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| [View as a webpage / Share](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFARMERS/bulletins/330215b" \t "_blank) |
| |  | | --- | |  | | **Louisiana USDA-FSA Updates**-**October 2022** | |  | | In This Issue: | | * [Biden-Harris Administration Makes $500 Million Available to Increase Innovative American-Made Fertilizer Production](#link_5) * [USDA Invests $14.5 Million in Taxpayer Education, Program Outreach Efforts for Farmers and Ranchers](#link_8) * [Virtual Workshops Highlight Improvements to Whole-Farm Revenue Protection and Micro Farm](#link_11) * [USDA to Gather Data about Farm Labor](#link_7) * [Change to Policy on Filing a Notice of Loss for Grazed Forage Producers with NAP Coverage](#link_12) * [USDA to Allow Producers to Request Voluntary Termination of Conservation Reserve Program Contract](#link_1) * [USDA Accepting Applications to Help Cover Costs of Organic, Transitioning Producers](#link_13) * [USDA Offers Disaster Assistance for Producers Facing Inclement Weather](#link_6) * [Disaster Assistance Available for Livestock Losses](#link_4) * [Reminders for FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security](#link_3) * [Current Interest Rates for October](#link_10) * [Important Dates](#link_9)  Biden-Harris Administration Makes $500 Million Available to Increase Innovative American-Made Fertilizer Production New Grant Program Will Spur Competition and Help US Farmers Address Rising Costs  U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the Biden-Harris Administration is making $500 million in grants available to increase American-made fertilizer production to spur competition and combat price hikes on U.S. farmers caused by the war in Ukraine.  The Biden-Harris Administration’s [Fertilizer Production Expansion Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rd.usda.gov%2Fprograms-services%2Fenergy-programs%2Ffertilizer-production-expansion-program%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210045317%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=oPAY3basaisIF4F9T5iev%2FuZZKwBEPosG6OmdnQt%2Fsk%3D&reserved=0) is part of a whole-of-government effort to promote competition in agricultural markets. The funds are being made available through the Commodity Credit Corporation.  Eligible entities are for‐profit businesses and corporations, nonprofit entities, Tribes and Tribal organizations, producer‐owned cooperatives and corporations, certified benefit corporations, and state or local governments. Private entities must be independently owned and operated to apply.  The Department will begin accepting applications in the coming days via [www.grants.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.grants.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210045317%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VfQziUodW3zIQ1XMKiYJbnUNHoKNzy3PmTLxAugHcWY%3D&reserved=0). Notably, there will be two opportunities for submission.  [Learn more](https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2022/09/27/biden-harris-administration-makes-500-million-available-increase?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). USDA Invests $14.5 Million in Taxpayer Education, Program Outreach Efforts for Farmers and Ranchers FSA is investing in two outreach and education efforts for farmers and ranchers, including those who are new to agriculture or who have been historically underserved by programs.  First, FSA is announcing $10 million in the new Taxpayer Education and Asset Protection Initiative. Through this initiative, FSA has partnered with the University of Arkansas and the National Farm Income Tax Extension Committee to deliver tax education resources for farmers and ranchers, which includes engagement with agricultural educators, and tax professionals through partnerships with community groups and minority serving institutions across the country.  Second, FSA is investing $4.5 million in outreach for the Conservation Reserve Program Transition Incentives Program (CRP TIP), which increases access to land for new farmers and ranchers. FSA will award cooperative agreements to 15 to 20 partner and stakeholder organizations to conduct outreach and technical assistance and promote awareness and understanding among agricultural communities, particularly those who are military veterans, new to farming, or historically underserved. Virtual Workshops Highlight Improvements to Whole-Farm Revenue Protection and Micro Farm  |  | | --- | | The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering virtual workshops – on Oct. 11, Oct. 13, Nov. 15, and Dec. 13 – for agricultural producers and stakeholders to learn about the latest updates and improvements to the [Whole-Farm Revenue Protection](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rma.usda.gov%2Fen%2FPolicy-and-Procedure%2FInsurance-Plans%2FWhole-Farm-Revenue-Protection%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210045317%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=K9kUh%2FzbsVdyXUXPkaGug60soDq%2FvsE4TewAEQhHCmk%3D&reserved=0) (WFRP) and the [Micro Farm](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rma.usda.gov%2Fen%2FFact-Sheets%2FNational-Fact-Sheets%2FMicro-Farm-Program%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210201556%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=O7EY2R%2B7Fh30YAFIDfAza0HjisTnBGvjlqVuJ7j6iT8%3D&reserved=0) insurance options, two of the most comprehensive risk management options available. These insurance options are especially important to specialty crop, organic, urban, and direct market producers, and this is part of the USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) efforts to increase participation in these options and crop insurance overall.  