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| |  | | --- | |  | | **Louisiana USDA-FSA Updates**-**December 2022** | |  | | In This Issue: | | * [Deadline Approaching for Application to Emergency Relief Program Phase One](#link_3) * [Disaster Assistance for 2022 Livestock Forage Losses](#link_7) * [Annual Financial Check-Up](#link_6) * [USDA Service Centers Provide Free, One-on-One Help for Farmers](#link_4) * [2023 Dairy Margin Coverage Deadline Extended – Jan. 31, 2023, Last Day to Enroll](#link_8) * [USDA Provides Payments of nearly $800 Million in Assistance to Help Keep Farmers Farming](#link_1) * [The Importance of Responding to NASS Surveys](#link_2) * [Save Time – Make an Appointment with FSA](#link_5) * [USDA Provides Payments of nearly $800 Million in Assistance to Help Keep Farmers Farming](#link_11) * [Important Dates](#link_9) * [Current Interest Rates for December](#link_10)  Deadline Approaching for Application to Emergency Relief Program Phase One The deadline is nearing for producers to apply for assistance through the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase One. **Producers who are eligible for assistance through ERP Phase One and haven't already applied have until Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, to apply to their local**[USDA Service Center](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)**to receive benefits through the program.**  ERP is authorized under the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, which includes $10 billion in assistance to agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021.    ERP Phase One was [rolled out in May 2022](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fnews-room%2Fnews-releases%2F2022%2Fusda-to-provide-approximately-6-billion-to-commodity-and-specialty-crop-producers-impacted-by-2020-and-2021-natural-disasters%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624008775%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BMuQ0ybWUJvQe3jDQas0WcnStBu7t6DCGksi1FjcEi8%3D&reserved=0) and has since paid more than $7.1 billion nationally to producers. Under the Phase One program, USDA used existing federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) data as the basis for establishing program benefits. To learn more about this assistance program and others, visit: [Emergency Relief information page](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Femergency-relief%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624008775%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=W3muDomgdhOdIJhdmBdmbJkIovID9g7IVi8tJFpE%2FpE%3D&reserved=0). Disaster Assistance for 2022 Livestock Forage Losses Producers in certain Louisiana Parishes are eligible to apply for 2022 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on Annual Ryegrass, Full Season Improved Mixed, Full Season Improved Pasture, Long Season Small Grains, Native Pasture.  LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.  County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire. You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2023, for 2022 losses.  For additional information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, contact the local Parish USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624008775%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dQMc7HdPojUtOaoLYUdeCStCYcAvYq8gTPWMVgJCka0%3D&reserved=0). Annual Financial Check-Up  |  | | --- | | With the 2022 harvest season coming to an end, now is a good time for an annual financial check-up. This involves reviewing 2022 production and financial records and preparing for 2023. One of the most important keys to success is record keeping. This must be done throughout the year, including through the busy times of the year.  Record keeping should include a detailed breakdown of all financial inflows and outflows. Some of the inflows may include production records, income, program payments, other farm income, non-farm income and capital sales (sale of equipment or real estate). Outflows that should be tracked and recorded are all annual operating expenses, living expenses and personal debt payments, loan advances and/or debt repayment, as well as capital expenses (buying equipment, real estate, etc.). A capital sale or expense is a non-annual type inflow or outflow; this may include the purchase of a tractor or other farm equipment, overhauling equipment, and improving real estate.  An annual review of your records will help plan for the 2023 crop year. Good records will help determine where expenses may need to be reduced or whether more needs to be invested in the operation. FSA customers are encouraged to schedule an appointment with their loan officer as soon as possible to begin the application process.  The same holds true if finances are obtained through a local lender with an FSA guaranteed loan or non-guaranteed. Record keeping provides the lender with the necessary information to process the loan request and also helps prepare for the tax season. |  USDA Service Centers Provide Free, One-on-One Help for Farmers  |  | | --- | | At USDA, we are committed to helping farmers complete loan applications, environmental reviews, and other paperwork free of charge. One-on-one support is available at more than 2,300 USDA Service Centers nationwide. USDA’s Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff are usually co-located at these Service Centers and can help guide farmers to the best USDA assistance based on their unique goals, whether it is loans, conservation programs, or insurance.  