|  |
| --- |
| [View as a webpage / Share](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/5115364/%5B%5BVIEW_THIS_URL%5D%5D%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) |
|

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **Maine USDA Service Center Newsletter** December 2023 |
|  |
| [**Farm Service Agency**](https://fsa.usda.gov/)**|**[**Natural Resources Conservation Service**](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/)**|**[**Risk Management Agency**](https://rma.usda.gov/) |
| **In This Issue:*** [Dates to Remember](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/5115364/content#link_7)
* [The Maine Message](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/5115364/content#link_5)
* [Tax Resources for USDA Program Participants](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/5115364/content#link_11)
* [USDA Reminds Specialty Crop Growers of Deadline to Apply for Assistance for 2023 On-Farm Food Safety Expenses](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/5115364/content#link_6)
* [USDA To Provide Additional Financial Assistance to Qualifying Guaranteed Farm Loan Borrowers Facing Financial Risk](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/5115364/content#link_12)
* [USDA Makes Producer-Friendly Change to 2023 Notice of Loss Requirements for Two Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/5115364/content#link_2)
* [Inflation Reduction Act Section 22006 Assistance for Distressed Borrowers](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/5115364/content#link_10)
* [Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/5115364/content#link_3)
* [FSA Offers Safety Net Programs for Honeybee Producers](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/5115364/content#link_1)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Dates to Remember**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Dec 25** | **All Offices Closed for Christmas Day** |
| **Dec 31** | [**Inflation Reduction Act Assistance for Distressed Borrower  Application Deadline**](https://www.farmers.gov/loans/inflation-reduction-investments/assistance?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) |
| **Dec 31** | **Deadline to enroll Honey & Maple Sap** |
| **Dec 31** | **Deadline to report acreage – Maple Sap Acreage Reporting** |
| **Jan 1, 2024** | **All Offices Closed for New Year's Day** |
| **Jan 2,2024** |  **Deadline to report beginning colonies – Honeybees** |
| **Jan 13, 2024** | **Deadline to apply for**[**Inflation Reduction Act Section 22007 – Discrimination Financial Assistance Program**](https://22007apply.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) |
| **Jan 15, 2024** | **Deadline to report acreage – Apples and Blueberries** |
| **Jan 31, 2024** | [**The Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program**](https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/food-safety)**(FSCSC) applications for calendar year 2023 from February 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024.** |
| **Ongoing** | [**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - Continuous**](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/crp-continuous-enrollment-period-factsheet.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)**Enrollment** |

 **The Maine Message**As we start the recovery process from this week’s substantial weather event, please know our FSA staff is standing by ready to assist as needed.  Please contact your local FSA office to report damages and losses as soon as possible, even if the extent is yet unknown.  There are many programs available to assist with losses such as livestock, farmland, woodlots, stored feed, honeybee and hive losses, and aquaculture.  Your local FSA office can be found here:  <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/USDA-service-centers>In other news, 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, such as ARC PLC continue operating.  On December 18, 2023, USDA announced that agricultural producers can now enroll in the Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) [Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC)](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/arcplc_program/index) programs for the 2024 crop year. Producers can enroll and make election changes for the 2024 crop year March 15, 2024.  The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has recently launched an online application for Direct Loan customers: [USDA Now Accepting Applications for Farm Loans Online | USDA](https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2023/12/05/usda-now-accepting-applications-farm-loans-online).  The online farm loan application replicates the support an applicant would receive when completing a loan application in person with an FSA Farm Loan Officer, while continuing to provide customers with one-on-one assistance as needed. This tool and other process improvements allow farmers and ranchers to submit complete loan applications and reduce the number of incomplete and withdrawn applications.Please note that the Windsor Group, in partnership with Cooperative Extension, has scheduled multiple technical assistance events for the 22007 Discrimination Financial Assistance Program:  <https://22007apply.gov/local-assistance.html#local-events>.  Application will be accepted through January 13, 2024.On behalf of Maine FSA, I wish you and your family a safe, happy, and healthy holiday.Text  Description automatically generated     Sherry Hamel, SED

