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| **Louisiana USDA-FSA Updates - August 2023** |
| Table of Content:  * [Livestock Producers in Certain Parishes Are Eligible for Drought Recovery Assistance](#link_4) * [USDA / Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency Louisiana Announce Urban Service Center Grand Opening in New Orleans](#link_1) * [USDA Accepts Nearly 2.7 Million Acres in Grassland CRP Signup, Successfully Closing the Gap and bringing CRP Near to Acreage Cap](#link_5) * [Financial Assistance Application Process Opens for USDA Farm Loan Borrowers Who Have Faced Discrimination](#link_3) * [Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers](#link_7) * [Applying for Beginning Farmer Loans](#link_2) * [FSA Offers Drought Assistance for Livestock Producers Through Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP)](#link_6) * [Micro Farm](#link_8) * [Important Dates 2023](#link_9) * [Current Interest Rates for August](#link_10)  |  | | --- | |  |  Livestock Producers in Certain Parishes Are Eligible for Drought Recovery Assistance Farm Service Agency (FSA) is now accepting applications for the [Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2Ffsa_lfp_livestockforageprogramfactsheet_2022.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160471537%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=iucA4CKimb68XDZnfcVitOGp52sJ6tFuYEZBdDjJ%2FG8%3D&reserved=0) for grazing losses due to drought in certain areas. The deadline to apply for 2023 LFP assistance is Jan. 30, 2024.  LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. For LFP, qualifying drought intensity levels are determined using the [U.S. Drought Monitor](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdroughtmonitor.unl.edu%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160471537%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=opNLYDsevY5arp%2FwUcfgr4nXD9Swu4ik6kXtlpJunTU%3D&reserved=0). Producers in the following parishes are eligible to apply for 2023 LFP benefits for grazing losses on small grains, native pasture, improved pasture mixed forage.   * Acadia * Beauregard * Calcasieu * Cameron * Iberia * Jefferson Davis * Lafayette * Sabine * St. Landry * St. Martin * St. Mary * Vermilion * Vernon   Visit the [FSA LFP webpage](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%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160471537%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3VIodIR7WJYhAlrFBkjd8iiAL%2BETrAvupBpiwynCcbs%3D&reserved=0) for a full list of eligible counties and pasture types.  Livestock eligible for LFP include alpacas, beef cattle, bison, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, ostriches, reindeer, or sheep that have been or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland. Recently, FSA updated LFP policy to expand program eligibility to include additional income producing grazing animals, like horses and ostrich, that contribute to the commercial viability of an agricultural operation.  Livestock used for hunting and consumption by the owner and horses and other animals that are used or intended to be used for racing and wagering remain ineligible.  As a reminder, producers who want to participate in many USDA programs including disaster assistance programs like LFP, must file timely acreage reports by filling out the FSA-578 form to remain eligible for program benefits. Livestock producers interested in applying LFP should contact your local FSA office with any questions about the eligibility of specific livestock and forage crops.  More information in USDA disaster assistance is available at [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov/recover?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)/recover.   |  | | --- | |  |  USDA / Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency Louisiana Announce Urban Service Center Grand Opening in New Orleans  |  | | --- | | The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the opening of 17 new Urban Service Centers in the next year including one in New Orleans. The USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are hosting the grand opening of the new Urban Service Center in New Orleans at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, August 23. The grand opening will take place at the Urban Service Center located at 2520 Bayou Road New Orleans, LA 70119.  The Urban Service Centers will be staffed by FSA and NRCS employees and will offer farm loans, conservation, disaster assistance and risk management programs. USDA works with agricultural producers through a network of more than 2,300 Service Centers nationwide and the new Urban Service Centers will strengthen services to urban agricultural producers.  “Every producer deserves USDA support in their own community, whether that community is in an urban or rural setting. People in urban communities are encouraged to connect with USDA and learn what programs and services we have to meet their unique needs.  Urban agricultural producers will be provided the same level of support as all farmers and ranchers is key to equitable USDA assistance.  Through local-level partnerships, USDA will learn how to expand our networks, infrastructure and services to urban producers as they strengthen resilient local food systems and nutrition access for all communities.  