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The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts that the 2022 hurricane season will be above normal in the Atlantic and produce 14 to 21 named storms with six to 10 hurricanes and three to six major hurricanes.  Additionally, NOAA predicts that the eastern Pacific hurricane season will produce 10 to 17 named storms, with four to eight hurricanes and zero to three major hurricanes.  Take precautions to prepare and protect your family and agricultural operation.   1. **Develop an Emergency Plan**- Ensure your household and employees know your hurricane plan, including meeting points, emergency contact lists, and alternate evacuation routes in case infrastructure is damaged. 2. **Remove Debris and Secure Large Objects**- Clean out culverts, ditches, and other drainage areas, especially before and during peak hurricane season to reduce water damage. Most injuries to animals, people, or structures during a hurricane are caused by flying objects. To lessen the risk, minimize the presence of equipment, supplies, and debris that may become airborne during high winds or encountered in floodwaters. 3. **Secure Important Records and Documents**- Pre- and post-hurricane documentation is extremely important for insurance compensation and recovery assistance. You’ll want to have thorough records of damages and losses sustained on your farm as well as documentation of your cleanup and recovery efforts.    * It is critical to document inventory of farm buildings, vehicles, equipment, and livestock before a disaster occurs. Take photos, videos, or make written lists with descriptions. Keep copies of this inventory in multiple places: computer, off-site in a safe location, and on a cloud-based server where information is transmitted and saved weekly. 4. **Know Your Insurance Options**- Regularly review your insurance policies with your agent to be sure you have adequate coverage, including flood insurance, for your facilities, vehicles, farm buildings, crops and livestock. Note, there are limitations on how soon insurance coverage will take effect. Generally, insurance policies will not cover damage if the policy was not in place before a disaster. 5. **Gather Supplies**- Have drinking water, canned food, a generator, batteries, a flashlight, and fuel available in case you lose power. For widespread outages, credit and debit cards may not work, so have cash handy. 6. **Access Real-time Emergency Information**- Download the FEMA app for free on the App Store and Google Play for safety tips on what to do before, during, and after disasters. Subscribe to our [text message and email service](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi93b3JraW5nLXdpdGgtdXMvc3RheS1jb25uZWN0ZWQ_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.1BpWxb9LASGSoZcIcbWPMUFmCKeUiueBI3-5ly-Aip8/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) to receive real-time, local operational and recovery information from the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Risk Management Agency.   On farmers.gov, the [Hurricane Webpage](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9wcm90ZWN0aW9uLXJlY292ZXJ5L2h1cnJpY2FuZT91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.Rir-QCxUb9eUGdhDTDQ84tBd9kjqBjzE7khbB1xpTw4/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l), [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9ub2RlLzI4OTg5P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.aeOVGErk7MGGoSka15NJwwQNkpeS02TasrakSaEJttI/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l), [Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9zaXRlcy9kZWZhdWx0L2ZpbGVzLzIwMjAtMDQvRlNBX0Rpc2FzdGVyQXNzaXN0YW5jZV9hdF9hX2dsYW5jZV9icm9jaHVyZV8ucGRmP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.m99eVXlAAQ9bqITxBj6ZfBPIUP_06iUq-AVlxiSbDSs/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l), and [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9mdW5kL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1kaXNjb3ZlcnktdG9vbD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.dFVNk0b_346-0a1uDtKSRTRD0CTCOUSGa8rn1HomohE/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) can help producers and landowners determine program or loan options. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their [crop insurance agent](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ybWEudXNkYS5nb3YvZW4vSW5mb3JtYXRpb24tVG9vbHMvQWdlbnQtTG9jYXRvci1QYWdlP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.SiuTD0Iuy9Y-K1Bi_Qt8mABA_mChhHUtfvBN1qRAGyA/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l). For FSA and NRCS programs, they should contact their local [USDA Service Center](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L3NlcnZpY2UtY2VudGVyLWxvY2F0b3I_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.gAZraxbvD0JieyiZb_ehsJ7vEcYicN7Y8-GRNolne64/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l). |  USDA Updates Farm Loan Programs to Increase Equity The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is updating its farm loan programs to better support current borrowers, including historically underserved producers. These improvements are part of USDA’s commitment to increase equity in all programs, including farm loans that provide important access to capital for covering operating expenses and purchasing land and equipment.  