RMA will host these workshops for agricultural producers via Microsoft Teams events:   * [Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 11 a.m. ET](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fteams.microsoft.com%2Fdl%2Flauncher%2Flauncher.html%3FdeeplinkId%3De10b9914-c64b-40fa-9a9b-002ad06418a6%26directDl%3Dtrue%26enableMobilePage%3Dfalse%26msLaunch%3Dtrue%26suppressPrompt%3Dtrue%26type%3Dmeetup-join%26url%3D%252F_%2523%252Fl%252Fmeetup-join%252F19%253Ameeting_NDk5NTY1ZTUtZWNjOS00NjY1LTg1MTEtYjdkNWYwMDUyMDAz%2540thread.v2%252F0%253Fcontext%253D%25257b%252522Tid%252522%25253a%252522ed5b36e7-01ee-4ebc-867e-e03cfa0d4697%252522%25252c%252522Oid%252522%25253a%25252213e58858-c53c-4335-885d-560e473c4750%252522%25252c%252522IsBroadcastMeeting%252522%25253atrue%25257d%2526btype%253Da%2526role%253Da%2526anon%253Dtrue%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210201556%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=R3hTknxqAfLBJJnCkUXC96LfBiR13Jfgo56zTqUkdaQ%3D&reserved=0) ([click to join](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fteams.microsoft.com%2Fdl%2Flauncher%2Flauncher.html%3FdeeplinkId%3Dd0e4b989-9211-4f0f-bc46-e9925b026544%26directDl%3Dtrue%26enableMobilePage%3Dtrue%26msLaunch%3Dtrue%26suppressPrompt%3Dtrue%26type%3Dmeetup-join%26url%3D%252F_%2523%252Fl%252Fmeetup-join%252F19%253Ameeting_NDk5NTY1ZTUtZWNjOS00NjY1LTg1MTEtYjdkNWYwMDUyMDAz%2540thread.v2%252F0%253Fcontext%253D%25257b%252522Tid%252522%25253a%252522ed5b36e7-01ee-4ebc-867e-e03cfa0d4697%252522%25252c%252522Oid%252522%25253a%25252213e58858-c53c-4335-885d-560e473c4750%252522%25252c%252522IsBroadcastMeeting%252522%25253atrue%25257d%2526btype%253Da%2526role%253Da%2526anon%253Dtrue%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210201556%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=zeKwpdAUZto7ztZWMKDYj3aTXe5YDJ9n1LHI9mLqDGo%3D&reserved=0)) * [Thursday, Oct. 13 at 4 p.m. ET](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fteams.microsoft.com%2Fdl%2Flauncher%2Flauncher.html%3FdeeplinkId%3Dd1877626-6881-405e-826f-270fba91dbcc%26directDl%3Dtrue%26enableMobilePage%3Dfalse%26msLaunch%3Dtrue%26suppressPrompt%3Dtrue%26type%3Dmeetup-join%26url%3D%252F_%2523%252Fl%252Fmeetup-join%252F19%253Ameeting_NWZlZjQ1YTMtMDQxNC00MTFkLTllZTAtMzFlMTgwZDFiNWRj%2540thread.v2%252F0%253Fcontext%253D%25257b%252522Tid%252522%25253a%252522ed5b36e7-01ee-4ebc-867e-e03cfa0d4697%252522%25252c%252522Oid%252522%25253a%25252213e58858-c53c-4335-885d-560e473c4750%252522%25252c%252522IsBroadcastMeeting%252522%25253atrue%25257d%2526btype%253Da%2526role%253Da%2526anon%253Dtrue%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210201556%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=B%2BXgN8Ul%2Bp53khrNFLTNUV7DtcoJnWnQEtItYQ3XJWY%3D&reserved=0) ([click to join](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fteams.microsoft.com%2Fdl%2Flauncher%2Flauncher.html%3FdeeplinkId%3Dcfdd13e3-74fc-48e6-bd0a-336d4111a274%26directDl%3Dtrue%26enableMobilePage%3Dtrue%26msLaunch%3Dtrue%26suppressPrompt%3Dtrue%26type%3Dmeetup-join%26url%3D%252F_%2523%252Fl%252Fmeetup-join%252F19%253Ameeting_NWZlZjQ1YTMtMDQxNC00MTFkLTllZTAtMzFlMTgwZDFiNWRj%2540thread.v2%252F0%253Fcontext%253D%25257b%252522Tid%252522%25253a%252522ed5b36e7-01ee-4ebc-867e-e03cfa0d4697%252522%25252c%252522Oid%252522%25253a%25252213e58858-c53c-4335-885d-560e473c4750%252522%25252c%252522IsBroadcastMeeting%252522%25253atrue%25257d%2526btype%253Da%2526role%253Da%2526anon%253Dtrue%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210201556%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TExvJ2F4L65MHWkmHNeQ5VdCeC3A3%2FF3XGi5faY2HAY%3D&reserved=0)) * Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 8 p.m. PT ([click to join](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fteams.microsoft.com%2Fdl%2Flauncher%2Flauncher.html%3FdeeplinkId%3Dc107519f-74e4-4866-a9fb-3de795c025c8%26directDl%3Dtrue%26enableMobilePage%3Dfalse%26msLaunch%3Dtrue%26suppressPrompt%3Dtrue%26type%3Dmeetup-join%26url%3D%252F_%2523%252Fl%252Fmeetup-join%252F19%253Ameeting_YWYxODZhMzctOGQxOC00YTJlLWE2ZGMtOGY2ZmUwNjFlNDI1%2540thread.v2%252F0%253Fcontext%253D%25257b%252522Tid%252522%25253a%252522ed5b36e7-01ee-4ebc-867e-e03cfa0d4697%252522%25252c%252522Oid%252522%25253a%25252213e58858-c53c-4335-885d-560e473c4750%252522%25252c%252522IsBroadcastMeeting%252522%25253atrue%25257d%2526btype%253Da%2526role%253Da%2526anon%253Dtrue%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210201556%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ThWQAjbS%2FaoqteA%2F2bXBdvub9zgXxk9DxnZ5FHJemmY%3D&reserved=0)) * Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. ET ([click to join](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fteams.microsoft.com%2Fdl%2Flauncher%2Flauncher.html%3FdeeplinkId%3D77747d36-7a3b-4512-acea-65a69b4e6ba2%26directDl%3Dtrue%26enableMobilePage%3Dtrue%26msLaunch%3Dtrue%26suppressPrompt%3Dtrue%26type%3Dmeetup-join%26url%3D%252F_%2523%252Fl%252Fmeetup-join%252F19%253Ameeting_M2E0MjgyNmUtNDhmNy00ZTk3LWI4NGQtN2ZlNDhkYzQ3MmYz%2540thread.v2%252F0%253Fcontext%253D%25257b%252522Tid%252522%25253a%252522ed5b36e7-01ee-4ebc-867e-e03cfa0d4697%252522%25252c%252522Oid%252522%25253a%25252213e58858-c53c-4335-885d-560e473c4750%252522%25252c%252522IsBroadcastMeeting%252522%25253atrue%25257d%2526btype%253Da%2526role%253Da%2526anon%253Dtrue%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210201556%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YlDsGXDyXgGBOMVUvRvepyVWSW365E4wEzuMIjGfogg%3D&reserved=0))   RSVP is not required. Attendees will have a chance to submit written questions during the event.  [Learn more](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frma.usda.gov%2FTopics%2FOutreach-and-Education%2FRMA-Roadshow%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210201556%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=u7egZpkCKAr2cdfByQTINYDfXcnHVVZQcChHfBK9JCs%3D&reserved=0). |  USDA to Gather Data about Farm Labor USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its biannual Agricultural Labor Survey in October. The survey will collect information about hired labor from more than 300 Louisiana farmers and ranchers. NASS will publish the data Nov. 23 in the Farm Labor report available on the NASS website. Survey recipients who do not respond by Oct. 19 may be contacted by NASS to arrange an interview or sent a reminder email.  In the survey, NASS asks producers to answer a variety of questions about hired farm labor on their operations, including total number of hired farm workers, total hours worked, and total wages paid for the weeks of July 10-16 and Oct. 9-15, 2022. Survey recipients can respond online at [agcounts.usda.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fportal.agcounts.usda.gov%2Fportal%2Fs%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210201556%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FPzb5hB3piGOjRZVZLEEKxf1M2BHLd2kgwSshshfjV4%3D&reserved=0) through NASS’s new respondent portal or by mail. On the portal, producers can complete their surveys, access data visualizations and reports of interest, link to other USDA agencies, and more.  Agricultural labor data are critical in helping producers when hiring workers and estimating expenses. The data that farm operators provide through NASS’s Agricultural Labor Survey also allow federal policymakers to base farm labor policies on accurate information.  USDA and the U.S. Department of Labor use the survey data to estimate the demand for and availability of seasonal agricultural workers, establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers and administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs.  By asking about two separate time periods each time we collect these data during the year, we are able to publish biannual data and capture seasonal variation. This approach reduces the number of times we survey farms, while ensuring that accurate and timely data are available.  Participants are encouraged to visit [youtu.be/6oWSOjGTQzU](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery%26v%3D6oWSOjGTQzU&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210201556%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TvNuj2JUSX0%2FOKWGTFAsuMoXym3SGEe8Hkpp6F9dkYk%3D&reserved=0) for further information on and assistance completing this survey. All previous Farm Labor publications are available on the NASS website at [https://www.nass.usda.gov/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nass.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210201556%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FwaToXy4l0LEHUrE49DOgFPy%2F1eQN2JwsupHaBEC3O8%3D&reserved=0). For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Delta Regional Field Office at (800) 327-2970. Change to Policy on Filing a Notice of Loss for Grazed Forage Producers with NAP Coverage For the 2022 crop year, NAP forage producers with the intended use of grazing who elect to use independent assessments or other approved alternative loss percentage methods to establish their loss are no longer required to file a CCC-576 Notice of Loss with FSA.  However, a CCC-576 Application for Payment form must be submitted to FSA no later than 60 calendar days after the coverage period ends. If an independent assessment is used to determine the loss, producers have 180 days to file an application for payment.  