All are welcome to attend the grand opening on August 23, but space is limited. Please RSVP by contacting Audrina Lange at [Audrina.Lange@usda.gov](mailto:Audrina.Lange@usda.gov), 318-446-4484 or Anthony Reed at [Anthony.Reed1@usda.gov](mailto:Anthony.Reed1@usda.gov), 318-473-7687. If you plan to attend and need special accommodations, please include those needs in your RSVP. A ribbon cutting and light refreshments will follow a brief opening ceremony. |  |  | | --- | |  |  USDA Accepts Nearly 2.7 Million Acres in Grassland CRP Signup, Successfully Closing the Gap and bringing CRP Near to Acreage Cap  |  | | --- | | USDA is accepting offers for nearly 2.7 million acres from agricultural producers and private landowners through this year’s Grassland [Conservation Reserve Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fconservation-programs%2Fconservation-reserve-program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160471537%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pIOW00%2BN2%2FhrFOFkTtTH6%2Fa2%2B%2FUK2tpv7Hg53el%2BwwA%3D&reserved=0)(CRP) signup, which received a record setting sign-up of 4.6 million acres in offers. This working lands program allows producers and landowners to continue grazing and haying practices while protecting grasslands and further the CRP’s impacts. Grassland CRP is part of the Biden-Harris administration’s broader effort to address climate change and conserve natural resources.  Grassland CRP leverages working lands practices to improve biodiversity and conserve environmentally sensitive land. To target conservation in key geographies, USDA prioritizes land within two National Priority Zones: the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and the Dust Bowl area. Building upon the nearly 2.4 million acres already in the Priority Zones, this year’s more than 900,000 acres continues to robustly demonstrate that producers in these areas recognize the keen conservation value of Grassland CRP. Land enrolled in these zones will contribute to broader USDA conservation efforts through [Working Lands for Wildlife](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fresources%2Fguides-and-instructions%2Fframeworks-for-conservation-action%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160471537%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=zv9g3Qk8M9bt7u%2BqnqqO751f854O5D18Ux510lrbeaU%3D&reserved=0) by conserving working grasslands and other lands that underpin iconic big game migrations.  Grasslands enrolled in CRP help sequester carbon in vegetation and soil, while enhancing resilience to drought and wildfire. Meanwhile, producers can still conduct common grazing practices, such as haying, mowing or harvesting seed from the enrolled land, which supports agricultural production.  In addition to the Grassland signup, FSA also has accepted more than 1 million acres through the General signup, and more than 465,800 acres have been submitted through the Continuous CRP signup so far this year, on pace to be similar to last year’s nearly 900,000-acre enrollment.  As part of USDA’s Justice40 efforts, producers and landowners who are underserved, including beginning farmers, limited-resource producers and military veterans, received 20 additional ranking points to enhance their offers. USDA accepted 1.8 million acres from underserved producers, about 74% of the total acres submitted by the 6,400 underserved producers who submitted offers.  Additionally, USDA is working to broaden the scope and reach of Grassland CRP by leveraging CREP to engage underserved communities. CREP is a partnership program that enables states, Tribal governments, and non-profit entities to partner with FSA to implement CRP practices and address high priority conservation and environmental objectives. Interested entities are encouraged to contact FSA.  Producers can still make an offer to participate in CRP through the [Continuous CRP signup](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2Fcrp-continuous-enrollment-period-factsheet.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160471537%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Wqcjg0RjDWw3Di2yO2oGthYBqh5wNpGpPWxiMUoFzls%3D&reserved=0), which is ongoing, by contacting FSA at their local [USDA Service Center](http://www.farmers.gov/service-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). |  |  | | --- | |  |  Financial Assistance Application Process Opens for USDA Farm Loan Borrowers Who Have Faced Discrimination  |  | | --- | | USDA announced the opening of the financial assistance application process for eligible farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending programs prior to January 2021. Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) directs USDA to provide this assistance. Since the law’s passage, USDA has worked diligently to design the program in accordance with significant stakeholder input.  The program website, [22007apply.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F22007apply.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160471537%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=U2ifqifh7MRKrm0N2NPdvQRoQTzf%2FpavRXlUmtL475Q%3D&reserved=0), is now open. The website includes an English- and Spanish-language application that applicants can download or submit via an e-filing portal, information on how to obtain technical assistance in-person or virtually, and additional resources and details about the program.  Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination by USDA in its farm loan programs prior to January 1, 2021 and/or are currently debtors with assigned or assumed USDA farm loan debt that was the subject of USDA discrimination that occurred prior to January 1, 2021, are eligible for this program.  