



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA News - Lone Star State Edition - December 20, 2022

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From the FSA State Executive Director



Happy Holidays! We have quickly made it to the end of another year, and I continue to be humbled with this opportunity to serve producers across Texas. I hope that you enjoy this time with family and friends, reflecting on all that we have been blessed with and overcome during the past year.

I want to remind you all of a few programs notes in this year-end message.

[Agriculture Risk Coverage \(ARC\) and Price Loss Coverage \(PLC\)](#) enrollment for crop year 2023 is open. I am encouraging you to contact your

local USDA Service Centers to make or change elections and to enroll for 2023, providing future protections against market fluctuations. The election and enrollment period runs through March 15, 2023.

Drought conditions are prevalent across Texas and impacting livestock producers. The [Livestock Forage Disaster Program \(LFP\)](#) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses, due to qualifying drought conditions. 245 counties are eligible to apply for assistance on various grass types for 2022 losses. If you have not applied or contacted your local office regarding LFP assistance, the deadline to apply is Jan. 30, 2023. Visit the [FSA Texas webpage](#) for a list of eligible counties and grazing crops.

The [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#) also offers assistance to eligible livestock producers to cover transportation of water to livestock, above normal costs of mileage for transporting feed to livestock, and above normal costs of transporting livestock to forage or grazing acres. Producers must file notice of loss **within 30 calendar days** of a loss being apparent by contacting your local FSA office.

USDA also extended the deadline for 2023 enrollment in the [Dairy Margin Coverage \(DMC\)](#) and [Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage](#) programs until Jan. 31, 2023. Markets fluctuate, sometimes at a moment's notice and sometimes with no warning at all, so now's the time to ensure your operation is covered. Please don't let this second chance slide.

Finally, USDA recently announced the nationwide farmer, rancher and forest manager prospective customer survey. This survey will provide USDA with critical data to inform how we can best meet America's agricultural needs, now and in the future. Responding to this survey will directly enhance customer experience at FSA, NRCS and RMA. These agencies support farmers, ranchers and forest managers to protect and enhance the natural resources vital to our nation. I would appreciate your feedback by completing the survey at [farmers.gov/survey](#).

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Kelly Adkins
State Executive Director
Farm Service Agency - Texas

From the NRCS State Conservationist

In 2022, NRCS Texas obligated approximately \$104 million in Farm Bill conservation programs to apply conservation measures on nearly 2.5 million acres of Texas farms, ranches, and family forests. Voluntary conservation is making a positive impact on our soil and water resources, and we stand ready to provide more technical and financial assistance in 2023.

In 2022 NRCS Texas also funded eight agreements through the Texas Partners for Conservation Program. The conservation



HAPPY
Holidays

partnerships with the Hill Country Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, GROW North Texas, the City of San Elizario, Wildlife Habitat Federation, Texas Women In Agriculture, Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers CBO, and the National Association of RC&D Councils will leverage NRCS resources, address local natural resource issues, encourage collaboration, and develop state and community level conservation leadership.

We also recently announced the Fiscal Year 2023 funding signup for [Conservation Incentive Contracts](#) (CIC), a new option available through the [Environmental Quality Incentive](#) Program (EQIP). EQIP-CIC expands resource benefits for Texas producers through incentive conservation practices such as wildlife management, cover crops, nutrient management, conservation crop rotations, and prescribed grazing. Texas NRCS will offer funding through two separate initiatives:

- Climate Smart Agriculture and Wildlife Initiative – available statewide prioritizing applications that address wildlife habitat and climate smart agriculture practices, as well as those addressing resource concerns on expired Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands.
- Piney Woods Restoration Initiative – available for applicants in East Texas to help restore declining Piney Woods Habitat.

While applications for EQIP are accepted throughout the year, interested producers should submit applications to their local NRCS office by January 6, 2023, to be considered for the 2023 ranking funding period.

Finally, in case you missed it, the nationwide [Farmer, Rancher and Forest Manager Prospective Customer survey](#) will be available online through March 31, 2023.

FSA, NRCS and RMA support agriculture by helping farmers, ranchers and forest managers leverage natural resources and mitigate the significant risks of farming through crop insurance, conservation programs, farm safety net programs, lending, and disaster programs. Your survey feedback will help USDA learn ways to enhance our support, improve our programs and services, and increase access and advance equity for new and existing customers.

In addition to the online survey, the FPAC Business Center, which is administering the survey, will also mail 11,000 printed surveys to various local state stakeholder organizations and farmers markets.