Producers that elect to have the grazing loss determined using similar mechanically harvested units still must timely file a CCC-576 Notice of Loss within 15 days of the disaster event or damage to the crop first becomes apparent or within 15 days of harvest. USDA to Allow Producers to Request Voluntary Termination of Conservation Reserve Program Contract The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will allow Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants who are in the final year of their CRP contract to request voluntary termination of their CRP contract following the end of the primary nesting season for fiscal year 2022. Participants approved for this one-time, voluntary termination will not have to repay rental payments, a flexibility implemented this year to help mitigate the global food supply challenges caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and other factors. Today, USDA also announced additional flexibilities for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).  FSA is [mailing letters to producers](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FConservation%2FPDF%2Fexpiring-crp-letter-dafp-signed.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210201556%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ESSsDYFzFcu%2FyPsXu1qgIJFJnKr5OLQjdI2gbwF5Ql0%3D&reserved=0) with expiring acres that detail this flexibility and share other options, such as re-enrolling sensitive acres in the CRP Continuous signup and considering growing organic crops. Producers will be asked to make the request for voluntary termination in writing through their local USDA [Service Center](http://www.farmers.gov/service-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  If approved for voluntary termination, preparations can occur after the conclusion of the [primary nesting season](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FConservation%2FPDF%2Fprimary_nesting_seasons_5_23_2022.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210201556%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xunCHnUvrA%2Fd0VZXAi%2Fc1gCNUfgmHDfSZFXkFqLeP1M%3D&reserved=0). Producers will then be able to hay, graze, begin land preparation activities and plant a fall-seeded crop before October 1, 2022. For land in colder climates, this flexibility may allow for better establishment of a winter wheat crop or better prepare the land for spring planting.  **Organic Considerations**  Since CRP land typically does not have a recent history of pesticide or herbicide application, USDA is encouraging producers to consider organic production. USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides [technical and financial assistance](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fwps%2Fportal%2Fnrcs%2Fmain%2Fnational%2Forganic%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210201556%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JNz2qigOzxGpVYLuMMCqfbev%2FpJpH2TJ4WoWob5L33M%3D&reserved=0) to help producers plan and implement conservation practices, including those that work well for organic operations, such as pest management and mulching. Meanwhile, FSA offers [cost-share for certification costs](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fnews-room%2Fnews-releases%2F2022%2Fusda-accepting-applications-to-help-cover-costs-of-organic-transitioning-producers%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210201556%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VLry3RL6s3wF9fFMjl2uZ9DweKBkb2FjNZAMaQ3WZ2A%3D&reserved=0) and other fees.  **Other CRP Options**  Participants can also choose to enroll all or part of their expiring acres into the Continuous CRP signup for 2022. Important conservation benefits may still be achieved by re-enrolling sensitive acres such as buffers or wetlands. Expiring water quality practices such as filter strips, grass waterways, and riparian buffers may be eligible to be reenrolled under the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers (CLEAR) and CLEAR 30 options under CRP. Additionally, expiring continuous CRP practices such as shelterbelts, field windbreaks, and other buffer practices may also be re-enrolled to provide benefits for organic farming operations.  If producers are not planning to farm the land from their expiring CRP contract, the Transition Incentives Program (TIP) may also provide them two additional annual rental payments after their contract expires on the condition that they sell or rent their land to a beginning or veteran farmer or rancher or a member of a socially disadvantaged group.  **NRCS Conservation Programs**  USDA also encourages producers to consider NRCS conservation programs, which help producers integrate conservation on croplands, grazing lands and other agricultural landscapes. EQIP and CSP can help producers plant cover crops, manage nutrients and improve irrigation and grazing systems. Additionally, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), or state or private easement programs, may be such an option. In many cases, a combination of approaches can be taken on the same parcel.  