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Tax Resources for USDA Program Participants**Navigating filing taxes can be challenging, especially if you are new to running a farm business, participating in disaster programs for first time, or trying to forecast the farm’s tax bill. Receiving funds from USDA through activities such as a conservation program payment or a disaster program is considered farm income that includes a tax liability for farm businesses. USDA technical assistance is free and creates no tax implications. At the end of the tax year, USDA issues tax forms 1098 and 1099 forms for farm loans, conservation programs administered by the Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service including the Conservation Reserve Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program, crop disaster payments, and the Market Facilitation Program. USDA also issues tax forms for recipients of assistance for distressed borrowers, including through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act. If you have received tax forms related to your operation, USDA cannot and does not provide tax advice but wants you to be aware of options that may help manage your tax liability. USDA has partnered with experts to provide resources to help you make the right tax decisions for your operation. Monthly webinars are available for registration and to view on demand at  <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/taxes>.  The [Tax Estimator Tool](https://extension.usu.edu/ruraltax/tax-estimator) is an interactive spreadsheet that producers can download to estimate tax liability. It is for informational and educational purposes and should not considered tax or legal advice. Producers may need to work with a tax professional to determine the correct information to be entered in the Tax Estimator Tool. We encourage you to visit <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/taxes> for more information on how to find and work with a tax preparer as well as instructions on how to request copies of USDA documents and links to other helpful tax resources.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**USDA Reminds Specialty Crop Growers of Deadline to Apply for Assistance for 2023 On-Farm Food Safety Expenses***Deadline for Calendar Year 2023 Applications is Jan. 31, 2024* The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds specialty crop growers that assistance is available for producers who incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses to obtain or renew a food safety certification through the Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) program. Producers can apply for assistance on their calendar year 2023 expenses through Jan. 31, 2024. **Program Details** FSCSC assists specialty crop operations that incurred eligible on-farm food safety certification and related expenses pertaining to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification in calendar year 2023. FSCSC covers a percentage of the specialty crop operation’s cost of obtaining or renewing its certification, as well as a portion of related expenses. To be eligible for FSCSC, the applicant must be a specialty crop operation; meet the definition of a small business or very small business; and have paid eligible expenses related to the 2023 certification. Specialty crop operations may receive assistance for the following costs: * Developing a food safety plan for first-time food safety certification.
* Maintaining or updating an existing food safety plan.
* Food safety certification.
* Certification upload fees.
* Microbiological testing for products, soil amendments and water.