The 2018 Farm Bill authorized FSA to provide equitable relief to certain direct loan borrowers, who are non-compliant with program requirements due to good faith reliance on a material action of, advice of, or non-action from an FSA official. Previously, borrowers may have been required to immediately repay the loan or convert it to a non-program loan with higher interest rates, less favorable terms, and limited loan servicing.  Now, FSA has additional flexibilities to assist borrowers in such situations. If the agency provided incorrect guidance to an existing direct loan borrower, the agency may provide equitable relief to that borrower. FSA may assist the borrower by allowing the borrower to keep their loans at current rates or other terms received in association with the loan which was determined to be noncompliant or the borrower may receive other equitable relief for the loan as the Agency determines to be appropriate.  USDA encourages producers to reach out to their local loan officials to ensure they fully understand the wide range of loan and servicing options available that can assist them in starting, expanding or maintaining their operation.  **Additional Updates**  Equitable relief is one of several changes authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill that USDA has made to the direct and guaranteed loan programs. Other changes that were previously implemented include:   * Modifying the existing three-year farming experience requirement for Direct Farm Ownership loans to include additional items as acceptable experience. * Allowing socially disadvantaged and beginning farmer applicants to receive a guarantee equal to 95%, rather than the otherwise applicable 90% guarantee. * Expanding the definition of and providing additional benefits to veteran farmers. * Allowing borrowers who received restructuring with a write down to maintain eligibility for an Emergency loan. * Expanding the scope of eligible issues and persons covered under the agricultural Certified Mediation Program.   Additional information on these changes is available in the March 8, 2022 [rule on the Federal Register](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mZWRlcmFscmVnaXN0ZXIuZ292L3B1YmxpYy1pbnNwZWN0aW9uLzIwMjItMDQ4NTgvZmFybS1sb2FuLXByb2dyYW1zLWRpcmVjdC1hbmQtZ3VhcmFudGVlZC1sb2FuLWNoYW5nZXMtY2VydGlmaWVkLW1lZGlhdGlvbi1wcm9ncmFtLWFuZC1ndWFyYW50ZWVkP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.jyfqNu7TAHuFlQu9tP1AXHkun0IP5kJvxfnTNoMqmmg/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l).  **More Background**  FSA has taken other recent steps to increase equity in its programs. Last summer, USDA announced it was providing $67 million in competitive loans through its new Heirs’ Property Relending Program to help agricultural producers and landowners resolve heirs’ land ownership and succession issues. FSA also invested $4.7 million to establish partnerships with organizations to provide outreach and technical assistance to historically underserved farmers and ranchers, which contributed to a fourfold increase in participation by historically underserved producers in the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2), a key pandemic assistance program, since April 2021.  Additionally, in January 2021, Secretary Vilsack announced a [temporary suspension of past-due debt collection and foreclosures](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9ibG9nL3VwZGF0ZS1uby1hY2NlbGVyYXRpbmctb3ItZm9yZWNsb3Npbmctb24tYW55LWRpcmVjdC1sb2Fucz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.a4MfSLz5HuxSJ6iZTeLc1j1ZUfd1TIUBmwgDL4CKy2Y/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) for distressed direct loan borrowers due to the economic hardship imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.  Producers can explore available loan options using the [Farm Loan Discover Tool on farmers.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9sb2Fucy9mYXJtLWxvYW4tZGlzY292ZXJ5LXRvb2w_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.sm37Je6daq2RHj2yKt_NjQ4Lt9gZlXjTTzCZIDGBhjw/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) ([also available in Spanish](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9zcGFuaXNoL2xvYW5zL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1kaXNjb3ZlcnktdG9vbD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.rTZmL73FWXANsFfr-gy2wl5xDLICLaELQgTPsRnGFfA/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l)) or by contacting their local [USDA Service Center](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L3NlcnZpY2UtbG9jYXRvcj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.bGKCs3SNpeQR0SyxPco7OnlscCH-FfselJTfR8KYtYU/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l). Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Due to the pandemic, some USDA Service Centers are open to limited visitors. Producers can [contact their local Service Center](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L3NlcnZpY2UtbG9jYXRvcj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.UsR6qONOkVRZN-ErzfLnazBB4ko56fC5WovRVCy_YOA/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) to set up an in-person or phone appointment to discuss loan options. USDA Accepting Applications to Help Cover Costs of Organic, Transitioning Producers  |  | | --- | | Agricultural producers and handlers who are certified organic, along with producers and handlers who are transitioning to organic production, can now apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) [Organic and Transitional Education Certification Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9wYW5kZW1pYy1hc3Npc3RhbmNlL290ZWNwP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.DsOcjHano-TT24IcA1aWmmROgQv3iyipfiPJwpvQtn4/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) (OTECP) and [Organic Certification Cost Share Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL29jY3NwL2luZGV4P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.tWiXWhT0pend4SZR5siijJk9kCqN8rdRuemnNu9bePk/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) (OCCSP), which help producers and handlers cover the cost of organic certification, along with other related expenses. Applications for OTECP and OCCSP are both due October 31, 2022.  OTECP covers:   * Certification costs for organic producers and handlers (25% up to $250 per category). * Eligible expenses for transitional producers, including fees for pre-certification inspections and development of an organic system plan (75% up to $750). * Registration fees for educational events (75% up to $200). * Soil testing (75% up to $100).   Meanwhile, OCCSP covers 50% or up to $500 per category of certification costs in 2022.  This cost share for certification is available for each of these categories: crops, wild crops, livestock, processing/handling and State organic program fees.  Producers can receive cost share through both OTECP and OCCSP. Both OTECP and OCCSP cover costs incurred from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022.  Producers have until October 31, 2022 to file applications, and FSA will make payments as applications are received.  To apply, producers and handlers should contact the Farm Service Agency (FSA) at their local USDA Service Center. As part of completing the OCCSP applications, producers and handlers will need to provide documentation of their organic certification and eligible expenses. Organic producers and handlers may also apply for OCCSP through participating State agencies.  Additional details can be found on the [OTECP](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9wYW5kZW1pYy1hc3Npc3RhbmNlL290ZWNwP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.4rMIFOdv2pwpbjCzQj17MrYUYZKGh21MbR_2VTr73w8/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) and [OCCSP](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL29jY3NwL2luZGV4P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.ssU8mrCTk4wChgEnAZ2Ovl4DBtqlOJJtFOJFMxs7B_E/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) webpages. |  Urban Producers, Public Invited to Attend Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production USDA encourages urban producers and others to attend the second public meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production on **August 5**. The Committee will discuss new urban conservation practices, focus areas and priorities for the Commission, and the new [Farm Service Agency](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.EXc01Pt5tGuMbiWeo73C6PyisHDGJv-aStUnfWtRO_w/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) (FSA) urban county committees, among other topics.  The Committee is part of USDA’s efforts to support urban agriculture, creating a network for feedback. Members include agricultural producers, and representatives from the areas of higher education or extension programs, non-profits, business and economic development, supply chains and financing. The inaugural meeting of the Committee was held in March 2022.  Meeting topics include:   * Focus areas and priorities for the Committee * Update on USDA’s Equity Commission priorities * Briefing on New urban conservation practices * Update on FSA urban county committees   The meeting is Aug. 5, 2022, from 1-3 p.m. Eastern. To attend, [register by Aug. 4, 2022](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy56b29tZ292LmNvbS93ZWJpbmFyL3JlZ2lzdGVyL1dOX2tZdUR2cFZMUmxDWE9OdDFiUWVkTUE_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.iHroehSZUyvCsMrscYkxZczpRW-AkKk7z7gt29ysmE0/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l). The public can register to attend the Committee meeting at[zoomgov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy56b29tZ292LmNvbS93ZWJpbmFyL3JlZ2lzdGVyL1dOX2tZdUR2cFZMUmxDWE9OdDFiUWVkTUE_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.OmhJ4qwWv9bVw2ymiqgpoNXhQUChULuA6PEbgkJRac8/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l). Written comments or questions must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern July 29 through the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mZWRlcmFscmVnaXN0ZXIuZ292L2RvY3VtZW50cy8yMDIyLzA2LzMwLzIwMjItMTQwMzkvdXJiYW4tYWdyaWN1bHR1cmUtYW5kLWlubm92YXRpdmUtcHJvZHVjdGlvbi1hZHZpc29yeS1jb21taXR0ZWUtdmlydHVhbC1tZWV0aW5nP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSNvcGVuLWNvbW1lbnQifQ.4U8xzU7sZN12_ePz7ec0aFVUaOuymrLWwRl15ZOjoFc/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l). For special accommodations, please contact Tammy Willis at (315) 456-9024 or [UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov](mailto:UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov).  