



## USDA News - Lone Star State Edition - November 22, 2023

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## From the FSA State Executive Director



As I'm preparing to spend Thanksgiving with my loved ones, I hope that you take some time to rest, reflect with family and friends and enjoy some of our greatest treasures of life – time with those who mean the most to us.

On Oct. 31, FSA started signup for the [Emergency Relief Program 2022](#) (ERP 2022). ERP 2022 is utilizing a simultaneous two track implementation.

- Track q1 for eligible producers who had federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage; and,
- Track 2 for eligible producers who suffered an eligible decrease in revenue resulting from 2022 calendar year disaster events.

This program provides much-needed assistance to continue recovery for producers impacted by natural disasters in 2022.

FSA county committee elections are also in full swing. If you are in a Local Administrative Area (LAA) up for election this year, you can return your completed ballot to your FSA office by the Monday, Dec. 4, 2023 deadline. If you are unsure of your LAA, you can use the new [Find My LAA](#) tool to find out. [FSA county committees](#) are an important link between the agricultural community and the USDA. Ballots were mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 6, 2023. Newly elected county committee members will take office on Jan. 1, 2024.

Our farm loan teams across the state continue to provide Inflation Reduction Act Assistance for Distressed Borrowers of FSA's direct farm loan programs. For eligible borrowers who did not, or anticipate they won't have sufficient cash flow to make their scheduled loan payment between Aug. 1, 2022 and Jan. 15, 2024, cash flow-based assistance may be available.

For borrowers who took extraordinary measures to keep their loan accounts current between Feb. 28, 2020 and Oct. 18, 2022, extraordinary measure assistance may be available. The deadline to apply for both types of distressed borrower assistance is Dec. 31, 2023. If you are an eligible FSA direct loan borrower and are in need of this assistance, please contact your servicing farm loan team.

Also, urban producers are reminded of the [upcoming meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#) on Nov. 29, 2023 at 1:00 pm ET. The Committee advises the Secretary of Agriculture on the development of policies and outreach relating to urban, indoor, and other emerging agriculture practices. These meetings give urban and innovative producers and others an opportunity to share ideas and information.

I wish you and your family a happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Kelly Adkins  
State Executive Director  
Farm Service Agency - Texas

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## From the NRCS State Conservationist

### *Partnering for Progress in Unprecedented Ways*

Hello and happy November fellow partners in conservation. November is always an interesting time of year – a time of harvests and transition as producers across the state move from the fall to winter season with their crops and production efforts. With many people celebrating Thanksgiving this month, it is also a time of reflection and gratitude. As an agency, we are certainly thankful for our partners across the state that help us implement conservation programs and practices that benefit the environment and ecosystems we all live in.



Reflecting on FY23, our efforts, combined with those of our partnership with organizations and producers yielded some impressive results through our programs. Texas had over 10,000 active financial assistance contracts with farmers, ranchers and forest stewards in FY23. In our most popular and widely implemented program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), we delivered nearly \$123 million to producers to apply conservation practices on 1.9 million acres across the state. Our Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) takes conservation efforts a step further with a combination of practices to achieve effective results on the land. Producers across the state received \$16.1 million in CSP funding for practices on over 540,000 acres. In our conservation easement programs we delivered \$22.4 million for partnership easements covering almost 25,000 acres.

By now you may have heard of the additional funding our agency received in Farm Bill and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding assistance for climate-smart agriculture and forestry to support producers in building resiliency across their operations. Under IRA, nationwide, EQIP will receive \$8.45 billion and CSP \$3.25 billion beginning in 2023 and last through 2026. IRA funding through EQIP and CSP is specifically set aside for conservation practices that have been determined to be “climate smart agriculture and forestry” (CSAF) practices because of their scientifically proven ability to mitigate and improve damaged natural resources. The program started in FY23 and with the funds we received in Texas, we were able to provide \$12.4 million in EQIP funding for conservation projects implemented on 127,000 acres, \$5 million in CSP funds on 150,000 acres and \$25.4 million in in funds for easements through our Agriculture Land Easement (ALE) program.

