



# HOOSIER FARMERS

## *in the Know*

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## SPRINGing Into Agriculture

**From the desk of the State Executive Director (SED)**

Traveling the back roads during my trips around the state has allowed me to experience our state in its truest form through all seasons. My favorites of springtime in Indiana are when the soil is tilled; the birds are

singing; trees are blooming; farmsteads are busy; and machinery is active in rural Indiana. It is my time to give thanks to all things agriculture in our great State of Indiana.

As producers, you raise crops and livestock and help to feed people across the globe. There are many challenges on the farm such as weather unpredictability, fluctuating commodity prices, and increased input costs. However, despite the many obstacles, you remain optimistic about the future of America's first industry – agriculture. I am thankful to work alongside our dedicated Indiana Farm Service Agency (FSA) employees to assist

you in finding the voluntary programs that help you on your operation. FSA's programs are designed to keep farmers farming, families fed, and rural communities strong.

In addition to all of you who work in the field, I am thankful for the men and women of FSA who support Indiana agriculture, every single day. They work tirelessly to move the agricultural industry forward in our country by being your eyes and ears on various programs. They always stand ready to assist you with any questions.

Finally, on both a personal and professional level, I'm

indebted to agriculture for affording me the opportunity to combine my personal life of living on our family farm to working in the federal government as a public servant in agriculture. I love traveling the 'back roads' as I visit our 75 FSA offices across the state and being a cheerleader for my FSA colleagues.

As I wrap up, I want to wish you a safe and productive planting and growing season. Please visit your local FSA office to learn more about the farm programs and farm loan programs we offer!

Sincerely in Agriculture,

*Julia*

## County Committee Elections - Your Voice

Do you want to have a voice in how FSA administers conservation and commodity programs in your community? Do you want to have a voice in setting policies and goals within national guidelines for your county? Do you want a voice to ensure producers and the public understand FSA programs?

If so, you should consider running for your local FSA County Committee (COC). County committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Each county or area is represented by a COC. Each COC consists of a chairperson, vice chairperson

and 1-9 regular members. Members serve three-year terms, up to three terms consecutively. COCs are designed to represent all farmers and producers within the county.

Whether you are an established farmer or a beginning farmer, a female or minority farmer, your voice deserves to be heard. FSA wants to ensure all farmers and producers are represented. FSA encourages you to become involved.

To be eligible for nomination and hold office as a committee member or alternate, a person must fulfill each of the following requirements:

1. be a producer with an interest in farming operations,



2. participate or cooperate in any FSA program provided for by law,
3. be a U.S. citizen,
4. be of legal voting age,
5. meet the basic eligibility requirements, and
6. reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction in which they will be serving.

A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming operation(s) but may not have applied or received FSA program benefits.

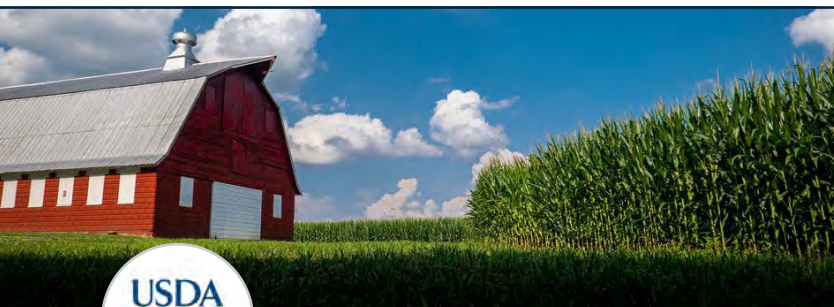
The 2024 nomination period begins June 15, 2024. Visit your local FSA office for more information on your County Committee or visit [fsa.usda.gov/news-room/county-committee-elections/index](https://fsa.usda.gov/news-room/county-committee-elections/index)



## What Can You Do with a Farmers.gov Account?

Did you know that farmers.gov has an authenticated site where you can manage your USDA business? A farmers.gov account gives you one place to do business with the USDA's Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, including the ability to e-sign documents, request assistance and apply for programs.

Learn more at: [farmers.gov/blog/what-can-i-do-with-farmersgov-account](https://farmers.gov/blog/what-can-i-do-with-farmersgov-account).



## Follow FSA on Facebook

USDA-FSA recently launched our awesome new Facebook page! We encourage you to like our pages, comment and share our posts. [facebook.com/USDAFSA](https://facebook.com/USDAFSA)



**USDA Farm Service Agency**  
1K likes • 2.1K followers



## Stay Connected with Electronic Newsletters and Text Alerts

Receive timely notifications, newsletters, reminders and updates from USDA's FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) via email and text messages.

To subscribe to electronic newsletters, visit [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov)/subscribe or contact your local USDA Service Center for assistance.

If you do not have access to reliable internet service or prefer not to utilize the electronic newsletter service, copies of electronic Service Center or state newsletters can be picked up at your local USDA Service Center.



To subscribe to text alerts from your local USDA Service Center, text the Service Center Keyword to 372-669. Keywords are county specific consisting of the 2-letter state abbreviation and the county name. Example: For Ripley County, IN you would enter **INRipley**.

Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

## AskUSDA Available to Answer Questions about FSA Programs

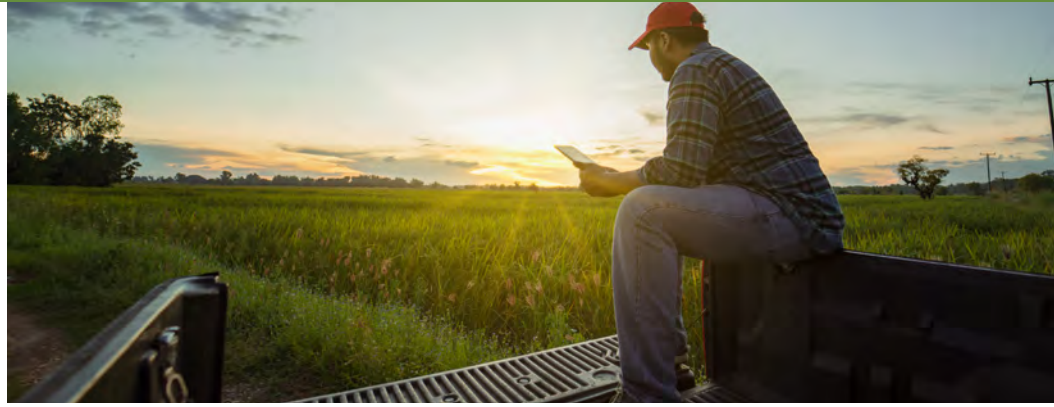
AskUSDA is a tool for FSA customers to ask questions about FSA programs and services. AskUSDA, available at [ask.usda.gov](https://ask.usda.gov), provides information for all USDA programs. AskUSDA allows USDA customers to search for and read answers about FSA programs and services.

