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USDA Can Help](#link_5) * [Farmers Can Now Enroll for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs the 2024 Crop Year](#link_1) * [Farmers.gov Portal](#link_12) * [USDA Now Accepting Farm Loan Payments Online](#link_7) * [Subscribe to Receive Updates on Careers with USDA](#link_2) * [Farmers.gov Local Dashboard Now Available for Producers in Louisiana](#link_3) * [Important Dates 2024](#link_9) * [Current Interest Rates for February 2024](#link_10)  |  | | --- | |  |  From the Desk of the State Executive Director  * USDA Climate Hubs’ priorities are developing a better understanding of the full range of potential climate change impacts; accelerating development of science-based solutions; informing deployment of adaptation strategies; building tools for farmers, ranchers, and foresters to understand how to implement climate-informed and nature-based solutions; and just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people that impact human health and the environment. * USDA frequently works with historically underserved, beginning, and limited resource producers who lack access to legal and certified public accounting services or who are unfamiliar with agricultural accounting best practices. Many producers are unaware that receiving a USDA program payment can create a tax liability for their business. * USDA Farm Tax efforts focuses on addressing immediate educational needs of producers who received program payments during the pandemic, with the additional benefit of developing infrastructure to support rural taxpayer education and tax preparation for limited resource, beginning, and historically underserved farmers and ranchers. Visit [farmers.gov/taxes](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/taxes?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) to learn more and explore online resources.   USDA offers a variety of farm loan, risk management, disaster assistance, and conservation programs to support farmers, including beginning new farmers. Additionally, USDA has several special provisions and resources for beginning farmers, including:   * Targeted funding through farm loans * Crop insurance benefits * Conservation program benefits   Basically, the best way to get started is to find your local USDA Service Center and meet with local staff there.   * + There are Service Centers in nearly every county in the United States.   + To find yours, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) and insert your zip code.   + Often, NRCS and FSA offices are co-located, so you can handle business in one location.  |  | | --- | |  |  USDA Helps Producers Prepare for and Recover from Severe Winter Weather Winter storms create significant challenges and often result in catastrophic loss for agricultural producers, especially for those raising livestock, row crops and vulnerable crops like citrus. Despite every attempt to mitigate risk, your operation may suffer losses. As you prepare for the potential impacts of upcoming winter weather, know that USDA offers several programs to help with recovery.  **Risk Management**  For producers who have risk protection through [Federal Crop Insurance](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rma.usda.gov%2FFederal-Crop-Insurance-Corporation%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343781083%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6c44b3Yeu425k36BVEXhx54GgIVLxgbTVM1bHl8PB2U%3D&reserved=0)or the [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdisaster-assistance-program%2Fnoninsured-crop-disaster-assistance%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343790684%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uAYwsJtnS0hQ3DnNG8%2BWWI6p6RGwtg6eYS%2BF71w2QKQ%3D&reserved=0) (NAP), we want to remind you to report crop damage to your crop insurance agent or the local [Farm Service Agency](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343798296%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rgIQFYS9UZutIsciyvTBWXOdpWgXDd4HTcQ9vzAjUsY%3D&reserved=0) (FSA) office.  If you have crop insurance, contact your agency within 72 hours of discovering damage and be sure to follow up in writing within 15 days. If you have NAP coverage, file a Notice of Loss (also called Form CCC-576) within 15 days of loss becoming apparent, except for hand-harvested crops, which should be reported within 72 hours.  **Disaster Assistance**  USDA also offers disaster assistance programs, which are especially important to livestock, fruit and vegetable, specialty and perennial crop producers.  First, the [Livestock Indemnity Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdisaster-assistance-program%2Flivestock-indemnity%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343804134%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yQzmPRp9z4p9aFnVqw7j7EkeeyEREKnwwwk4mz8ZpWk%3D&reserved=0) (LIP) and [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee and Farm-raised Fish Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdisaster-assistance-program%2Femergency-assist-for-livestock-honey-bees-fish%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343809992%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jszJEKfDEeBdSfNLXWTAmN0spX6GcvgxsdCN0M8OZ10%3D&reserved=0) (ELAP) reimburses producers for a portion of the value of livestock, poultry and other animals that died as a result of a qualifying natural disaster event– like these winter storms – or for loss of grazing acres, feed and forage. To participate in LIP and ELAP, you will need to file a Notice of Loss by the annual program payment application date. The LIP payment application and notice of loss deadline is Feb. 29, 2024, for the 2023 program year and March 3, 2025, for 2024 program year losses. For ELAP, producers are required to complete and a notice of loss to their local FSA office no later than the annual program application deadline of January 30 following the program year in which the loss occurred.  