The survey is available in 14 different languages including Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Hmong, Korean, Navajo, Punjabi, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Urdu, and Vietnamese, so I encourage our stakeholder organizations to share the survey link through your networks.

Sincerely,

Kristy Oates
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service - Texas

Farmers Can Now Make 2023 Crop Year Elections, Enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs

Agricultural producers can now change election and enroll in the [Agriculture Risk Coverage \(ARC\) and Price Loss Coverage](#) programs for the 2023 crop year, two key safety net programs offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Producers have until March 15, 2023, to enroll in these two programs. Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has started issuing payments totaling more than \$255 million to producers with 2021 crops that have triggered payments through ARC or PLC.

2023 Elections and Enrollment

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County (ARC-CO) or PLC, which provide crop-by-crop protection, or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC), which protects the entire farm. Although election changes for 2023 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2023, they must sign a new contract.

If producers do not submit their election by the March 15, 2023 deadline, their election remains the same as their 2022 election for crops on the farm. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Web-Based Decision Tools

In partnership with USDA, the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University offer web-based decision tools to assist producers in making informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. Tools include:

- [Gardner-farmdoc Payment Calculator](#), a tool available through the University of Illinois allows producers to estimate payments for farms and counties for ARC-CO and PLC.
- [ARC and PLC Decision Tool](#), a tool available through Texas A&M that allows producers to obtain basic information regarding the decision and factors that should be taken into consideration such as future commodity prices and historic yields to estimate payments for 2022.

2021 Payments and Contracts

ARC and PLC payments for a given crop year are paid out the following fall to allow actual county yields and the Market Year Average prices to be finalized. This month, FSA processed payments to producers enrolled in 2021 ARC-CO, ARC-IC and PLC for covered commodities that triggered for the crop year.

For ARC-CO, producers can view the [2021](#) ARC-CO Benchmark Yields and Revenues online database, for payment rates applicable to their county and each covered commodity. For PLC, payments have triggered for rapeseed and peanuts.

For ARC-IC, producers should contact their local FSA office for additional information pertaining to 2021 payment information, which relies on producer-specific yields for the crop and farm to determine benchmark yields and actual year yields when calculating revenues.

By the Numbers

In 2021, producers signed nearly 1.8 million ARC or PLC contracts, and 251 million out of 273 million base acres were enrolled in the programs. For the 2022 crop year signed contracts surpassed 1.8 million, to be paid in the fall of 2023, if a payment triggers.

Since ARC and PLC were first authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and reauthorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, these safety-net programs have paid out more than \$34.9 billion to producers of covered commodities.

Crop Insurance Considerations

ARC and PLC are part of a broader safety net provided by USDA, which also includes crop insurance and marketing assistance loans.

Producers are reminded that ARC and PLC elections and enrollments can impact eligibility for some crop insurance products.

Producers on farms with a PLC election have the option of purchasing Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through their Approved Insurance Provider; however, producers on farms where ARC is the election are ineligible for SCO on their planted acres for that crop on that farm.

Unlike SCO, the Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) is unaffected by an ARC election. Producers may add ECO regardless of the farm program election.

Upland cotton farmers who choose to enroll seed cotton base acres in ARC or PLC are ineligible for the stacked income protection plan (STAX) on their planted cotton acres for that farm.

More Information

For more information on ARC and PLC, visit the [ARC and PLC webpage](#) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

USDA's Farm Service Agency Accepting Offers for State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Initiatives

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for the Conservation Reserve Program's (CRP) [State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement](#) (SAFE) Initiatives. In Texas, producers may be eligible to participate in the

Prairie SAFE Project or the Lower Rio Grande Valley Thornscurb SAFE Project. These SAFE projects are available through CRP's Continuous Signup.

Prairie SAFE Project

The goal of the Prairie SAFE Project is to reconnect geographically and reproductively isolated populations of Lesser Prairie Chickens, Northern Bobwhite and other grassland species by creating, restoring, and maintain 250,000 acres of native prairie habitat patches and corridors.

Potential benefits of Prairie SAFE include habitat restoration for grassland wildlife, improving water and air quality, improving plant health, erosion and runoff prevention, and water quality and aquifer recharge improvement.

