

DID COVID-19 IMPACT YOUR LIVESTOCK OPERATION?

USDA's Farm Service Agency may be able to help.

Through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (or CFAP), the Farm Service Agency is providing payments to eligible livestock, dairy, specialty crop, aquaculture, nursery crops and cut flowers, eggs, and non-specialty crop operations.

To **learn more**, see if you're eligible, and apply online, visit farmers.gov/CFAP, call our CFAP Call Center at **877-508-8364**, or contact your local FSA office.



DID COVID-19 IMPACT YOUR DAIRY FARM?

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Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

Toolkit for Stakeholders

Agricultural producers can now apply for USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provides direct payments to offset impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. Options to apply are available on farmers.gov/cfap and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has launched a call center to help answer questions. FSA staff members are available via phone, fax and online tools to help producers complete applications.

We need your help. We want to ensure producers are aware of available online tools and the call center, as well as how FSA is working virtually with producers to complete applications. This toolkit is meant for producers and agricultural organizations to use to share information in their networks. This toolkit includes:

- Key messages
- Newsletter article
- Social media posts
- Social media story posts
- Posters

Other available resources include:

- **CFAP Fact Sheets:** FSA offers a variety of fact sheets on CFAP including a general CFAP fact sheet and commodity-specific fact sheets for non-specialty crops, wool, livestock, dairy, nursery crops and cut flowers, aquaculture, eggs, and specialty crops. Please visit farmers.gov/cfap to access all fact sheets, which are available in English, Spanish and Puerto Rican Spanish.
- **Frequently Asked Questions:** These include recent questions that we have received from producers.
- **Educational Webinar Recordings:** FSA hosted commodity-specific CFAP webinars covering program basics and what producers should know to enroll in the program. Recordings of these webinars, and links to any upcoming webinars, can be found at farmers.gov/cfap under "CFAP Resources" and the "Videos and Webinars" tab.
- **CFAP Payment Dashboard:** Visit our online dashboard that tracks CFAP payments and applications by state. The dashboard updates each Monday by 2 p.m. EDT.

If you have questions, you can reach us at fpac.bc.press@usda.gov.



Key Messages

- Now through September 11, 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), will be accepting applications from agricultural producers for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). USDA announced the extension of the CFAP deadline on August 11. The original deadline for applications was August 28.
- CFAP will provide up to \$16 billion in direct payments to provide relief to America's farmers and ranchers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.
- Options to apply, additional forms, and an online application generator and payment calculator are available on farmers.gov/cfap.
- Producers with an eAuthentication account can apply for CFAP via the [CFAP Application Portal](#).
- The CFAP Application Generator and Payment Calculator is an Excel workbook to help producers understand the sales and inventory records needed to apply and to calculate potential payments. This tool allows producers to enter information specific to their operation and will generate a completed application form that can be signed and submitted to their local FSA office for review and processing.
- Producers who are interested in filling out the application manually can also visit farmers.gov/cfap to download the application form, AD-3114.
- FSA set up a call center in order to simplify how we serve new customers across the nation. The CFAP Call Center is available for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. This is a good first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office at their local USDA Service Center.
- Producers should apply through their local Farm Service Agency. While many USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only, FSA is working with our agricultural producers by phone and using email and online tools to process applications.
 - Please call your FSA county office to schedule an appointment. You can find contact information for your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/cfap, and check Service Center status at farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status.
- CFAP is structured to ensure the availability of funding for all eligible producers who apply.
 - To ensure availability of funding, producers with approved applications initially received 80 percent of their payments. Beginning the week of August 17, FSA will automatically issue the remaining 20 percent of the

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calculated payment to eligible producers. Going forward, producers who apply for CFAP will receive 100 percent of their total payment, not to exceed the payment limit, when their applications are approved.