We have been asked the question “What is ‘Climate Smart Agriculture?’” Climate Smart Ag is an agriculture operation management approach that considers natural resources and manages them in a way that is beneficial for the environment. This has been the backbone on which NRCS has been providing technical and financial assistance since 1935. The practices historically offered through EQIP and CSP are beneficial for the environment. Climate-smart agriculture and forestry is an integrated approach that enables farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to respond to climate change by reducing or removing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and adapting and building resilience (adaptation), while sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes.

IRA funding allows for unprecedented opportunities to fund EQIP and CSP contract applications, getting more conservation on the ground than ever before. These are traditional EQIP and CSP practices that have received a funding boost from the IRA. IRA funds are designed to support climate-smart mitigation activities and other conservation activities that facilitate them. Examples of practices that can be funded include cover crops, residue management, brush management, prescribed grazing, pasture and hay planting, wildlife habitat planting, forest stand improvement and many more.

This funding not only helps producers accelerate their management and conservation goals on their operations and improve the environment, but it also boosts local economies. Every dollar of EQIP and CSP funds implemented at the local level has an economic multiplier effect of \$4-6 dollars. As producers implement their EQIP and CSP contracts, they purchase equipment and supplies and employ contractors to accomplish conservation practices such as building a fence, creating a livestock pond, building a high tunnel and more. In short, this new IRA funding provides agriculture producers an economic boost to help take care of their piece of Texas and implement down to earth solutions that support agriculture and the environment.

With an unprecedented amount of funding available with the boost of the IRA funds, we are excited about the historic amount of conservation practices that are going to be implemented statewide.

We do want to note we are currently accepting applications for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) with a funding consideration deadline of December 8, 2023. Any applications that are received after December 8, 2023, will be considered in future funding opportunities. [ACEP Agricultural Land Easements](#) provide financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land. ACEP Wetland Reserve Easements allow landowners to restore, enhance, and protect habitat for wildlife on their lands, reduce damage from flooding, recharge groundwater and provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities. Easements are sometimes a perfect fit for a landowner who is looking to protect land from future development or to protect and improve wetlands or provide critical habitat for wildlife.

November is national Veteran and Military Families Month. A veteran's dedication to our nation extends far beyond their military service as veteran service members positively impact our mission of supporting American agriculture, rural communities, and the well-being of our fellow citizens. Of the 3.4 million agricultural producers across the nation, 370,619 are veterans or are currently serving in the Armed Forces. In Texas, we have enjoyed long-standing relationships working one-on-one with Veterans on their operations. This month we have a feature story on one such Veteran: ["From Army to Agriculture."](#)

I will wrap up by inviting you to the Grand Opening of our Dallas USDA Urban Service Center on December 14 from 10:00-11 a.m. located at 3102 Maple Ave, Suite 100 in downtown Dallas, this location will allow us to focus on serving the urban producers in the area. Dallas is one of the leading cities with established urban farms providing healthy food in their neighborhoods and cultivating even more interest from others that would like to start their own farms on small and large scales. We would love to see you there to showcase the great things happening with agriculture and conservation in the Dallas area.

Thank you for your continued support, interest, and partnership efforts in the many areas of our agency's operations.

Sincerely,

Kristy Oates  
State Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service - Texas

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## 2023 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections Open

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin mailing ballots this week for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) [county and urban county committee elections](#) to all eligible agricultural producers and private landowners across the country.

Elections are occurring in certain Local Administrative Areas for these committee members who make important decisions about how Federal farm programs are administered locally. Producers and landowners must return ballots to their local FSA county office or have their ballots postmarked by Dec. 4, 2023, for those ballots to be counted.

Producers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program to be eligible to vote in the county committee election. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits. Additionally, producers who are not of legal voting age, but supervise and conduct farming operations for an entire farm, are eligible to vote in these elections.

For purposes of FSA county committee elections, every member of an American Indian Tribe is considered an agricultural landowner if the land on which the tribal member's voting eligibility is based is tribally owned or held in trust by the U.S. for the Tribe, even if the individual does not personally produce a crop on that land. Tribal agricultural landowners 18 years and older can contact their local FSA county office to register to vote.