Farmers and landowners in these 71 counties may offer eligible land for enrollment:

Andrews	Crosby	Hansford	Lynn	Stonewall
Archer	Dallam	Hardeman	Martin	Swisher
Armstrong	Dawson	Hartley	Mitchell	Taylor
Bailey	Deaf Smith	Haskell	Moore	Terry
Baylor	Dickens	Hemphill	Motley	Throckmorton
Borden	Donely	Hockley	Nolan	Tom Green
Briscoe	Fisher	Howard	Ochiltree	Wheeler
Carson	Floyd	Hutchinson	Oldham	Wichita
Castro	Foard	Jones	Parmer	Wilbarger
Childress	Gaines	Kent	Potter	Yoakum
Clay	Garza	King	Randall	Young
Cochran	Glasscock	Knox	Roberts	
Collingsworth	Gray	Lamb	Runnels	
Concho	Hale	Lipscomb	Scurry	
Cottle	Hall	Lubbock	Sherman	

For accepted offers, a wildlife conservation plan must be developed.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Thornscurb SAFE Project

Participation in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Thornscurb SAFE project allows landowners to restore Tamaulipan thornscurb habitat for the endangered ocelot and other wildlife species by creating and maintaining 5,000 acres of native woody shrub and grassland habitat.

Potential benefits of this SAFE project include increasing in ocelot use of established acreage, increasing bird guild use of established acreage, increasing corridors and connectivity between habitat patches, improving air quality and soil health by preventing wind erosion, and reducing irrigation needs for enrolled cropland.

Farmers and landowners in these five counties may offer eligible land for enrollment: Cameron, Hidalgo, Kenedy, Starr and Willacy counties.

Eligibility

CRP enrolls existing cropland into conservation cover. Land offered for enrollment must satisfy basic CRP eligibility and cropping history requirements. Farmers and landowners should check with their local FSA office to determine individual eligibility.

Financial Assistance

The CRP program pays a yearly rental payment in exchange for farmers and landowners removing environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and planting species that will improve environmental quality.

Financial assistance through the SAFE projects may include:

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments
- Payments of up to 50% cost-share for practice establishment
- Practices enrolled through CRP Continuous Sign-up will also receive:
 - A 50% Practice Incentive Payment
 - Sign-up Incentive Payment equal to 32.5% of first full year's annual rental payment
 - A Climate Smart Annual Practice Incentive of 3, 5, or 10 based on the practice cover
- Payments up to 90% of established Soil Rental Rate may be possible for:
 - Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds
 - Permanent Wildlife Habitat
 - Rare and Declining Habitat (Primarily Grasses and Trees)

More Information

Farmers and landowners interested in learning more about these CRP SAFE Initiative projects can contact their local [USDA Service Center](#) for more information. Prairie SAFE Project and Lower Rio Grande Valley Thornscrub SAFE Project fact sheets can also be found online at fsa.usda.gov/tx. Offers are accepted year-round for CRP Continuous.

These CRP SAFE Initiative projects were developed in coordination with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, American Forests, Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, and Rio Grande Joint Venture.

2023 Dairy Margin Coverage Deadline Extended – Jan. 31, 2023, Last Day to Enroll

the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended the deadline for producers to enroll in [Dairy Margin Coverage \(DMC\)](#) and [Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage \(SDMC\)](#) for program year 2023 to Jan. 31, 2023.

DMC is a voluntary risk management program that offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

Early projections indicate DMC payments are likely to trigger for the first eight months in 2023. Markets fluctuate, sometimes at a moment's notice and sometimes with no warning at all, so now's the time to ensure your operation is covered. Please don't let this second chance slide.

Nearly 18,000 operations that enrolled in DMC for 2022 have received margin payments for August and September for a total of \$76.3 million. At \$0.15 per hundredweight for \$9.50 coverage, risk coverage through DMC is a relatively inexpensive investment.

DMC offers different levels of coverage, even an option that is free to producers, aside from a \$100 administrative fee. Limited resource, beginning, socially disadvantaged, and military veteran farmers and ranchers are exempt from paying the administrative fee, if requested. To determine the appropriate level of DMC coverage for a specific dairy operation, producers can use the online [dairy decision tool](#).

Supplemental DMC

Last year, USDA introduced Supplemental DMC, which provided \$42.8 million in payments to better help small- and mid-sized dairy operations that had increased production over the years but were not able to enroll the additional production. Supplemental DMC is also available for 2023. The enrollment period for 2023 Supplemental DMC is also extended to Jan. 31, 2023.

Supplemental DMC coverage is applicable to calendar years 2021, 2022 and 2023. Eligible dairy operations with less than 5 million pounds of established production history may enroll supplemental pounds.

