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| [View as a webpage / Share](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFARMERS/bulletins/345fc42" \t "_blank) |
| |  | | --- | |  | | **Louisiana USDA-FSA Updates**-**February 2023** | |  | | In This Issue: | | * [USDA Announces Signup for Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program](#link_3) * [USDA Announces Signup for Crop and Revenue Loss Assistance for Agricultural Producers](#link_7) * [Farmers Can Now Make 2023 Crop Year Elections, Enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs](#link_6) * [Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation](#link_4) * [Using FSA Direct Farm Ownership Loans for Construction](#link_8) * [Maintaining Good Credit History](#link_1) * [FSA Offers Loan Servicing Options](#link_2) * [USDA Announces Streamlined Guaranteed Loans and Additional Lender Category for Small-Scale Operators](#link_5) * [Important Dates](#link_9) * [Current Interest Rates for February](#link_10)  USDA Announces Signup for Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program The Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) will assist eligible producers of agricultural commodities who experienced revenue decreases in calendar year 2020 compared to 2018 or 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. PARP will help address gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses.  USDA's Farm Service Agency will accept PARP applications from January 23, 2023, through June 2, 2023.  **Eligible and Ineligible Commodities**  For PARP, eligible agricultural commodities include crops, aquaculture, livestock, livestock byproducts, or other animals or animal byproducts that are produced as part of a farming operation and are intended to be commercially marketed. This includes only commodities produced in the United States or those produced outside the United States by a producer located in the United States and marketed inside the United States.  The following commodities **are not eligible** for PARP:   * Wild free-roaming animals. * Horses and other animals used or intended to be used for racing or wagering. * Aquatic species that do not meet the definition of aquaculture. * Cannabis sativa L. and any part of that plant that does not meet the definition of hemp. * Timber.   **Program Eligibility**  PARP payments will be made on a whole-farm basis, not commodity-by-commodity. To be eligible for PARP, an agricultural producer must have been in the business of farming during at least part of the 2020 calendar year and must have experienced a 15 percent decrease in allowable gross revenue in 2020, as compared to either:   * The 2018 or 2019 **calendar year**, as elected by the producer, if they received allowable gross revenue during the 2018 or 2019 **calendar years**, or * The producer’s expected 2020 calendar year allowable gross revenue, if the producer had no allowable gross revenue in 2018 or 2019.   PARP payments will be issued after the application period ends on June 2, 2023.  For more information on determining allowable gross revenue visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/parp](https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/parp?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) or review the [PARP fact sheet](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/documents/farmersgov-parp-factsheet.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  **More Information**  To apply for PARP, contact your [local USDA Service Center](https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). USDA Announces Signup for Crop and Revenue Loss Assistance for Agricultural Producers Signup begins January 23 for additional emergency relief from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the [Emergency Relief Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Femergency-relief%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614271235%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZNDROKlxq7j2AziTKauxSDnHBqpEtsEzcV%2BfmmWuzYM%3D&reserved=0) (ERP) Phase Two.  To be eligible for Phase Two, producers must have suffered a decrease in allowable gross revenue in 2020 or 2021 due to necessary expenses related to losses of eligible crops from a qualifying natural disaster event. Eligible crops include both traditional insurable commodities and specialty crops that are produced in the United States as part of a farming operation and are intended to be commercially marketed. This also includes losses of eligible on-farm stored commodities. ERP Phase 2 applicants will use the following tax years when selecting allowable gross revenue:   * Benchmark years: 2018 and/or 2019; estimated for new producers with no 2018 or 2019 revenue or adjusted if the benchmark years are not representative of the disaster year due to a change in operation size. * Disaster years: 2020 and/or 2021. The allowable gross revenue for the specific disaster year will be based on the tax year applicable to that revenue (2020, 2021 or 2022).   The ERP tool assists producers in calculating allowable gross revenue, as well as adjusted revenue for the benchmark years 2018 and 2019, and allowable gross revenue for representative tax years 2020-2022 which represent disaster years 2020 and 2021. Once producers complete the allowable gross revenue entries, they are able to print forms FSA-521 and FSA-521A through this tool.  The ERP Phase 2 and PARP application period is open from January 23 through June 2 2023.  For more information on payment calculations, payment limitations or how to determine allowable gross revenue, please reference the [ERP Phase 2 fact sheet.](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2F2023%2Ffsa_erp_factsheet_22_update_011823.