Unable to find the answer to your question on [ask.usda.gov](https://ask.usda.gov)? You may submit questions via email ([askusda@usda.gov](mailto:askusda@usda.gov)), online chat, or phone (1-833-ONE-USDA). This improved customer service approach provides a one-stop shopping experience that covers all of USDA's many programs.

## USDA Provides Local Support for Beginning Farmers

The first 10 years of a farming operation are tough. USDA recognizes you need dedicated support to help make sense of all the information coming your way. Each state has a Beginning Farmer team headed up by a state coordinator to assist producers who have operated a farm for less than 10 years to navigate USDA and partner resources.

Bridgette Wanhainen is the Indiana Beginning Farmer Coordinator. She is a Farm Loan Officer with the Farm Service Agency. Bridgette is the team lead and will answer questions from farmers. She can be reached at [Bridgette.Wanhainen@usda.gov](mailto:Bridgette.Wanhainen@usda.gov) or at 765-529-2303 Extension 2125.



The other members of the team are Champions. They assist Bridgette in responding to questions, provide support to county offices and plan outreach events specifically for beginning farmers. Your Indiana Champions are:

- **Brianne Lowe**, Acting Outreach Coordinator with [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#).
- **Terri Weyer**, Single Family Housing State Specialist with [Rural Development](#).
- **Jessica Heyen**, Risk Management Specialist with the [Risk Management Agency](#).

For more beginning farmer resources, visit the website at [farmers.gov/newfarmers](http://farmers.gov/newfarmers).

## Update Your Farm Records, Operation Records and Contact Information

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, these changes should be promptly reported to your local USDA Service Center. Please report any changes of address, phone number, email address or an incorrect name or business name on file to our office. You should also report any changes to your operation in which you reorganize to form a Trust, LLC, or other legal entity.

FSA and NRCS program participants are required to promptly report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and to update their Farm Operating Plan on form CCC-902.

Farm reconstitutions may be necessary when there is a change in ownership or operation. The reconstitution – or recon – is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

To be effective for the current Fiscal Year (FY), farm combinations and farm divisions must be requested by August 1 of the FY for farms subject to the

Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. A reconstitution is considered to be requested when all required signatures are on form FSA-155 and all other applicable documentation, such as proof of ownership, is submitted.

Total Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and non-ARC/PLC farms may be reconstituted at any time.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

- **Estate Method** – the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate.
- **Designation of Landowner Method** – may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract



ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method, the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

- **DCP Cropland Method** – the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract.
- **Default Method** – the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

To learn more about the methods of farm reconstitutions and to report any farm record changes, operation changes and updated contact information, please reach out to your local FSA Office.



## Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits.

The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman must sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor’s signature and one from the minor’s parent

Note, by signing a document with a minor, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.

When signing on one’s behalf the signature must agree with the name

typed or printed on the form or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc.

FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office.

Spouses cannot sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Likewise, a spouse cannot sign a document on behalf of the other in order to affirm the eligibility of oneself.

Any member of a general partnership can sign on behalf of the general partnership and bind all members unless the Articles of Partnership are more restrictive. Spouses may sign on behalf of each other’s individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office. Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts must consist of an indicator “by” or “for” the individual’s name, individual’s name and capacity, or individual’s name, capacity, and name of entity.

## Annual Review of Payment Eligibility for New Crop Year

FSA and NRCS program applicants for benefits are required to submit a completed CCC-902 (Farming Operation Plan) and CCC-941 Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information for FSA to determine the applicant’s payment eligibility and establish the maximum payment limitation applicable to the program applicant.

Participants are not required to annually submit new CCC-902s for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes unless a change in the farming operation occurs that may affect the previous determination of record. A valid CCC-902 filed by the participant is considered to be a continuous certification used for all payment eligibility and payment limitation determinations applicable for the program benefits requested.

Participants are responsible for ensuring that all CCC-902 and CCC-941 and related forms on file in the county office are updated, current, and correct. Participants are required to timely notify the county office of any changes in the farming operation that may affect the previous determination of record by filing a new or updated CCC-902 as applicable.

Changes that may require a NEW determination include, but are not limited to, a change of:

- Shares of a contract, which may reflect:
  - ♦ A land lease from cash rent to share rent,
  - ♦ A land lease from share rent to cash rent (subject to the cash rent tenant rule,
  - ♦ A modification of a variable/fixed bushel-rent arrangement,
- The size of the producer’s farming operation by the addition or reduction of cropland that may affect the application of a cropland factor,

- The structure of the farming operation, including any change to a member’s share,
- The contribution of farm inputs of capital, land, equipment, active personal labor, and/or active personal management,
- Farming interests not previously disclosed on CCC-902 including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child,
- Certifications of average AGI are required to be filed annually for participation in an annual USDA program. For multi-year conservation contracts and NRCS easements, a certification of AGI must be filed prior to approval of the contract or easement and is applicable for the duration of the contract period.

Participants are encouraged to file or review these forms within the deadlines established for each applicable program for which program benefits are being requested.

## ARC/PLC Program

### Maintaining ARC/PLC Acreage

If you're enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, you must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. By signing ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts, you agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If you fail to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on your farm that is enrolled in ARC or PLC, the County Committee may elect to terminate your contract for the program year.

### Keeping Livestock Inventory Records

Livestock inventory records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster, so remember to keep them updated.

When disasters strike, FSA can help you if you've suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.