Next, the [Tree Assistance Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdisaster-assistance-program%2Ftree-assistance-program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343815424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xo%2FB4hktRbwGvytSyvFnb4Jxni%2BmTQEDMq1bTgFgW%2BA%3D&reserved=0) (TAP) provides cost share assistance to rehabilitate and replant tree, vines or shrubs loss experienced by orchards and nurseries. This complements NAP or crop insurance coverage, which covers the crop but not the plants or trees in all cases.  For TAP, you will need to file a program application within 90 days of the disaster event or the date when the loss of the trees, bushes, or vines is apparent.  **Documentation**  It’s critical to keep accurate records to document all losses following this devastating cold weather event. Livestock producers are advised to document beginning livestock numbers by taking time and date-stamped video or pictures prior to and after the loss.  Other common documentation options include:   * Purchase records * Production records * Vaccination records * Bank or other loan documents * Third-party certification   **Other Programs**  The [Emergency Conservation Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fconservation-programs%2Femergency-conservation%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343821143%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=s6kQsH%2BAfUmObWTuHcFV%2FnpSjLnK9BZHsxFyj3EHpjU%3D&reserved=0) and [Emergency Forest Restoration Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdisaster-assistance-program%2Femergency-forest-restoration%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343826984%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jxCltPMPzd42WDCjRHuDTLXl3o%2BzcGuSmAPkYHyZsnI%3D&reserved=0) can assist landowners and forest stewards with financial and technical assistance to restore fencing, damaged farmland or forests, and remove snow from feed stocks, water supplies, and feeding areas.  Additionally, FSA offers a variety of loans available including emergency loans that are triggered by disaster declarations and operating loans that can assist producers with credit needs.  You can use these loans to replace essential property, purchase inputs like livestock, equipment, feed and seed, or refinance farm-related debts, and other needs. Additionally, FSA offers several loan servicing options available for borrowers who are unable to make scheduled payments on their farm loan programs debt to the agency because of reasons beyond their control.  Meanwhile, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial resources through its [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fprograms-initiatives%2Feqip-environmental-quality-incentives%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343832879%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=x2ZSU7Utx9oA66WHubvV4QWN8Bo2gROssK8OQ82mT80%3D&reserved=0) to help with immediate needs and long-term support to help recover from natural disasters and conserve water resources. Assistance may also be available for emergency animal mortality disposal from natural disasters and other causes.  **Additional Resources**  Additional details – including payment calculations – can be found on our [NAP](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2Fnoninsured_crop_disaster_assistance_program-nap-fact_sheet.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343838689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=oMs9AyflIhKvfyVBnypBRCyPuPZFn5YLxPK%2FZAZMf5w%3D&reserved=0), [ELAP](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2F2022%2Felap_farmraisedfish_factsheet-2022-final.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343844558%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bTe%2FWJe1H2lgpvKLqCefrjLvloj2MTPWJaX1pTqYQik%3D&reserved=0), [LIP](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2F2022%2Ffsa_lip_livestockimdemnityprogram_factsheet_2022.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343850413%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=P6nNVAGK6LVS2Mb6rQWu%2B4wWte3Xps1c0es4BJqOz5Q%3D&reserved=0), and [TAP](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2Ftree_assistance_program-tap-fact_sheet.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343856295%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=p%2FboOxj52TLQB5%2F0vURjIXN9bL3ZqX5U5v1Ccr7a4Ag%3D&reserved=0) fact sheets. On farmers.gov, the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/disaster-tool?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), [Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/farmersgov-disaster-assistance-brochure-07-21-2022.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), and [Farm 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%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343862179%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9neMZ2OvezdHjFLaBJTD70E9xja2DjbNgX9370y9vP0%3D&reserved=0) can help you determine program or loan options.  While we never want to have to implement disaster programs, we are here to help.  To inquire about available programs, contact your local [USDA Service Center](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).   |  | | --- | |  |  New to Farming? USDA Can Help  |  | | --- | | If you’re a new farmer or rancher, can help you get started or grow your operation through a variety of programs and services, from farm loans to crop insurance, and conservation programs to disaster assistance. We offer dedicated help to beginning farmers and ranchers. USDA considers anyone who has operated a farm or ranch for less than ten years to be a beginning farmer or rancher.  The first step is to find your local USDA Service Center by visiting [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](http://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). Call your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to make an appointment to establish a farm number. You can establish a farm number for any land being used for agricultural purposes that is over 0.01 acre.  