Service Center staff can guide farmers through the process of preparing and submitting required paperwork on their own, with no need to hire a paid preparer. Language translation service is available in all USDA Service Centers, so one-on-one assistance with a Service Center employee can be translated in real time for farmers requiring it. And while some program and loan applications do have an administrative fee for filing, there is never a charge for preparation services provided by USDA staff.  Farmers who work with the USDA Service Center can:   * Establish their farm by registering for a farm number, which is required for USDA programs and assistance. * Learn how to meet conservation compliance provisions. * Verify eligibility for USDA programs. * Discuss their business and conservation goals. * Create a conservation plan. * Fill out and file loan and program applications. |  2023 Dairy Margin Coverage Deadline Extended – Jan. 31, 2023, Last Day to Enroll Producers Encouraged to Enroll As Soon As Possible  The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended the deadline  for producers to enroll in [Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdairy-margin-coverage-program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624008775%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=S5UxIwfLXUhTLT44%2FSCiXxxAFB5qKocFOOSBSbO30nE%3D&reserved=0) and [Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage (SDMC)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2F2022%2F202202_fsa_dairy_margin_coverage_sdmc_fact_sheet_v5.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624008775%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1T3UIPauToqabWHlE8%2FFLqXb6ok%2B9aMHT1IrgARXWkM%3D&reserved=0) for program year 2023 to Jan. 31, 2023.  DMC is a voluntary risk management program that offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.  Early projections indicate DMC payments are likely to trigger for the first eight months in 2023.  Markets fluctuate, sometimes at a moment’s notice and sometimes with no warning at all, so now’s the time to ensure your operation is covered. Please don’t let this second chance slide.  Nearly 18,000 operations that enrolled in DMC for 2022 have received margin payments for August and September for a total of $76.3 million. At $0.15 per hundredweight for $9.50 coverage, risk coverage through DMC is a relatively inexpensive investment.  DMC offers different levels of coverage, even an option that is free to producers, aside from a $100 administrative fee. Limited resource, beginning, socially disadvantaged, and military veteran farmers and ranchers are exempt from paying the administrative fee, if requested. To determine the appropriate level of DMC coverage for a specific dairy operation, producers can use the online [dairy decision tool](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdmc.dairymarkets.org%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery%23%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624008775%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jCqnTkdUt3z3a4KfJpdco5t3LzyEtqhUrUpVomTCJXg%3D&reserved=0).  **Supplemental DMC**  Last year, USDA introduced Supplemental DMC, which provided $42.8 million in payments to better help small- and mid-sized dairy operations that had increased production over the years but were not able to enroll the additional production. Supplemental DMC is also available for 2023.  The enrollment period for 2023 Supplemental DMC is also extended to Jan. 31, 2023.  Supplemental DMC coverage is applicable to calendar years 2021, 2022 and 2023.  Eligible dairy operations with less than 5 million pounds of established production history may enroll supplemental pounds.  For producers who enrolled in Supplemental DMC in 2022, the supplemental coverage will automatically be added to the 2023 DMC contract that previously established a supplemental production history.  Producers who did not enroll in Supplemental DMC in 2022 can do so now. Producers should complete their Supplemental DMC enrollment before enrolling in 2023 DMC. To enroll, producers will need to provide their 2019 actual milk marketings, which FSA uses to determine established production history.  **DMC Payments**  FSA will continue to calculate DMC payments using updated feed and premium hay costs, making the program more reflective of actual dairy producer expenses.  These updated feed calculations use 100% premium alfalfa hay rather than 50%.  For more information on DMC, visit the [DMC webpage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdairy-margin-coverage-program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624008775%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=S5UxIwfLXUhTLT44%2FSCiXxxAFB5qKocFOOSBSbO30nE%3D&reserved=0)or contact your local [USDA Service Center](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways.  Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America’s food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). USDA Provides Payments of nearly $800 Million in Assistance to Help Keep Farmers Farming USDA announced that distressed borrowers with qualifying USDA farm loans have already received nearly $800 million in assistance, as part of the $3.1 billion in assistance for distressed farm loan borrowers provided through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The IRA directed USDA to expedite assistance to distressed borrowers of direct or guaranteed loans administered by USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) whose operations face financial risk.  This recent announcement in October 2022 kicks off a process to provide assistance to distressed farm loan borrowers using several complementary approaches, with the goal of keeping them farming, removing obstacles that currently prevent many of these borrowers from returning to farming, and improving the way that USDA approaches borrowing and servicing. Through this assistance, USDA is focused on generating long-term stability and success for distressed borrowers.  