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| US Department of Agriculture |
| **Maine USDA Service Center Newsletter**  February 2023 |
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| [**Farm Service Agency**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffsa.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868511424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cg8lhyZhNplaJGRhnvqF1lV3xr3fVOe4k6y8bqQYcPw%3D&reserved=0)**|**[**Natural Resources Conservation Service**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fwps%2Fportal%2Fnrcs%2Fsite%2Fnational%2Fhome%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868511424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YZcLYspIlFjaK8zIq276O4voZpaT0mI%2BmlofvNalGAc%3D&reserved=0)**|**[**Risk Management Agency**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frma.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868511424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=av%2F6A54ClcOF2DQ%2F%2F15UrtjC%2Fs8ysv3d%2Bb49buTYDSc%3D&reserved=0) |
| In This Issue:  * [The Maine Message](#link_6) * [Dates to Remember](#link_7) * [Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early](#link_9) * [Rolling Out Revenue Based Disaster and Pandemic Assistance Programs](#link_5) * [Preauthorized Debit Available for Farm Loan Borrowers](#link_4) * [FSA is Accepting CRP Continuous Enrollment Offers](#link_1) * [SCORE Matches Producers to Mentors](#link_3) * [Transitioning Expiring CRP Land to Beginning, Veteran or Underserved Farmers and Ranchers](#link_2)  The Maine Message As we roll into 2023, the Biden-Harris administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Production and Conservation Business Center (FPAC) continues its strong support of mission delivery for USDA’s farmer-facing agencies, including managing the pandemic to ensure safety of staff and office visitors, improving self-service and on-line options for agriculture producers, working to assist distressed borrowers, improving land access for underserved producers and providing disaster assistance and relief for those impacted by natural disasters.  Most recently, on February 7, 2023, the USDA announced a  [Simplified Direct Loan 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_campaign%3D0207simplified-dl%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868511424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fZFb6pfMrvtdWZ%2Fb09p2%2FZiFCnqJY0XM4bQpbQVIoTs%3D&reserved=0) process to provide improved customer experience for producers applying for loans from the FSA. The simplified direct loan application enables producers to complete a more streamlined application, reduced from 29 to 13 pages. Producers will have the option to complete an electronic fillable form or prepare a traditional, paper application for submission to their local FSA farm loan office.  Two weeks ahead of the original release date, the paper and electronic versions of form FSA 2001 are available now at the [FSA Public Forms Site](https://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eForms/welcomeAction.do?Home=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  As a reminder, if you have not already done so, it is NOT too late to respond to the 2022 Census of Agriculture.  We encourage all agriculture producers to take a few minutes to respond as this information is often considered when  developing and implementing new programs.  The survey can be completed here: [http://www.agcounts.usda.gov/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.agcounts.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868511424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Xya66DMYg4SMCn5LQ18Y8XkpKr%2BnZjMnJdWHX%2BWuMos%3D&reserved=0).  Please review the upcoming program deadlines listed below and reach out to your local FSA office if you have any question or would like further information.  As always, if you are aware of any agricultural event where you would like to have FSA representation, please let us know.  Sherry Hamel signature file  **Sherry Hamel, State Executive Director**   Dates to Remember  |  |  | | --- | --- | | March 15 | [ARCPLC](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2F2022%2Ffsa_arc_plc_factsheet_101922.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868511424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=SXOs5hUkIfjZD6oxmehrnFZ9fwETogu21kdPXQTCLZY%3D&reserved=0) Enrollment Deadline | | March 15 | NAP Coverage Deadline for Spring Seeded Crops | | March 17 | Agricultural Conservation Easement Program [ALE Agriculture Land Easements](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fprograms-initiatives%2Fale-agricultural-land-easements%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868511424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ctuIxiOV9ExpB6IqTLLzw0gs2qOQ4rwpLoQu4CiGaPc%3D&reserved=0) and [Wetland Reserve Easements](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fprograms-initiatives%2Fwre-wetland-reserve-easements%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868511424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4UjTJvM6X5z4VHOIXzHeI3eya3WR1m5cDx0%2FPqfU4zE%3D&reserved=0) | | June 2 | [Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2F2023%2Ffsa_erp_factsheet_22.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868511424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rx9HynJCmeKESM1iuRuYtE1RMK09qyKBh25RMMf21is%3D&reserved=0)   and  [Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/documents/farmersgov-parp-factsheet.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) |    Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early  |  | | --- | | The Farm Loan team in [Name] County is already working on operating loans for spring 202# 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**.** |  Rolling Out Revenue Based Disaster and Pandemic Assistance Programs Beginning January 23, 2023, agricultural producers can begin to apply for two new important programs for revenue losses, from 2020 and 2021 natural disasters or the COVID-19 pandemic. Both programs equitably fill gaps in earlier assistance.  