USDA will post the final agenda 24 to 48 hours prior to the meeting on farmers.gov/urban. For additional information about the Committee or the upcoming meeting please visit the [June 30 Federal Register](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mZWRlcmFscmVnaXN0ZXIuZ292L2RvY3VtZW50cy8yMDIyLzA2LzMwLzIwMjItMTQwMzkvdXJiYW4tYWdyaWN1bHR1cmUtYW5kLWlubm92YXRpdmUtcHJvZHVjdGlvbi1hZHZpc29yeS1jb21taXR0ZWUtdmlydHVhbC1tZWV0aW5nP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.2GtWen9q_yZifM-5nNH4QLRbKHQNkYK1W0-Mr0KQGvs/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) notice and the Committee’s webpage.  **USDA and Urban Agriculture**  The Committee is part of a broad USDA investment in urban agriculture. Other efforts include:   * Reopening the [People’s Garden Initiative](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy51c2RhLmdvdi9wZW9wbGVzLWdhcmRlbj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.3GiaryiQVATNAMMKQT2xjs_MPfwjzrJVIrgiCjH_87o/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l). People’s Gardens across the country grow fresh, healthy food and support resilient, local food systems; teach people how to garden using sustainable practices; and nurture habitat for pollinators and wildlife, and greenspace for neighbors. * Offering [grants](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy51c2RhLmdvdi90b3BpY3MvdXJiYW4vZ3JhbnRzP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.xhud7Xqh2nrkY86JpByLvTxsifwPD46ugKsm8hRi7O0/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) that target areas of food access, education, business and start-up costs for new farmers, and policy development related to zoning and other urban production needs. USDA made available $14.2 million this year as well as invested $18.7 million in projects not able to be funded in 2021. * Offering [cooperative agreements](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ncmFudHMuZ292L3dlYi9ncmFudHMvdmlldy1vcHBvcnR1bml0eS5odG1sP29wcElkPTM0MDkwNiZ1dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.SOehxbe58HFKK2dC6JDXKQTGmj1yugdjnIafS_t6e6o/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans. USDA made available $10.2 million this year. * Providing technical and financial assistance through conservation programs offered by USDA’s [Natural Resources Conservation Service](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ucmNzLnVzZGEuZ292L3dwcy9wb3J0YWwvbnJjcy9zaXRlL25hdGlvbmFsL2hvbWUvP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.RsZMy_xXjJ10aVoJNZgTlobDtXo4geB3wLmpb3F7C50/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) (NRCS). * Investing $260,000 for risk management training and crop insurance education for historically underserved and urban producers through partnerships between USDA’s [Risk Management Agency](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ybWEudXNkYS5nb3YvP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.mmmXNOFkjKEefIHvsiH2zMfZOchOQNb7jdOc9DpHszE/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l)and state universities. * Announcement of 17 FSA urban county committees.   OUAIP was established through the 2018 Farm Bill. It is led by NRCS and works in partnership with numerous USDA agencies that support urban agriculture. Its mission is to encourage and promote urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural practices, including community composting and food waste reduction.     Additional resources that may be of interest to urban agriculture entities include grants from USDA’s [Agricultural Marketing Service](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5hbXMudXNkYS5nb3YvP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.8QYCQdQYPxiviN4BpjGT-fQAudZqplq2JnGXyRq48nY/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) and [National Institute of Food](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5uaWZhLnVzZGEuZ292Lz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.oazIRJaZ-HQSdDcMzFR_7ob_cpnY8mcXas6Bbhrzr08/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) and Agriculture as well as [FSA loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9sb2Fucz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.ynF6ijJIFUWXUerdxBhnEpt5hm7LAPpeYPK-kc_bQYQ/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l). FSA is Adjusting to Fit the Situation Facing Livestock Producers  |  | | --- | | A message from FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux  As a former rancher myself, I know the tremendous investments—in time, sweat, and thought—that producers make even before their calves hit the ground. My experiences lead me to firmly believe that, here at the Farm Service Agency (FSA), we must find flexibilities where possible to help our farmers and ranchers best meet the challenges of the day.  In recent meetings with Senator John Hoeven, FSA North Dakota State Executive Director Marcy Svenningsen, and livestock producers in North Dakota impacted by catastrophic 2021 winter storms, it became apparent that our Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) payment rates were not reflective of the true market value for non-adult beef, beefalo, bison, and dairy animals.  It was time for us to pivot.  LIP provides benefits to livestock owners and some contract growers for livestock deaths exceeding normal mortality from eligible adverse weather events, certain predation losses and reduced sales prices due to injury from an eligible loss.  