- USDA considered additional commodities to be eligible for CFAP by collecting information that was not initially available to USDA on potentially eligible commodities. Comments were submitted through June 22, 2020.
- On August 11, USDA announced nearly 60 additional commodities that are eligible for CFAP based on data and comments submitted by the public.
- The following additional eligible commodities were announced on August 11:
 - **Specialty Crops** - aloe leaves, bananas, batatas, bok choy, carambola (star fruit), cherimoya, chervil (french parsley), citron, curry leaves, daikon, dates, dill, donqua (winter melon), dragon fruit (red pitaya), endive, escarole, filberts, frisee, horseradish, kohlrabi, kumquats, leeks, mamey sapote, maple sap (for maple syrup), mesculin mix, microgreens, nectarines, parsley, persimmons, plantains, pomegranates, pummelos, pumpkins, rutabagas, shallots, tangelos, turnips/celeriac, turmeric, upland/ winter cress, water cress, yautia/malanga, and yuca/cassava.
 - **Non-Specialty Crops and Livestock** - liquid eggs, frozen eggs and all sheep. Only lambs and yearlings (sheep less than two years old) were previously eligible.
 - **Aquaculture** - catfish, crawfish, largemouth bass and carp sold live as foodfish, hybrid striped bass, red drum, salmon, sturgeon, tilapia, trout, ornamental/tropical fish, and recreational sportfish.
 - **Nursery Crops and Flowers** - nursery crops and cut flowers.
- Other program changes announced August 11 included:
 - Multiple commodities – onions (green), pistachios, peppermint, spearmint, walnuts and watermelons – are now eligible for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act funding for sales losses. Originally, these commodities were only eligible for payments on marketing adjustments.
 - Correcting payment rates for onions (green), pistachios, peppermint, spearmint, walnuts, and watermelons.
 - Extending the CFAP application deadline from August 28 to September 11, 2020.
 - An update to payments for eligible producers. To ensure availability of funding, producers with approved applications initially received 80 percent of their payments. Beginning the week of August 17, FSA will automatically issue the remaining 20 percent of the calculated payment to



eligible producers. Going forward, producers who apply for CFAP will receive 100 percent of their total payment, not to exceed the payment limit, when their applications are approved.

- On July 9, USDA announced an initial list of additional commodities that have been added to CFAP and USDA made other adjustments to the program based on comments received from agricultural producers and organizations and review of market data.
- The following eligible commodities were announced on July 9: alfalfa sprouts, anise, arugula, basil, bean sprouts, beets, blackberries, Brussels sprouts, celeriac (celery root), chives, cilantro, coconuts, collard greens, dandelion greens, greens (others not listed separately), guava, kale greens, lettuce – including Boston, green leaf, Lolla Rossa, oak leaf green, oak leaf red and red leaf – marjoram, mint, mustard greens, okra, oregano, parsnips, passion fruit, peas (green), pineapple, pistachios, radicchio, rosemary, sage, savory, sorrel, fresh sugarcane, Swiss chard, thyme and turnip top greens.
- Other program changes announced on July 9 included:
 - Expanding for seven currently eligible commodities – apples, blueberries, garlic, potatoes, raspberries, tangerines and taro – CARES Act funding for sales losses because USDA found these commodities had a 5 percent or greater price decline between mid-January and mid-April as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Originally, these commodities were only eligible for marketing adjustments.
 - Determining that peaches and rhubarb no longer qualify for payment under the CARES Act sales loss category.
 - Dividing potatoes into fresh russets, other fresh, processing and seed, with payment rates attributed accordingly.
 - Correcting payment rates for apples, artichokes, asparagus, blueberries, cantaloupes, cucumbers, garlic, kiwifruit, mushrooms, papaya, peaches, potatoes, raspberries, rhubarb, tangerines and taro.
- If a producer submitted a CFAP application for a previously ineligible commodity, and the application was disapproved, the producer must submit a new CFAP application.
- If the producer submitted an application and was paid for CFAP but also has crops that are now considered eligible or are now eligible for CARES Act funding for sales losses, the producer should NOT submit a new application, but rather, contact the local FSA office to amend the application.



- For producers who have already applied for CFAP and whose commodities have experienced payment rate increases, FSA will automatically calculate the increase and issue a payment.
- For potato and mint payments, producers will need to contact FSA to amend the application to identify the specific type of potatoes or mint.
- Producers who have already applied will not be impacted by a payment rate decrease.