First, you may be eligible for assistance through 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%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868511424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UZqDGhopHtTVPOGJJizn%2FB%2FpBTud3JYm4Mp2pr8opgo%3D&reserved=0) Phase Two if you experienced revenue losses from eligible natural disasters in 2020 and 2021. ERP Phase Two is for producers who didn’t receive assistance from ERP Phase One.  You may also be eligible for the [Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP)](https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/parp-relief/index?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) if you experienced revenue losses in calendar year 2020. PARP is addressing gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses.  Applications for both new programs are due June 2, 2023, and you can apply for both programs during your same appointment with USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA).  Historically, FSA programs have been designed to make direct payments to producers based on a single disaster event or for a single commodity loss. For many of you, this may be the first revenue-based program that you’ve applied for with FSA.  **Why revenue-based programs?**   ERP Phase Two and PARP take a much more holistic approach to disaster assistance, ensuring that producers not just make it through a single growing season but have the financial stability to invest in the long-term well-being of their operations and employees.  In general, ERP Phase Two payments are based on the difference in allowable gross revenue between a benchmark year, representing a typical year of revenue for the producer and the disaster year – designed to target the remaining needs of producers impacted by qualifying natural disasters and avoid duplicative payments. ERP Phase Two revenue loss is based on tax years.  For PARP, an agricultural producer must have been in the business of farming during at least part of the 2020 calendar year and had a decrease in revenue for the 2020 calendar year, as compared to a typical year. PARP revenue loss is based on calendar years.  **How to Apply**   In preparation for enrollment, producers should gather supporting documentation including:   * 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.   Producers should also have, or be prepared to have, the following forms on file for both ERP and PARP program participation:   * Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet (as applicable to the program participant); * Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity; * Form CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities (if applicable); and * Form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification. * Form CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification, as certain existing permanent and ad-hoc disaster programs provide increased benefits or reduced fees and premiums.   Most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, will likely have these required forms on file. However, those who are uncertain or want to confirm should contact FSA at their local [USDA Service Center](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  **Yes, FSA is stepping outside of the box.**  FSA is a big proponent of agricultural producers having a say in the design, implementation and delivery of the programs that directly impact their livelihoods. We also believe that some of the most creative and useful ideas for program and process improvements come from the FSA employees who administer this assistance through our network of more than 2,100 county offices. We want to thank producers across the country, along with the entire FSA workforce, for not just thinking outside of the box but also providing their input to make sure that we can improve and enhance our programs and our approach to assistance to better and more efficiently serve all producers who need our help.  Please visit your local USDA Service Center for more information on ERP Phase Two, PARP and our full portfolio of conservation, prices support, safety-net, credit and disaster assistance programs. Preauthorized Debit Available for Farm Loan Borrowers USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) has implemented pre-authorized debit (PAD) for Farm Loan Program (FLP) borrowers. PAD is a voluntary and alternative method for making weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments on loans.  PAD payments are pre-authorized transactions that allow the National Financial and Accounting Operations Center (NFAOC) to electronically collect loan payments from a customer’s account at a financial institution.  PAD may be useful if you use nonfarm income from regular wages or salary to make payments on loans or adjustment offers or for payments from seasonal produce stands. PAD can only be established for future payments.  To request PAD, customers, along with their financial institution, must fill out form RD 3550-28. This form has no expiration date, but a separate form RD 3550-28 must be completed for each loan to which payments are to be applied. A fillable form can be accessed on the USDA Rural Development (RD) website at [rd.usda.gov/publications/regulations-guidelines](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rd.usda.gov%2Fpage%2Fregulations-and-guidance%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868511424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Bw7bHQsXl4kIybxbTWX52ScOrtuO4IXHX4nB8s1ffXM%3D&reserved=0). Click forms and search for “Form 3550-28.”  If you have a “filter” on the account at your financial institution, you will need to provide the financial institution with the following information: Origination ID: 1220040804, Agency Name: USDA RD DCFO.  PAD is offered by FSA at no cost. Check with your financial institution to discuss any potential cost. Preauthorized debit has no expiration date, but you can cancel at any time by submitting a written request to your local FSA office. If a preauthorized debit agreement receives three payment rejections within a three-month period, the preauthorized debit agreement will be cancelled by FSA. The payment amount and due date of your loan is not affected by a cancellation of preauthorized debit. You are responsible to ensure your full payment is made by the due date.  