To apply, borrowers have the option to apply via the e-filing portal at [22007apply.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F22007apply.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160471537%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=U2ifqifh7MRKrm0N2NPdvQRoQTzf%2FpavRXlUmtL475Q%3D&reserved=0) or submit paper-based forms via mail or in-person delivery to the program’s local offices. The application process will be open from July 7 to October 31, 2023. Under the planned timeline, applications will be reviewed in November and December, with payments reaching recipients soon thereafter. Importantly, applicants should know that the application process is not on a first come, first served, basis. All applications received or postmarked before the October 31 deadline will be considered.  To support producers throughout the application process, USDA is ensuring that organizations with extensive experience conducting outreach to farm organizations are able to support individuals who may be eligible for the program. These groups include [AgrAbility](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.agrability.org%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160471537%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ls40PR9qoImonriSGMY2fuEWb26mRuFdtjpaKa7oYRg%3D&reserved=0" \o "Renewing Hope, Restoring Productivity" \t "_blank), [Farmer Veteran Coalition](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffarmvetco.org%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160471537%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YWFOCfW3ZCZMcauLjd1bUaQEfp2iJiofga6kPAklxG8%3D&reserved=0), [Farmers’ Legal Action Group](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.flaginc.org%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=794WQvnEuMYBWKPl1OiZTneKSbgVJBb6Qa8vim25p34%3D&reserved=0), [Federation of Southern Cooperatives](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.federation.coop%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Zet4r5acHoHfojSha1nxqHe5cL%2Bjrh6eEBhOK%2FvaP7Y%3D&reserved=0), [Intertribal Agriculture Council](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.indianag.org%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nzAF0Jls7xA3pqbLCi6RAs9UI22FGh1vSBZt3WyFXwo%3D&reserved=0), [Land Loss Prevention Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.landloss.org%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Eijvkv8Qu3w60XxchzWjRQe9rIUBllujE80ix5XIcSc%3D&reserved=0)[, National Young Farmers Coalition](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youngfarmers.org%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DsJ3Zbqoh%2BNjCp8e6cJUkq9xvT1%2BVQSOwc9RYPA5HJ4%3D&reserved=0), and [Rural Coalition.](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ruralco.org%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5ZkW9glB5BoVmpheyRY%2B0jEydY3s8aVYhfuCi0HKlAY%3D&reserved=0)  Vendors operating four regional hubs are also providing technical assistance and working closely with these and other community-based organizations to conduct outreach using digital and grassroots strategies, to ensure potential applicants are informed about the program and have the opportunity to apply. These hubs are operating a network of brick-and-mortar program offices and will conduct extensive outreach about the program. Windsor Group serves farmers in the eastern regions of the U.S. and Analytic Acquisitions serves the western regions. A national administrator, Midtown Group, is responsible for program oversight and integrity, and will lead a national call-center, operate the application website - [22007apply.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F22007apply.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sFt2gvoOoOrK8U1PY1H5UWQzy5sA%2FBrAkMAxSkJ52Uo%3D&reserved=0), which is now open – and review and process applications and payments. All vendors have experience in professional services, supporting government contracts, and complex program operations.  In standing up this program, USDA has become aware of some lawyers and groups spreading misleading information about the discrimination assistance process, pressuring people to sign retainer agreements, and asking people to fill out forms with private and sensitive information. As of today, the official application process has begun and filling out an application is free.  No attorneys’ fees will be paid to applicants or their counsel by USDA or by any other agency or department of the United States. The amount of financial assistance will not be increased for those claimants who are represented by an attorney. Applicants are not required to retain an attorney. USDA, the national administrator, and the regional hub vendors will neither recommend that any applicant retain counsel or retain a specific attorney or law firm, nor discourage an applicant from obtaining counsel or using a specific attorney or law firm. For more information, read our [fact sheet about the program timeline and ways to protect against possible scams.](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/documents/farmersgov-factsheet-ira-avoid-scams.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) |  |  | | --- | |  |  Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has several loan programs to help you start or continue an agriculture production. Farm ownership and operating loans are available.  