You’ll need to bring the following to your appointment:   * Proof of identify (driver’s license, social security card, IRS Employer Identification Number (EIN)) * Proof of Ownership (copy of recorded deed or recorded land contract) * Lease agreements * Entity Identification Status (articles of incorporation, trust and estate documents, or partnership agreement)   FSA staff will work with you one-on-one to review your documents and register your farm with FSA. Registering your farm allows you to apply for FSA and other USDA programs.  After your farm is registered, you can meet with FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff to discuss your business and conservation goals. FSA and NRCS staff can help you determine program eligibility and walk you through the application process.  Depending on your operation, you may want to consider crop insurance. The USDA’s Risk Management Agency provides crop insurance to help you manage risks on your farm. There are [many types of insurance products available](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rma.usda.gov%2FTopics%2FBeginning-Farmers%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343867974%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vcS4D6qapix3c2J8oLoKUsirggZGmCUhvo2OioRhvJw%3D&reserved=0) for a wide variety of production practices, including organic and sustainable agriculture.  **More Information**   * [Beginning Farmers and Ranchers](https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) * Urban grower? Learn about our [Urban Service Centers](https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/urban-growers/urban-service-centers?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#locations) * New to farming? * [Contact your Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator](https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers/coordinators?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) * [Factsheet for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/farmersgov-getstarted-factsheet-06-15-2021.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) * Need a translator? Learn more about free, real-time [Translation Services](https://www.farmers.gov/translations?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) * Our [Guide to USDA Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/farmersgov-historically-underserved-factsheet-07-20-2022.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) has a worksheet to help you prepare for your first visit. |  |  | | --- | |  |  Farmers Can Now Enroll for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs the 2024 Crop Year The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that agricultural producers can now enroll in the Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) [Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC)](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%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343875421%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pO4o0z4qco5VbTQdsQ7l6UDJ2%2FuRyPoRm%2BURqHQFqI8%3D&reserved=0) programs for the 2024 crop year. Producers can enroll and make election changes for the 2024 crop year starting Dec. 18, 2023. The deadline to complete enrollment and any election change is March 15, 2024.  On Nov. 16, 2023, President Biden signed into law H.R. 6363, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Pub. L. 118-22), which extended the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334), more commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill, through September 30, 2024. This extension allows authorized programs, including ARC and PLC, to continue operating.  **2024 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 2024 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm it will continue for 2024 unless an election change is made.  If producers do not submit their election revision by the March 15, 2024, deadline, their election remains the same as their 2023 election for commodities on the farm. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the cropland.  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 grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.  **2022 Crop Year Payments**  This fall, FSA issued payments totaling more than $267 million to agricultural producers who enrolled in the 2022 ARC-CO option and the ARC ARC-IC option for covered commodities that triggered a payment. Payments through the PLC option did not trigger for the 2022 crop year.  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. These payments help mitigate fluctuations in either revenue or prices for certain crops. Payments for crops that may trigger for the 2023 crop year will be issued in the fall of 2024.  **Crop Insurance Considerations**  ARC and PLC are part of a broader USDA safety net that 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 can purchase 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.  **Web-Based Decision Tools**  Many universities offer web-based decision tools to help producers make informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. Producers are encouraged to use the tool of their choice to support their ARC and PLC elections.  **More Information**  For more information on ARC and PLC, producers can 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%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343882013%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TfLB1mwC2oXPSLrMYSmJznUMMBWeuzWKNDpg0w9Pps8%3D&reserved=0) or contact their local [USDA Service Center](http://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). Producers can also make elections and complete enrollment [online with level 2 eAuth](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fapps.fsa.usda.gov%2Farc-signup-web%2Fhome%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343888146%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BFr%2FB7lB3JOuql0rseA7UTy0Swd510MPNCkgYSUOGs4%3D&reserved=0).   |  | | --- | |  |  Farmers.gov Portal  |  | | --- | | Looking for ways to do business with USDA that saves you time? Look no further than [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  When you create a farmers.gov account for the farmers.gov authenticated site, you have access to self-service features through a secure login.  Managing your business with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is faster than ever. From e-signing documents, viewing, printing, and exporting maps and receiving notifications of payment disbursements, a farmers.gov authenticated account makes doing business with USDA easy and secure.  **What can you do with your farmers.gov account?**   * Submit a Direct Farm Loan application. This tool and other process improvements allow farmers and ranchers to submit complete loan applications. Helpful features include an electronic signature option, the ability to attach supporting documents such as tax returns, complete a balance sheet, and build a farm operating plan. * View NRCS Disbursements and Farm Loans financial activity from the past 180 days. * View, print and export detailed farm records and farm/tract maps. * Export common land unit (field) boundaries as ESRI and GeoJSON file types. * Import precision agriculture planting boundaries, create labels containing crop information, and print both on farm tract maps. * Use the draw tools to determine acres in an area of interest that can be printed on a map and provided to a third party or exported as a feature file for use in other geospatial applications. * View, upload, download and e-sign NRCS documents. * Request conservation and financial assistance, including submitting a program application. * Access information on current and past conservation practices, report practice completion and request practice certification * View detailed information on previous and ongoing contracts, including the amount of cost- share assistance received and request contract modifications. * View Farm Loan Program loans: View Farm Loan principal and interest balances, payment history, loan terms, and download interest statements.   **How do you create a farmers.gov account?**  To create a farmers.gov account you will need:   * A USDA individual customer record - A customer record contains information you have given to USDA to do business with them, like your name, address, phone number, and any legal representative authority relationships. * A login.gov account – Login.gov is a sign-in service that gives people secure online access to participating government programs. * Customers who are new to USDA should visit [Get Started at Your USDA Service Center](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/USDA-service-centers?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), then go to [gov/account](https://www.farmers.gov/account?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#create) to create a farmers.gov account.   In addition to the self-service features, [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) also has information on USDA programs, farm loans, disaster assistance, conservation programs and crop insurance. |  |  | | --- | |  |  USDA Now Accepting Farm Loan Payments Online  |  | | --- | | The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today that most farm loan borrowers will soon be able to make payments to their direct loans online through the Pay My Loan feature on [farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) in early February. Pay My Loan is part of a broader effort by USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) to streamline its processes, especially for producers who may have limited time during the planting or harvest seasons to visit a local FSA office; modernize and improve customer service; provide additional customer self-service tools; and expand credit access to assist more producers.  On average, local USDA Service Centers process more than 225,000 farm loan payments each year. Pay My Loan gives most borrowers an online repayment option and relieves them from needing to call, mail, or visit a Service Center to pay their loan installment. Farm loan payments can now be made at the borrower’s convenience, on their schedule and outside of FSA office hours.  Pay My Loan also provides time savings for FSA’s farm loan employees by minimizing manual payment processing activities. This new service for producers means that farm loan employees will have more time to focus on reviewing and processing new loans or servicing requests.  The Pay My Loan feature can be accessed at farmers.gov/loans. To use the payment feature, producers must establish a USDA customer account and a [USDA Level 2 eAuthentication (“eAuth”) account or a Login.gov account](https://www.farmers.gov/account?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). This initial release only allows individuals with loans to make online payments. For now, borrowers with jointly payable checks will need to continue to make loan payments through their local office.  FSA has a significant initiative underway to streamline and automate the Farm Loan Program customer-facing business process. For the over 26,000 producers who submit a direct loan application annually, FSA has made various improvements including:   * The [Online Loan Application](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fnews-room%2Fnews-releases%2F2023%2Fusda-now-accepting-applications-for-farm-loans-online%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343894466%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=MNZ6Z4qms1LOx4sPvCV%2F33XqyCeh%2BLHWZmep0M9we10%3D&reserved=0), an interactive, guided application that is paperless and provides helpful features including an electronic signature option, the ability to attach supporting documents such as tax returns, complete a balance sheet, and build a farm operating plan. * The [Loan Assistance