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| [View as a webpage / Share](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2NvbnRlbnQuZ292ZGVsaXZlcnkuY29tL2FjY291bnRzL1VTREFGQVJNRVJTL2J1bGxldGlucy8zMmI2Zjk4In0.yuzpv7xMK1GgaWitaTplt9fp_ZtvNt7zU-f7LNVYsCY/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l" \t "_blank) |
| |  | | --- | |  | | **Louisiana USDA-FSA Updates**  - **September 2022** | |  | | In This Issue: | | * [USDA Announces First Three Lenders for Heirs’ Property Relending Program](#link_8) * [USDA to Mail Additional Pre-Filled Applications to Producers Impacted by 2020, 2021 Disasters](#link_1) * [Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation](#link_13) * [Signature Policy](#link_2) * [USDA Announces Assistance for On-Farm Food Safety Expenses for Specialty Crop Growers](#link_4) * [Beginning Farmer Loan Opportunity](#link_12) * [Progression Lending from FSA](#link_6) * [The Importance of Responding to NASS Surveys](#link_3) * [Transitioning Expiring CRP Land to Beginning, Veteran or Underserved Farmers and Ranchers](#link_7) * [Maintaining the Quality of Farm-Stored Loan Grain](#link_5) * [FSA Outlines MAL and LDP Policy](#link_11) * [Current Interest Rates for September](#link_10) * [Important Dates](#link_9)  USDA Announces First Three Lenders for Heirs’ Property Relending Program USDA is announcing that Shared Capital Cooperative, Akiptan, Inc. and the Cherokee Nation Economic Development Trust Authority (CNEDTA), have been approved or conditionally approved as intermediary lenders through the Heirs’ Property Relending Program (HPRP). Once HPRP loans with these lenders close, these lenders will help agricultural producers and landowners resolve heirs’ land ownership and succession issues. Additionally, USDA encourages more intermediary lenders, including cooperatives, credit unions and nonprofit organizations to apply.  More information is at [farmers.gov/heirs/relending](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L2hlaXJzL3JlbGVuZGluZz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.KPKQuxWqyOjaNplskmVm05MtMaRJs4bQPyyI66XIQNQ/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l). USDA to Mail Additional Pre-Filled Applications to Producers Impacted by 2020, 2021 Disasters  |  | | --- | | The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced another installment (phase) in assistance to commodity and specialty crop producers impacted by natural disaster events in 2020 and 2021. More than 18,000 producers will soon receive new or updated pre-filled disaster applications to offset eligible crop losses. Approximately $6.4 billion has already been distributed to 165,000 producers through USDA’s Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Emergency Relief Program (ERP).  FSA will begin mailing pre-filled applications in late August to producers who have potentially eligible losses and:   * Received crop insurance indemnities for qualifying 2020 and 2021 disaster events after May 2, 2022. * Received crop insurance indemnities associated with Nursery, Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO), Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX), Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) and Margin Protection (MP) policies. * New primary policyholders not included in the initial insured producer Phase 1 mailing from May 25, 2022, because their claim records had not been filled. * Certain 2020 prevent plant losses related to qualifying 2020 disaster events that had only been recorded in crop insurance records as related to 2019 adverse weather events and, as such, were not previously provided in applications sent earlier this year. * New Substantial Beneficial Interest (SBI) records, including SBIs where tax identification numbers were corrected.   Producers are expected to receive assistance direct deposited into their bank account within three business days after they sign and return the pre-filled application to the FSA county office and the county office enters the application into the system.  Before applying any program payment factors or eligibility criteria, it is estimated that this next installment (phase) may generate about $756 million in assistance.  **Emergency Relief Payments to Date**  This emergency relief under ERP complements ERP assistance recently provided to more than 165,000 producers who had received crop insurance indemnities and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) payments for qualifying losses. USDA has processed more than 255,000 applications for ERP, and to date, has made approximately $6.4 billion in payments to commodity and specialty crop producers to help offset eligible losses from qualifying 2020 and 2021 natural disasters. 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.  **Phase Two**  The second phase of both ERP and ELRP will be aimed at filling gaps and provide assistance to producers who did not participate in or receive payments through the existing risk management programs that are being leveraged for phase one implementation. USDA will keep producers and stakeholders informed as program details are made available.  **More Information**  In addition, on Aug. 18, 2022, USDA published a technical correction to the [Notice of Funds Availability](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mZWRlcmFscmVnaXN0ZXIuZ292L2RvY3VtZW50cy8yMDIyLzA4LzE4LzIwMjItMTc3OTUvZW1lcmdlbmN5LWxpdmVzdG9jay1yZWxpZWYtcHJvZ3JhbS1lbHJwLWFuZC1lbWVyZ2VuY3ktcmVsaWVmLXByb2dyYW0tZXJwLWNsYXJpZmljYXRpb24_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.bmOC8McsfGMhHUwSHC3N1fN7cogTiyjEkUQl4omTq9M/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l) for ERP and ELRP to clarify how income from the sale of farm equipment and the provision of production inputs and services to farmers, ranchers, foresters, and farm operations are to be considered in the calculation of average adjusted gross farm income.  Producers whose average adjusted gross farm income is at least 75% of the producer’s the average Adjusted Gross Income can gain access to a higher payment limitation.  ERP and the previously announced ELRP are authorized 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 disasters 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.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2VtZXJnZW5jeS1yZWxpZWYvaW5kZXg_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.P6Th2sXTxCeknLn7erY8eFUBzRzCHCHL84ICJ0Z9UPY/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l). A [new public-facing dashboard](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2VtZXJnZW5jeS1yZWxpZWYvZXJwLWRhc2hib2FyZC9pbmRleD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.R5NDfPEQWCoy6kSYtJSxw6EarNxqiT_DoVjurRDFDZQ/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-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 every Monday.  Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on [farmers.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi8_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.Jcu4W1kx63K1IqfI0NgG3S9fgmZIxDozYRKFmY1XOOA/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l), including the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9ub2RlLzI4OTg5P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.OneZkaFSAG2fhiu1lCR6TuJ1NSyTjIMX4rf1ygZ3KGU/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l), [Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9zaXRlcy9kZWZhdWx0L2ZpbGVzLzIwMjAtMDQvRlNBX0Rpc2FzdGVyQXNzaXN0YW5jZV9hdF9hX2dsYW5jZV9icm9jaHVyZV8ucGRmP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.WHIN1DxW-JH7knEiXXA62KoSZX5AwFH2YDHLvHZg_84/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l)and [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9mdW5kL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1kaXNjb3ZlcnktdG9vbD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.keIq2vdhAv9tyTXAQCaJjI20-hALjtqsrJPw5pc6eRg/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l). For FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, producers should contact their local [USDA Service Center](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L3NlcnZpY2UtY2VudGVyLWxvY2F0b3I_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.6TRzHRFcZMRFLejC-fsQ7C5yI9fZQvV-Gz1M8QVYde0/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l). For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their [crop insurance agent](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3B1YmxpYy5ybWEudXNkYS5nb3YvQWlwTGlzdGluZy9JbnN1cmFuY2VQcm92aWRlcnM_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.qPmP27-UFfCuOjXhmNfNf3ISBuhEETiSDvWK1E8QQUU/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l). |  Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation Farmers and ranchers can use the Farm Loan Discovery Tool on [farmers.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi8_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.ZM9C1RYv8YSmG8q46cY3eXrzz1Cb87Ztwem-FE86KYU/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l) to find information on USDA farm loans that may best fit their operations.  USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a variety of loan options to help farmers finance their operations. From buying land to financing the purchase of equipment, FSA loans can help.  USDA conducted field research in eight states, gathering input from farmers and FSA farm loan staff to better understand their needs and challenges.  **How the Tool Works**  Farmers who are looking for financing options to operate a farm or buy land can answer a few simple questions about what they are looking to fund and how much money they need to borrow. After submitting their answers, farmers will receive information on farm loans that best fit their specific needs. The loan application and additional resources also will be provided.  Farmers can download application quick guides that outline what to expect from preparing an application to receiving a loan decision. There are four guides that cover loans to individuals, entities, and youth, as well as information on microloans. The guides include general eligibility requirements and a list of required forms and documentation for each type of loan. These guides can help farmers prepare before their first USDA service center visit with a loan officer.  