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| [View as a webpage / Share](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFARMERS/bulletins/35b231d" \t "_blank) |
| |  | | --- | |  | | **Louisiana USDA-FSA Updates - May 2023** | |  | | In This Issue: | | * [USDA Seeks Members for Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#link_5) * [USDA Announces Grassland Conservation Reserve Program Signup for 2023](#link_12) * [Myth-Busting FSA’s New Revenue-Based Disaster and Pandemic Assistance Programs](#link_3) * [USDA Announces Additional Assistance for Distressed Farmers Facing Financial Risk](#link_7) * [USDA Announces Signup for New Rice Production Program](#link_6) * [Avoid Scams Related to USDA Financial Assistance for Farmers Facing Discrimination](#link_4) * [USDA Reminds Producers of Spring Application Deadlines for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)](#link_8) * [USDA Announces Signup for Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program](#link_1) * [Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation](#link_2) * [USDA Announces 2023 Cotton Loan Rate Differentials](#link_11) * [Important Dates](#link_9) * [Current Interest Rates for May](#link_10)  |  | | --- | |  |  USDA Seeks Members for Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production  |  | | --- | | The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking nominations for four positions on the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. Nominations will be open to public from May 15, 2023, to July 15, 2023. The 12-member Committee, which first convened in March 2022, is part of USDA’s efforts to increase support for urban agriculture and innovative production. Members of the Committee provide input on policy development and help identify barriers to urban agriculture as USDA works to promote urban farming and the economic opportunities it provides in cities across the country.  “The Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Committee is an important opportunity for urban and innovative producers to have their voices heard and give direct feedback to USDA,” said Terry Cosby, Chief of USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, which oversees USDA’s Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. “These new members will provide valuable input on how we can better serve urban agricultural producers with a focus on equity, local food systems, access to safe and nutritious food and new ways to address climate change.”  Members of the Committee include agricultural producers and representatives from the areas of higher education or extension programs, non-profits, business and economic development, supply chains and financing. The Committee last met in April 2023.  **Nominations**  USDA is seeking nominations for individuals representing a broad spectrum of expertise. Four positions are open for nominations including:   * One individual representing urban agriculture. * One individual representing an institution of higher education or extension program. * One individual representing business and economic development, which may include a business development entity, community development initiatives, a chamber of commerce, a city government or a planning organization. * One individual representing related experience in urban, indoor and other emerging agriculture production practices.   Individuals who wish to be considered for membership must submit a nomination package including the following:   * A completed background disclosure form (Form AD-755) signed by the nominee; [www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-755.pdf](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-755.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) (PDF, 2.1 MB). * A brief summary explaining the nominee's interest in one or more open vacancies including any unique qualifications that address the membership composition and criteria described above. * A resume providing the nominee's background, experience, and educational qualifications. * Recent publications by the nominee relative to extending support for urban agriculture or innovative production (optional). * Letter(s) of endorsement (optional).   Nomination packages must be submitted by email to [UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov](mailto:UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov) or postmarked by July 15, 2023. If sending by mail, packages should be addressed to the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production, Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4627-S, Washington, DC 20250. Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified individuals for membership, including self-nominations. For special accommodations, contact Markus Holliday at [UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov](mailto:UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov).  [Additional details are available in the Federal Register notice](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.federalregister.gov%2Fdocuments%2F2023%2F05%2F15%2F2023-10217%2Furban-agriculture-and-innovative-production-advisory-committee%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367750811%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4%2BovLcrT8rKBTXfhXwZ8OOrSMPHVftrR5zpkqQQzdIc%3D&reserved=0).  **More Information**  The Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production was established through the 2018 Farm Bill. It is led by NRCS and works in partnership with numerous USDA agencies that support urban agriculture and innovative production. The Committee is part of a broad USDA investment in urban agriculture. Other efforts include:   * Investing up to $7.5 million for [Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](https://www.usda.gov/topics/urban/grants?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) competitive grants in fiscal year 2023. * Investing up to $9.5 million for [Composting and Food Waste Reduction](https://www.usda.gov/topics/urban/coop-agreements?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) (CFWR) pilot projects for fiscal year 2023. * Renewing the [People’s Garden](https://www.usda.gov/peoples-garden?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) movement -- inspiring collaborative gardens across the country to join the People’s Garden community; grow using sustainable practices that benefit people and wildlife; and teach about gardening and resilient, local food systems. * Providing technical and financial assistance through NRCS conservation programs. * Organizing 17 Farm Service Agency urban county committees. * Investing nearly $133 million in grants through the Agricultural Marketing Service’s [Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ams.usda.gov%2Fservices%2Fgrants%2Flamp%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hpXfClAv2i%2FpEMunC4iNfsLAJCjPHXPRJdhh9KpUPtU%3D&reserved=0) that develop, coordinate, and expand producer-to-consumer marketing, local and regional food markets, and local food enterprises. * Helping child nutrition program operators incorporate local foods through the Food and Nutrition Services [Farm to School Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fns.usda.gov%2Ff2s%2Ffarm-to-school%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ndGcRsbdWRSh2%2F%2BlxXpwr27iQfuIvguHYbqhzojNS3U%3D&reserved=0).   USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America’s food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy, and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities throughout America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). |  |  | | --- | |  |  USDA Announces Grassland Conservation Reserve Program Signup for 2023 USDA announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin signing up for the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and run through May 26, 2023. Among CRP enrollment opportunities, Grassland CRP is a unique working lands program, allowing producers and landowners to continue grazing and haying practices while conserving grasslands and promoting plant and animal biodiversity as well as healthier soil.  More than 3.1 million acres were accepted through the 2022 Grassland CRP signup from agricultural producers and private landowners. That signup—the highest ever for the program—reflects the continued success and value of investments in voluntary, producer-led, working lands conservation programs. The current total participation in Grassland CRP is 6.3 million acres, which is part of the 23 million acres enrolled in CRP opportunities overall.  Since 2021, USDA’s FSA, which administers all CRP programs, has made several improvements to Grassland CRP to broaden the program’s reach, including:   * Creating two [National Priority](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FConservation%2FPDF%2Fnational_grassland_crp_priority_zones_su203.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=76%2FslJJvV3ererSIR85a4U7X4%2B%2BXptNrx9GjAuaYUOA%3D&reserved=0)Zones to put focus on environmentally sensitive land such as that prone to wind erosion. * Enhancing offers with 10 additional ranking points to producers and landowners who are historically underserved, including beginning farmers and military veterans. * Leveraging the [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fconservation-programs%2Fconservation-reserve-enhancement%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=C4lFfIyBq9PZstMZCLuu0M%2BqY%2Br2%2Fk54u%2B1G%2B5lEdfA%3D&reserved=0)(CREP) to engage historically underserved communities within Tribal Nations in the Great Plains.   **How to Sign Up for Grassland CRP**  Landowners and producers interested in Grassland CRP, or any other CRP enrollment option, should contact their local [USDA Service Center](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) to learn more or to apply for the program before the deadlines.  Producers with expiring CRP acres can enroll in the Transition Incentives Program (TIP), which incentivizes producers who sell or enter into a long-term lease with a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who plans to sustainably farm or ranch the land.  **Other CRP Signups**  Under [Continuous CRP](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%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TGw952fp2eoeyQf5ovNVZoiOWPrOkZyP%2Fv9bWtgXYYg%3D&reserved=0), producers and landowners can enroll throughout the year. Offers are automatically accepted provided the producer and land meet the eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap. Continuous CRP includes a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by helping producers and landowners establish trees and permanent grasses, enhance wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands.  FSA offers several additional enrollment opportunities within Continuous CRP, including the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Initiative, the Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP), and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Also available is the Clean Lakes Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR30) Initiative, which was originally piloted in twelve states but has since been expanded nationwide, giving producers and landowners across the country the opportunity to enroll in 30-year CRP contracts for water quality practices.   |  | | --- | |  |  Myth-Busting FSA’s New Revenue-Based Disaster and Pandemic Assistance Programs  |  | | --- | | A Message from FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux  In January, we announced two new programs designed to assist producers who experienced revenue losses from 2020 and 2021 natural disasters or the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs are revenue-based and feel a little different from our regular programs, but the goal is to better support farmers.  Both the [Emergency Relief Program (ERP)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Femergency-relief%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vVIwnbudzUn2LvAeBaMNGE%2BPqTwH6hXMCTi5m0cX7uM%3D&reserved=0) Phase Two and the [Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP)](https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/parp?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) offer a holistic approach to disaster assistance and provide economic support for producers who bear the financial brunt of circumstances beyond their control.  With the rollout of any new program, there is a learning curve for producers and employees alike. ERP Phase Two and PARP are no exception. To encourage producer participation in these valuable programs, I’m going to do my best to debunk some myths and misconceptions surrounding ERP Phase Two and PARP.  With a June 2, 2023, deadline to apply for both programs, it’s important that we clear up confusion about how to apply, what documents are required for participation, insurance requirements and related misinformation making its way across the countryside.  **Now, let’s do some myth-busting.**  **Myth #1 – You need to submit a completed tax return to FSA to apply for ERP Phase Two or PARP.**  While these programs are based on revenue losses, you do not need a tax return, completed or otherwise, to apply for assistance. In fact, we have an [ERP Phase 2 tool](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%252Femergency-relief-program%252Fdocs%252Ferp_tool_version_3.1.xlsm%253Futm_medium%253Demail%2526utm_source%253Dgovdelivery%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery%26wdOrigin%3DBROWSELINK&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=K6EjN3ICmgHE6YW3EM4PVwqUG6pyUeiziZcOC%2Fec3oA%3D&reserved=0) and [PARP tool](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%252Ffarmers%252Fdocs%252Fpandemic_rev_program_tool_version_1_2_final.xlsm%253Futm_medium%253Demail%2526utm_source%253Dgovdelivery%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery%26wdOrigin%3DBROWSELINK&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kuiSx99Rlcz%2FhrAGx2JNQHyhUSXPd1qedmxqvIcFIRs%3D&reserved=0) that walk you through the process step by step.  We understand that you may have questions for your certified public accountant or tax preparer, who was likely been hard to reach prior to the April 18 Internal Revenue Service tax deadline but we encourage you to download the program decision tools and get started. You’ll probably discover that you already have on hand much of the information you need.  The following supporting materials will help you:   * Schedule F (Form 1040); and * Profit or Loss from Farming or similar tax documents for tax years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 for ERP and for calendar years 2018, 2019, and 2020 for PARP.   The only reason you might have to provide your tax returns to FSA is in the event of a spot check or a request from the FSA County Committee.  Producers can [register for a free webinar](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.zoomgov.com%2Fwebinar%2Fregister%2FWN_GtU4fiBfRpmKB0synznvzw%3Futm_campaign%3Derp2%26utm_content%3Dwebinar1%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=EFTowC6kdHNOcTarO%2BsJQeOF%2B7%2Fws4whWync51ni6Vo%3D&reserved=0) hosted by USDA and members of the National Farm Income Tax Extension Committee on Monday, May 1 at 2 p.m. eastern for a discussion on completing the ERP Phase Two application form.  **Myth #2 – You cannot receive an ERP Phase Two payment if you received a payment under Phase One.**  It’s possible that you can still receive ERP Phase Two benefits if you received an ERP Phase One payment. There is also a possibility that your Phase Two payment may be offset.  **Myth #3 – ERP Phase Two was intended to be an additional payment to those who received payment under Phase One.**  ERP Phase Two was never designed or intended to be an additional payment. Instead, it was intended to assist those producers who did not receive relief in Phase One.  [**Click here to read the full blog and view a producer testimonial on the application process.**](https://www.farmers.gov/blog/myth-busting-fsas-new-revenue-based-disaster-and-pandemic-assistance-programs?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) |  |  | | --- | |  |  USDA Announces Additional Assistance for Distressed Farmers Facing Financial Risk The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that beginning in April it will provide approximately $123 million in additional, automatic financial assistance for qualifying farm loan program borrowers who are facing financial risk, as part of the $3.1 billion to help distressed farm loan borrowers that was provided through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The announcement builds on financial assistance offered to borrowers through the same program in October 2022.  The IRA directed USDA to expedite assistance to distressed borrowers of direct or guaranteed loans administered by USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) whose operations face financial risk. For example, in the October payments, farmers that were 60 days delinquent due to challenges like natural disasters, the pandemic or other unexpected situations were brought current and had their next installment paid to give them breathing room.  In October 2022, [USDA provided approximately $800 million](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnVzZGEuZ292L21lZGlhL3ByZXNzLXJlbGVhc2VzLzIwMjIvMTAvMTgvdXNkYS1wcm92aWRlcy1wYXltZW50cy1uZWFybHktODAwLW1pbGxpb24tYXNzaXN0YW5jZS1oZWxwLWtlZXA_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5IiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMDUxNS43NjczNDE2MSJ9.rAsjVv45fc8XOK5JNTcNWtshH8E9FubE_z-tDTm5Ylk/s/1837074945/br/192081873419-l?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) in initial IRA assistance to more than 11,000 **delinquent direct and guaranteed borrowers** and approximately 2,100 borrowers who had their farms liquidated and still had remaining debt. USDA shared that it would conduct case-by-case reviews of about 1,600 complex cases for potential initial relief payments, including cases of **borrowers in foreclosure or bankruptcy**. These case-by-case reviews are underway.  At the same time in October 2022, USDA announced that it anticipated payments using separate pandemic relief funding totaling roughly $66 million on over 7,000 direct loans to borrowers who used the USDA Farm Service Agency’s **disaster-set-aside** option during the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of these payments have been processed and USDA anticipates it will complete all such payments in April 2023.  **New Assistance for Distressed Borrowers**  FSA intends to provide the new round of relief starting in April to additional distressed borrowers. This will include approximately $123 million in automatic financial assistance for qualifying Farm Loan Program (FLP) direct loan borrowers who meet certain criteria. Similar to the automatic payments announced in October 2022, qualifying borrowers will receive an individual letter detailing the assistance as payments are made. Distressed borrowers’ eligibility for these new categories of automatic payments will be determined based on their circumstances as of today. More information about the new categories that make up the $123 million in assistance announced today and the specific amount of assistance a distressed borrower receives can be found described in this fact sheet, [IRA Section 22006: Additional Automatic Payments, Improved Procedures, and Policy Recommendations.](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L3NpdGVzL2RlZmF1bHQvZmlsZXMvZG9jdW1lbnRzL2Zhcm1lcnNnb3YtZmFjdHNoZWV0LWlyYS0yMjAwNi1hZGRpdGlvbmFsLWF1dG9tYXRpYy1wYXltZW50cy5wZGY_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5IiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMDUxNS43NjczNDE2MSJ9.AH_9ynk80TxC9q4lD2Kf-ROSfmcwp93aWnnnjTZjYFo/s/1837074945/br/192081873419-l?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)  To continue to make sure producers are aware of relief potentially available to them, all producers with open FLP loans will receive a letter detailing a new opportunity to receive assistance if they took certain extraordinary measures to avoid delinquency on their FLP loans, such as taking on more debt, selling property or cashing out retirement accounts. The letter will provide details on eligibility, the specific types of actions that may qualify for assistance, and the process for applying for and providing the documentation to seek that assistance.  These steps are part of a process USDA announced along with the October payments that is focused on assisting borrowers unable to make their next scheduled installment. Earlier this year, all borrowers should have received a letter detailing the process for seeking this type of assistance even before they become delinquent. Borrowers who are within two months of their next installment may seek a cashflow analysis from FSA using a recent balance sheet and operating plan to determine their eligibility.  **Tax Resources**  USDA will continue to work with the Department of Treasury to help borrowers understand the potential tax implications from the receipt of an IRA payment, including that options may be available to potentially avoid or alleviate any tax burden incurred as a result of receiving this financial assistance.  In early April, USDA will send a specific set of revised tax documents, educational materials and resources to borrowers that received assistance in 2022, including a link to a webinar hosted by a group of farm tax experts to provide education on the options available. USDA cannot provide tax advice and encourages borrowers to consult their own tax professional, but FSA is providing educational materials for borrowers to be aware of the options. USDA has tax-related resources available at [farmers.gov/taxes](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L3dvcmtpbmctd2l0aC11cy90YXhlcz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMwNTE1Ljc2NzM0MTYxIn0.CzPbEvb0lIdp_k9l_6lInPbuMpkreTgvW258VGKQ-bI/s/1837074945/br/192081873419-l?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  **Improved Procedures and Policy Recommendations**  FSA is finalizing changes to its policy handbooks to remove unnecessary hurdles, improve loan making and loan servicing and provide more flexibility on how loans are structured to maximize the opportunities for borrowers. Additional details on those changes can be found in the linked fact sheet and are the start of a broader set of process enhancements. The fact sheet also provides information on the eight, no-cost legislative proposals included in the Fiscal Year 2024 President’s Budget that are designed to improve the borrower experience.   |  | | --- | |  |  USDA Announces Signup for New Rice Production Program New program makes one-time payment to rice farmers based on 2022 plantings and prevented plantings  The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has begun sending prefilled applications to rice producers the week of May 8 for the new [Rice Production Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Frice-production-program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=s9%2BSbu028oKJvRi2qPPqzl8XXu1U%2BKVk1rIT1JEKDSo%3D&reserved=0) (RPP), which will provide up to $250 million in assistance to rice farmers based on 2022 planted and prevented planted acres.  On Dec. 29, 2022, President Biden signed into law H.R. 2617, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, which provided the authority and funding for USDA to make payments to rice producers based on data already on file with USDA, including planted acres and acres prevented from being planted.  **How to Apply**  FSA is mailing pre-filled applications to producers using information on file with USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) or FSA, as reported by rice producers through their crop insurance agents or FSA county offices.  To apply for assistance through the RPP, producers must return their completed FSA-174, Rice Production Program Application, to their recording FSA county office by close of business on Monday, July 10, 2023. Applications may be submitted either in person, by mail, email, or facsimile.  Producers who reported eligible rice to FSA by the acreage reporting deadline but do not receive a pre-filled application may still apply by visiting their local FSA office and completing the application by Monday, July 10, 2023. Producers who filed late or modified 2022 rice acreage reports will not be eligible for RPP.  **Program Payments**  FSA will make an initial payment to eligible producers at a reduced payment rate of one cent per pound. If funds remain at the end of the application period, a second payment, not to exceed one cent per pound may be issued to eligible producers. To be eligible, a producer must have reported to FSA a share interest in eligible rice.  As directed by the omnibus legislation, FSA will calculate payments by multiplying the:   * Payment rate; * Individual average actual production history (APH) as reported to RMA or the FSA-established yield; and * Amount of certified rice acres determined by the number of planted acres and acres that were prevented from being planted.   If applicable, a prevented planted factor of 60% will be applied.  **Payment Limitation**  The payment limitation for the program is set by statute and is higher if the farmer’s average adjusted gross farm income (income from activities related to farming, ranching or forestry) is more than 75% of their average adjusted gross income (AGI). Specifically, a person or legal entity with an average adjusted gross farm income of less than 75% of their average AGI cannot receive, directly or indirectly, more than $125,000 in payments. Farmers who derive 75% or more of their average AGI from farming qualify for a $250,000 payment limit. AGI is based on the three taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete tax year.  Rice farmers may visit their local county office to submit the appropriate form and certification (FSA-510, Request for an Exception to the $125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs), if they qualify for and want to seek the higher payment limit.  For more information, view the [fact sheet](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2Frice-production-program%2Fpdfs%2Ffsa_rpp_rice_production_program_2023.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jI1dBo%2FW39G2%2FzjRPGY%2BcHzGLW7c8kstQgrlViWeU8w%3D&reserved=0) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).   |  | | --- | |  |  Avoid Scams Related to USDA Financial Assistance for Farmers Facing Discrimination  |  | | --- | | The Inflation Reduction Act provides $2.2 billion in financial assistance for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA’s farm lending programs prior to January 1, 2021.  USDA has become aware of some lawyers and groups spreading misleading information about this process, pressuring people to sign retainer agreements, and asking people to fill out forms with private and sensitive information.  Application forms for this program **are not yet available** and the **application filing period has not started**. Before the application process opens, USDA will publish a list of trusted community organizations located across the country that will provide **FREE** help completing applications.  Please beware of organizations seeking to file your application for a fee. Filing an application for the program will be **FREE**. You **will not** need a lawyer to file an application for this program. If you feel the need for legal advice, seek the assistance of a trusted, licensed attorney.  Beware of solicitations by mail, email, or phone calls from individuals claiming to be connected to USDA. **USDA will not solicit you for information.**  The most up-to-date information on this program will be posted at [www.farmers.gov/22007](http://www.farmers.gov/22007?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), a USDA website. Please check there for any concerns or reach out to your local FSA office. To find your local office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  If you believe there is an organization conducting a scam related to this process, please contact the USDA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) or any other appropriate authorities. The USDA OIG hotline can be accessed online at [https://usdaoig.oversight.gov/hotline](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fusdaoig.oversight.gov%2Fhotline%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=MS6ud8ZhSm7%2F51jGvfxoPk8MC5AhNlZ60TmhJPIwEv8%3D&reserved=0) and by phone at (800) 424-9121. |  |  | | --- | |  |  USDA Reminds Producers of Spring Application Deadlines for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)  |  | | --- | | USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers of approaching application deadlines for purchasing risk coverage for some crops through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops impacted by natural disasters that result in lower yields, crop losses, or prevented crop planting.  NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass and more.  NAP basic coverage is available at 55% of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50% of expected production. Buy-up coverage is available in some cases. NAP offers higher levels of coverage, ranging from 50% to 65% of expected production in 5% increments, at 100% of the average market price. Producers of organic crops and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the “buy-up” option to obtain NAP coverage of 100% of the average market price at coverage levels ranging between 50% and 65% of expected production. Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.  For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of $325 per crop or $825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of $1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Premiums apply for buy-up coverage.  If a producer has a Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification (form CCC-860) on file with FSA, it may serve as an application for basic coverage for all eligible crops beginning with crop year 2022. These producers will have all NAP-related service fees for basic coverage waived.  These producers may also receive a 50% premium reduction if higher levels of coverage are elected on form CCC-471, prior to the application closing date for each crop.  To learn more about NAP visit [fsa.usda.gov/nap](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fnap%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=w7aqxV1eAwi5soLkLMupGakZsuOIW7Zozu8R7Pdpch0%3D&reserved=0) or contact your local USDA Service Center. |  |  | | --- | |  |  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).   |  | | --- | |  |  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 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 USDA Service Center at [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). |  |  | | --- | |  |  USDA Announces 2023 Cotton Loan Rate Differentials USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation announced the 2023 crop loan rate differentials for upland and extra-long staple cotton which are applied to the crop loan rate to determine the per bale actual loan rate.  