Indemnity payments are made at a rate of 75 percent of the market value of the livestock on the day before the date of death. I don’t mind saying that, under our previous payment rates, cutting a LIP check to a rancher for $150 for a calf in today’s market came nowhere near covering the year-long investment in carrying the cow through pregnancy and carrying the calf from birth to sale.  To better capture ranchers’ investments in their animals, we recently announced increased LIP payment rates for beef, beefalo, bison, and dairy animals less than 250 pounds. These now-updated payment rates are reflective of the increased cost of these non-adult livestock in 2022.  The updated LIP payment rates are effective immediately and will be applied retroactively starting January 1, 2022, for all eligible causes of loss including excessive heat, tornado, winter storms, and other qualifying natural disasters. Producers who have already received LIP payments for 2022 will receive an additional payment, if applicable, commensurate with these updated rates.  For details on eligibility and payment rates, you can review our [LIP fact sheet](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvQXNzZXRzL1VTREEtRlNBLVB1YmxpYy91c2RhZmlsZXMvRmFjdFNoZWV0cy8yMDIyL2ZzYV9saXBfbGl2ZXN0b2NrSW1kZW1uaXR5cHJvZ3JhbV9mYWN0c2hlZXRfMjAyMi5wZGY_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.N9mdn84yPkBxLDtJ4nkgSugHt_eb0DOefkTQhKOVs1s/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l).  **Other Program Improvements**  These LIP policy changes complement enhancements we recently made to our [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2Rpc2FzdGVyLWFzc2lzdGFuY2UtcHJvZ3JhbS9lbWVyZ2VuY3ktYXNzaXN0LWZvci1saXZlc3RvY2staG9uZXktYmVlcy1maXNoL2luZGV4P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.BAGYuaSuZJCkPMOsVAggvQp83IP6sx_6p7KC0LXlDag/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) – changes that also were derived from the direct input and feedback of producers and the livestock groups.  In addition to paying above normal costs for hauling water to drought-stricken livestock, we also added compensation for hauling feed to livestock and livestock to forage or other grazing acres. And, in 2021, we added fish raised for food as an ELAP-eligible commodity because producers and industry leaders expressed the need.  By continually evaluating how we can deliver our programs in a manner that is meaningful to the farmers and ranchers we serve, we demonstrate our ongoing commitment to stakeholder engagement and our dedication to improving programs for livestock producers first signaled by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack during a Senate Agriculture Committee hearing earlier this year.  It has been said actions speak louder than words, but when it comes to FSA programs that directly affect producers’ livelihoods and way of life and ultimately impact food security for all Americans, I believe the two are not mutually exclusive. Rest assured that when producers and producer groups speak, FSA and I, to the extent possible, will do whatever is within our power to turn those words into actions. |  Streamlined Delivery of Emergency Relief Programs Is Win-Win for USDA and Agricultural Producers New Program Outperforms Predecessor Disaster Program in speed of assistance and almost 90% reduced application burden, Online Analytics Now Available  The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has processed more than 255,000 applications for the new Emergency Relief Program (ERP). USDA has made approximately $6.1 billion, to date, in payments to commodity and specialty crop producers to help offset eligible losses from qualifying 2020 and 2021 natural disasters. By breaking-down agency barriers, using existing data across USDA and pre-filled applications, USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) in cooperation with the Risk Management Agency (RMA) has been able to expediently provide economic relief and save producers and staff over a million hours of time.  The design of ERP Phase One allowed for an expedited process that saved time for staff and producers. FSA was able to begin disbursing payments to producers within days of rolling out the program when under the predecessor program lengthy applications and processing were required before making payments. FSA county offices can process almost nine ERP applications in the time it took to process one application for the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program — Plus (WHIP+), the predecessor program for ad hoc disaster assistance. This equates to 88% less time to process applications and a reduction of more than one million staff hours for implementation of ERP compared with WHIP+. While not specifically tracked, we expect the savings for producers to be at least as significant as they previously would have had a significant burden to collect records and often sit across from the local staff as the data is entered.  These process improvements also enhanced the customer experience for farmers by reducing the number of producer trips to FSA county offices and allowing producers to spend less time completing forms so they could focus more on their agricultural operations. In addition, the ERP program design greatly diminished the risk potential for errors and leveraged the existing RMA and Federal Crop Insurance loss adjustment and verification processes.  