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## USDA Extends Deadline to Apply for Pandemic Assistance to Livestock Producers with Animal Losses

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing additional time for livestock and poultry producers to apply for the [Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program](#) (PLIP). Producers who suffered losses during the pandemic due to insufficient access to processing may now apply for assistance for those losses and the cost of depopulation and disposal of the animals through Oct. 12, 2021, rather than the original deadline of Sept. 17, 2021. PLIP is part of USDA's [Pandemic Assistance for Producers](#) initiative.



PLIP provides payments to producers for losses of livestock or poultry depopulated from March 1, 2020 through Dec. 26, 2020, due to insufficient processing access as a result of the pandemic. Payments are based on 80% of the fair market value of the livestock and poultry and for the cost of depopulation and disposal of the animal. Eligible livestock and poultry include swine, chickens and turkeys.

### PLIP Program Details

PLIP payments are calculated by multiplying the number of head of eligible livestock or poultry by the payment rate per head, and then subtracting the amount of any payments the eligible livestock or poultry owner has received for disposal of the livestock or poultry under the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or a state program. The payments will also be reduced by any Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 1 and 2) payments paid on the same inventory of swine that were depopulated.

Eligible livestock and poultry producers can apply for PLIP through the Oct. 12, 2021 deadline by completing the FSA-620, Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program application, and submitting it to any Farm Service Agency county office. Additional documentation may be required. Visit [farmers.gov/plip](https://farmers.gov/plip) more information on how to apply.

### Additional Pandemic Assistance

Other programs within the Pandemic Assistance for Producer initiative with upcoming deadlines include:

- 12 - [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2](#), which provides critical support to agricultural producers impacted by COVID-19 market disruptions.
- 15 – [Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers](#), which provides financial relief to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that experienced losses in 2020 due to COVID-19.

To learn more about USDA's commitment to delivery of financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers and businesses who have been impacted by COVID-19 market disruptions, visit [farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance](https://farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance).

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## Conservation at Work Video Series



A new video series from NRCS and farmers.gov, *Conservation at Work*, presents short and easy to understand videos about popular conservation practices. These videos feature producers explaining how an individual practice helps their land and why they are using it.

The videos shine the spotlight on farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners from across the U.S. who explain why they've implemented the conservation practices and how they work on their land. They also provide insight into how each practice is helping them protect and improve resources and save time and money.

The first 15 videos cover:

- Brush Management
- Cover Crop
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Grade Stabilization
- Grassed Waterway
- High Tunnel
- No Till
- Nutrient Management
- Prescribed Grazing
- Pumping Station
- Sprinkler System
- Trails and Walkways
- Waste Storage

- Water & Sediment Control Basin
- Wetland Restoration

The *Conservation at Work* video series can be found at [farmers.gov/conserve/conservationatwork](https://farmers.gov/conserve/conservationatwork).

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## USDA Updates Pandemic Assistance for Livestock, Poultry Contract Producers and Specialty Crop Growers

*USDA Sets October 12 Deadline for CFAP 2*



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is updating the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) for contract producers of eligible livestock and poultry and producers of specialty crops and other sales-based commodities. CFAP 2, which assists producers who faced market disruptions in 2020 due to COVID-19, is part of USDA's broader Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA)

has set an Oct. 12 deadline for all eligible producers to apply for or modify applications for CFAP 2.

### **Assistance for Contract Producers**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, provides up to \$1 billion for payments to contract producers of eligible livestock and poultry for revenue losses from Jan. 1, 2020, through Dec. 27, 2020. Contract producers of broilers, pullets, layers, chicken eggs, turkeys, hogs and pigs, ducks, geese, pheasants and quail may be eligible for assistance. This update includes eligible breeding stock and eggs of all eligible poultry types produced under contract.

Payments for contract producers were to be based on a comparison of eligible revenue for the periods of Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 27, 2019, and Jan. 1, 2020, through Dec. 27, 2020. Today's changes mean contract producers can now elect to use eligible revenue from the period of Jan. 1, 2018, through Dec. 27, 2018, instead of that date range in 2019 if it is more representative. This change is intended to provide flexibility and make the program more equitable for contract producers who had reduced revenue in 2019 compared to a normal production year. The difference in revenue is then multiplied by 80% to determine a final payment. Payments to contract producers may be factored if total calculated payments exceed the available funding and will be made after the application period closes.

Additional flexibilities have been added to account for increases to operation size in 2020 and situations where a contract producer did not have a full period of revenue from Jan. 1 to Dec. 27 for either 2018 or 2019. Assistance is also available to new contract producers who began their farming operation in 2020.