For example, riparian areas or other sensitive parts of a parcel may be enrolled in continuous CRP and the remaining land that is returned to farming can participate in CSP or EQIP and may be eligible to receive additional ranking points.  **Other Flexibilities to Support Conservation**  Additionally, NRCS is also offering a new flexibility for EQIP and CSP participants who have cover cropping including in their existing contracts. NRCS will allow participants to either modify their plans to plant a cover crop (and instead shift to a conservation crop rotation) or delay their cover crop plans a year, without needing to terminate the existing contract. This will allow for flexibility to respond to market signals while still ensuring the conservation benefits through NRCS financial and technical assistance for participating producers.  **More Information**  Producers and landowners can learn more about these options by contacting FSA and NRCS at their local [USDA Service Center](http://www.farmers.gov/service-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). 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://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/otecp?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) (OTECP) and [Organic Certification Cost Share Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Foccsp%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uda3IVSo6KRN%2Bm%2B3xXA%2BpzwyuCXxIg3Avs9XRTU9VDo%3D&reserved=0) (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://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/otecp?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) and [OCCSP](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Foccsp%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uda3IVSo6KRN%2Bm%2B3xXA%2BpzwyuCXxIg3Avs9XRTU9VDo%3D&reserved=0) webpages. USDA Offers Disaster Assistance for Producers Facing Inclement Weather  |  | | --- | | Severe weather events create significant challenges and often result in catastrophic loss for agricultural producers. Despite every attempt to mitigate risk, your operation may suffer losses. USDA offers several programs to help with recovery.  **Risk Management**  For producers who have risk protection through [Federal Crop Insurance](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rma.usda.gov%2FFederal-Crop-Insurance-Corporation%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rYj5SgZB%2FKF0FVu2P5SGfkBFM%2BmJ%2FGKLX4qCpaJdJSs%3D&reserved=0)or the [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdisaster-assistance-program%2Fnoninsured-crop-disaster-assistance%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XAjIhNWONySV2B6eeloKN88Z%2FhT%2Bc4zbpaaOngoQR%2F0%3D&reserved=0) (NAP), we want to remind you to report crop damage to your crop insurance agent or the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.  If you have crop insurance, contact your agency within 72 hours of discovering damage and be sure to follow up in writing within 15 days. If you have NAP coverage, file a Notice of Loss (also called Form CCC-576) within 15 days of loss becoming apparent, except for hand-harvested crops, which should be reported within 72 hours.  **Disaster Assistance**  USDA also offers disaster assistance programs, which is especially important to livestock, fruit and vegetable, specialty and perennial crop producers who have fewer [risk management options](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rma.usda.gov%2FTopics%2FSpecialty-Crops%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2F0qnvOM1h9%2B1l2QEdmY2IuxQwbMqu9BE8Rt%2BAZTP7wU%3D&reserved=0).  First, the [Livestock Indemnity Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdisaster-assistance-program%2Flivestock-indemnity%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YVdSg3sZJMGcwE7cZNWgLJ6O%2BACo6U4%2BOI%2BfNHzcSno%3D&reserved=0) (LIP) and [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee and Farm-raised Fish Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdisaster-assistance-program%2Femergency-assist-for-livestock-honey-bees-fish%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wxpnPUsn25L40ZYTWxlBBf8RuKDBgwNX6cH6LtBnVus%3D&reserved=0) (ELAP) reimburses producers for a portion of the value of livestock, poultry and other animals that died as a result of a qualifying natural disaster event or for loss of grazing acres, feed and forage. And, the [Livestock Forage Disaster Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdisaster-assistance-program%2Flivestock-forage%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=SNE9QG%2BwIi6f7ye9tQqzokjo4oJqUS2i8MOdVYxZd4g%3D&reserved=0) (LFP) provides assistance to producers of grazed forage crop acres that have suffered crop loss due to a qualifying drought.  Livestock producers suffering the impacts of drought can also request [Emergency Haying and Grazing](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fconservation-programs%2Fconservation-reserve-program%2Femergency-haying-and-grazing%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JtcHs2cqkG%2Bfkvgy3Li7GdXKBZg6c70%2FJkHoTGbwi28%3D&reserved=0) on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres.  