Work has already started to bring some relief to distressed farmers. As of Oct. 2022, over 13,000 borrowers have already benefited from the resources provided under the Inflation Reduction Act as follows:   * Approximately 11,000 delinquent direct and guaranteed borrowers had their accounts brought current. USDA also paid the next scheduled annual installment for these direct loan borrowers giving them peace of mind in the near term. * Approximately 2,100 borrowers who had their farms foreclosed on and still had remaining debt have had this debt resolved in order to cease debt collections and garnishment relieving that burden that has made getting a fresh start more difficult.   In addition to the automatic assistance already provided, USDA has also outlined steps to administer up to an additional $500 million in payments to benefit the following distressed borrowers:   * USDA will administer $66 million in separate automatic payments, using COVID-19 pandemic relief funds, to support up to 7,000 direct loan borrowers who used FSA’s disaster-set-aside option during the pandemic to move their scheduled payments to the end of their loans. * USDA is also initiating two case-by-case processes to provide additional assistance to farm loan borrowers. Under the first new process, FSA will review and assist with delinquencies from 1,600 complex cases, including cases in which borrowers are facing bankruptcy or foreclosure. The second new process will add a new option using existing direct loan servicing criteria to intervene more quickly and help an estimated 14,000 financially distressed borrowers who request assistance to avoid even becoming delinquent.   More details on each of the categories of assistance, including a downloadable fact sheet, are available on the [Inflation Reduction Act webpage on farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov/inflation-reduction-investments?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  Similar to other USDA assistance, all of these payments will be reported as income and borrowers are encouraged to consult their tax advisors. USDA also has resources and partnerships with cooperators who can provide additional assistance and help borrowers navigate the process.  The announcement today is only the first step in USDA’s efforts to provide assistance to distressed farm loan borrowers and respond to farmers and to improve the loan servicing efforts at USDA by adding more tools and relaxing unnecessary restrictions. Additional announcements and investments in assistance will be made as USDA institutes these additional changes and improvements.  This effort will ultimately also include adding more tools and relaxing unnecessary restrictions through assistance made possible by Congress through the IRA. Further assistance and changes to the approach will be made in subsequent phases.  **Background**  USDA provides access to credit to approximately 115,000 producers who cannot obtain sufficient commercial credit through direct and guaranteed farm loans, which do not include farm storage facility loans or marketing assistance loans.  With the funds and direction Congress provided in Section 22006 of IRA, USDA is taking action to immediately provide relief to qualifying distressed borrowers whose operations are at financial risk while working on making transformational changes to how USDA goes about loan servicing in the long run so that borrowers are provided the flexibility and opportunities needed to address the inherent risks and unpredictability associated with agricultural operations and remain in good financial standing.  In January 2021, [USDA suspended foreclosures](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fnews-room%2Fnews-releases%2F2021%2Fusda-temporarily-suspends-debt-collections-foreclosures-and-other-activities-on-farm-loans-for-several-thousand-distressed-borrowers-due-to-coronavirus%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624008775%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FwfoEU51ifIYX58kbI0ffe%2Bd4ui7FB2AHipVuBmXcQg%3D&reserved=0) and other adverse actions on direct farm loans due to the pandemic and encouraged guaranteed lenders to follow suit. Last week, USDA reiterated this request to guaranteed lenders to provide time for the full set of IRA distressed borrower assistance to be made available before lenders take irreparable actions.  Producers can explore available loan options using the [Farm Loan Discovery Tool on farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov/loans?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#field-234) ([also available in Spanish](https://www.farmers.gov/spanish/loans/farm-loan-discovery-tool?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)) or by contacting their [local USDA Service Center](http://www.farmers.gov/service-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). Producers can also call the FSA call center at 877-508-8364 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Eastern. USDA has tax-related resources available at [farmers.gov/taxes](http://www.farmers.gov/taxes?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). The Importance of Responding to NASS Surveys  |  | | --- | | USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys every year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture.  