To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, you'll be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. For grazing or feed losses, you must submit a notice



of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts.

You should record all pertinent information regarding livestock inventory records including:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock; and
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts.

### Applying for NAP Payments



The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to you for crops that aren't eligible for crop insurance to protect against lower yields or crops unable to be planted due to natural disasters including freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes, flood, excessive heat, and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing), among others.

In order to participate, you must obtain NAP coverage for the crop year by the applicable deadline using form CCC-471 Application for Coverage and pay the service fee. Application closing dates vary by crop. Producers are also required to submit an acceptable crop acreage report. Additionally, NAP participants must provide:

- The quantity of all harvested production of the crop in which the producer held an interest during the crop year;
- The disposition of the harvested crop, such as whether it is marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended; and
- Acceptable crop production records (when requested by FSA).

Producers who fail to report acreage and production information for NAP-covered crops could see reduced or zero NAP assistance. These reports are used to calculate the approved yield.

If your NAP-covered crops are affected by a natural disaster, notify your FSA office by completing Part B of form CCC-576 Notice of Loss and Application for Payment. This must be completed within

15 calendar days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest date. For hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops, you must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent.

To receive benefits, you must also complete Parts D, E, F and G of the CCC-576 Notice of Loss and Application for Payment within 60 days of the last day of coverage for the crop year for any NAP covered crops. The CCC-576 requires acceptable appraisal information. Producers must provide evidence of production and note whether the crop was marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended.

Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.



## USDA to Provide More Than \$3 Billion to Commodity and Specialty Crop Producers Impacted by 2022 Natural Disasters

USDA will provide more than \$3 billion to commodity and specialty crop producers impacted by natural disaster events in 2022. Eligible impacted producers can apply for financial assistance through the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) 2022. The program will help offset the financial impacts of crop yield and value losses from qualifying disasters occurring in 2022.

### Background

ERP 2022 covers losses to crops, trees, bushes, and vines due to qualifying, calendar year 2022 natural disaster events including wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought, and related conditions.

ERP 2022 program benefits will be delivered to eligible producers through a two-track process.

It's important to note that disaster-impacted producers may be eligible for ERP 2022 assistance under one or both tracks. To avoid duplicative benefits, if a producer applies for both tracks, the Track 2 payment calculation will take into account any payments received through Track 1.

### ERP 2022 Application Process – Track 1

ERP 2022 Track 1 leverages existing federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) data as the basis for calculating payments for eligible crop producers who received indemnities through these risk management programs.

Although FSA is sending pre-filled ERP 2022 Track 1 application forms to producers who have crop insurance and NAP data already on file with USDA, producers indemnified for losses resulting from 2022 natural disasters do not have

to wait to receive the application before requesting ERP 2022 assistance. Effective Oct. 31, 2023, producers can apply for ERP 2022 benefits whether they have received the pre-filled application or not. Receipt of a pre-filled application is not confirmation that a producer is eligible to receive an ERP 2022 Track 1 payment.

USDA estimates that ERP Track 1 benefits will reach more than 206,000 producers who received indemnities for losses covered by federal crop insurance and more than 4,500 producers who obtained NAP coverage for the 2022 crop year.

### ERP 2022 Application Process – Track 2

Track 2 is a revenue-based certification program designed to assist eligible producers who suffered an eligible decrease in revenue resulting from 2022 calendar year disaster events when compared with revenue in a benchmark year using revenue information that is readily available from most tax records.

In cases where revenue does not reasonably reflect a normal year's revenue, Track 2 provides an alternative method for establishing revenue. Likewise, Track 2 affords producers of crops that are used within an operation and do not generate revenue from the sale of the crop a method for establishing revenue for the purpose of applying for ERP 2022 benefits. Producers are not required to submit tax records to FSA unless requested by the County Committee if required for an FSA compliance spot check.

Although not required when applying for ERP 2022 Track 2, applicants might find the following documents useful to the process:

- Schedule F (Form 1040)
- *Profit or Loss from Farming* or similar tax documents for tax years 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023.

Track 2 targets gaps in emergency relief assistance for eligible producers whose eligible losses were not covered by crop insurance or NAP including revenue losses too small (shallow loss) to be covered by crop insurance.

Producers interested in applying for ERP 2022 Track 2, should contact their local FSA county office. Additional reference resources can be found on FSA's emergency relief website.

### Additional Required Forms

For both ERP 2022 tracks, all producers must have certain required forms on file with FSA within 60 days of the ERP 2022 deadline. FSA started accepting applications on Oct. 31, 2023. The application deadline has not yet been determined and will be announced at a later date. If not already on file, producers can update, complete, and submit required forms to FSA at any time.

Most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, will likely have these required forms on file. However, those who are uncertain or want to confirm the status of their forms can contact their local FSA county office.

### Future Insurance Coverage Requirements

All producers who receive ERP 2022 payments must purchase crop insurance, or NAP coverage where crop insurance is not available, in the next two available crop years as determined by the Secretary. Purchased coverage must be at the 60/100 coverage level or higher for insured crops or at the catastrophic coverage level or higher for NAP crops.

### More Information

ERP 2022 factsheets, eligibility details and payment calculation factor tables are available at [fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-relief/index](https://fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-relief/index).

## Communication with the Indiana Farm Loan Team is Key in Lending



The Indiana Farm Loan Team stands ready to assist you with your financing needs. FSA is committed to providing our farm loan borrowers the tools necessary to be successful. FSA staff will provide guidance and counsel from the loan application process through the borrower's graduation to commercial credit. While it is FSA's commitment to advise borrowers as they identify goals and evaluate progress, it is crucial for borrowers to communicate with their farm loan staff when changes occur. It is the borrower's responsibility to alert FSA to any of the following:

- Any proposed or significant changes in the farming operation,

- Any significant changes to family income or expenses,
- The development of problem situations,
- Any losses or proposed significant changes in security.

As a farm loan borrower, if you are unable to make payments to suppliers, other creditors, or FSA on time, contact your farm loan staff immediately to discuss loan servicing options.