Tool](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fnews-room%2Fnews-releases%2F2022%2Fusda-launches-loan-assistance-tool-to-enhance-equity-and-customer-service%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343900564%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=SG74R0qBBvR6LJLzee%2B0PaTiM7sNgukZI3WwRSoFzGI%3D&reserved=0) that provides customers with an interactive online, step-by-step guide to identifying the direct loan products that may be a fit for their business needs and to understanding the application process. * A [simplified direct loan paper application](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fnews-room%2Fnews-releases%2F2023%2Fusda-develops-simplified-direct-loan-application-to-improve-customer-service%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343907443%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GG%2BNQ%2BZ7t7ZrInNMhvW%2BRbVB6%2FEXLYReuZeGO7b4ytc%3D&reserved=0), which reduced loan applications by more than half, from 29 pages to 13 pages. |  |  | | --- | |  |  Subscribe to Receive Updates on Careers with USDA If you’re interested in starting a career with USDA, subscribe to receive free email alerts on select positions within the USDA Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Risk Management Agency and Farm Production and Conservation Business Center.  All federal job vacancies within USDA are posted on [usajobs.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.usajobs.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343914817%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nzw2MKC7mFHgpANC5iJrS4qG%2FN%2FtEFgtuvJ0Y9DtS6o%3D&reserved=0). In order to further promote employment opportunities, we are going to start sending emails that highlight select positions.  If you want to keep up with vacancy announcements via email, you can subscribe to “Careers” by visiting [farmers.gov/subscribe](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFARMERS/subscriber/new/) and completing the following steps.   * Select “email” as your subscription type * Enter your email address * Click “submit” * Select the “Careers” topic under “Connect with us” * Click “submit” to verify your subscription topic choice at the bottom of the page   Not all job vacancy announcements will be shared via email, but you can view a current list of all job openings at any time by visiting [usajobs.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.usajobs.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343920780%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hiYAzTtAg9qrIf0ppTOqQZo9DPd%2BYdbBaxuuJF2CKEk%3D&reserved=0).  For additional information or assistance with your subscription, contact your local USDA Service Center by visiting [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.   |  | | --- | |  |  Farmers.gov Local Dashboard Now Available for Producers in Louisiana Farmers in Louisiana can now access county specific farming data and USDA resources all in one place via the new farmers.gov local dashboard. Your new farmers.gov local dashboard includes farming data and USDA resources including USDA news, commodity pricing, weather forecasts, historical climate data, past storm events, USDA service center locator and additional state resources for Louisiana and your Parish. The dashboard transforms complex data sets into easy-to-read charts and graphs to help you quickly find information that matters to you.   |  | | --- | |  |  Important Dates 2024 Feb. 28,     Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program(NAP) Sales Closing                   Date- Spring Seeded Crops, Hemp  Mar 15,      Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage Deadline  Mar 15,     1st pool CRP signup deadline  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 2024  * [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%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343926577%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rCte4nY7Ew3Yf7ftaLM%2F0qy8Xas29BsC4G%2B5wuMUzz0%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%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343932438%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=05UMbWyvc6AMko8UcDMD5A7JCPszIH8gyHkzbYizh2s%3D&reserved=0):   + Three-year loan terms: 4.125   + Five-year loan terms: 3.875   + Seven-year loan terms: 4.000   + Ten-year loan terms: 4.000   + Twelve-year loan terms: 4.000 * [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%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343938254%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=lwhSqkGCpMVeEHY%2Fe555dK73wnOnjfgoGpzoEFAApsI%3D&reserved=0)(15 years): 4.250   Interest rates for Operating and Ownership loans for January 2024 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%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343944287%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nA%2FlD6pYN6G%2FaVoaz0%2FQWF1Xce7xxdd6yQdY6rmXLc8%3D&reserved=0) (Direct): 5.125% * [Farm Ownership Loans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-loan-programs%2Ffarm-ownership-loans%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343950292%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uMF4XeZBvmjNjGY9ry0c%2F50JmIEf2B17CfuYhH1QyU0%3D&reserved=0) (Direct): 5.375% * [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%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343956259%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QXmgVS0TKuz4DfJbQDuMeQcCjK4OBKLzl9MB7Z2DI%2FY%3D&reserved=0) (Direct, Joint Financing): 3.375% * [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%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343962253%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gw35N76i2KG3xA%2FGJ4qhsw1T0GlipV%2B5VA1qlzlamhc%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%7C02%7CAnthony.Reed1%40usda.gov%7C1cce364d0e52413bcd2708dc2e6c9a83%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638436291343968299%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PMpc8S16qNCHmO%2BWou4UQzGhiM0oKtHB6GYgDWVCsIk%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) | | **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. | |  |  | | | | | |