



Farm Service Agency

GEORGIA FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024

United States Department of Agriculture

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE ARTHUR L. TRIPP, JR.



On behalf of the USDA Farm Service Agency in Georgia, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year. As we continue throughout 2024, our team will remain dedicated to providing efficient and effective program delivery for our producers throughout the state. 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. Additionally, we welcome feedback and would love to hear from you. Please email GAFeedback@usda.gov or call my office to share 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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Arthur L. Tripp, Jr.

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Websites:

www.farmers.gov
www.fsa.usda.gov/GA

Please contact your local FSA County Office for more information.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) PROGRAMS IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

Acreage Reports—Each producer who expects to receive benefits under FSA Programs is responsible for complying with every provision of the program, including accurate acreage reports and production evidence when required.

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.

Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC)—DMC is a voluntary program that provides dairy operations with risk management coverage that will pay producers when the difference (the margin) between the national price of milk and the average cost of feed falls below a certain level selected by the program participants.

Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC)—An income support program that provides payments when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guarantee level. The PLC Program provides income support payments when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its effective reference price. Payments are calculated using base acres assigned to a farm. Base acres are established using historical plantings from 2009 through 2017 for 22 covered commodities.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)—ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers for livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish that have losses because of disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, including losses because of blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. Producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses must file the following:

- A notice of loss and an application for payment by **January 30** following the calendar year for which benefits are requested.

DEADLINE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION COMMODITY
January 15	Acreage Reports	Apples, Blueberries, Canola, Peaches, Rye, Rapeseed, Fall-Seeded Small Grains
January 31	NAP	All annual crops, both spring and fall plantings, with the exception of those listed otherwise, Tomatoes, Pecans, Cole Crops: Broccoli, Cauliflower, Brussel Sprouts, Greens (all types), and Cabbage (Zone 1 and 2 only), Millet, Sesame
February 15	Acreage Reporting	Onions (planted 10/21 – 2/1)
February 28	NAP	Corn, UPCN, FCTB, Grain Sorghum, Peanuts, Soybeans and Hemp
March 15	Acreage Reporting	Pecans/Cabbage (planted 10/1 – 2/20)
	ARC/PLC	2024 Signup Deadline

FACTS BY THE NUMBERS

Georgia FSA provided assistance under the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) to farmers that suffered a loss due to disaster conditions and events in 2020 and 2021, in the amount of:

2020 \$98,617,208

2021 \$112,690,716

Signup is on-going for ERP 2022 at your local FSA office.

Did you know?

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the U.S. and has prevented more than 9 billion tons of soil from eroding, enough soil to fill 600 million dump trucks.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS (FLP)

Maintaining Good Credit History

Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans require applicants to have a satisfactory credit history. A credit report is requested for all FSA direct farm loan applicants. These reports are reviewed to verify outstanding debts, see if bills are paid timely, and to determine the impact on cash flow. Information on your credit report is strictly confidential and is used only as an aid in conducting FSA business.

Our farm loan staff will discuss options with you if you have an unfavorable credit report and will provide a copy of your report. If you dispute the accuracy of the information on the credit report, it is up to you to contact the issuing credit report company to resolve any errors or inaccuracies.

There are multiple ways to remedy an unfavorable credit score:

- Make sure to pay bills on time
- Setting up automatic payments or automated reminders can be an effective way to remember payment due dates.
- Pay down existing debt
- Keep your credit card balances low
- Avoid suddenly opening or closing existing credit accounts

Check out our New Loan Assistance Tool!

Scan the QR code or visit lat.fpac.usda.gov to check your eligibility for FSA loans, discover the various FSA loan products, learn about documentation requirements, and follow easy to understand instructions when completing the loan application forms.

FSA's farm loan staff will guide you through the process, which may require you to reapply for a loan after improving or correcting your credit report. For more information on FSA farm loan programs, contact your local USDA Service Center or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Progression Lending from FSA

Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm loans are considered progression lending. Unlike loans from a commercial lender, FSA loans are intended to be temporary in nature. Our goal is to help you graduate to commercial credit, and our farm loan staff is available to help borrowers through training and credit counseling.

The FSA team will help borrowers identify their goals to ensure financial success. FSA staff will advise borrowers on developing strategies and a plan to meet your goals and graduate to commercial credit. FSA borrowers are responsible for the success of their farming operation, but FSA staff will help in an advisory role, providing the tools necessary to help you achieve your operational goals and manage your finances.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, contact your local USDA Service Center or visit fsa.usda.gov.