Each committee has from three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms, and at least one seat representing a Local Administrative Area is up for election each year. Committee members help ensure inclusive representation on committees and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their jurisdiction.

Ballots must be postmarked or delivered in person by close of business Dec. 4, 2023, to be counted. Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2024. Producers can find out if their Local Administrative Area is up for election and if they are eligible to vote by contacting their local FSA county office. Eligible voters who do not receive a ballot in the mail can request one from their local FSA county office.

### **Urban County Committees**

Urban county committees have or will be established in 27 cities to strengthen administration of FSA programs in urban areas. Urban committee members are nominated and elected to serve by local urban producers in the same jurisdiction. Committee members will provide outreach to ensure urban producers understand USDA programs, serve as the voice of other urban producers and assist in program implementation that support the needs of the growing urban community.

A list of the 27 cities with urban county committees can be found at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections). While most of the urban locations will be holding elections this year, some will follow a unique election schedule that will be announced in the future. Urban producers in these areas can contact their local FSA office now to register as an eligible voter and learn more.

Visit [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections) for more information on county committee elections.

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## **Producers Encouraged to Apply Now for USDA Conservation Programs**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is encouraging agricultural producers and forest landowners to participate in voluntary conservation programs and adopt climate-smart practices in fiscal year 2024 as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), which help a wide variety of producers, including urban and organic producers.

For fiscal year 2024, NRCS has \$3 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funds to invest in [climate-smart mitigation activities](#). This year, NRCS expanded the list of those activities as well as expanded priority areas for ACEP for grasslands, wetlands and farmlands at risk of conversion. Learn more about those expansions in our [Sept. 28, 2023 news release](#).

Additionally, for fiscal year 2024, NRCS has over \$2 billion in Farm Bill funding available to producers for priorities like organic and urban agriculture, soil health, water quality and quantity and wildlife habitat development. This extensive amount of funding will be used to meet producer demand for our oversubscribed programs, maximize climate benefits and help producers address their natural resource challenges.

NRCS accepts producer applications for its conservation programs year-round. To apply for fiscal year 2024 funding, apply by your [state's ranking date](#) by contacting your [local NRCS office](#).

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## USDA Expands Crop Insurance Coverage for Sesame Nationwide

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now offering crop insurance for sesame producers nationwide. Beginning in the 2024 crop year, USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is expanding the Actual Production History (APH) plan to allow producers to request written agreements anywhere sesame or a similar crop has been grown successfully. RMA is expanding the program in response to requests from sesame producers. Learn more: <https://www.rma.usda.gov/News-Room/Press/Press-Releases/2023-News/USDA-Expands-Crop-Insurance-Coverage-for-Sesame-Nationwide>

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## USDA to Provide More Than \$3 Billion to Commodity and Specialty Crop Producers Impacted by 2022 Natural Disasters

The U. S Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide more than \$3 billion to commodity and specialty crop producers impacted by natural disaster events in 2022. Eligible impacted producers can apply for financial assistance through the [Emergency Relief Program \(ERP\) 2022](#). The program will help offset the financial impacts of crop yield and value losses from qualifying disasters occurring in 2022.

### Background

On Dec. 29, 2022, President Biden signed into law the *Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328)* that provides about \$3.7 billion in financial assistance for agricultural producers impacted by eligible natural disasters that occurred in calendar year 2022.

ERP 2022 covers losses to crops, trees, bushes and vines due to qualifying, calendar year 2022 natural disaster events including wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought and related conditions.

ERP 2022 program benefits will be delivered to eligible producers through a two-track process. FSA intends to make both tracks available to producers at the same time. This two-track approach enables USDA to:

- Streamline the application process.
- Reduce the paperwork burden on producers.
- Proactively include provisions for underserved producers who have not been well served by past emergency relief efforts.
- Encourage producer participation in existing risk management programs to mitigate the impacts of future severe weather events.

It's important to note that disaster-impacted producers may be eligible for ERP 2022 assistance under one or both tracks. To avoid duplicative benefits, if a producer applies for both tracks, the Track 2 payment calculation will take into account any payments received through Track 1.

### **ERP 2022 Application Process – Track 1**

ERP 2022 Track 1 leverages existing federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) data as the basis for calculating payments for eligible crop producers who received indemnities through these risk management programs.