While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of targeted underserved applicants.  A targeted underserved applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.  For purposes of this program, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.  FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.  For more information contact, contact your local Parish 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%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=N6bHBSpuKI8n1fOXeMYyvk3c28to18jwXtBrb8NCHR4%3D&reserved=0).   |  | | --- | |  |  Applying for Beginning Farmer Loans  |  | | --- | | The Farm Service Agency (FSA) assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:   * 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 Parish 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%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=N6bHBSpuKI8n1fOXeMYyvk3c28to18jwXtBrb8NCHR4%3D&reserved=0). |  |  | | --- | |  |  FSA Offers Drought Assistance for Livestock Producers Through Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP) FSA Offers Drought Assistance for Livestock Producers Through Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP)  If you’ve suffered above normal expenses for hauling feed or water to livestock or hauling livestock to forage/grazing acres due to the impacts of drought, you may be eligible for financial assistance through the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).  For eligible producers in qualifying counties, ELAP provides financial assistance for:   * the transportation of water to livestock; * the above normal cost of mileage for transporting feed to livestock, * the above normal cost of transporting livestock to forage/grazing acres.\*   \*Hauling livestock one-way, one haul per animal reimbursement and no payment for “empty miles.”  Eligible livestock include cattle, buffalo, goats and sheep, among others, that are maintained for commercial use and located in a county where the qualifying drought conditions occur. A county must have had D2 severe drought intensity on the U.S. Drought Monitor for eight consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period, or D3 or D4 drought intensity at any time during the normal grazing period. Producers must have risk in both eligible livestock and eligible grazing land in an eligible county to qualify for ELAP assistance.  **WATER TRANSPORTATION**  For ELAP water transportation assistance, a producer must be transporting water to eligible livestock on eligible grazing land where the producer had adequate livestock watering systems or facilities in place before the drought occurred and where they do not normally require the transportation of water. Payments are for costs associated with personal labor, equipment, hired labor, equipment, and/or contracted water transportation fees. Cost of the water itself is not covered. The ELAP payment formula uses a national average price per gallon.  **ABOVE NORMAL COSTS OF TRANSPORTING FEED**  ELAP provides financial assistance to livestock producers who incur above normal expenses for transporting feed to livestock during drought. The payment formula excludes the first 25 miles and any mileage over 1,000 miles. The reimbursement rate is 60% of the costs above what would normally have been incurred during the same time period in a normal (non-drought) year. **ABOVE NORMAL COSTS OF TRANSPORTING LIVESTOCK TO FORAGE/GRAZING ACRES**  ELAP provides financial assistance to livestock producers who are hauling livestock to a new location for feed resources due to insufficient feed and/or grazing in drought-impacted areas. Assistance for Livestock transportation is retroactive to 2021 and available for 2022 and subsequent years. **Please contact your county FSA office for additional details.**  For calendar year 2022 forward, producers must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office **within 30 calendar days** of when the loss is apparent; producers should contact their county FSA office as soon as the loss of water resources or feed resources are known. For ELAP eligibility, documentation of expenses is critical. Producers should maintain records and receipts associated with the costs of transporting water to eligible livestock, the costs of transporting feed to eligible livestock, and the costs of transporting eligible livestock to forage/grazing acres.  ELAP also offers assistance to producers impacted by wildfire. In addition, beekeepers also can benefit from ELAP provisions and should contact their county FSA office within 15 calendar days of when a loss occurs or from when the loss is apparent. For more information regarding ELAP, contact your local Parish USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov/disaster](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdisaster-assistance-program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZC0i92oWHU5gle8SsrXZmutauvzLlXnc4lfXJqgNns4%3D&reserved=0).   |  | | --- | |  |  Micro Farm The [Micro Farm program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frma.usda.gov%2FFact-Sheets%2FNational-Fact-Sheets%2FMicro-Farm-Program%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JqHbo1BgBF70%2Fb4dpKQJlQZxlBqJCl4ndFs0%2BEX4na4%3D&reserved=0), offered through WFRP, provides a risk management safety net for all eligible commodities on a farm under one insurance policy, but on a smaller scale. Now, producers with farm operations up to $350,000 in approved revenue (formerly $100,000) can get coverage. RMA introduced the new Micro Farm program in 2021 to better serve direct market and small-scale producers. While the program is well received and feedback has been largely positive, industry partners and small, diversified producers have informed RMA that the current limit is too low to meet the needs of many interested producers. In response, the FCIC approved the increase in size for eligible farm operations.  The updates to WFRP and Micro Farm take effect in crop year 2023.  Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the [RMA Agent Locator](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frma.usda.gov%2FInformation-Tools%2FAgent-Locator-Page%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XViFQdfBqymdWygWy2ZdGd7mj5f6pdDAlwnvJKzGBVg%3D&reserved=0). Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at [rma.usda.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frma.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=IlF7BJi4kkRPHObMOPGln4y%2BCiTUDMuqNuglGv5YmzY%3D&reserved=0).   |  | | --- | |  |  Important Dates 2023 Sep. 04     Offices Closed in Observance of Labor Day  Sep. 08     Rice Production Program **(**RPP) – Deadline to submit Eligibility                   Documents  Sep.12       Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase 2 - Deadline to submit Eligibility                    Documents  Sep.12       Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP)- Deadline to submit                   Eligibility Documents  Sep. 30      Sales Closing Date for NAP Grazing  Oct. 09       Offices Closed in Observance of Columbus Day  Oct. 31       Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)  Nov. 06       County Committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters  Nov. 10       USDA Service Centers will be closed in observance of Veteran's Day  Nov. 23       USDA Service Centers will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day  Dec. 04       Last day to return County Committee ballots to your local USDA Service                     Center  Jan. 31, 24   Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program  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 August  * [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%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Alsbd3s2RQ2n2u9jD%2Bcq2cFRpmhJ7v6YXpFxmmSZBLc%3D&reserved=0) (less than one year disbursed): 6.375% * [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%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1eKol7BdAYxKOkmoStNt%2BwwXWYYTrsetiUFVbqtoQM8%3D&reserved=0):   + o Three-year loan terms: 4.375%   + o Five-year loan terms:  4.125%   + o Seven-year loan terms:  4.000%   + o Ten-year loan terms: 3.875%   + o Twelve-year loan terms: 3.875% * [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%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160627764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BuLcWaxLXAydPsWJ0J2dWC8FJZRG9yedMjeU5skEvEk%3D&reserved=0) (15 years): 4.000%   Interest rates for Operating and Ownership loans for July 2023 are as follows:   * [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%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160783977%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5wk7nBq5d7AfdCVjfEnKpQyir5iKKJMSkuL6otG499A%3D&reserved=0)(Direct): 4.875% * [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%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160783977%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2z6NxgmNU4tBhjNoUlOJm%2BO7x9MDtcL7%2B%2Bn%2FoYQZyGQ%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%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160783977%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2z6NxgmNU4tBhjNoUlOJm%2BO7x9MDtcL7%2B%2Bn%2FoYQZyGQ%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%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160783977%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2z6NxgmNU4tBhjNoUlOJm%2BO7x9MDtcL7%2B%2Bn%2FoYQZyGQ%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%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160783977%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NY%2FWW2AFLNqVUfRciqzNaN0ZSTn2LbTMNtLjSYQWEV8%3D&reserved=0)(Amount of Actual Loss): 3.750%   FSA also offers guaranteed loans through commercial lenders at rates set by those lenders.  To access an interactive online, step-by-step guide through the farm loan process, visit the [Loan Assistance Tool](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flat.fpac.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7Cd1ae1f6bf8944ea6b33808dba24cd086%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638282223160783977%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=q2fNQ0kv7ahgL%2FPPS5kLFhK9u9s4rCTIhiX8bsnVtOY%3D&reserved=0) on farmers.gov. |
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| 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) | | **LOUISIANA STATE FSA COMMITTEE**  Julie Baker-Richard-Chairperson Brian Guidry-Member Monica Hernandez-Member Kristy Jones-Member Willis Nelson-Member | The STC is scheduled to meet the second Tuesday of each month at the LA State Office, 3737 Government Street, Alexandria, LA 71302 unless the meeting is conducted virtually.  Anyone wishing to attend should verify the meeting will take place as scheduled, by calling 318/473-7721. | |  |  | |