Indiana Regional Office locations and contact information can be found at [fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/State-Offices/Indiana/pdfs/flp\\_servicing\\_areas.pdf](https://fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/State-Offices/Indiana/pdfs/flp_servicing_areas.pdf).

## FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans



FSA Direct Farm Ownership loans can help farmers become owner-operators of family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.

There are three types of Direct Farm Ownership Loans: regular, down payment and joint financing. FSA also offers a Direct Farm Ownership Microloan option for smaller financial needs up to \$50,000.

Joint financing allows FSA to provide more farmers with access to capital. FSA lends up to 50 percent of the total amount financed. A commercial lender, a State program or the seller of the property being purchased, provides the balance of loan funds, with or without an FSA

guarantee. The maximum loan amount for a joint financing loan is \$600,000, and the repayment period for the loan is up to 40 years.

The operation must be an eligible farm enterprise. Farm Ownership loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises and all applicants must be able to meet general eligibility requirements. Loan applicants are also required to have participated in the business operations of a farm for at least three years out of the 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted. The applicant must show documentation that their participation in the business operation of the farm was not solely as a laborer.

To learn more about Direct Farm Ownership Loans, visit [fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/farm-ownership-loans/index](https://fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/farm-ownership-loans/index).

## USDA Now Accepting Farm Loan Payments Online with the Pay My Loan Tool

Most farm loan borrowers are able to make payments to their direct loans online through the Pay My Loan feature on farmers.gov. Pay My Loan is part of a broader effort by FSA to streamline its processes, especially for producers who may have limited time during the planting or harvest seasons to visit a local FSA office; modernize and improve customer service; provide additional customer self-service tools; and expand

credit access to assist more producers.

Farm loan payments can now be made at the borrower's convenience, on their schedule and outside of FSA office hours.

The Pay My Loan feature can be accessed at [farmers.gov/loans](https://farmers.gov/loans). To use the payment feature, producers must establish a USDA customer account and a USDA Level 2 eAuthentication ("eAuth") account or a Login.gov account



([farmers.gov/account](https://farmers.gov/account)). This initial release only allows individuals with loans to make online payments. For now, borrowers with jointly payable checks will need to continue to make loan payments through their local office.



## Applying for FSA Guaranteed Loans



FSA guaranteed loans allow lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. Farmers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct, or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt.

Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other operating expenses.

FSA can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to \$2,236,000. 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.

To learn more about Guaranteed Farm Loans, visit [fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/guaranteed-farm-loans/index](https://fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/guaranteed-farm-loans/index).

## Breathing Life into a Historic Farm with the Assistance of FSA Farm Ownership and Operating Loans



Tyler Gough and his wife, Gentry McDuffee, recently utilized an FSA Direct Farm Ownership Loan to purchase a historic property in Wayne County to pursue their passion for agriculture and food. Also, to help make their dream their reality they secured a FSA Annual Operating Loan.

Although Tyler and Gentry are both descendants from farmers in Indiana, they are a couple of generations beyond having inherited a family farm and consider themselves first-generation farmers.

In 2023, Tyler and Gentry purchased an 18-acre historic farm. Originally, this

Indiana Landmark had been a 78-acre farm, from 1839 through the early 1930's. The property also had a historical museum from the 1970's until 2023. Tyler and Gentry are excited to breathe life into the historic farm once again. They plan to grow a variety of fruits and vegetables, install a nut grove and fruit orchard, raise heritage breed animals on a small scale, and grow flowers and native plants.

Their journey really started when their family rented a home where the landlord did not allow gardens to be planted. Eager to teach their young children gardening skills and the benefits that

come with it, they started a community garden. Tyler then had the idea to provide garden plots to people with the understanding that they would also provide produce for those who do not have space to grow or the means to buy fresh produce for their families. This translated into farming for a non-profit. For the past 12 years Tyler and Gentry have worked at Indy Urban Acres growing hundreds of thousands of pounds of beautiful fruits and vegetables, all delivered to food pantries in Indianapolis.

Their passion is food. Tyler and Gentry feel there is nothing more satisfying than providing good food for your family and your community. There is an infinite variety of product, method, skill, and wisdom in producing, preserving, and cooking. They look forward to being a part of a community of farmers that cooperate and encourage each other in providing the best food to their neighbors.

"USDA programs have impacted our operation very much. We wouldn't have had the ability to buy our farm without the help of our FSA loan officer,

Bridgette Wanhainen, Henry County FSA. She is our hero' stated Gentry. 'She not only helped us navigate the entire process but advised us in selecting the correct loans to fit our operation, and most of all was able to see our vision and be excited about the future of our farm.'

"We have also received amazing support and advice from people who work for Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NRCS, and Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Urban Soil Health and are especially grateful for the support we've received from Elli Blaine (IASWCD), Cara Bergschneider (NRCS), Kevin Allison (MCSWCD) and Meghan Ayers' said Tyler. 'We look forward to building further relationships with the amazing people who work for these programs to support farmers.'

Their most challenging part has been the process of bringing life and balance back to the soil. They have implemented the first steps in a cover crop rotation, planted perennial native pollinator habitat, and will be working with DNR for invasive plant removal in the forested areas. They are looking forward to utilizing other USDA programs such as crop insurance, Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grass waterway for erosion control, forest management, and NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) initiatives such as cover crop management, pollinator habitat management and high tunnels.

Tyler and Gentry's future goals and plans for the operation are to provide a space to learn, collaborate and enjoy great food with the community and neighboring farmers. They would love to be able to include programming that utilizes the historic venue and functional buildings to teach historic methods of farming, food preservation and textile production, alongside new innovations.

Tyler and Gentry recommend that aspiring farmers who are looking for the resources needed to get started, to expand or to sustain a farming operation, reach out to FSA so they too can get started on the path to pursuing their dreams of becoming a farmer.

## Before Bringing Additional Ground into Production, Ensure the Acreage Meets Conservation Compliance Provisions

The term "sodbusting" is used to identify the conversion of land from native vegetation to commodity crop production after December 23, 1985. As part of the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, if you're proposing to produce agricultural commodities (crops that require annual tillage including one pass planting operations and sugar cane) on land that has been determined highly erodible and that has no crop history prior to December 23, 1985, that land must be farmed in accordance with a conservation plan or system that ensures no substantial increase in soil erosion.

