



# GEORGIA FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024

United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE ARTHUR L. TRIPP, JR.



On behalf of the USDA Farm Service Agency in Georgia, I want to thank you for what you do to feed and nourish our communities across our state and Nation. Our team remains dedicated to providing the most efficient and effective programs possible, striving to support you in every way we can. The USDA Farm Service Agency in Georgia is here to help you succeed.

I highly encourage you to visit your local USDA Service Center to learn more about our farm programs, loans, and other resources that may assist you in meeting your operational goals. If we can ever be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact our office. Please email [GAFeedback@usda.gov](mailto:GAFeedback@usda.gov) or call my office to share your feedback on your experience with our agency. At the Farm Service Agency, service may be our middle name, but it is our first priority.

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Please contact your local FSA County Office for more information.

## FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) PROGRAMS IMPORTANT INFORMATION & DATES

**Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**—A type of crop insurance that provides financial assistance to producers of crops that are not insurable through Federal Crop Insurance, to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses or prevents crop planting.

**Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**—Provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland and conservation structures damaged by natural disasters and implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

**Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)**—Provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land in order to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster.

**Tree Assistance Program (TAP)**—Provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters.

**Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**—Provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government.

**Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)**—Provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease (including cattle tick fever), adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by LFP and LIP.

**Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**—A voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is devoted to conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers"), to control soil erosion, improve the water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. Continuous signup enrollment contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration.

**Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)**—FSA will cover up to 75% of organic certification costs at a maximum of \$750 per certification category. FSA is now accepting applications, and organic producers and handlers should apply for OCCSP by the Oct. 31, 2024, deadline for eligible expenses incurred from Oct. 1, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2024. FSA will issue payments as applications are received and approved.

For more information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services).

DEADLINE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION   COMMODITY
July 15	Acreage Reports	All other crops, Perennial Forage
July 31	NAP	Sweet Corn
July 31	Acreage Reports	Hemp
July 31	CRP - Continuous	Re-Enroll and New Enroll Deadline
August 1	County Committee	Nominations Due
August 15	NAP	All Value Loss Crops, All crops without a final planting date such as Grapes, Figs, Caneberries, Tangerines, Carrots, Rye, Strawberries, Perennial Peanuts
August 15	Acreage Reports	Tomatoes (planted 7/1 - 8/15)
August 31	NAP	Onions
September 15	Acreage Reports	Sweet Corn (planted 7/15 - 8/25)

## FACTS BY THE NUMBERS

In 2023, Georgia producers reported a total of 5,265,477 acres to FSA.

## Did you know?

According to the 2022 Census of Agriculture, there are over 39,000 farms in Georgia!

## FARM LOAN PROGRAMS (FLP)

### Applying for FSA Direct Loans

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating loans to producers who want to establish, maintain, or strengthen their farm or ranch. Direct loans are processed, approved and serviced by FSA loan officers.

Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate.

Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for direct farm ownership loans is \$600,000 and the maximum loan amount for direct operating loans is \$400,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan.

Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years. Please contact your local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

### FSA Offers Loan Servicing Options

There are options for Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan customers during financial stress. If you are a borrower who is unable to make payments on a loan, contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager to learn about your options.

## Do you want the opportunity to serve your local farming community? FSA County Committee nominations are due by August 1, 2024!

FSA County Committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and administration of federal farm programs in your farming community. Farmers and ranchers who are elected to serve on FSA County Committees use their judgment and knowledge to help with the decisions necessary to administer FSA programs in their counties, ensuring the needs of local producers are met.

[www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/county-committee-elections/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/county-committee-elections/)



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