Next, the [Tree Assistance Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdisaster-assistance-program%2Ftree-assista%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nNJkWCLi3yyad8%2FGoSK%2BTf71v6GNFZgXdOU0EVXiDA4%3D&reserved=0) (TAP) provides cost share assistance to rehabilitate and replant tree, vines or shrubs loss experienced by orchards and nurseries. This complements NAP or crop insurance coverage, which cover the crop but not the plants or trees in all cases.  For LIP and ELAP, you will need to file a Notice of Loss for livestock and grazing or feed losses within 30 days and honeybee losses within 15 days. For TAP, you will need to file a program application within 90 days.  **Documentation**  It’s critical to keep accurate records to document all losses following this devastating cold weather event. Livestock producers are advised to document beginning livestock numbers by taking time and date-stamped video or pictures prior to after the loss.  Other common documentation options include:   * Purchase records * Production records * Vaccination records * Bank or other loan documents * Third-party certification   **Other Programs**  The [Emergency Conservation Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fconservation-programs%2Femergency-conservation%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0IjyO2p66Gm3Bi7NWNDedh4OS0f%2FuXpFNAAFNAiOT6E%3D&reserved=0) and [Emergency Forest Restoration Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdisaster-assistance-program%2Femergency-forest-restoration%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YOmi44P07hpRBV3pt4K%2FPEV%2Fo3Q9sOSIH921DZMWdcI%3D&reserved=0) can assist landowners and forest stewards with financial and technical assistance to restore damaged farmland or forests.  Additionally, FSA offers a variety of loans available including emergency loans that are triggered by disaster declarations and operating loans that can assist producers with credit needs.  You can use these loans to replace essential property, purchase inputs like livestock, equipment, feed and seed, or refinance farm-related debts, and other needs.  Meanwhile, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial resources through its [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fwps%2Fportal%2Fnrcs%2Fmain%2Fnational%2Fprograms%2Ffinancial%2Feqip%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0rvxRG4%2Be%2BEGx2dPPMzgktrEvLw9x6xj98NciMSgHNQ%3D&reserved=0) to help with immediate needs and long-term support to help recover from natural disasters and conserve water resources. Assistance may also be available for emergency animal mortality disposal from natural disasters and other causes.  **Additional Resources**  Additional details – including payment calculations – can be found on our [NAP](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2Fnoninsured_crop_disaster_assistance_program-nap-fact_sheet.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ViYgpMREEwHak1HdiXs9m7GiZCbySJv2OtjMwu%2FU60I%3D&reserved=0), [ELAP](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2Felap-general-2020-fact-sheet-1.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=S7uKblNpanfksNK%2BQdX6fQiX%2BWjKZQRTARwF0mZejsU%3D&reserved=0), [LIP](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2Flivestock_indemnity_program_lip-fact_sheet.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210358209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YbOoDmm7wUwoSneVnHQ3vLuuiDVPphnlm8CRabLbfio%3D&reserved=0), and [TAP](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2Ftree_assistance_program-tap-fact_sheet.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210513976%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=z%2FaoBIcOqe9grKwW7tnfM5kpsEOVxOPCJLOo%2F0zOppg%3D&reserved=0) fact sheets. On farmers.gov, the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](https://www.farmers.gov/node/28989?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), [Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/FSA_DisasterAssistance_at_a_glance_brochure_.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), and [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](https://www.farmers.gov/fund/farm-loan-discovery-tool?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) can help you determine program or loan options.  While we never want to have to implement disaster programs, we are here to help. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local USDA Service Center. All[USDA Service Centers](https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) are open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments because of the pandemic. |  Disaster Assistance Available for Livestock Losses The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to you for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.  For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.  