For more information about PAD, contact your local County USDA Service Center  or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868667642%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3udQqIRKJDbWyJm6UzE3L3xeXELKRo09j5SMnnFxulM%3D&reserved=0).   FSA is Accepting CRP Continuous Enrollment Offers The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for specific conservation practices under the [Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous Signup](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2Fcrp-continuous-enrollment-period-factsheet.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868667642%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=MwtX4i9rDFb%2F%2B2Ktyc%2Fp%2F0tGuH%2BrCNYJBCD5p09r47k%3D&reserved=0).  In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and to plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. The program’s long-term goal is to re-establish valuable land cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length.  Under continuous CRP signup, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods. Instead they are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.  For more information, including a list of acceptable practices, contact your local County USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov/crp](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fconservation-programs%2Fconservation-reserve-program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868667642%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VVEeHh%2F1pcFxT92ay7tsPcQ4h%2BbMhf7sSdsbenPwCNs%3D&reserved=0). SCORE Matches Producers to Mentors If you are a farmer or rancher, or have agricultural or business experience, join us in supporting the next generation and in investing in your local community. Your experiences and knowledge as a business owner, agricultural professional, or farmer can provide vital support to your community.  SCORE – score.org - the nation's largest network of volunteer, expert business mentors, is looking to expand the field of available agricultural mentors and provide free business mentoring to farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural and rural business owners.  SCORE is currently looking for volunteers with experience in an agriculture-related field who would like to become part of an extended field of volunteers. The organization’s Orientation and Mentoring Certification program provides volunteers with everything needed to be a successful volunteer. Training includes background about SCORE’s mission and services, as well as guidance on how to be a business mentor, including enhancement of listening, interviewing and problem-solving skills.  Current mentors have backgrounds in finance, accounting, marketing, operations, business and financial planning. The mentors provide local expertise and free one-on-one business mentoring to new and existing farmers and business owners. Together they work through the process of starting or maintaining agricultural and rural businesses. No matter what stage a business is in, SCORE volunteer mentors can help in developing business plans, navigating financing and legal issues, identifying new markets, and other topics, in order to help their clients succeed.  Learn more and sign up to become a mentor today at [score.org/usda](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.score.org%2Fusda%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868667642%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eUvrnzzpniPrQ0e9Fm58Xblh1asz7qaOg8TJ148DwW0%3D&reserved=0).   Transitioning Expiring CRP Land to Beginning, Veteran or Underserved Farmers and Ranchers CRP contract holders are encouraged to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning, veteran or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers through the Transition Incentives Program (TIP). TIP provides annual rental payments to the landowner or operator for up to two additional years after the CRP contract expires.  CRP contract holders no longer need to be a retired or retiring owner or operator to transition their land. TIP participants must agree to sell, have a contract to sell, or agree to lease long term (at least five years) land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who is not a family member.  Beginning, veteran or social disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and CRP participants may enroll in TIP beginning two years before the expiration date of the CRP contract. The TIP application must be submitted prior to completing the lease or sale of the affected lands. New landowners or renters that return the land to production must use sustainable grazing or farming methods.  For more information, contact your local County USDA Service Center  or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868667642%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3udQqIRKJDbWyJm6UzE3L3xeXELKRo09j5SMnnFxulM%3D&reserved=0).    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. |
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| |  | | --- | |  |   Maine /USDA Service Center 967 Illinois Avenue Bangor, ME  04401     |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Farm Service Agency**  Sherry Hamel, 207-990-9140  State Executive Director  [sherry.hamel@usda.gov](mailto:sherry.hamel@usda.gov)  Website:  [www.fsa.usda.gov/me](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/me) | **Natural Resources Conservation Service**  Matt Walker, 207- 990-9585  State Conservationist [matt.walker@usda.gov](mailto:matt.walker@usda.gov)  Website:  [www.me.nrcs.usda.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.me.nrcs.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7C6c0cd5a60d70466130b708db1030c439%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638121573868667642%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bDUKBDfLP%2Ft%2FLDBOCivY932MA22epjEHnBKgPYPrVQQ%3D&reserved=0) | |  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |