID-19 Delta variant and has extended the availability of COVID-19 Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) for installments due through Jan. 31, 2022. In addition, FSA will permit a second DSA for COVID-19 and a second DSA for natural disasters for those who had an initial COVID-19 DSA. **Requests for a COVID-19 DSA or a second DSA must be received no later than May 1, 2022.**

Last year, FSA broadened the use of the DSA. Normally used in the wake of natural disasters, the DSA can now allow farmers with USDA farm loans who are affected by COVID-19 and determined to be eligible, to have their next payment set aside. The set-aside payment's due date is moved to the final maturity date of the loan or extended up to twelve months in the case of an annual operating loan. Any principal set-aside will continue to accrue interest until it is repaid. This will improve the borrower's cashflow in the current production cycle.

More Information

Producers can explore available options on all FSA loan options at fsa.usda.gov or by contacting their [local USDA Service Center](#). Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Because of the pandemic, some [USDA Service Centers](#) are open to limited visitors. Contact your Service Center to set up an in-person or phone appointment. Additionally, more information related to USDA's response and relief for producers can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.



Arizona / FPAC USDA

230 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 506/509
Phoenix, Arizona 85003-1726

Arizona Farm Service Agency

Phoenix Office: 602-285-6300

Arizona Natural Resource Conservation Service

Phoenix Office: 602-280-8801

Risk Management Agency

Davis, CA Office: 530-792-5870