Eligibility for many USDA programs requires compliance with a conservation plan or system on highly erodible land (HEL) used for the production of agricultural commodities. This includes Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan, disaster assistance, safety net, price

support, and conservation programs; Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation programs; and Risk Management Agency (RMA) Federal crop insurance.

Before you clear or prepare areas not presently under production for crops that require annual tillage, you are required to file Form AD-1026 "Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification," with FSA indicating the area to be brought into production. The notification will be referred to NRCS to determine if the field is considered highly erodible land. If the field is considered HEL, you are required to implement a conservation plan or system that limits the erosion to the tolerable soil loss (T) for the predominant HEL soil on those fields.



In addition, prior to removing trees or conducting any other land manipulations that may affect wetlands, remember to update form AD-1026, to ensure you remain in compliance with the wetland conservation provisions.

Prior to purchasing or renting new cropland acres, it is recommended that you check with your local USDA Service Center to ensure your activities will be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions. Written permission from the current landowner is required.

## FSA is Accepting CRP Continuous Enrollment Offers



FSA is accepting offers for specific conservation practices under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous Signup.

In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and to plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. The program's long-term goal is to re-establish valuable land cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length.

Under continuous CRP signup, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods. Instead, they are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.

Read more about the Continuous CRP Program at [fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/crp-continuous-enrollment/index](https://fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/crp-continuous-enrollment/index).

## Mid-Contract Management (MCM) Options on CRP Acres

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) policy requires participants with certain practices to perform a management activity during the life of the contract.

The purpose of MCM Activity is to enhance the wildlife habitat value of the enrolled acres for species such as Northern Bobwhite, pollinators, and others. For example, in grass fields, the perennial grasses tend to crowd out desirable broadleaf flowers and litter accumulates. In this case, the purpose of MCM is to set the perennial grasses back which enables these broadleaf plants to germinate and thrive.

Normally, Management Activities are conducted between the 4th and 6th year of the contract. However, on land with existing cover, disturbance activities can begin as soon as technically feasible. Your Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO) will outline the amount of acreage, recommended type of MCM activity and which year(s) you are required to complete your MCM.



MCM activities must be completed outside of the Primary Nesting Season. In Indiana, the Primary Nesting Season is April 1st through August 1st of each year.

## Indiana's Primary Nesting Season (PNS) for CRP Acreage Began April 1st

In Indiana the PNS for wildlife is April 1st – August 1st. What does this mean for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) program participants?

### Maintenance

Once you have established your approved CRP practice, all CRP maintenance such as mowing, burning, and spraying must take place outside of the PNS for wildlife.

Should you have a maintenance issue such as weeds, insects or undesirable species that left untreated would adversely impact your approved cover, you can submit a request to your local

FSA office for permission to spot treat the affected area.

When spot treatment is determined necessary, the FSA County Committee (COC) will approve the method that results in the least damage to nesting wildlife and habitat. CRP participants must receive approval from the COC prior to beginning spot treatment. The spot treatment is limited to the affected area of the field.

### Management

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) policy requires participants with certain

practices to perform a management activity during the life of the contract. Mid-contract Management (MCM) activities must be completed outside of the Primary Nesting Season.

### More Information

Periodic mowing and mowing for cosmetic purposes are prohibited! Annual mowing of CRP acreage for generic weed control is also prohibited. Occasional mowing for control of weeds, insects or pests is permissible if included in the Conservation Plan and completed outside of the primary nesting season.



## Thinking about Selling Land Enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?

If you plan to sell farmland that's enrolled in CRP, FSA would like to remind you about the terms and conditions of your contract.

Under the CRP program, the original contract (CRP-1) will need to be revised to reflect the change in participants and/or shares on the contract. The new CRP participant(s) must sign a revised contract within 60 calendar days from the date of notification by the county committee or county executive director. If a revised contract isn't signed within the 60-day timeframe, the contract

will be terminated with respect to the affected portions of such land and the original CRP participant will be held liable.

If the new landowner elects not to continue the CRP contract, the contract will be terminated. When a contract is terminated, refund is required from the original CRP participant. This refund includes all annual rental payments, all cost share payments, signup incentive payments, and practice incentive payments, plus interest. Liquidated damages are also assessed.

Refunds of payments will not be required in cases where the owner's estate or the heirs do not succeed to the contract. There are other cases that do not require the refund of payments, when a participant loses control of the land, such as eminent domain.

Participants should contact their local FSA office with questions regarding the terms and conditions of their CRP contract.

## Capability Farm – A Transformation from Row Cropping to the Renewal of Nature



Bob and Ellen Mulford are the owners of Capability Farm in Ripley County, Indiana. Located in southeast Indiana, the Mulford's farm is an inspiration for landowners and showcases the Conservation Reserve Program.

### The Early Years

In 1940, when land was being sought for the Jefferson Proving Ground, Bob's grandfather sold his land to the federal government and then purchased the farm's original 160 acres where Bob and Ellen live today. Once purchased, the farm was worked, woods were cleared to provide land for livestock and small barns. In the sixties, Bob's mother and stepfather took over the farm and Bob became a partner in their beef cattle operation. The farm was expanded by purchasing additional acreage from surrounding farms. By the end of the seventies, the farm was transitioned from a beef cattle operation with large hay fields to grain farming.

### Time for a Change

Although Bob appreciated his farming experiences, he had a deep love and interest in wildlife. "The sights, sounds and scents of the farm during the sixties and seventies are etched indelibly in

my mind, heart and soul," said Mulford. "Gradually, but perceptibly, the smells, the sounds and the sights we cherished began to diminish. The habitat was gone."

The Mulford's became increasingly aware that the things they and their children loved most about the farm were fading from their lives. Their natural habitat was diminishing with each passing year.