The differentials, also referred to as loan rate premiums and discounts, were calculated based on market valuations of various cotton quality factors for the prior three years. This calculation procedure is identical to that used in past years.  The 2023 crop differential schedules are applied to 2023 crop loan rates of 52 cents per pound for the base grade of upland cotton and 95 cents per pound for extra-long staple cotton. The 2018 Farm Bill stipulates that the loan rate for the base quality of upland cotton ranges between 45 and 52 cents per pound based on the simple average of the Adjusted World Price for the two marketing years immediately preceding the next crop planting. However, the established loan rate cannot be less than 98% of the preceding year’s established loan rate. The loan rate provided to an individual cotton bale is based on the quality of each individual bale as determined by USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service classing measurements.  These differentials are important to cotton producers because they are used to derive the actual loan rate for each bale of cotton – above (premium) or below (discount) the average per pound loan rate, depending on the grade or quality of the cotton. The actual loan rate is significant because it is used to determine any marketing loan gains and loan deficiency payments.  USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation adjusts cotton loan rates by these differentials so that cotton loan values reflect the differences in market prices for color, staple length, leaf, extraneous matter, micronaire, length uniformity and strength.  The rates are posted on the [Farm Service Agency (FSA) website](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fprice-support%2Fcommodity-loan-rates%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Mas84FHC4K2poA7%2FqYOAAwWuS4cEtJ0SQ9EwiTHFYrg%3D&reserved=0). To apply for loans or other programs, please contact your local [USDA Service Center](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).   |  | | --- | |  |  Important Dates May 26:   Grassland Conservation Reserve Program sign-up deadline  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  July 10:   Deadline for submitting a completed FSA-174, Rice Production Program                 Application  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 May  * [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%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BXaEyTzOdOzdYAdSXSu3zKWZN8ks4e450c0pGs5Idhg%3D&reserved=0) (less than one year disbursed): 5.625% * [Farm Storage Facility Loans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fprice-support%2Ffacility-loans%2Ffarm-storage%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439367906622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=lJZFnw6wBqnv8ufE5PLmSke%2B%2Fm1ekul6eXPWpK8%2FU3M%3D&reserved=0):   + Three-year loan terms: 3.750%   + Five-year loan terms: 3.500%   + Seven-year loan terms: 3.500%   + Ten-year loan terms: 3.500%   + Twelve-year loan terms: 3.500% * [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%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439368062842%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FGiXadrTgwyn%2BVFxKU1xeE%2BAl1H2PxON1B2IsGLIX9c%3D&reserved=0) (15 years): 3.750%   **Commodity and Storage Facility Loans**  Interest rates for Operating and Ownership loans for April 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%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439368062842%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TlQSG347P8mwKeSErGGuTvmqXaeKH1odKkvqCvPRGMo%3D&reserved=0) (Direct): 5.000% * [Farm Ownership Loans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-loan-programs%2Ffarm-ownership-loans%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439368062842%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8U2Tyb%2F7ERI%2BM%2BivaSImtwcT3peLksY0vGbsI3DxcsE%3D&reserved=0) (Direct): 5.000% * [Farm Ownership Loans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-loan-programs%2Ffarm-ownership-loans%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439368062842%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8U2Tyb%2F7ERI%2BM%2BivaSImtwcT3peLksY0vGbsI3DxcsE%3D&reserved=0) (Direct, Joint Financing): 3.000% * [Farm Ownership Loans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-loan-programs%2Ffarm-ownership-loans%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439368062842%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8U2Tyb%2F7ERI%2BM%2BivaSImtwcT3peLksY0vGbsI3DxcsE%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%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439368062842%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VXU8B25FHxIS1vLO2GXnjQaUF1D%2FbsS%2Fxn%2Bv9exiiHM%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%7C%7C543191160bfd47d2bdca08db5d600e6b%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638206439368062842%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Fv4dm1UbkOgRcfSZqh3nDsr4GlQ1v7%2BnyovxdeGup38%3D&reserved=0) on farmers.gov. | |  | | 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 |  | |  |  | | |