Farmers can access the Farm Loan Discovery Tool by visiting [farmers.gov/fund](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9mdW5kP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.qkF5K4No-GBXTEoqg_F3aBhLvYIJ5hrzpAso126WaP4/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l) and clicking the “Start” button. Follow the prompts and answer five simple questions to receive loan information that is applicable to your agricultural operation. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.  **About Farmers.gov**  In 2018, USDA unveiled farmers.gov, a dynamic, mobile-friendly public website combined with an authenticated portal where farmers will be able to apply for programs, process transactions, and manage accounts.  The Farm Loan Discovery Tool is one of many resources on farmers.gov to help connect farmers to information that can help their operations. Earlier this year, USDA launched the My Financial Information feature, which enables farmers to view their loan information, history, payments, and alerts by logging into the website.  USDA is building farmers.gov for farmers, by farmers. In addition to the interactive farm loan features, the site also offers a Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool. Farmers can visit [farmers.gov/recover/disaster-assistance-tool#step-1](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9yZWNvdmVyL2Rpc2FzdGVyLWFzc2lzdGFuY2UtdG9vbD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkjc3RlcC0xIn0.b2DajSU5hkImTWhYDOVfsQLw-_OezGuONlswEKYdOU4/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l) to find disaster assistance programs that can help their operation recover from natural disasters.  For more information, contact your Local USDA Service Center or visit [farmers.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi8_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.zujEkOFFDE44URgJ9jYK-AkUawvxwzzP3R6jxKfTih4/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l). Signature Policy Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits.  The following are FSA signature guidelines:   * A married woman must sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe * For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from the minor’s parent   Note, by signing a document with a minor, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.  When signing on one’s behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc.  FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.  Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office.  Spouses cannot sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.  Likewise, a spouse cannot sign a document on behalf of the other in order to affirm the eligibility of oneself.  Any member of a general partnership can sign on behalf of the general partnership and bind all members unless the Articles of Partnership are more restrictive. Spouses may sign on behalf of each other’s individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office. Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts must consist of an indicator “by” or “for” the individual’s name, individual’s name and capacity, or individual’s name, capacity, and name of entity.  For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local USDA Service center. USDA Announces Assistance for On-Farm Food Safety Expenses for Specialty Crop Growers  |  | | --- | | Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) plans to provide up to $200 million in assistance for specialty crop producers who incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses to obtain or renew a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 or 2023. USDA’s new [Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9wYW5kZW1pYy1hc3Npc3RhbmNlL2Zvb2Qtc2FmZXR5P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.b44t4i7myeaep4aDJqycx8G38Bn_eAuYp0cIH54-ioY/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l) (FSCSC) program will help to offset costs for specialty crop producers to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements, which is part of USDA’s broader effort to transform the food system to create a more level playing field for small and medium producers and a more balanced, equitable economy for everyone working in food and agriculture.  Specialty crop operations can apply for assistance for eligible expenses related to a 2022 food safety certificate issued on or after June 21, 2022, beginning June 27, 2022. USDA is delivering FSCSC to provide critical assistance for specialty crop operations, with an emphasis on equity in program delivery while building on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain disruptions. Vilsack made the announcement from Hollis, N.H., where he toured a local, family-owned farm and highlighted USDA’s efforts to help reduce costs for farmers and support local economies by providing significant funding to cut regulatory costs and increase market opportunities for farmers in New Hampshire and across the nation.  **Program Details**  FSCSC will assist specialty crop operations that incurred eligible on-farm food safety certification and related expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 and 2023. For each year, FSCSC covers a percentage of the specialty crop operation’s cost of obtaining or renewing their certification, as well as a portion of their related expenses.  