Although FSA is sending pre-filled ERP 2022 Track 1 application forms to producers who have crop insurance and NAP data already on file with USDA, producers indemnified for losses resulting from 2022 natural disasters do not have to wait to receive the application before requesting ERP 2022 assistance. Effective Oct. 31, 2023, producers can apply for ERP 2022 benefits whether they have received the pre-filled application or not. Receipt of a pre-filled application is not confirmation that a producer is eligible to receive an ERP 2022 Track 1 payment.

USDA estimates that ERP Track 1 benefits will reach more than 206,000 producers who received indemnities for losses covered by federal crop insurance and more than 4,500 producers who obtained NAP coverage for the 2022 crop year.

### **ERP 2022 Application Process – Track 2**

Track 2 is a revenue-based certification program designed to assist eligible producers who suffered an eligible decrease in revenue resulting from 2022 calendar year disaster events when compared with revenue in a benchmark year using revenue information that is readily available from most tax records. In cases where revenue does not reasonably reflect a normal year's revenue, Track 2 provides an alternative method for establishing revenue. Likewise, Track 2 affords producers of crops that are used within an operation and do not generate revenue from the sale of the crop a method for establishing revenue for the purpose of



applying for ERP 2022 benefits. Producers are not required to submit tax records to FSA unless requested by the County Committee if required for an FSA compliance spot check.

Although not required when applying for ERP 2022 Track 2, applicants might find the following documents useful to the process:

- Schedule F (Form 1040)
- *Profit or Loss from Farming* or similar tax documents for tax years 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023.

Track 2 targets gaps in emergency relief assistance for eligible producers whose eligible losses were not covered by crop insurance or NAP including revenue losses too small (shallow loss) to be covered by crop insurance.

Producers interested in applying for ERP 2022 Track 2, should contact their local FSA county office. Additional reference resources can be found on FSA's [emergency relief website](#).

### **Additional Required Forms**

For both ERP 2022 tracks, all producers must have certain required forms on file with FSA within 60 days of the ERP 2022 deadline. Producers can apply for ERP 2022 starting Oct. 31, 2023. The application deadline has not yet been determined and will be announced at a later date. If not already on file, producers can update, complete and submit required forms to FSA at any time.

Required forms:

- Form AD-2047, *Customer Data Worksheet*.
- Form CCC-902, *Farm Operating Plan* for an individual or legal entity.
- Form CCC-901, *Member Information for Legal Entities* (if applicable).
- Form FSA-510, *Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs* (if applicable).
- Form CCC-860, *Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification*, if applicable, for the 2022 program year.
- A highly erodible land conservation (sometimes referred to as HELC) and wetland conservation certification (Form AD-1026 *Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification*) for the ERP producer and applicable affiliates.

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 the status of their forms can contact their local FSA county office.

### **Future Insurance Coverage Requirements**

All producers who receive ERP 2022 payments must purchase crop insurance, or NAP coverage where crop insurance is not available, in the next two available crop years as



determined by the Secretary. Purchased coverage must be at the 60/100 coverage level or higher for insured crops or at the catastrophic coverage level or higher for NAP crops.

### **More Information**

ERP 2022 eligibility details and payment calculation factor tables are available on the [emergency relief website](#), in the [ERP Track 1](#) and [ERP Track 2](#) fact sheets and through your local [FSA county office](#).

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## **Is the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program Right for You?**

Farmers and ranchers rely on crop insurance to protect themselves from disasters and unforeseen events, but not all crops are insurable through the USDA's Risk Management Agency. The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides producers another option to obtain coverage against disaster for these crops. NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops impacted by natural disasters that result in lower yields, crop losses, or prevents crop planting.

Commercially produced crops and agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available are generally eligible for NAP. Eligible crops include those grown specifically for food, fiber, livestock consumption, biofuel or biobased products, or value loss crops such as aquaculture, Christmas trees, ornamental nursery, and others. Contact your local FSA office to see which crops are eligible in your state and county.

Eligible causes of loss include drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes, earthquake and flood. These events must occur during the NAP policy coverage period, before or during harvest, and the disaster must directly affect the eligible crop. For guidance on causes of loss not listed, contact your local FSA county office.

