Coronavirus Food Assistance Program
Overview for Farmers and Ranchers

Starting May 26, USDA’s Farm Service Agency is accepting applications for direct payments to agricultural producers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This $16 billion in aid is limited to specific products and types of loss; this primer is intended to help producers begin to determine if the program may help address their needs. This is not legal advice: each farm operation is different and producers should make their own application determinations using USDA guidelines.

**AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?**
Producers must have produced a commodity that had a price drop of at least 5 percent as a result of the pandemic AND share in the risk of producing eligible crops or livestock AND be: a U.S. Citizen; Resident Alien; Foreign Person providing land, capital, and active personal labor in the farming operation; an Indian Tribe or Tribal Organization; or a specifically eligible Business/Partnership structure (e.g. LLC) AND meet specific Adjusted Gross Income limits AND comply with conservation compliance provisions (or be exempt) AND not have certain controlled substance violations.

**DID I EXPERIENCE AN ELIGIBLE LOSS?**
You’ll need to produce one or more of the following products, subject to price risk:
- **Livestock (cattle, hogs, sheep)**: Your total sales of eligible livestock from January 15 to April 15, 2020, your owned inventory as of January 15, including any offspring from that inventory, and your highest inventory of eligible livestock between April 16 and May 14, 2020.
- **Non-specialty crops or wool**: 2019 production records and a record of what remained unsold as of January 15, 2020.
- **Specialty crops: fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, beans, or nuts**: Documentation of: 1) crops sold with a price decline, 2) shipped crops that went unpaid, or 3) unshipped or unharvested crops (e.g. acreage plowed under). Eligible losses vary by crop and only certain crops are included. Details: https://www.farmers.gov/cfap/specialty

**WHAT PAYMENT MAY I EXPECT?**
Payments will be based on USDA-determined rates multiplied by volume or inventory of eligible products. Payments will be calculated by commodity-specific formulas meant to account for price/marketing impacts, not by a producer’s individual costs. For example: if you had 20,000 lbs of apples sold in March for which you were unpaid due to COVID-19, you would be eligible for 20,000 lbs x $0.18/lb = $3,600. Producers will receive 80% of their payment upon approval, with the remainder paid later if funds remain available.

How to estimate your payment: Enter your production records into USDA’s calculator to estimate your potential payment to help determine if you should apply: https://www.farmers.gov/cfap

**WHAT IF THE COMMODITIES I PRODUCE ARE NOT ELIGIBLE?**
USDA may accept documentation and add additional crops through its open rulemaking period.

**IF** you are an eligible entity, **AND** you produce an eligible product, **AND** you have the required records, **THEN** you may be eligible for payment.

**WHERE CAN I GET HELP?**
USDA Farm Service Agency hotline: 877-508-8364
Farm Aid hotline: 1-800-FARM-AID
Farmers’ Legal Action Group guide: http://www.flaginc.org
Join us in speaking up for more inclusive, equitable, effective aid for producers: https://bit.ly/cfap101

**Footnotes**
1. Eligibility details, a payment estimate calculator, and necessary application forms can all be found at: https://www.farmers.gov/cfap
2. Price risk means any production, sales, and inventory that is not subject to an agreed-upon price in the future through a forward contract, agreement, or similar binding document.
3. Malting barley, canola, corn, upland cotton, millet, oats, soybeans, sorghum, sunflowers, durum wheat, and hard red spring wheat.

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