Newsletter Article

USDA Announces More Eligible Commodities for CFAP

USDA announced that additional commodities are covered by the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) in response to public comments and data. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the deadline to apply for the program to September 11th, and producers with approved applications will receive their final payment. After reviewing over 1,700 responses, even more farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity for assistance to help keep operations afloat during these tough times.

Background:

USDA collected comments and supporting data for consideration of additional commodities through June 22, 2020. The following additional commodities are now eligible for CFAP:

- **Specialty Crops** - aloe leaves, bananas, batatas, bok choy, carambola (star fruit), cherimoya, chervil (french parsley), citron, curry leaves, daikon, dates, dill, donqua (winter melon), dragon fruit (red pitaya), endive, escarole, filberts, frisee, horseradish, kohlrabi, kumquats, leeks, mamey sapote, maple sap (for maple syrup), mesculin mix, microgreens, nectarines, parsley, persimmons, plantains, pomegranates, pummelos, pumpkins, rutabagas, shallots, tangelos, turnips/celeriac, turmeric, upland/winter cress, water cress, yautia/malanga, and yuca/cassava.
- **Non-Specialty Crops and Livestock** - liquid eggs, frozen eggs and all sheep. Only lambs and yearlings (sheep less than two years old) were previously eligible.
- **Aquaculture** - catfish, crawfish, largemouth bass and carp sold live as foodfish, hybrid striped bass, red drum, salmon, sturgeon, tilapia, trout, ornamental/tropical fish, and recreational sportfish.
- **Nursery Crops and Flowers** - nursery crops and cut flowers.

Other changes to CFAP include:

- Multiple commodities – onions (green), pistachios, peppermint, spearmint, walnuts and watermelons – are now eligible for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act funding for sales losses. Originally, these commodities were only eligible for payments on marketing adjustments.
- Correcting payment rates for onions (green), pistachios, peppermint, spearmint, walnuts, and watermelons.

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Additional details can be found in the Federal Register in the [Notice of Funding Availability](#) and [Final Rule Correction](#) and at www.farmers.gov/cfap.

Producers Who Have Applied:

To ensure availability of funding, producers with approved applications initially received 80 percent of their payments. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will automatically issue the remaining 20 percent of the calculated payment to eligible producers. Going forward, producers who apply for CFAP will receive 100 percent of their total payment, not to exceed the payment limit, when their applications are approved.

Applying for CFAP:

Producers, especially those who have not worked with FSA previously, are recommended to call 877-508-8364 to begin the application process. An FSA staff member can help producers start their application during the phone call.

On farmers.gov/cfap, producers can:

- Download the AD-3114 application form and manually complete the form to submit to their local USDA Service Center by mail, electronically or by hand delivery to their local office or office drop box.
- Complete the application form using the CFAP Application Generator and Payment Calculator. This Excel workbook allows customers to input information specific to their operation to determine estimated payments and populate the application form, which can be printed, then signed and submitted to their local USDA Service Center.
- If producers have login credentials known as eAuthentication, they can use the online CFAP Application Portal to certify eligible commodities online, digitally sign applications and submit directly to the local USDA Service Center.

All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from farmers.gov/cfap. For existing FSA customers, these documents are likely already on file.