In 2010, the Mulford's made the decision to transform their farm into native habitat. They reached out to their local USDA Service Center to inquire about programs available to assist in meeting their goals. When discussing program options, Tim Schwipps, District Conservationist, asked what fields they were interested in converting. Schwipps was quite surprised when Bob said 'all of it, all 400 acres'. Bob and Ellen sat down with NRCS and FSA staff to set the plan in motion. The Mulford's submitted offers for various CRP practices and planted 250 acres of cover crops that fall, with plans to begin seeding their CRP practices in the spring.

### The Transformation

With help from USDA's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and numerous other federal and state agencies, Capability Farm was born.

With their previous warm season grass plantings and their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) projects, the 250 acres previously in row crops have been converted into wildlife habitat. CRP practices include quail buffers, field wind breaks, tree plantings, shallow water areas (wetland), warm season grasses and wildlife habitat. All 400 acres of their farm are now devoted to wildlife habitat.

"In the 13 years since we began this transformation, we have witnessed a renewal of nature in many forms," said Mulford. "We have documented over 200+ species of birds. We are seeing

reptiles, amphibians and mammals of every kind, including bobcat, otter and beaver. There is a large insect resurgence."

Ellen is especially interested in Monarch butterfly restoration. For many years, her first grade students were able to witness firsthand the caterpillars munching on milkweed, forming their chrysalis and emerging as beautiful butterflies.

### Sharing Our Success

The Mulford's are proud to have Capability Farm serve as a CRP showcase for other landowners who may be interested in USDA programs. With the farm's location being just across the road from the Ripley County USDA Service Center, many interested landowners have had the opportunity to view CRP projects firsthand.

Their farm has become a magnet for individuals and nature groups. Visitors to the Mulford farm have included a noted ornithologist, Audubon groups, school groups, photographers and master Naturalists classes. They continue to host field days and educational events.

One such event was the 30th Anniversary of CRP in 2016 when the Mulford farm was selected by USDA as a host farm. The benefits and management of the various CRP practices were discussed during the farm tour. Local, state and national USDA staff and partner organizations attended the event along with landowners interested in CRP.

"Working with Bob and Ellen to transform their property into wildlife habitat with a multitude of CRP projects has been wonderful," said Steve Thurnall, County Executive Director, with Ripley County FSA. "Having this CRP showcase across the road from our office has been a great way to show interested landowners the many benefits of the CRP program."

# Indiana's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program



The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is available for landowners in eligible watersheds. CREP builds on FSA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) cost-share and annual soil rental rate payments and participants are given EXTRA incentives from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) for implementing conservation practices.

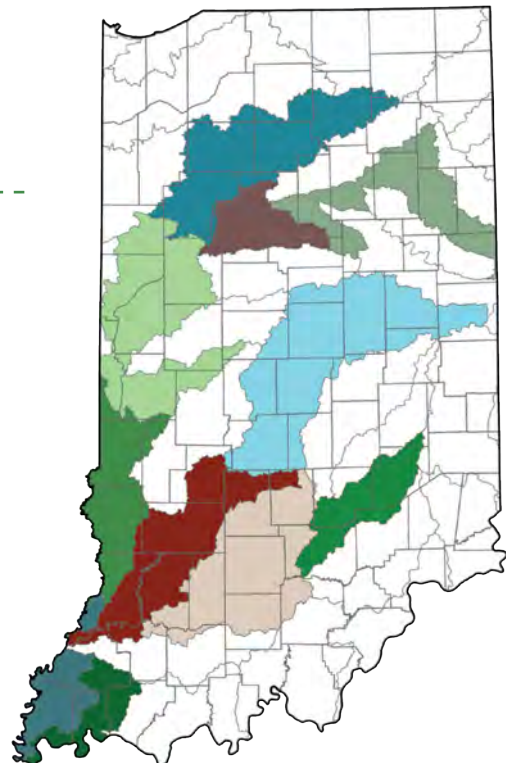
Practice Code	State Incentive/acre	Adjacent to body of water	Widths	THROUGH FSA			Soil Rental Rate Incentive
				Cost-Share	SIP	PIP	
CP2	\$100.00	Yes	50' min; 120' max	50%	/	/	40%
CP4D	\$100.00	Yes	35' min; 180' max	50%	/	/	40%
CP21	\$100.00	Yes	35' min; 120' max	50%	Yes (\$100/acre)	Yes (40%)	40%
CP3A	\$400.00	Yes	35' min; 180' max	50%	/	/	40%
CP22	\$400.00	Yes	35' min; 180' max	50%	Yes (\$100/acre)	Yes (40%)	40%
CP31	\$400.00	/	Floodplain only	50%	Yes (\$100/acre)	Yes (40%)	40%
CP23	\$950.00	/	Floodplain only	50%	Yes (\$150/acre)	Yes (40%)	40%
CP23A	\$950.00	/	/	50%	Yes (\$150/acre)	Yes (40%)	40%

- ISDA State incentive payment for re-enrolled CP23 and CP23A wetlands is \$400.00 per acre
- Contract length in CREP is 14-15 years
- Up to 300' is allowable on alluvial soils

### Eligible Watersheds

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Highland-Pigeon        | Middle Wabash-Vermillion |
| Lower Wabash           | Tippecanoe River         |
| Lower East Fork White  | Upper East Fork White    |
| Lower White            | Upper Wabash             |
| Middle Wabash-Busseron | Upper White              |
| Middle Wabash-Deer     |                          |