FSCSC payments are calculated separately for each category of eligible costs. A higher payment rate has been set for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning and veteran farmers and ranchers. Details about the payment rates and limitations can be found at [farmers.gov/food-safety](http://www.farmers.gov/food-safety). **Applying for Assistance**The FSCSC application period for 2023 closes Jan. 31, 2024. FSA will issue payments after the application period closes. If calculated payments exceed the amount of available funding, payments will be prorated. Interested specialty crop producers can apply by completing the FSA-888, Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC) application. The application, along with other required documents, can be submitted to the FSA office at any USDA Service Center nationwide by mail, fax, hand delivery or via electronic means. Specialty crop producers can also call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to assist. Visit [farmers.gov/food-safety](http://www.farmers.gov/food-safety) for additional program details, eligibility information and forms needed to apply.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**USDA To Provide Additional Financial Assistance to Qualifying Guaranteed Farm Loan Borrowers Facing Financial Risk**The USDA announced it will begin providing additional, automatic financial assistance for qualifying guaranteed Farm Loan Programs (FLP) borrowers who are facing financial risk. The announcement is part of the $3.1 billion to help certain distressed farm loan borrowers that was provided through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act.Since the Inflation Reduction Act was signed into law by President Biden in August 2022, USDA has provided approximately $1.15 billion in assistance to more than 20,000 distressed borrowers as a part of an ongoing effort to keep borrowers farming, remove obstacles that currently prevent many borrowers from returning to their land, and improve the way that USDA approaches borrowing and loan servicing in the long-term. The financial assistance announced today will provide qualifying distressed guaranteed loan borrowers with financial assistance similar to what was already provided to distressed direct loan borrowers. Based on current analysis, the financial assistance announced today will assist an estimated approximately 3,500 eligible borrowers, subject to change as payments are finalized.    An FLP guaranteed loan borrower is distressed if they qualify under one of the options below. FLP guaranteed borrowers who qualify under multiple options will receive a payment based on the option that provides the greatest payment amount:Payment of any outstanding delinquency on all qualifying FLP guaranteed loans as of Oct. 18, 2022. This includes any guaranteed loan borrowers who did not receive an automatic payment in 2022 on that loan because they were not yet 60 days delinquent as of Sept. 30, 2022, as well as guaranteed borrowers that became delinquent on a qualifying FLP guaranteed loan between September 30, 2022, and Oct.18, 2022.  Payment on a qualifying FLP guaranteed loan for which a guaranteed loan borrower received a loan restructure, which modified the guaranteed loan maturity date, between March 1, 2020, and Aug. 11, 2023. The payment amount will be the lesser of the post-restructure annual installment or the amount required to pay the loan in full. The guaranteed loan must not have been paid in full prior to Aug. 11, 2023.Payments on certain deferred amounts on qualifying FLP guaranteed loans, not to exceed $100,000, for guaranteed borrowers who received a deferral or another type of payment extension, for at least 45 days, between March 1, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2022, from their guaranteed lender on that qualifying guaranteed loan in response to COVID-19, disasters, or other revenue shortfalls. The Inflation Reduction Act payment amount will be the lesser of the most recent deferral or extension amount on the qualifying FLP guaranteed loan, or the amount required to pay that loan in full. The guaranteed loan must not have been paid in full prior to Aug. 11, 2023.This assistance is only available for FLP guaranteed loan borrowers who did not or will not receive an initial payment on the same FLP guaranteed loan under Inflation Reduction Act assistance announced in October 2022.   Distressed guaranteed borrowers qualifying for this assistance will receive a United States Department of the Treasury check that is jointly payable to the borrower and the lender. These borrowers will also receive a letter from FSA informing them of Inflation Reduction Act assistance they will receive as well as instructions to make an appointment with their lender to process the payment and apply it to their qualifying guaranteed loan accounts. Guaranteed lenders will receive an email in the coming days informing them of this assistance and any next steps. Lenders will also receive letters informing them which borrowers will receive assistance and the amount of assistance they will receive.    Any distressed guaranteed borrowers who qualify for these forms of assistance and are currently in bankruptcy will be addressed using the same case-by-case review process announced in October 2022 for complex cases.    FSA will also provide relief to qualifying FLP guaranteed loan borrowers determined to be distressed borrowers based on liability for remaining federal debt subject to debt collection and garnishment after the liquidation of their guaranteed loan account as of July 31, 2023. This will allow some borrowers to potentially return to farming. Guaranteed borrowers who qualify for this assistance will have their federal debt paid automatically by FSA and will receive a letter informing them of the payment made on their federal debt.    All letters to qualifying guaranteed loan borrowers will contain instructions for opting out of assistance if a borrower chooses to do so. **Important Tax Information**   Similar to other USDA Inflation Reduction Act assistance, payments provided to borrowers and payments to be applied to FSA farm loan accounts will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Borrowers receiving this assistance will receive a 1099 form from FSA. Please note that payments over $600 are subject to Federal and State Income Taxes and will be reflected on your annual 1099 form. Borrowers are encouraged to consult a tax professional with all tax-related questions regarding any Inflation Reduction Act assistance received. USDA also has tax-related resources at farmers.gov/taxes.