### **Updates for Sales-Based Commodities**

USDA is amending the CFAP 2 payment calculation for sales-based commodities, which are primarily comprised of specialty crops, to allow producers to substitute 2018 sales for 2019 sales. Previously, payments for producers of sales-based commodities were based only on 2019 sales, with 2019 used as an approximation of the amount the producer would have expected to market in 2020. Giving producers the option to substitute 2018 sales for this approximation, including 2018 crop insurance indemnities and 2018 crop year Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and Wildfire and

Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) payments, provides additional flexibility to producers of sales-based commodities who had reduced sales in 2019.

Grass seed has also been added as an eligible sales commodity for CFAP 2. A complete list of all eligible sales-based commodities can be found at [farmers.gov/cfap2/commodities](https://farmers.gov/cfap2/commodities). Producers of sales-based commodities can modify existing applications.

### Applying for Assistance

Newly eligible producers who need to submit a CFAP 2 application or producers who need to modify an existing one can do so by contacting their local FSA office. Producers can find their local FSA office by visiting [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator). Producers can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364. All new and modified CFAP 2 applications are due by the Oct. 12 deadline.

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## New Farmers.gov Conservation Concerns Tool Provides Customized Support for America's Farmers and Ranchers



Are you interested in keeping your working land productive for years to come? Use Natural Resources Conservation Service's new [Conservation Concerns Tool](#) to learn about conservation concerns that might impact your agricultural operation, then work with us on solutions targeted to fit your business needs. This tool is available now on our farmers.gov website, no login or account necessary.

With plain language and illustrative photos, the Conservation Concerns Tool provides a walkthrough of more than 40 conservation concerns related to soil, water, plants, animals, energy and air. Use the tool to create a list of resource concerns specific to your farm, ranch, or working forest lands, then download or print your list to share with NRCS staff at your [local USDA Service Center](#).

We have a [video available to walk you through the tool](#) so you can see how it works.

The Conservation Concerns Tool is built to run on any modern browser such as Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or Safari and is fully functional on mobile devices. Whether you work from your desktop at home or your smartphone in the field, this new tool offers personalized conservation insights to meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century agriculture.

Visit [farmers.gov/conserv](https://farmers.gov/conserv) to learn about additional USDA resources available for your working land.

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## Progression Lending from FSA

Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm loans are considered progression lending. Unlike loans from a commercial lender, FSA loans are intended to be temporary in nature. Our goal is to help you graduate to commercial credit, and our farm loan staff is available to help borrowers through training and credit counseling.

The FSA team will help borrowers identify their goals to ensure financial success. FSA staff will advise borrowers on developing strategies and a plan to meet your goals and graduate to commercial credit. FSA borrowers are responsible for the success of their farming operation, but FSA staff will help in an advisory role, providing the tools necessary to help you achieve your operational goals and manage your finances.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, contact your local USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov/nc](https://fsa.usda.gov/nc).

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## Selected Interest Rates for September 2021

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	1.875%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	3.00%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 Years)	1.000%
Commodity Loans 1996 - Present	0.125%

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## Dates to Remember

September 15 - October 15 - [Hispanic Heritage Month](#)  
October 11 - Columbus Day Holiday - Offices Closed



### North Carolina State Office

Farm Service Agency  
4407 Bland Road, Suite 175  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Phone: 919-875-4800  
Fax: 844-325-6874

Rob Satterfield  
Acting State Executive Director

[Rob.Satterfield@usda.gov](mailto:Rob.Satterfield@usda.gov)  
919-875-4824

#### STATE COMMITTEE

T. Pender Sharp

#### DIVISION CHIEFS

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Tracie Jones  
Administrative Officer

[Tracie.Jones@usda.gov](mailto:Tracie.Jones@usda.gov)  
919-875-4848

Paula Nicholls  
Chief Farm Loan Programs

Rob Satterfield  
Chief Farm Programs

[Rob.Satterfield@usda.gov](mailto:Rob.Satterfield@usda.gov)  
919-875-4824

James Davis  
Chief Price Support Programs

[Paula.Nicholls@usda.gov](mailto:Paula.Nicholls@usda.gov)  
919-875-4854

[Jamesa.Davis@usda.gov](mailto:Jamesa.Davis@usda.gov)  
919-875-4818

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**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

4407 Bland Road, Suite 170  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
Phone: 919-873-2100  
Fax: 919-873-2156

Timothy Beard  
State Conservationist

Channa Proctor  
Administrative Assistant to the State  
Conservationist

[Timothy.Beard@usda.gov](mailto:Timothy.Beard@usda.gov)  
919-873-2101

[Channa.Proctor@usda.gov](mailto:Channa.Proctor@usda.gov)  
919-873-2102

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**Risk Management Agency**

Regional Office  
4405 Bland Road, Suite 160  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
Phone: 919-875-4880  
Fax: 919-875-4915

Alexander Sereno Director

Jessica Dedrick  
Director - Compliance Office

[Alexander.Sereno@usda.gov](mailto:Alexander.Sereno@usda.gov)  
919-875-4880

[Jessica.Dedrick@usda.gov](mailto:Jessica.Dedrick@usda.gov)  
919-875-4946