With more applications approved, more dollars distributed, and more dollars paid per application in a shorter timeframe, the streamlined application process developed to deliver ERP has significantly outperformed the previous implementation of WHIP+. FSA also has paid more than $1 billion to historically underserved producers.  **Emergency Relief Payments to Date**  The efforts to streamline, improve responsiveness and work across traditional agency-borders goes beyond just the recent ERP process. FSA mailed pre-filled ERP applications to producers of commodities covered by federal crop insurance in late May and has since paid producers with eligible losses more than $6 billion. Pre-filled ERP applications were mailed to producers with Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage last week, and so far, FSA has already issued $35.9 million in payments to producers with eligible losses. NAP-related ERP payments also were not factored and are being made, in full, from the start to speed and target assistance to the small and underserved producers that commonly rely on NAP coverage. Also, earlier this year, staff processed more than 100,000 payments through the Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) and paid eligible producers more than $601.3 million for 2021 grazing losses within days of the program announcement.  **ERP Data Now Available Online**  A new [public-facing dashboard](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2VtZXJnZW5jeS1yZWxpZWYvZXJwLWRhc2hib2FyZC9pbmRleD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.O7VrRCCjT6r9BIWL9tPXcdxi9Oitp251EKP_ankqiMk/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) on the ERP webpage has information on ERP payments that can be sorted by crop type – specialty or non-specialty, specific commodities and state. FSA will update the dashboard on Monday each week.  **More Information**  ERP and the previously announced ELRP are funded by the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, which President Biden signed into law in 2021. The law provided $10 billion to help agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other eligible disaster events experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021.  For more information on ERP and ELRP eligibility, program provisions for historically underserved producers as well as Frequently Asked Questions, producers can visit FSA’s [Emergency Relief webpage](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2VtZXJnZW5jeS1yZWxpZWYvaW5kZXg_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.W7b9ozjA1pqJkprKgFOKIIujjPXkerfRVG4UBMvMVrw/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l).  Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on [farmers.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi8_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.YXQBLsocw5O_WqqH-UdSx9CpyqerTw7aBrIRQmDCpwk/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l), including the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9ub2RlLzI4OTg5P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.NfJRyR74GYG9aMqLAGLM8c2dXuJaEsl29M6K5t-dmn8/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l), [Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9zaXRlcy9kZWZhdWx0L2ZpbGVzLzIwMjAtMDQvRlNBX0Rpc2FzdGVyQXNzaXN0YW5jZV9hdF9hX2dsYW5jZV9icm9jaHVyZV8ucGRmP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.ASLQ39MzENTIiGwHMOnYAnhfA7paTr_prSodVKmQjgk/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) and [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9mdW5kL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1kaXNjb3ZlcnktdG9vbD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.jxcVQaxYcYO9oUIfOV4PX0xSp0gN_DPygv4F9lwWDY0/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l). For FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, producers should contact their local [USDA Service Center](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L3NlcnZpY2UtY2VudGVyLWxvY2F0b3I_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.RNJm1X6zbdazpbZWd0jDaTN-AmXcmYHJ72SVM3dtxtM/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l). For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their [crop insurance agent](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxNDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ybWEudXNkYS5nb3YvaW5mb3JtYXRpb250b29scy9hZ2VudGxvY2F0b3I_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.xHSNnUVdHuUbjmGD60KyEgcJSNy9ZCMBGUP3EC-f67w/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l). Loan Maturity for Marketing Assistance Loans  |  | | --- | | Typically, Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) mature on demand, but no later than the last day of the 9th calendar month after the month the MAL is disbursed.  However, with the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, agricultural producers now have additional time to repay MALs.  The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provides an extension of the MAL maturity to 12 months.  This extension is applicable to nonrecourse loans for all commodities except seed cotton and sugar.  Eligible open loans must be in good standing with a maturity date on or after July 31, 2021.  New crop year loans (2021) requested by September 30, 2021, will also be eligible for the twelve-month maturity.  All current, active loans will automatically be extended the additional three months.  Producers who prefer a nine-month loan maturity will need to notify their local FSA county office.  