Interested producers apply for NAP coverage using FSA form [CCC-471](#), "Application for Coverage," and pay the applicable service fee at the FSA office where their farm records are maintained. These must be filed by the application closing date, which varies by crop. Contact your local FSA office to verify application closing dates and ensure coverage for eligible NAP crops.

At the time of application, each producer acknowledges they have received the [NAP Basic Provisions](#), which describes NAP requirements for coverage. NAP participants must report crop acreage shortly after planting and provide verifiable or reliable crop production records when required by FSA.

Producers are required to pay service fees which vary depending on the number of crops and number of counties your operation is located in. 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. Premiums also apply when producers elect higher levels of coverage with a maximum premium of \$15,750 per person or legal entity.

A producer's certification on Form CCC-860 *Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification* may serve as an application for basic NAP coverage for all eligible crops beginning with crop year 2022. These producers will have all NAP-related service fees for basic coverage waived, in addition to a 50 percent premium reduction if higher levels of coverage are elected.

For more detailed information on NAP, download the [NAP Fact Sheet](#). To get started with NAP, we recommend you contact your [local USDA service center](#).

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## 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. 1 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](https://fsa.usda.gov).

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## Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has several loan programs to help you start or continue an agriculture production. Farm ownership and operating loans are available.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of targeted underserved applicants.

A targeted underserved applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

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## USDA Reminds Direct Loan Borrowers of Cash Flow-Based and Extraordinary Measures Assistance Options

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) continues to accept and review individual assistance requests from: (1) direct Farm Loan Programs (FLP) borrowers who missed a recent installment or are unable to make their next scheduled installment, and (2) borrowers who took certain extraordinary measures to avoid delinquency on their direct FLP loans.

FSA direct loan borrowers with qualifying FLP 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 August 1, 2022, through January 15, 2024.**

If FSA determines that a borrower qualifies for cash flow-based assistance due to an inability to develop a feasible plan for the current production cycle, FSA will make a one-time credit to the borrower's account in the amount of the missed or upcoming direct loan installment(s). Consistent with other Section 22006 assistance provided to FSA direct loan borrowers, cash flow-based assistance is only available to borrowers who have not received prior IRA Section 22006 assistance that covered a forward direct loan installment.

Assistance is also available for borrowers who took certain extraordinary measures between February 28, 2020, through October 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. If FSA determines that a borrower qualifies for extraordinary measures assistance, the borrower will receive a direct payment equaling the amount of funds obtained through the extraordinary measure(s) that

were used to make the payment(s) to FSA, with a maximum payment being the full amount of the installment paid. Borrowers may also be eligible to receive a payment covering their next loan installment due on all FLP direct loans if they have not received prior IRA Section 22006 assistance that covered a forward installment.

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](https://farmers.gov/loans/inflation-reduction-investments/assistance). All requests for assistance must be received by December 31, 2023.

Borrowers can learn more about extraordinary measures and cash flow-based assistance, including complete eligibility requirements, at [farmers.gov/loans/inflation-reduction-investments/assistance](https://farmers.gov/loans/inflation-reduction-investments/assistance).

As USDA learns more about the types of situations financially distressed farmers are facing, the Department will continue to update borrowers and the public about new assistance for distressed borrowers. USDA will also provide regular updates about its progress in deploying this funding to farmers who need it.

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## Urban Producers, Public Invited to Attend November Meeting of Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

We're inviting urban producers, innovative producers, and other stakeholders to virtually attend a public meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production on November 29 from 1-3 pm. Learn more and register.

[Urban and Innovative Producers, Public Invited to Attend November Meeting of Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/urban-and-innovative-producers-public-invited-to-attend-november-meeting-of-federal-advisory-committee-for-urban-agriculture-and-innovative-production)

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## Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the [AFIDA form](#) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements. The data gained from these disclosures is used in the preparation of periodic reports to the President and Congress concerning the effect of such holdings upon family farms and rural communities. Click [here](#) for more information on AFIDA.

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# 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

## **Risk Management Agency**

### **Regional Director**

Jim Bellmon