Stay tuned for new developments with the CREP Program later in 2024



## 2024 INDIANA FSA IMPORTANT DEADLINE DATES

DATE	EVENT/DEADLINE
January 1	Offices Closed in Observance of New Year's Day
January 2	Final Hive Reporting Date for Hives (Honey) and Maple Taps
January 13	Application Deadline to Submit an Application for the Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act – Discrimination Financial Assistance Program
January 15	Offices Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday
January 16	Final Acreage Reporting Date for Apples
January 30	Final Date to Submit Application for Payment for 2023 Losses under Livestock Forage Program (LFP)
January 30	Final Date to Submit Application for Payment and Notice of Loss (NOL) for 2023 Losses under Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). See NOL Section on Next Page.
January 31	Deadline to Apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for Unshorn Pelts Produced During the 2023 Crop Year
January 31	Final Date to Submit Application for 2023 Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) Program
February 19	Offices Closed in Observance of George Washington's Birthday
February 28	Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program Signup Begins
February 29	Final Date to Submit Application and Notice of Loss (NOL) for 2023 Losses under Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). See NOL Section Below.
March 1	Final Date to Submit Supporting Documents (zero-share signatures, cash leases, payment eligibility, etc.) for 2022 ARC/PLC Purposes
March 4	General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Signup Begins
March 15	NAP Sales Closing Date for annual spring/summer planted crops not limited to: beans, beets, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, canola, cantaloupes, carrots, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, greens, herbs, honeydew, lettuce, oats, okra, onions, peas, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, sorghum, squash, tomatillos, tomatoes, and watermelons
March 15	2024 ARC-PLC Election and Enrollment Deadline
March 29	Final Date to Submit an Offer for General CRP
April 1	Final Date to Obtain Loans or Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) on 2023 Harvested Small Grains
April 1	Nesting Season begins for Conservation Reserve Program practices.
April 29	Final Date to Enroll in the 2024 Dairy Margin Coverage Program
May 27	Offices Closed in Observance of Memorial Day
May 31	NAP Sales Closing Date for Nursery (Ornamental Nursery & Nonornamental Propagation Nursery) for the Crop Year June 1 - May 31
May 31	Final Date to Obtain Loans or Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) on 2023 Harvested Feed Grains and Soybeans
June 1	Date used to establish ownership interest for person or legal entity for program purposes
June 1	Date used for the determination of minor child for program purposes
June 15	Nominations open for the 2024 County Committee (COC) Election
June 15	Acreage Reporting Date for Cucumbers (Planted 5/1 to 5/31) in Knox County
June 19	Offices Closed in Observance of Juneteenth National Independence Day
June 20	Final Date to Submit a Prevented Planting Claim for Corn
July 4	Offices Closed in Observance of Independence Day
July 5	Final Date to Submit a Prevented Planting Claim for Soybeans
July 15	Final Acreage Reporting Date for All Other Crops & CRP (Including Cucumbers Planted 5/10-6/15 in All Other Indiana Counties)
July 15	Final Date to Report Production for the preceding Crop Year for Farms Enrolled in ARC-IC
August 1	Nesting Season ends for Conservation Reserve Program practices.
August 1	Deadline to File COC Election Nomination Forms – Postmarked or Delivered to the Local FSA Office
August 1	Deadline to Request farm reconstitutions and transfers for 2024
August 15	Final Acreage Reporting Date for Cucumbers (Planted 6/16-8/5 in Fulton, LaPorte, Porter and St. Joseph Counties)

## 2024 INDIANA FSA IMPORTANT DEADLINE DATES (Continued)

DATE	EVENT/DEADLINE
September 2	Offices Closed in Observance of Labor Day
September 16	Final Acreage Reporting Date for Cucumbers (Planted 6/1-8/15 in Knox County)
September 30	Final Acreage Reporting Date for Value Loss & Controlled Environment Crop (for coming program year)
September 30	NAP Sales Closing Date for Value loss Crops for the Following Year (Flowers for Fresh Cut, Onion Sets, Turfgrass Sod, Christmas Trees, Aquaculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, ETC..)
September 30	NAP Sales Closing Date for Garlic, Wheat, Barley, Rye and Mint for the Following Year's Crop
October 1	Final Date to Submit Receipts for 2024 Mid-Contract Management Practices on CRP Acreage
October 14	Offices Closed in Observance of Columbus Day
October 31	Final Date to Apply for Reimbursement through the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) (expenses 10-01-2023 through 09-30-2024)
November 4	Final Date to Submit a Prevented Planting Claim for Fall Wheat with 10/20 Final Plant Date (Indiana Wheat Annual Reporting Deadline Map is located at <a href="https://fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Indiana/resources/index">fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Indiana/resources/index</a> )
November 4	COC Election Ballots Mailed to Eligible Voters
November 11	Offices Closed in Observance of Veterans Day
November 15	Final date to Submit a Prevented Planting Claim for Fall Wheat with 10/31 Final Plant Date (Indiana Wheat Annual Reporting Deadline Map is located at <a href="https://fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Indiana/resources/index">fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Indiana/resources/index</a> )
November 15	NAP Sales Closing Date for Perennial Grazing & Forage Crops (Alfalfa, Grass, Mixed Forages, Clover, Etc.)
November 20	NAP Sales Closing Date for Apples, Apricots, Aronia (Chokeberry), Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Grapes, Hops, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Strawberries
November 28	Offices Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving Day
December 2	Deadline to Return COC Election Voted Ballots - Postmarked or Delivered to the Local FSA Office
December 16	Final Reporting Date for Fall Mint and Fall-Seeded Small Grains
December 25	Offices Closed in Observance of Christmas Day
December 31	NAP Sales Closing Date for Hives (Honey) and Maple Sap
	<b>NOTE:</b> The final acreage reporting dates are listed in this table. However, the final date for reporting any specific crop acreage <b>for which NAP assistance may be paid is earlier of</b> the date listed above <b>or</b> 15 calendar days <b>BEFORE</b> the onset of harvest or grazing.
<b>ONGOING SIGNUPS</b>	
	Submit Offer for a CRP Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Practice
	Submit Application for a Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)
	Submit Application for Farm Operating, Farm Ownership, Microloans, Youth and Beginning Farmer Loans
	Sign Up for GovDelivery Electronic Newsletters ( <a href="https://farmers.gov/working-with-us/stay-connected">farmers.gov/working-with-us/stay-connected</a> ), or text alerts. (Contact Your local FSA Office or View the List of County Codes at <a href="https://fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Indiana/index">fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Indiana/index</a> )
<b>FILING NOTICES OF LOSS (NOL)</b>	
ELAP	Emergency Livestock Assistance Program NOL must be filed within 30 calendar days after the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred. January 30th is final day to submit prior calendar year losses.
LIP	Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) NOL within 60 calendar days after the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred. February 29th is the final day to submit prior calendar year losses.
NAP	File Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) NOL within 15 Calendar Days of the Earlier of a Natural Disaster Occurrence, the Final Planting Date if Planting is Prevented by a Natural Disaster, the Date the Damage to the Crop or Loss of Production Becomes Apparent or the Normal Harvest Date.
TAP	Submit Application for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) along with Supporting Documentation within 90 Calendar Days of the Disaster Event or the Date when the Loss is Apparent to the Producer.