Sample Posts for Facebook and Twitter

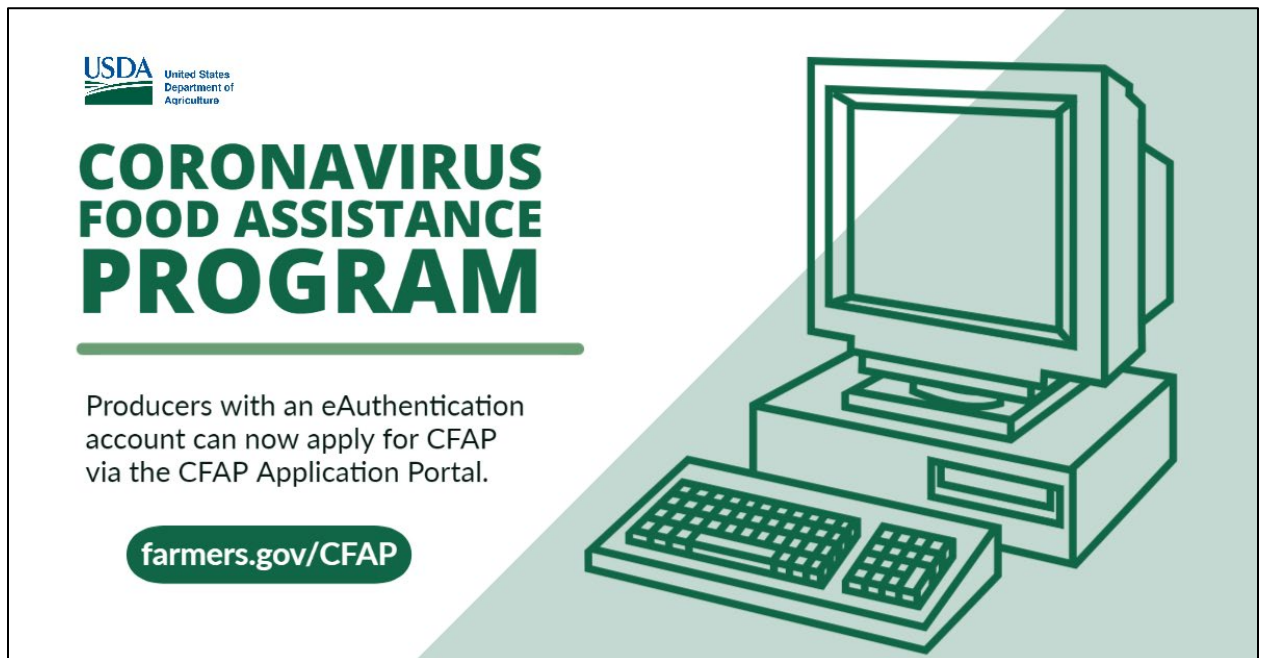
Below are social media posts for use on Facebook, Twitter, and other platforms. Be sure to tag us: @USDA, @FarmersGov, @usdaFSA, and @USDA_AMS.

- Farmers & ranchers can now apply for financial assistance through @USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. farmers.gov/CFAP [+ graphic option below]
- New deadline! @USDA is now accepting applications for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program through September 11, 2020. farmers.gov/CFAP [+ graphic option below]
- @USDA has a call center available to help with producers' CFAP questions. Call 877-508-8364. [+ graphic option below]
- Many new specialty crops are eligible for #CFAP. Already applied? Your application can be amended to include additional commodities. Haven't applied yet? Visit farmers.gov/cfap and learn how to apply. [+ graphic option below]




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- [.@USDA](#) has digital options when applying for #CFAP. Visit farmers.gov/cfap to learn more about the online application portal and other digital solutions. [\[+graphic option below\]](#)
- [.@USDAFSA](#) offers several different options for submitting your #CFAP application, including submitting your application online. Learn more at farmers.gov/cfap. [\[+graphic option below\]](#)




- [.@USDA](#) has a CFAP Application Generator and Payment Calculator to help producers understand the sales & inventory records needed to apply & calculate potential payments. farmers.gov/CFAP [\[+ graphic option below\]](#)
- [.@USDA's](#) CFAP Application Generator and Payment Calculator tool will enable producers to print off a pre-filled CFAP application, sign, and submit to your local FSA office. farmers.gov/CFAP [\[+ graphic option below\]](#)





CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Our CFAP Payment Calculator is available to assist with the CFAP application process.

farmers.gov/CFAP

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Sample Posts for Instagram Story and Facebook Story

Below are graphics for use on Instagram Story and Facebook Story. If your account is enabled to include links, please include farmers.gov/CFAP. Be sure to tag us: @USDA, @FarmersGov, @USDA_AMS.

We recommend a story with three graphics.



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