If you receive a survey questionnaire, please 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 data is available online at [nass.usda.gov/Publications](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nass.usda.gov%2FPublications%2Findex.php%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624164984%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=oWg8T6Zs4fTzTyr6okdnOnR5pniYswS7b8WuD4WCNb8%3D&reserved=0) and through the searchable [Quick Stats database](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fquickstats.nass.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624164984%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sgn9kCjpG4%2F%2FZ0taltKER0u%2FUmQNTIXaM1u18WzVlE4%3D&reserved=0). Watch a video on how NASS data is used at [youtube.com/watch?v=m-4zjnh26io&feature=youtu.be](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Ffeature%3Dyoutu.be%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery%26v%3Dm-4zjnh26io&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624164984%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=28ZtVKRhmTcFnVj5sQYpLwUQfutOntywntJhi8bmNK8%3D&reserved=0). |  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. Please call your local FSA office ahead to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that might be needed during your appointment. To find your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). USDA Provides Payments of nearly $800 Million in Assistance to Help Keep Farmers Farming Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced plans for additional emergency relief and pandemic assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA is preparing to roll out the [Emergency Relief Program (ERP)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Femergency-relief%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624164984%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=j70B0zUo0hTq4h32faFSEtRISYO9PqspZYtcqYc8y1Q%3D&reserved=0) Phase Two as well as the new [Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP)](https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/parp?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), which are two programs to help offset crop and revenue losses for producers.  USDA is sharing early information to help producers gather documents and train front-line staff on the new approach.  ERP Phase Two will assist eligible agricultural producers who suffered eligible crop losses, measured through decreases in revenue, due to wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture and qualifying droughts occurring in calendar years 2020 and 2021.  PARP will assist eligible producers of agricultural commodities who experienced revenue decreases in calendar year 2020 compared to 2018 or 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. PARP will help address gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses.  **Emergency Relief Program Phase Two**  ERP is authorized under the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, which includes $10 billion in assistance to agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021.  Phase Two builds on ERP Phase One, which was [rolled out in May 2022](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fnews-room%2Fnews-releases%2F2022%2Fusda-to-provide-approximately-6-billion-to-commodity-and-specialty-crop-producers-impacted-by-2020-and-2021-natural-disasters%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624164984%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Fk4z1wBMX0797a6GLLWoQvyh9uumOU5RS5Qs3FvVkCU%3D&reserved=0) and has since paid more than $7.1 billion to producers who incurred eligible crop losses that were covered by federal crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.  ERP Phase Two includes producers who suffered eligible losses but may not have received program benefits in Phase One. To be eligible for Phase Two, producers must have suffered a loss in allowable gross revenue as defined in forthcoming program regulations in 2020 or 2021 due to necessary expenses related to losses of eligible crops from a qualifying natural disaster event.  Eligible crops include both traditional insurable commodities and specialty crops that are produced in the United States as part of a farming operation and are intended to be commercially marketed. Like other emergency relief and pandemic assistance programs, USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) continues to look for ways to simplify the process for both staff and producers while reducing the paperwork burden. The design of ERP Phase Two is part of that effort.  In general, ERP Phase Two payments are expected to be based on the difference in certain farm revenue between a typical year of revenue as will be specified in program regulations for the producer and the disaster year.  ERP Phase Two assistance is targeted to the remaining needs of producers impacted by qualifying natural disaster events, while avoiding windfalls or duplicative payments. Details will be available when the rule is published later this year.  **Deadline for Emergency Relief Program Phase One**  Producers who are eligible for assistance through ERP Phase One have until Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, to contact FSA at their local [USDA Service Center](http://www.farmers.gov/service-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) to receive program benefits. Going forward, if any additional ERP Phase One prefilled applications are generated due to corrections or other circumstances, there will be a 30-day deadline from the date of notification for that particular application.  **Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program**  PARP is authorized and funded by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.  To be eligible for PARP, an agricultural producer must have been in the business of farming during at least part of the 2020 calendar year and had a certain threshold decrease in allowable gross revenue for the 2020 calendar year, as compared to 2018 or 2019. Exact details on the calculations and eligibility will be available when the forthcoming rule is published.  **How Producers Can Prepare**  ERP Phase Two and PARP will use revenue information that is readily available from most tax records. FSA encourages producers to have their tax documents from the past few years and supporting materials ready, as explained further below. Producers will need similar documentation to what was needed for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) Phase Two, where a producer could use 2018 or 2019 as the benchmark year relative to the disaster year.  In the coming weeks, USDA will provide additional information on how to apply for assistance through ERP Phase Two and PARP. In the meantime, producers are encouraged to begin gathering supporting documentation including:   * Schedule F (Form 1040); and * Profit or Loss from Farming or similar tax documents for tax years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 for ERP and for calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020 for PARP.   Producers should also have, or be prepared to have, the following forms on file for both ERP and PARP program participation:   * Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet (as applicable to the program participant); * Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity; * Form CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities (if applicable); and * Form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification.   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 should contact FSA at their local [USDA Service Center](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  In addition to the forms listed above, underserved producers are encouraged to register their status with FSA, using Form CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification, as certain existing permanent and ad-hoc disaster programs provide increased benefits or reduced fees and premiums.  Through proactive communications and outreach, USDA will keep producers and stakeholders informed as program eligibility, application and implementation details unfold. Important Dates **Dec. 15** - Last day to timely report planted/prevented wheat and oats  **Dec. 15 -** Last day to certify Fall seeded small grains  **Jan. 30, 2023:**  Last day to apply for LFP application for payment  **Jan 31, 2023:**2023 DMC registration and coverage election deadline for dairy operations has been extended.  **Mar. 15, 2023:**  Deadline to sign up for Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss  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://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). Current Interest Rates for December  * [Commodity Loans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fprice-support%2Fcommodity-loans%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624164984%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=oqqOZJZqEmUv2tN1cSpa75VXEayrD8vG%2FHTvBmzwZk4%3D&reserved=0) (less than one year disbursed): 5.625 % * [Farm Storage Facility Loans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fprice-support%2Ffacility-loans%2Ffarm-storage%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624164984%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=R6n%2BUPGJamdaB5yh1AB9NRu1Ai01%2FZmVeS%2FMyfaC9yQ%3D&reserved=0):                  Three-year loan terms: 4.375%                 Five-year loan terms: 4.125%                 Seven-year loan terms: 4.125                 Ten-year loan terms: 4.000%                 Twelve-year loan terms: 4.125%   * [Sugar Storage Facility Loans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fprice-support%2Ffacility-loans%2Fsugar-storage%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624164984%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2B4r8rLUZ5lZcACg2j2bmcsi3C3okpU6Nwv1Mjm4Y%2BgU%3D&reserved=0) (15 years): 4.250% * [Farm Operating Loans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-loan-programs%2Ffarm-operating-loans%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624164984%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7Uk%2Bqkuy3wD7PBo2szKWcp4f%2Fr3dzRLqvlTUIt%2BOmrs%3D&reserved=0) (Direct): 5.125% * [Farm Ownership Loans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-loan-programs%2Ffarm-ownership-loans%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624164984%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ItPrCzM6Y%2BSVRwMqbg3uMaL7I3vhmwwT3zcjcB7iEZk%3D&reserved=0) (Direct): 5.000% * [Farm Ownership Loans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-loan-programs%2Ffarm-ownership-loans%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624164984%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ItPrCzM6Y%2BSVRwMqbg3uMaL7I3vhmwwT3zcjcB7iEZk%3D&reserved=0) (Direct, Joint Financing): 3.000% * [Farm Ownership Loans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-loan-programs%2Ffarm-ownership-loans%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624164984%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ItPrCzM6Y%2BSVRwMqbg3uMaL7I3vhmwwT3zcjcB7iEZk%3D&reserved=0) (Down Payment): 1.500% * [Emergency Loan](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-loan-programs%2Femergency-farm-loans%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5e597d9811f3406fdbd308dadc4df4d8%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638064524624164984%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QpcRMZtK6i8LZw8L1BGHuevWB9Afxz9tF6HKRxT6eSQ%3D&reserved=0) (Amount of Actual Loss): 3.750% | |  | | 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** 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) | | |