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614271235%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pVIw2wcEUnP0ef8D4vzNM9Xbde5ZQboQiQdhsRqrZVQ%3D&reserved=0) Farmers Can Now Make 2023 Crop Year Elections, Enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs  |  | | --- | | Agricultural producers can now change election and enroll in the [Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Farcplc_program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614271235%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=qSjc%2F%2FnC15R43uSPG4xS27qeZJcuQTiNyhGRBqgbrxo%3D&reserved=0) programs for the 2023 crop year, two key safety net programs offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Signup began Oct. 17, 2022, and producers have until March 15, 2023, to enroll in these two programs. Additionally, USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) has started issuing payments totaling more than $255 million to producers with 2021 crops that have triggered payments through ARC or PLC.  **2023 Elections and Enrollment**  Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County (ARC-CO) or PLC, which provide crop-by-crop protection, or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC), which protects the entire farm. Although election changes for 2023 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2023, they must sign a new contract.  If producers do not submit their election by the March 15, 2023 deadline, their election remains the same as their 2022 election for crops on the farm.  Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.  Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.  **Web-Based Decision Tools**  In partnership with USDA, the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University offer web-based decision tools to assist producers in making informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. Tools include:   * [Gardner-farmdoc Payment Calculator,](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffarmdocdaily.illinois.edu%2F2019%2F08%2Fintroducing-the-gardner-farmdoc-payment-calculator.html%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614271235%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HhLaVVSs7cjgeWqIwDRpKq0vVjS8W9guQMK3kxAhtUI%3D&reserved=0) a tool available through the University of Illinois allows producers to estimate payments for farms and counties for ARC-CO and PLC. * [ARC and PLC Decision Tool,](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.afpc.tamu.edu%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614271235%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LN9tStgYgfpFAKKJ85BXOuPpHsFlyjDuaj3t9fOAUKk%3D&reserved=0) a tool available through Texas A&M that allows producers to obtain basic information regarding the decision and factors that should be taken into consideration such as future commodity prices and historic yields to estimate payments for 2022.   **2021 Payments and Contracts**  ARC and PLC payments for a given crop year are paid out the following fall to allow actual county yields and the Market Year Average prices to be finalized. This month, FSA processed payments to producers enrolled in 2021 ARC-CO, ARC-IC and PLC for covered commodities that triggered for the crop year.  For ARC-CO, producers can view the [2021](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fview.officeapps.live.com%2Fop%2Fview.aspx%3Fsrc%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%252FAssets%252FUSDA-FSA-Public%252Fusdafiles%252Farc-plc%252F2021%252Fexcel%252Farcco_2021_data.xlsx%253Futm_medium%253Demail%2526utm_source%253Dgovdelivery%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery%26wdOrigin%3DBROWSELINK&data=05%7C01%7C%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614271235%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vzG6Q6z3J8djFIcGcWpznae3cTSjQ34HKqTqHVrwXVY%3D&reserved=0) ARC-CO Benchmark Yields and Revenues online database, for payment rates applicable to their county and each covered commodity. For PLC, payments have triggered for rapeseed and peanuts.  For ARC-IC, producers should contact their local FSA office for additional information pertaining to 2021 payment information, which relies on producer-specific yields for the crop and farm to determine benchmark yields and actual year yields when calculating revenues.  **By the Numbers**  In 2021, producers signed nearly 1.8 million ARC or PLC contracts, and 251 million out of 273 million base acres were enrolled in the programs.  For the 2022 crop year signed contracts surpassed 1.8 million, to be paid in the fall of 2023, if a payment triggers.  Since ARC and PLC were first authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and reauthorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, these safety-net programs have paid out more than $34.9 billion to producers of covered commodities.  **Crop Insurance Considerations**  ARC and PLC are part of a broader safety net provided by USDA, which also includes crop insurance and marketing assistance loans.  Producers are reminded that ARC and PLC elections and enrollments can impact eligibility for some crop insurance products.  Producers on farms with a PLC election have the option of purchasing Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through their Approved Insurance Provider; however, producers on farms where ARC is the election are ineligible for SCO on their planted acres for that crop on that farm.  Unlike SCO, the Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) is unaffected by an ARC election.  Producers may add ECO regardless of the farm program election.  Upland cotton farmers who choose to enroll seed cotton base acres in ARC or PLC are ineligible for the stacked income protection plan (STAX) on their planted cotton acres for that farm.  **More Information**  For more information on ARC and PLC, visit the [ARC and PLC webpage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Farcplc_program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614271235%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=qSjc%2F%2FnC15R43uSPG4xS27qeZJcuQTiNyhGRBqgbrxo%3D&reserved=0) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](http://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). |  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 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://www.farmers.gov/fund?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) 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](https://www.farmers.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) 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://www.farmers.gov/recover/disaster-assistance-tool?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#step-1) to find disaster assistance programs that can help their operation recover from natural disasters.  For more information, contact your local Parish USDA Service Center or visit [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). |  Using FSA Direct Farm Ownership Loans for Construction The USDA Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) [Direct 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%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614427886%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DFtP8oUtoYGFgNxw0AXksEWt9I5gceRoA2TsOn8z2LU%3D&reserved=0) are a resource to help farmers and ranchers become owner-operators of family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.  There are three types of Direct Farm Ownership Loans: regular, down payment and joint financing. FSA also offers a [Direct Farm Ownership Microloan](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-loan-programs%2Fmicroloans%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614427886%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hu6UkI33KHAa%2FQxc6AWMc9X3VqnTEu21%2Fp%2BZdV7IhCw%3D&reserved=0) option for smaller financial needs up to $50,000.  Direct Farm Ownership Loans can be used to construct, purchase or improve farm dwellings, service buildings or other facilities, and to make improvements essential to an operation.  Applicants must provide FSA with an estimate of the total cost of all planned development that completely describe the work, prior to loan approval and must show proof of sufficient funds to pay for the total cost of all planned development at or before loan closing. In some instances, applicants may be asked to provide certified plans, specifications or contract documents. The applicant cannot incur any debts for materials or labor or make any expenditures for development purposes prior to loan closing with the expectation of being reimbursed from FSA funds.  Construction and development work may be performed either by the contract method or the borrower method. Under the contract method, construction and development contractors perform work according to a written contract with the applicant or borrower. If applying for a direct loan to finance a construction project, the applicant must obtain a surety bond that guarantees both payment and performance in the amount of the construction contract from a construction contractor.  A surety bond is required when a contract exceeds $100,000. An authorized agency official determines that a surety bond appears advisable to protect the borrower against default of the contractor or a contract provides for partial payments in excess of the amount of 60 percent of the value of the work in place.  Under the borrower method, the applicant or borrower will perform the construction and development work. The borrower method may only be used when the authorized agency official determines, based on information from the applicant, that the applicant possesses or arranges to obtain the necessary skill and managerial ability to complete the work satisfactorily and that such work will not interfere with the applicant’s farming operation or work schedule.  Potential applicants should visit with FSA early in the initial project planning process to ensure environmental compliance.  For more eligibility requirements and information about FSA Loan programs, 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%7C%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614427886%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4%2FBQhf1ioWi40qfCNnFjTwdYiobyHGTrF%2BCOWbdFlbE%3D&reserved=0). Maintaining Good Credit History Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans require applicants to have a satisfactory credit history. A credit report is requested for all FSA direct farm loan applicants. These reports are reviewed to verify outstanding debts, see if bills are paid timely and to determine the impact on cash flow.  Information on your credit report is strictly confidential and is used only as an aid in conducting FSA business.  Our farm loan staff will discuss options with you if you have an unfavorable credit report and will provide a copy of your report. If you dispute the accuracy of the information on the credit report, it is up to you to contact the issuing credit report company to resolve any errors or inaccuracies.  There are multiple ways to remedy an unfavorable credit score:   * Make sure to pay bills on time   + Setting up automatic payments or automated reminders can be an effective way to remember payment due dates. * Pay down existing debt * Keep your credit card balances low * Avoid suddenly opening or closing existing credit accounts   FSA’s farm loan staff will guide you through the process, which may require you to reapply for a loan after improving or correcting your credit report.  