Loans that are requested after September 30, 2021, will have a nine-month maturity.  MALs have a maximum loan maturity term of 12 months, therefore loans that had the maturity extended through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability Act of 2020 (CARES Act) are not eligible for an additional extension.  Eligible commodities include barley, chickpeas (small and large), corn, cotton (upland), dry peas, grain sorghum, honey, lentils, mohair, oats, peanuts, rice (long and medium grain), soybeans, unshorn pelts, wheat, wool (graded and nongraded); and other oilseeds, including canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sunflower seed, and sesame seed.  Seed cotton and sugar are not eligible.  For more information on MALs, contact your local County USDA Service Center or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxNDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.gbEhKXZY3g-jhw_ewQW3HMGr9viygpynCjknS_o4AFo/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l). |  Noninsured Crop Coverage Helps Producers Manage Risks  |  | | --- | | The Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) helps you manage risk through coverage for both crop losses and crop planting that was prevented due to natural disasters. The eligible or “noninsured” crops include agricultural commodities not covered by federal crop insurance.  You must be enrolled in the program and have purchased coverage for the eligible crop **in the crop year in which the loss incurred** to receive program benefits following a qualifying natural disaster.  **NAP Buy-Up Coverage Option**  NAP offers higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Buy-up levels of NAP coverage are available if the producer can show at least one year of previously successfully growing the crop for which coverage is being requested.  Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the “buy-up” option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production.  NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.  Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.  **NAP Service Fees**  For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of $325 per crop or $825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of $1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.  **NAP Enhancements for Qualified Military Veterans**  Qualified veteran farmers or ranchers are eligible for a service fee waiver and premium reduction, if the NAP applicant meets certain eligibility criteria.  Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers or ranchers remain eligible for a waiver of NAP service fees and premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, “Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification.”  For NAP application, eligibility and related program information, contact your Local Parish  USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov/nap](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxNDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZzYS51c2RhLmdvdi9uYXA_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.WF-mF8J-jOasbYuhGFLxEFA43bvG1nWAMWVEwORYTi4/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l). |  Transitioning Expiring CRP Land to Beginning, Veteran or Underserved Farmers and Ranchers  |  | | --- | | CRP contract holders are encouraged to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning, veteran or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers through the Transition Incentives Program (TIP). TIP provides annual rental payments to the landowner or operator for up to two additional years after the CRP contract expires.  CRP contract holders no longer need to be a retired or retiring owner or operator to transition their land. TIP participants must agree to sell, have a contract to sell, or agree to lease long term (at least five years) land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who is not a family member.  Beginning, veteran or social disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and CRP participants may enroll in TIP beginning two years before the expiration date of the CRP contract. The TIP application must be submitted prior to completing the lease or sale of the affected lands. New landowners or renters that return the land to production must use sustainable grazing or farming methods.  For more information, contact your Local Parish USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxNDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZzYS51c2RhLmdvdj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.oNsKsH0BM9Upa6DnUAGr1xXGNXJ2BFqABkzYymyUTtw/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l). |  Using FSA Direct Farm Ownership Loans for Construction The USDA Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxNDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1wcm9ncmFtcy9mYXJtLW93bmVyc2hpcC1sb2Fucy9pbmRleD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.gSU4YMKSunwX_TceTUqqFFDG7sjlinQ6O0MAC-e6bpk/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) are a resource to help farmers and ranchers 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](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxNDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1wcm9ncmFtcy9taWNyb2xvYW5zL2luZGV4P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.jITM6y5bh_C_eG_98tuCVce-3gzYIbzwiINn89h1rUw/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) option for smaller financial needs up to $50,000.  