**Individual Requests for Farmers Seeking Assistance** In addition to the automatic payments announced today for distressed guaranteed loan borrowers, FSA continues to accept and review individual distressed borrower assistance requests from direct loan borrowers who missed a recent installment or are unable to make their next scheduled installment on a qualifying direct FLP loan. All FSA direct borrowers should have received a [letter](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/documents/farmersgov-letter-to-financially-distressed-borrowers.pdf) detailing the eligibility criteria and process for seeking this type of assistance, which is available even before they become delinquent. As the letter details, borrowers who are within two months of their next installment may seek a cash flow analysis from FSA using a recent balance sheet and operating plan to determine their eligibility. FSA direct borrowers also received a [letter](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/documents/farmersgov-letter-extraordinary-measures.pdf) detailing an opportunity to receive assistance if they took certain extraordinary measures to avoid delinquency on their qualifying direct FLP loans, such as taking on or refinancing more debt, selling property, or cashing out retirement or college savings accounts. Borrowers can submit requests for extraordinary measures or cash flow-based assistance in person at their local FSA office or by sending in a direct request using the farmers.gov 22006 assistance request portals at farmers.gov/loans/inflation-reduction-investments/assistance. All requests for assistance must be received by Dec. 31, 2023.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**USDA Makes Producer-Friendly Change to 2023 Notice of Loss Requirements for Two Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs**The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has waived certain notice of loss requirements for 2023 for the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-assist-for-livestock-honey-bees-fish/index) (ELAP) and [Livestock Indemnity Program](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-indemnity/index) (LIP). In an effort to streamline assistance to support access to critical 2023 natural disaster recovery assistance, USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) is waiving the requirement to submit ELAP or LIP notices of loss within a pre-determined number of days for 2023. Instead, producers have the flexibility to submit 2023 notices of loss as soon as possible, once losses are realized, following a natural disaster event or no later than the established annual program application for payment deadlines for each program. FSA county committees are also being asked to re-evaluate 2023 ELAP and LIP late-filed notices of loss to determine if the waiver applies.  **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish** ELAP provides recovery assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish losses due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including blizzards, disease, water shortages and wildfires. ELAP covers grazing and feed losses, transportation of water and feed to livestock and hauling livestock to grazing acres. ELAP also covers certain mortality losses for livestock including honeybees and farm-raised fish as well as honeybee hive losses. ELAP is designed to address losses not covered by other FSA disaster assistance programs.  For 2023, FSA is waiving the regulatory requirement for producers who are eligible for ELAP to file a notice of loss with FSA within 30 calendar days from when the loss first became apparent for livestock and farm-raised fish and 15 calendar days for honeybees. Under this waiver, notices of loss are to be completed by the eligible producer and submitted to FSA no later than the annual program application deadline of January 30 following the program year in which the loss occurred. Therefore, producers who incurred ELAP-eligible losses in 2023, will need to submit a notice of loss by Jan. 30, 2024. **Livestock Indemnity Program** LIP provides disaster recovery assistance to livestock owners and contract growers who experience livestock deaths, in excess of normal mortality caused by eligible loss conditions including adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators. LIP also helps livestock owners who must sell livestock at a reduced price because of an injury from certain loss conditions. For 2023, FSA is waiving the regulatory requirement for producers who are eligible for LIP to file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days from when the loss first became apparent. Under this waiver, producers are still required to complete and submit the notice of loss to FSA no later than the annual program payment application date, which is 60 calendar days following the program year in which the loss occurred. The LIP payment application and notice of loss deadline is Feb. 29, 2024, for the 2023 program year.  **2023 Disapproved Applications** FSA county committees will review all notices of loss for both ELAP and LIP that were previously disapproved for the 2023 program year due to late filing and re-evaluate them to determine if the waiver applies. To receive ELAP and LIP benefits, producers will still need to file an application for payment by the established program deadline for the 2023 program year. Producers who are unsure about the status of their notice of loss or application for payment, should contact their local FSA county office as soon as possible. **Supporting Documentation** Accurate records and loss documentation are critical following disaster events and are required when filing notices of loss with FSA. Acceptable loss documentation includes:  * Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock that have died, supplemented, if possible, by photographs or video records of ownership and losses.
* Rendering truck receipts by kind, type, and weight - important to document prior to disposal.
* Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts.
* Documentation from Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Natural Resources, or other sources to substantiate eligible death losses due to an eligible loss condition.
* Documentation that livestock were removed from grazing pastures due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition.
* Costs of transporting livestock feed to eligible livestock, such as receipts for equipment rental fees for hay lifts and snow removal.
* Feed purchase receipts if feed supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed.
* Number of gallons of water transported to livestock due to water shortages.