*This document is updated as new programs are announced and signup dates are extended.  
To view the most current version, visit [fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Indiana/index](https://fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Indiana/index)*

Updated: 03-04-2024 (Revision 4)



## Interested in a Career with Indiana FSA?

The Farm Service Agency works for the American farmer. If you're ready to serve our nation's farmers, consider the opportunities with FSA. FSA offers many rewarding opportunities. What sets us apart? It all starts with who we work for ... The American Farmer!

If you're interested in starting a career with Indiana FSA, please visit [usajobs.gov](https://usajobs.gov), establish a user profile and save a search. By saving a search, [USAJOBS](https://usajobs.gov) will email you when there are new jobs that match your search criteria.

Profiles are required for most federal employment applications and offer the opportunity for interested individuals



to search for positions by location and/or job titles, upload searchable resumes, and receive automated vacancy announcement updates.



## Annual Program and Policy Reminder Newsletter

Each calendar year, FSA publishes its' Annual Program and Policy Reminder newsletter. If you are not subscribed to the electronic news service, you may pick up a copy of the annual newsletter at your local USDA Service Center or view it online at [fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Indiana/newsletters/index](https://fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Indiana/newsletters/index).

## Farmers.gov Local Dashboard Now Available for Indiana Producers



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[farmers.gov/dashboard](https://farmers.gov/dashboard)



Farmers in all 50 states can now access county specific farming data and USDA resources all in one place via the new Farmers.gov Local Dashboard at [farmers.gov/dashboard/indiana](https://farmers.gov/dashboard/indiana).

Your farmers.gov local dashboard includes farming data and USDA resources including USDA news, commodity pricing, weather forecasts, historical climate data, past storm

events, USDA service center locator and additional state resources for your state and county. The dashboard transforms complex data sets into easy-to-read charts and graphs to help you quickly find information that matters to you.



## Save Time – Make an Appointment with FSA

Producers are encouraged to call their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to ensure maximum use of their time and to make sure FSA staff is available to tend to their important business needs as well as discuss what records or documentation might be needed during the appointment. To find your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator](https://farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator).

## Short on Time? Can't Make it to the Office? USDA Offers Options for Signing and Sharing Documents Online

Farmers working with FSA and NRCS have the option to sign and share documents online in just a few clicks. By using Box and OneSpan, producers can digitally complete business transactions without leaving their homes or agricultural operations. Both services are free, secure, and available for multiple FSA and NRCS programs.

Box and OneSpan are both optional services for customers interested in improved efficiency in signing and sharing documents with USDA, and they do not replace existing systems using eAuthentication for digital signature. Instead, these tools provide additional



digital options for producers to use when conducting business with FSA or NRCS.

USDA Service Center staff are available to help producers get started with Box and OneSpan through a few simple steps. In most cases, one quick phone call will be all that is needed to initiate the process.

Visit [farmers.gov/mydocs](https://farmers.gov/mydocs) to learn more about Box and OneSpan, steps for getting started, and additional resources for conducting business with USDA online.

## 2022 NASS Census of Ag Survey Results Now Available for Indiana Counties

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys every year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. If you receive a survey questionnaire, we encourage you to respond quickly and online if possible.

The results of the surveys help determine the structure of USDA farm programs, such as soil rental rates for the Conservation Reserve Program and prices and yields used for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs. This county-level data is critical for USDA farm payment determinations. Survey responses also help associations, businesses and policymakers advocate for their industry and help educate others on the importance of agriculture.

NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

NASS released the 2022 ag census at [nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](https://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus) on February 13, 2024. Ag census data spans millions of data points about America's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The once-every-five-years Census of Agriculture remains the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data down to the county level.

On March 27, 2024, NASS released the much-anticipated State and County profiles. Information in the profiles includes farms and farmland, value of sales, producer demographics, top crops, internet access and more from every state and county in the nation. Indiana State and County Profiles are now available at [nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/Online](https://nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/Online)

The screenshot shows the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service website. The header includes the USDA logo and the text "United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service". The navigation menu includes "Data & Statistics", "Publications", "Newsroom", "Surveys", "Census", and "About NASS". The main content area is titled "Census of Agriculture" and "2022 State and County Profiles - Indiana". It features a map of Indiana with county boundaries. Below the map, there are several sections: "Quick links for Census of Ag" with links for "Press Kit", "Partner Tools", "Frequently Asked Questions / More Information", "Census Report Forms and Instructions", and "Ag Census Solicitation for Input"; "Historical Census of Ag Publications" with a dropdown menu to "Choose a Census"; "Find current data by..." with options for "Congressional District", "State and County", and "Highlights"; and "Surveys related to the Census of Ag" with links for "Census of Aquaculture", "Census of Horticultural Specialties", "Irrigation & Water Management", "Local Food Marketing Practices", "National Agricultural Classification Survey", "Organics", and "Tenure, Ownership & Transition of Agricultural Land".

[Resources/County\\_Profiles/Indiana/index.php](https://nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/Online/Indiana/County_Profiles/Indiana/index.php).

NASS data is available online at [nass.usda.gov/Publications](https://nass.usda.gov/Publications) and is searchable in their [quickstats.nass.usda.gov](https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov). To learn more, watch a video on how NASS data is used at [youtube.com/watch?v=m-4zjnh26io&feature=youtu.be](https://youtube.com/watch?v=m-4zjnh26io&feature=youtu.be).



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## Indiana FSA State Committee

Travis Nolcox, Gibson County - Chairperson  
Amanda Berenda, Benton County  
Joe Pearson, Grant County  
Beth Tharp, Putnam County  
Emily Wilson, Decatur County



## Additional Information

For additional information concerning any of the program information in this newsletter, contact your local USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov) or [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov).



“Agriculture is the most healthy,  
the most useful and the most noble  
employment of man.”

~ George Washington

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Farm Service Agency

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