Direct Farm Ownership Loans can be used to construct, purchase or improve farm dwellings, service buildings or other facilities, and to make improvements essential to an operation.  Applicants must provide FSA with an estimate of the total cost of all planned development that completely describe the work, prior to loan approval and must show proof of sufficient funds to pay for the total cost of all planned development at or before loan closing. In some instances, applicants may be asked to provide certified plans, specifications or contract documents. The applicant cannot incur any debts for materials or labor or make any expenditures for development purposes prior to loan closing with the expectation of being reimbursed from FSA funds.  Construction and development work may be performed either by the contract method or the borrower method. Under the contract method, construction and development contractors perform work according to a written contract with the applicant or borrower. If applying for a direct loan to finance a construction project, the applicant must obtain a surety bond that guarantees both payment and performance in the amount of the construction contract from a construction contractor.  A surety bond is required when a contract exceeds $100,000. An authorized agency official determines that a surety bond appears advisable to protect the borrower against default of the contractor or a contract provides for partial payments in excess of the amount of 60 percent of the value of the work in place.  Under the borrower method, the applicant or borrower will perform the construction and development work. The borrower method may only be used when the authorized agency official determines, based on information from the applicant, that the applicant possesses or arranges to obtain the necessary skill and managerial ability to complete the work satisfactorily and that such work will not interfere with the applicant’s farming operation or work schedule. Current Interest Rates for August  * [Commodity Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..2JOQg2v_JuzHS-J5MC77g02F5TNHF6cS4T9JAPVJwcI/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) (less than one year disbursed): 4.000 % * [Farm Storage Facility Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..mvSSqGaAikNu9GvXFhXTlOTjrrMyTId7h04LbzacLnc/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l):                  Three-year loan terms: 3.125%                 Five-year loan terms: 3.125%                 Seven-year loan terms: 3.125 %                 Ten-year loan terms: 3.000%                 Twelve-year loan terms: 3.125 %   * [Sugar Storage Facility Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..a_hZOqOiDDcGtTrTZ4qBubjmp1Uo3IV_-mJe3yLQIXA/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) (15 years): 3.250% * [Farm Operating Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..WzX5syAcvmTKJiqEnKkO9wvoEbNU1GI0u1oDZ9PKRLc/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) (Direct): 4.000% * [Farm Ownership Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..C_QM__AidC_V6CbXpBtsBTa3zpmaerBNq9VqchO0vkA/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) (Direct): 4.250% * [Farm Ownership Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..q0BPmdTHgfJJVjICc_OxFNPAbpRhiYzCO5fp9riN7qE/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) (Down Payment): 1.500% * [Emergency Loan](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..Gt2NcYsmK45tqvfmwiT_DTsXIIuWD2HWYTuVXJr1I6A/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l) (Amount of Actual Loss): 3.750%  Important Dates Aug.  5 –  Producers may apply for CLEAR30 through August 5, 2022  Sept. 30-  Last day to certify 2023 Crawfish  Oct.   31-  Deadline to apply for Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)  Oct.   31-  Deadline to apply for Organic and Transitional Education and Certification                  Program (OTECP)  Nov. 15 -  Last day to certify Ryegrass  Dec. 15 -  Last day to certify Fall seeded small grains  FSA now offers SMS texting; receive text message alerts on your cell phone regarding important deadlines, reporting requirements and updates. Call your local Service Center to schedule an appointment. You can find contact information at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxNTMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA4MDUuNjE4MjA5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi93b3JraW5nLXdpdGgtdXMvc2VydmljZS1jZW50ZXItbG9jYXRvcj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.GdJV88mh8aa87wy3Z0htVBxQNxsLrNqjkHgEOuIiHX8/s/1837074945/br/142120623387-l). | |  | | Louisiana FSA State Office 3737 Government Street Alexandria, LA 70508  Phone: 318-473-7721 Fax: 1-844-325-6942   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Ronald C. Guidry, Jr.** State Executive Director [Ronald.Guidry@usda.gov](mailto:Ronald.Guidry@usda.gov) | **Christine Normand** Acting State Executive Director Administrative Officer [christine.normand@usda.gov](mailto:christine.normand@usda.gov) | | **Terrick Boley** Farm Loan Program Chief [terrick.boley@usda.gov](mailto:terrick.boley@usda.gov) | **DeWanna Pitman** Farm Program Chief [dewanna.pitman@usda.gov](mailto:dewanna.pitman@usda.gov) | |  |  | |  |  | | | | | |