For 2022 livestock losses, you must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent. You then must provide the following supporting documentation to your local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.   * Proof of death documentation * Copy of grower’s contracts * Proof of normal mortality documentation   USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 250 pounds) = 5%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under “normal” conditions.  In addition to filing a notice of loss, you must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2023.  For more information, contact the local USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210513976%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=AEDgcUwu99LpifGZwgwT0QK5GwWjY4iSBcPrTJHXBDE%3D&reserved=0). Reminders for FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security Farm loan borrowers who have pledged real estate as security for their Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct or guaranteed loans are responsible for maintaining loan collateral. Borrowers must obtain prior consent or approval from FSA or the guaranteed lender for any transaction that affects real estate security. These transactions include, but are not limited to:   * Leases of any kind * Easements of any kind * Subordinations * Partial releases * Sales   Failure to meet or follow the requirements in the loan agreement, promissory note, and other security instruments could lead to nonmonetary default which could jeopardize your current and future loans.  It is critical that borrowers keep an open line of communication with their FSA loan staff or guaranteed lender when it comes to changes in their operation. For more information on borrower responsibilities, read [Your FSA Farm Loan Compass](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFarm-Loan-Programs%2Fpdfs%2Floan-servicing%2Ffarm_loan_compass_9-22-17.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210513976%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=P%2Fiw%2ByNNFwevzakOpuMs3F%2F59ujP7GcSn%2FNwj9fnVHg%3D&reserved=0). Current Interest Rates for October  * [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%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210513976%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BgqvBetSRndluPgc%2Fe2YqTDMiJg%2FQLkKFORabrBgmmA%3D&reserved=0) (less than one year disbursed): 4.625 % * [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%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210513976%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Bc0K5DbEb2bDVyztrr4OtcXqvuBCiOePgmKuI9s4Xso%3D&reserved=0):                  Three-year loan terms: 3.625%                 Five-year loan terms: 3.375%                 Seven-year loan terms: 3.375%                 Ten-year loan terms: 3.125%                 Twelve-year loan terms: 3.375%   * [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%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210513976%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=R1nAMpWu4TWzP1Tq7SlXm3ri%2Fr%2FJRdBlGbCAhkKOqew%3D&reserved=0) (15 years): 3.500% * [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%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210982639%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=g8Q1BgvoiIyyiBEr7I%2BSI%2FiOJTX7s530BOR33kH3ANA%3D&reserved=0) (Direct): 3.875% * [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%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210982639%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=faqQ%2FhBVB9brK52Eduq8ITPyHssE9vVeUfPi7oMXkog%3D&reserved=0) (Direct): 4.125% * [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%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210982639%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=faqQ%2FhBVB9brK52Eduq8ITPyHssE9vVeUfPi7oMXkog%3D&reserved=0) (Direct, Joint Financing): 2.500% * [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%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210982639%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=faqQ%2FhBVB9brK52Eduq8ITPyHssE9vVeUfPi7oMXkog%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%7Cc18f58ab15b74b34795f08daad1a24bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638012625210982639%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=p2C5KG6V2eg8TWHL7u6AG96qCCtpu8KkKDp5%2F4PuLUk%3D&reserved=0) (Amount of Actual Loss): 3.750%  Important Dates **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. 7** - Ballots for the upcoming COC election will be mailed to eligible voters  **Nov. 11** - This office will be closed in observance of Veterans Day  **Nov. 15** - Last day to timely report Rye Grass and Improved Mixed Forage  **Nov. 24** - This office will be closed for Thanksgiving Day  **Nov. 30** - FCIC final planting date for wheat and oats  **Dec. 15** - Last day to timely report planted/prevented wheat and oats  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). | |  | | 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) | |  |  | |  |  | | |