For producers who enrolled in Supplemental DMC in 2022, the supplemental coverage will automatically be added to the 2023 DMC contract that previously established a supplemental production history.

Producers who did not enroll in Supplemental DMC in 2022 can do so now. Producers should complete their Supplemental DMC enrollment before enrolling in 2023 DMC. To enroll, producers will need to provide their 2019 actual milk marketings, which FSA uses to determine established production history.

DMC Payments

FSA will continue to calculate DMC payments using updated feed and premium hay costs, making the program more reflective of actual dairy producer expenses. These updated feed calculations use 100% premium alfalfa hay rather than 50%.

For more information on DMC, visit the [DMC webpage](#) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov).

USDA Announces Assistance for On-Farm Food Safety Expenses for Specialty Crop Growers

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) plans to provide up to \$200 million in assistance for specialty crop producers who incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses to obtain or renew a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 or 2023. USDA's new [Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops](#) (FSCSC) program will help to offset costs for specialty crop producers to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements, which is part of USDA's broader effort to transform the food system to create a more level playing field for small and medium producers and a more balanced, equitable economy for everyone working in food and agriculture.

Specialty crop operations can apply for assistance for eligible expenses related to a 2022 food safety certificate issued on or after June 21, 2022, beginning June 27, 2022. USDA is delivering FSCSC to provide critical assistance for specialty crop operations, with an emphasis on equity in program delivery while building on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain disruptions. Vilsack made the announcement from Hollis, N.H., where he toured a local, family-owned farm and highlighted USDA's efforts to help reduce costs for farmers and support local economies by providing significant funding to cut regulatory costs and increase market opportunities for farmers in New Hampshire and across the nation.

Program Details

FSCSC will assist specialty crop operations that incurred eligible on-farm food safety certification and related expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 and 2023. For each year, FSCSC covers a percentage of the specialty crop operation's cost of obtaining or renewing their certification, as well as a portion of their 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 2022 (issued on or after June 21, 2022) or 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.

Applying for Assistance

The FSCSC application period for 2022 is June 27, 2022, through January 31, 2023, and the application period for 2023 will be announced at a later date. FSA will issue payments at the time of application approval for 2022 and after the application period ends for 2023. 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.

Producers can visit farmers.gov/food-safety for additional program details, eligibility information and forms needed to apply.

Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation

Farmers and ranchers can use the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* on farmers.gov to find information on USDA farm loans that may best fit their operations

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a variety of loan options to help farmers finance their operations. From buying land to financing the purchase of equipment, FSA loans can help.

USDA conducted field research in eight states, gathering input from farmers and FSA farm loan staff to better understand their needs and challenges.

How the Tool Works

Farmers who are looking for financing options to operate a farm or buy land can answer a few simple questions about what they are looking to fund and how much money they need to borrow. After submitting their answers, farmers will receive information on farm loans that best fit their specific needs. The loan application and additional resources also will be provided.

Farmers can download application quick guides that outline what to expect from preparing an application to receiving a loan decision. There are four guides that cover loans to individuals, entities, and youth, as well as information on microloans. The guides include general eligibility

requirements and a list of required forms and documentation for each type of loan. These guides can help farmers prepare before their first USDA service center visit with a loan officer.

Farmers can access the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* by visiting farmers.gov/fund and clicking the “Start” button. Follow the prompts and answer five simple questions to receive loan information that is applicable to your agricultural operation. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.

About Farmers.gov

In 2018, USDA unveiled farmers.gov, a dynamic, mobile-friendly public website combined with an authenticated portal where farmers will be able to apply for programs, process transactions, and manage accounts.

The *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* is one of many resources on farmers.gov to help connect farmers to information that can help their operations. Earlier this year, USDA launched the *My Financial Information* feature, which enables farmers to view their loan information, history, payments, and alerts by logging into the website.

USDA is building farmers.gov for farmers, by farmers. In addition to the interactive farm loan features, the site also offers a Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool. Farmers can visit farmers.gov/recover/disaster-assistance-tool#step-1 to find disaster assistance programs that can help their operation recover from natural disasters.

For more information, contact your local USDA Service Center or visit farmers.gov.

Ask the Expert: A Farm Operating Loan Q&A with Jack Carlile

In this Ask the Expert, Jack Carlile, Farm Loan Manager for the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), answers questions about farm operating loans and when producers should apply in order to secure funds for the current crop year.