To be eligible for FSCSC, the applicant must be a specialty crop operation; meet the definition of a small business or very small business; and have paid eligible expenses related to the 2022 (issued on or after June 21, 2022) or 2023 certification.  Specialty crop operations may receive assistance for the following costs:   * Developing a food safety plan for first-time food safety certification. * Maintaining or updating an existing food safety plan. * Food safety certification. * Certification upload fees. * Microbiological testing for products, soil amendments and water. * Training.   FSCSC payments are calculated separately for each category of eligible costs. A higher payment rate has been set for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning and veteran farmers and ranchers. Details about the payment rates and limitations can be found at [farmers.gov/food-safety](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9wYW5kZW1pYy1hc3Npc3RhbmNlL2Zvb2Qtc2FmZXR5P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.ldRlPFGTGr3u1863wBbAzO-S9gWpwB-w9aTfpIRMvqQ/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l).  **Applying for Assistance**  The FSCSC application period for 2022 is June 27, 2022, through January 31, 2023, and the application period for 2023 will be announced at a later date. FSA will issue payments at the time of application approval for 2022 and after the application period ends for 2023. If calculated payments exceed the amount of available funding, payments will be prorated.  Interested specialty crop producers can apply by completing the FSA-888, Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC) application. The application, along with other required documents, can be submitted to the FSA office at any USDA Service Center nationwide by mail, fax, hand delivery or via electronic means.  Producers can visit [farmers.gov/food-safety](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9wYW5kZW1pYy1hc3Npc3RhbmNlL2Zvb2Qtc2FmZXR5P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.REF0uwjWbYMQ2WZnupY51wUvAHJYls_wM793y5FlzFU/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l) for additional program details, eligibility information and forms needed to apply. |  Beginning Farmer Loan Opportunity Accessing capital to begin, extend or support an agriculture operation can be especially challenging to new producers.  Farm Service Agency’s “Beginning Farmer” direct and guaranteed loan programs provide an opportunity for qualified applicants to secure loans from funding set aside for producers who meet the following conditions:   * Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years * Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm * Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA * Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county’s average size farm.   For more information contact, contact your Local USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.571lYaBv3uuj_CfdydqHOOGG-U1kkAuBQq26LkXbqz0/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l). Progression Lending from FSA  |  | | --- | | Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm loans are considered progression lending. Unlike loans from a commercial lender, FSA loans are intended to be temporary in nature. Our goal is to help you graduate to commercial credit, and our farm loan staff is available to help borrowers through training and credit counseling.  The FSA team will help borrowers identify their goals to ensure financial success. FSA staff will advise borrowers on developing strategies and a plan to meet your goals and graduate to commercial credit. FSA borrowers are responsible for the success of their farming operation, but FSA staff will help in an advisory role, providing the tools necessary to help you achieve your operational goals and manage your finances.  For more information on FSA farm loan programs, contact your Local USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZzYS51c2RhLmdvdj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.Cb__yDG65WnC7oWYWdWjFK3a6Fz4e5eIzXjJEbn_zE4/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l). |  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://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5uYXNzLnVzZGEuZ292L1B1YmxpY2F0aW9ucy9pbmRleC5waHA_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.Dryxa-u9bvV9WFmt8CMKVM1x6Lj4G4OlE7lRFBB-ezE/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l) and through the searchable [Quick Stats database](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3F1aWNrc3RhdHMubmFzcy51c2RhLmdvdi8_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.SB7h4rn5YChwHN-cSDdG3h-o7ksdVrJbs1dSeeEULC8/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l). Watch a video on how NASS data is used at [youtube.com/watch?v=m-4zjnh26io&feature=youtu.be](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy55b3V0dWJlLmNvbS93YXRjaD9mZWF0dXJlPXlvdXR1LmJlJnV0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSZ2PW0tNHpqbmgyNmlvIn0.M9YzwtgVQfOaod_2KaEfwSDSeLSOd1_j668ml3xMiIo/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-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 USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZzYS51c2RhLmdvdj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.u4hCarlg1gv6x9imBpgM1SEEeEnA1dlpAqYMpjnKyxI/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l). Maintaining the Quality of Farm-Stored Loan Grain The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently made several policy updates for acreage reporting for cover crops, revising intended use, late-filed provisions, grazing allotments as well as updated the definitions of “idle” and “fallow.”  **Reporting Cover Crops:**  Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.  If you take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral, remember that you are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan. FSA Outlines MAL and LDP Policy The 2018 Farm Bill extends loan authority through 2023 for Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs).  MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey. MALs provide you with interim financing after harvest to help you meet cash flow needs without having to sell your commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available. Marketing loan provisions and LDPs are not available for sugar and extra-long staple cotton.  FSA is now accepting requests for 2022 MALs and LDPs for all eligible commodities after harvest. Requests for loans and LDPs shall be made on or before the final availability date for the respective commodities.  Commodity certificates are available to loan holders who have outstanding nonrecourse loans for wheat, upland cotton, rice, feed grains, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, large and small chickpeas), peanuts, wool, soybeans and designated minor oilseeds. These certificates can be purchased at the posted county price (or adjusted world price or national posted price) for the quantity of commodity under loan, and must be immediately exchanged for the collateral, satisfying the loan. MALs redeemed with commodity certificates are not subject to Adjusted Gross Income provisions.  To be considered eligible for an LDP, you must have form [CCC-633EZ](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vZm9ybXMuc2MuZWdvdi51c2RhLmdvdi9lZmNvbW1vbi9lRmlsZVNlcnZpY2VzL2VGb3Jtc0FkbWluL0NDQzA2MzNFWl8xNDAzMjhWMDMucGRmP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.DSrMjkvhluMW7y6REfbh5PRW91AVFaFyZozPQTm4S-s/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l), Page 1 on file at your local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested.  Marketing loan gains (MLGs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) are no longer subject to payment limitations, actively engaged in farming and cash-rent tenant rules.  Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions state that if your total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds $900,000, then you’re not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP. You must have a valid CCC-941 on file to earn a market gain of LDP. The AGI does not apply to MALs redeemed with commodity certificate exchange.  For more information and additional eligibility requirements, contact your Local USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.WNQqqCkAx-qiKJIbcetcrGwJ6zTniEkrgaUMaW26WtM/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l). Current Interest Rates for September  * [Commodity Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..ZUf8238vBDxwUrIbMCNCPve4bYl4i5fp4qowYAENBUw/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l) (less than one year disbursed): 4.125 % * [Farm Storage Facility Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..7LIkbeNqWHlQbGchPgADX1qV5-yKvF4xDGWizsVmG2U/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l):                  Three-year loan terms: 3.125%                 Five-year loan terms: 2.875%                 Seven-year loan terms: 2.875%                 Ten-year loan terms: 2.750 %                 Twelve-year loan terms: 2.875%   * [Sugar Storage Facility Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..5bO8jl03pW0yDouuLhFqjPKTxa6QKjdUucPuYN5Wa7g/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l) (15 years): 3.125% * [Farm Operating Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..PqPCww-GO-2yEbAWl1eC1ZV2CQYzvvX9f_WO5IhynBw/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l) (Direct): 4.125% * [Farm Ownership Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..-RFiUdmhM8TofMJ8aAzguTU2N4zLkMJOD_jWQ59QMDM/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l) (Direct): 4.375 % * [Farm Ownership Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..0Kasku3mIf-9QS8vJ52_5HjcSsowFPZmr4tYW3_4oeA/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l) (Down Payment): 1.500% * [Emergency Loan](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..Da5BGXHE2jCiaAWJlwnNlVVOCTPsWN8KmcH3EVCsJcs/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-l) (Amount of Actual Loss): 3.750%  Important Dates 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.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MDkuNjM0NTgwMTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi93b3JraW5nLXdpdGgtdXMvc2VydmljZS1jZW50ZXItbG9jYXRvcj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.zYxQed7mJUQ6djJ0qns7Npnhf22YUYFRbuQEJVwpLBc/s/1837074945/br/143757051319-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** 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) | |  |  | |  |  | | |