For more information on FSA farm loan programs, 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%7C%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614427886%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4%2FBQhf1ioWi40qfCNnFjTwdYiobyHGTrF%2BCOWbdFlbE%3D&reserved=0). FSA Offers Loan Servicing Options  |  | | --- | | There are options for Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan customers during financial stress. If you are a borrower who is unable to make payments on a loan, contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager to learn about your options. |  USDA Announces Streamlined Guaranteed Loans and Additional Lender Category for Small-Scale Operators Options Help More Beginning, Small and Urban Producers Gain Access to Credit  Producers can apply for a streamlined version of USDA guaranteed loans, which are tailored for smaller scale farms and urban producers EZ Guarantee Loans use a simplified application process to help beginning, small, underserved, and family farmers and ranchers apply for loans of up to $100,000 from USDA-approved lenders to purchase farmland or finance agricultural operations.  A new category of lenders will join traditional lenders, such as banks and credit unions, in offering USDA EZ Guarantee Loans. Microlenders, which include Community Development Financial Institutions and Rural Rehabilitation Corporations, will be able to offer their customers up to $50,000 of EZ Guaranteed Loans, helping to reach urban areas and underserved producers. Banks, credit unions and other traditional USDA-approved lenders, can offer customers up to $100,000 to help with agricultural operation costs.  EZ Guarantee Loans offer low interest rates and terms up to seven years for financing operating expenses and 40 years for financing the purchase of farm real estate. USDA-approved lenders can issue these loans with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) guaranteeing the loan up to 95 percent.  For more information about the available types of FSA farm loans, contact your local Parish USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov/farmloans.](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-loan-programs%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614427886%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Dd24iZs4C8iTPvIcxlZBjXjKAUYhWekY9wOJXrJGbKU%3D&reserved=0) Important Dates Feb. 28:  Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program(NAP) Sales Closing Date-                Spring Seeded Crops, Hemp  Mar. 1:    Deadline to turn in all eligibility documents for 2019, 2020 and 2021 Agricultural                Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) program.  Mar. 15:  Last day to change election and enroll for Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss                Coverage (ARC/PLC) for 2023  May 31:   Deadline to apply for 2022 Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)  June 1:    Status Date for determination of Minor Child and Change in Farming Operation  June 2:   Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase 2 application deadline  June 2:   Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) application deadline  Jul. 17:    Acreage reporting deadline for most spring seeded crops  Aug. 1:    Last day to request a Farm Reconstitution  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 February  * [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%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614427886%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0dSU%2Bya6zUejrLYAYdyPwaQRv%2Brr4k%2Fpo79mS74Tn%2B4%3D&reserved=0) (less than one year disbursed): 5.750% * [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%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614427886%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4wLStvFgKXsZ6bDUtrYf4pOnLYL3%2BjUlRuVLsCXY7Vs%3D&reserved=0):   + Three-year loan terms: 4.000%   + Five-year loan terms: 3.750%   + Seven-year loan terms: 3.750%   + Ten-year loan terms: 3.625%   + Twelve-year loan terms: 3.750% * [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%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614427886%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=A6Mk1WAk8DYrjz%2BYdSoEVlq2%2BdsuND0iOP25yi81BKw%3D&reserved=0) (15 years): 3.875% * [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%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614427886%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uw4Y4TWWFRrcYGs%2FoaAUYlN8OJMGlWNcau2%2BRH%2BPpsQ%3D&reserved=0) (Direct): 4.750% * [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%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614427886%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DFtP8oUtoYGFgNxw0AXksEWt9I5gceRoA2TsOn8z2LU%3D&reserved=0) (Direct): 4.750% * [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%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614427886%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DFtP8oUtoYGFgNxw0AXksEWt9I5gceRoA2TsOn8z2LU%3D&reserved=0) (Direct, Joint Financing): 2.750% * [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%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614427886%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DFtP8oUtoYGFgNxw0AXksEWt9I5gceRoA2TsOn8z2LU%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%7C2d2ea4d616de43b130c508db1437aebe%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638126001614427886%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ev0L%2FrO8hhKRIcEdXBIDKELP07PhX4owRBSpTg9CE1E%3D&reserved=0) (Amount of Actual Loss): 3.750 % | |  | | Louisiana FSA State Office 3737 Government Street Alexandria, LA 70508  Phone: 318-473-7721 Fax: 1-844-325-6942   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Ronald C. Guidry, Jr.** State Executive Director [Ronald.Guidry@usda.gov](mailto:Ronald.Guidry@usda.gov) | **Christine Normand** Administrative Officer [christine.normand@usda.gov](mailto:christine.normand@usda.gov) | | **Terrick Boley** Farm Loan Program Chief [terrick.boley@usda.gov](mailto:terrick.boley@usda.gov) | **DeWanna Pitman** Farm Program Chief [dewanna.pitman@usda.gov](mailto:dewanna.pitman@usda.gov) | |  |  | |  |  | | |