As the Farm Loan Manager for the Cherokee County Service Center, Jack is responsible for managing the loan making and loan servicing activities for five counties in northeast Oklahoma. His office provides services for over 650 farm loan customers. Jack was raised on a cross bred cow/calf operation that his grandparents started. Over the years, each generation has added to the operation by purchasing additional pasture. The operation also grows and bales their own hay. Jack’s agriculture background and degree in agriculture economics from Oklahoma State University help him better understand the financing needs of his producers.

Who can apply for FSA Farm Loans?

Anyone can apply for FSA’s loan programs. Applications will be considered on basic eligibility requirements. To apply for a loan, you must meet the following general eligibility requirements including:

- Be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien.

- Operator of a family farm or ranch.
- Have a satisfactory credit history.
- Unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to meet actual needs.
- Not be delinquent on any federal debts.

To read the full blog visit farmers.gov/blog/ask-the-expert-farm-operating-loan-qa-with-jack-carlile.

Comments Due Dec. 21 on How NRCS Will Implement Inflation Reduction Act Funding

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) reminds the public to submit comments by Dec. 21 through a Federal Register request for information on implementation of more than \$19 billion provided by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). NRCS will use the investments provided through IRA-funded conservation programs to support farmers and ranchers in adopting and expanding climate-smart activities and systems. NRCS asks for comments on how to target program benefits, quantify impact, and improve program delivery and outreach, especially for underserved producers.

[Learn more.](#)

USDA Accepts Applications for Rural Energy for America Program

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the department is making \$300 million available under the [Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#) to expand renewable energy and support energy-efficiency projects for people living in rural America. This funding includes \$250 million provided by the Biden-Harris Administration's historic legislative package known as the Inflation Reduction Act.

USDA Rural Development is in a unique position to make climate-smart investments in rural infrastructure. The [Inflation Reduction Act](#) represents the largest ever federal investment in clean energy for the future. This historic funding will strengthen our energy security, create good-paying jobs, and save Americans money on their energy costs.

USDA is seeking applications for Fiscal Year 2023 funding. Two significant changes to this additional funding include an increase in the maximum Federal grant share from 25% to 40% of total project cost and an increase of maximum grant amounts from \$250,000 to \$500,000 for energy efficiency projects and an increase from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 for renewable energy systems. Projects in underserved areas are prioritized for funding under this notice.

USDA will host an informational webinar for applicants and stakeholders on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, from 3:00 - 4:30pm Eastern Time. To register, visit: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_BSQ3b8K6Sz-sbpdJluEtfw.

Agricultural producers and rural small businesses are eligible applicants for loan guarantees and grants to develop renewable energy systems and to make energy efficiency improvements. State and local governments, federally-recognized tribes, land-grant colleges or universities or other institutions of higher education, rural electric cooperatives, public power entities, and Resource Conservation & Development Councils (as defined in 16 USC §3451) are eligible applicants for grants to conduct energy audits and provide development assistance.

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact their local USDA Rural Development [State Energy Coordinator](#) well in advance of the application deadlines to discuss their project and ask any questions about the REAP program or the application process.

Additional information on the required materials and how to apply for the REAP program are available on page 77059 of the Dec. 16, 2022, [Federal Register](#).

USDA Releases Nationwide Farmer, Rancher and Forest Manager Prospective Customer Survey

Are you a farmer, rancher or forest manager? Please share your vital feedback with USDA by taking a nationwide survey at farmers.gov/survey! The survey is completely anonymous, will take about 10 minutes to complete, is available in multiple languages, and will be open until March 31, 2023. The survey focuses on gathering feedback about the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Risk Management Agency.

All farmers, ranchers and forest managers are encouraged to take the survey. USDA would especially like to hear from prospective customers: those who don't know about USDA or have yet to work with USDA, and those who were unable to participate in the past. The survey will help USDA enhance support, improve programs and services, increase access, and advance equity for new and existing customers.

Upcoming Events

January 13, 2023

[Field-to-Fork series on harvesting, processing and preparing wild game](#)

January 19, 2023

[9th Annual Texas Alliance for Water Conservation Water College - Lubbock, TX](#)

USDA in Texas



Farm Service Agency

State Executive Director

Kelly Adkins

State Committee

Debra Barrett, Committee Chair

Armando Mandujano

Angie Martin

Wesley Ratcliff

Cody Scogin

Natural Resources Conservation Service

State Conservationist

Kristy Oates

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Regional Director

Jim Bellmon