**More Information** The improvements to ELAP and LIP build on others made since 2021. This includes ELAP benefits for above normal costs for hauling feed and water to livestock and transporting livestock to other grazing acres during a qualifying drought. FSA also [expanded eligible livestock](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2023/usda-expands-eligibility-enhances-benefits-for-key-disaster-programs) under ELAP, LIP, and the Livestock Forage Disaster Assistance Program, and increased the LIP payment rate for beef, beefalo, bison, and dairy animals less than 250 pounds and most recently beef calves over 800 pounds. Learn about USDA disaster assistance programs on [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery).  On [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov/), the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/disaster-tool), [Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/farmersgov-disaster-assistance-brochure-07-21-2022.pdf) and [Loan Assistance Tool](https://lat.fpac.usda.gov/) can help producers and landowners determine [disaster protection and recovery](https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery) program or loan options. For more information about FSA programs, contact your local [USDA Service Center](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator).

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Inflation Reduction Act Section 22006 Assistance for Distressed Borrowers**The Inflation Reduction Act provided $3.1 billion for USDA to provide relief for distressed borrowers with certain Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct and guaranteed loans and to expedite assistance for those whose agricultural operations are at financial risk.Since October 2022, USDA has provided approximately $1.5 billion in immediate assistance to more than 25,000 financially distressed direct and guaranteed FSA loan borrowers.FSA is currently accepting and reviewing individual requests for assistance from borrowers who took certain extraordinary measures to avoid delinquency on their direct FSA loans and those who missed a recent installment or who are unable to make their next scheduled installment.FSA direct loan borrowers with qualifying farm loans who are unable to pay their upcoming installments or have already missed a recent installment payment can request a cash flow analysis from FSA using a recent balance sheet and operating plan to determine their eligibility. This assistance is currently limited to installments due Aug. 1, 2022, through Jan. 15, 2024. Assistance is also available for borrowers who took certain extraordinary measures between Feb. 28, 2020, through Oct. 18, 2022, to avoid delinquency on their loans, such as monetizing long term or essential assets, incurring additional non-FSA debt, or deferring other essential payments, resulting in reduced farm and household viability.All requests for assistance must be received by **Dec. 31, 2023**. For more information, or to submit a request for assistance, producers can contact their local [USDA Service Center](http://www.farmers.gov/service-locator) or visit [farmers.gov/inflation-reduction-investments/assistance](http://www.farmers.gov/inflation-reduction-investments/assistance).

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early**The Farm Loan teams in Maine are already working on operating loans for spring 2024 and asks potential borrowers to submit their requests early so they can be timely processed. The farm loan team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants. FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional **farm operating** **and farm ownership loans** can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year. **Microloans**are a simplified loan program that will provide up to $50,000 for both Farm Ownership and Operating Microloans to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new operation, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation.  Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.Other types of loans available include:**Marketing Assistance Loans** allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.  **Farm Storage Facility Loans** can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures, and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to $500,000 per loan**.**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**FSA Offers Safety Net Programs for Honeybee Producers**The Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers two programs that have specific safety net benefits for producers of honeybees and honey. The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) assist producers when disasters impact honey production or damage or destroy colonies, hives or honeybee feed.NAP is designed to reduce financial losses when natural disasters result in lower yields or crop losses, including honey. NAP coverage is equivalent to catastrophic insurance, meaning it covers up to 50 percent of a producer’s normal yield (must have at least a 50 percent loss) at 55 percent of the average market price. The 2018 Farm Bill reinstates higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the “buy-up” option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production. The NAP service fee is the lesser of $325 per crop or $825 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of $1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. You must apply for NAP coverage by **Dec 31** prior to the year for which you’re seeking coverage.ELAP covers colony losses, honeybee hive losses (the physical structure) and honeybee feed losses in instances where the colony, hive or feed has been destroyed by a natural disaster or, in the case of colony losses, because of Colony Collapse Disorder. Colony losses must be in excess of normal mortality.Both the NAP and ELAP programs require you to report the number of colonies you have in production to FSA by **Jan. 2, 2024**. You must notify FSA within 30 calendar days of changes in the total number of colonies or when honeybees are moved to another county. For both programs, you must notify FSA within 15 calendar days of when a loss occurs or from when the loss is apparent.  To learn more about programs for honey and honeybee producers, contact your local USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/).

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any meeting/event/function should contact Mary Anne Coffin at 207-990-9140 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

 |
|  |
| Icon  Description automatically generated**Maine /USDA Service Center**967 Illinois AvenueBangor, ME  04401

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Farm Service Agency**Sherry Hamel, 207-990-9140State Executive Director sherry.hamel@usda.govWebsite:  www.fsa.usda.gov/me |  **Natural Resources Conservation Service**Matt Walker, 207- 990-9585State Conservationist matt.walker@usda.govWebsite:  [www.me.nrcs.usda.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.me.nrcs.usda.gov%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cecf13b99f97a4d0461ef08d95e52a382%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637644531287399906%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=k%2FGUSE%2BxyQzc6mcY5FvrM%2FFlsnwWF9VVXRug3AOENBE%3D&reserved=0)  |
|   |   |
|   |   |
|   |   |

  |

 |