

May 14, 2020 CFAP Webinar – YouTube transcript

Welcome to today's presentation on the USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program support to farmers and ranchers. We encourage participants to submit questions through the Q&A box. However, questions will not be answered live during the webinar, yet will be answered after the event. This webinar is being recorded. Participants may also send questions they may have to [CFAP.webinars@usda.gov](mailto:CFAP.webinars@usda.gov).

Sonia Jimenez, Director of the Specialty Crops Program, please take it away.

Thank you, Jeff. I think Jeff has you all muted, but just in case, make sure that you're muted so that we don't have background noise. Like Jeff said, I'm Sonia Jimenez, the Director for AMS Specialty Crops Program. I've been with USDA in multiple capacities for almost 30 years, mostly serving the specialty crops industry.

I'm going to start by giving you a general overview of this program. The program will provide direct support, based on losses for agricultural producers, where prices and market supply chains have been impacted. It also assists producers with additional adjustment in marketing costs resulting from lost demand and short term oversupply caused by COVID-19. USDA evaluated commodity specific losses occurring during the January 2020 to April 2020 timeframe for immediate assistance. In addition, to the extent possible, we evaluated near-term adjustment costs and supply disruptions over the next few months for sectors where prices have declined significantly for additional assistance.

The program is available to producers regardless of size and market outlet, if they suffered an eligible loss.

We know that the disruption to markets and demand is significant and these payments will only cover a portion of the impacts on farmers and ranchers.

This is a general overview of the program. More details will be available in the rule to be published in the Federal Register. Right now I want to turn it over to Bill Beam, FSA's Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, to give you an update on what you can expect as you prepare for signup. Bill?

So thank you, Sonia, and thank you everybody for taking the time to join today. Just a little bit about myself - so I'm a farmer, taking to you today from my kitchen at my farm in eastern Pennsylvania. I live about 30 miles west of Philadelphia. We grow corn, soybeans and wheat, and I have a few black angus cows. I have to tell you a little side note, being a farmer, we always talk about the weather. It's been a cool, wet spring here in eastern Pennsylvania, but the sun is shining today and the planters are running and I'm watching them as I look out my window here go up and down the road, so it's always exciting to have spring.

I'm also Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, responsible for overseeing and implementing policies and procedures that regulate the delivery of federal farm programs. The USDA will soon begin taking applications for CFAP.

Once signup begins, you should call the Farm Service Agency at your local USDA Service Center. Find your office and more information about the program at [farmers.gov/CFAP](http://farmers.gov/CFAP). FSA offices are available to help. While our offices are open by phone appointment only, our team will work with you via phone, email, fax, mail, or online tools to receive your application.

We will walk you through applying for CFAP.

As part of determining eligibility and calculating and processing payments, our forms will ask

you for contact information; personal information, including your Tax ID Number; farming operating structure; Adjusted Gross Income to ensure eligibility; and direct deposit information. Please do not send any personal information to USDA without first initiating contact through a phone call. We take your privacy and security of your information very seriously. In addition to the application form, our staff will work with you to complete portions of the CCC-902 – Farm Operating Plan – if necessary.

So I'm going to be listing various forms as I go through the process here, you may want to jot down some of these numbers. If not, you can find them later at: [farmers.gov/CFAP](http://farmers.gov/CFAP). So form CCC-902 - Farm Operating Plan - if necessary.

Additionally, the following forms will be needed for CFAP. If you are an existing customer, this information is likely on file at your local Service Center.

Form CCC-901 identifies members of a farm or ranch that is a legal entity. Member Information will be completed by legal entities and joint operations to collect the following: member names, addresses and Tax ID Numbers and citizenship status.

Form CCC-941 reports your average adjusted gross income for programs where income restrictions apply.

Form CCC-942, if applicable, this form reports income from farming, ranching and forestry for those exceeding the adjusted gross income limitation.

Form AD-1026 ensures a conservation plan is in place before lands with highly erodible soils are farmed, identified wetland areas are protected, and conservation compliance provisions are met.

Form AD-2047 provides basic customer contact information.

Form SF-3881 collects your banking information to allow USDA to make payments to you via direct deposit.

While the application process has not started, you can begin completing eligibility forms, gathering and understanding your farm's recent sales and inventory.

FSA has streamlined the application process to not require an acreage report at the time of application and a USDA farm number may not be immediately needed.

Once signup begins and USDA begins accepting applications, more program information and forms will be available at [farmers.gov/CFAP](http://farmers.gov/CFAP).

FSA looks forward to working with farmers and ranchers on this important program. We recognize this may be the first time we've worked with many of you and some of our forms and processes may be completely new, while others are very familiar with the process and may already have basic customer and eligibility records on file. No matter the situation, our staff will be there to walk you through the process.

So Jeff, that's all I have for now.

That's great. Thank you, Bill. Thank you to all who submitted questions to [CFAP.webinars@usda.gov](mailto:CFAP.webinars@usda.gov) address we handed out earlier. We can answer a few of the ones that have come in so far. The first question, what commodities and livestock are eligible? Sonia, would you like to address this one?

Yes, of course. The program is open to producers of crops regardless of size and market outlet,

if they suffered an eligible loss as authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. More specific details, however, on eligible crops will be available after the rule is published.

Thank you, Sonia. Our next question is, is there any paperwork that can be completed now? Bill, would you like to take this one?

Yeah, absolutely. There is a list of forms that I keep referring to at [farmers.gov/CFAP](https://farmers.gov/CFAP) that you can go to and download these forms. These forms might include operating structure, joint venture structure, adjusted gross income, highly erodible soil, as well as basic contact information. A lot of those forms that I just previously mentioned. So, and again, if we worked with you in the past, chances are we already have that information. If you like, if you haven't been in your office for awhile, it may be worth a check to make sure everything is up to date. But the bottom line is, if you're new, we also encourage you to reach out to our local county offices and you can start that process immediately.

Thank you, Bill. Another question for Sonia. This is the first time a producer has worked with the Farm Service Agency. What should they know?

Oh, good question. We know that some of the specialty crop producers specifically that have worked with AMS for many years and are familiar with AMS programs may be new to the Farm Service Agency. This will be your first time working with FSA. Once the application period opens, your local FSA staff will work with you to apply for the program. They are ready to help you. You need to call the office and schedule an appointment. Like Bill I think mentioned, contact information for the FSA county office, forms and other information can be found on [farmers.gov/CFAP](https://farmers.gov/CFAP). So go there, all the information you need to contact your county office is there. Contact them, make an appointment and they'll walk you through it.

Thank you, Sonia. Another question for Bill. If a producer received assistance through the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program or the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, are they eligible for CFAP?

In a word, yes. So, thanks Jeff. So participants in the Small Business Administration's PPP or EIDL programs does not impact producer eligibility for CFAP or any USDA farm program. The PPP duplicate provision does not have an impact on FSA farm programs or FSA farm loans for that matter.

Thank you, Bill. We've mentioned several times during the broadcast that you can find information at [farmers.gov/CFAP](https://farmers.gov/CFAP). What you're seeing now on your screen is that CFAP page. Please bookmark this page, as it will be where you can also find information to prepare for CFAP signup, the application form once signup is announced, and contact information for your local USDA Service Center.

As we scroll through this you'll see some very basic information on the program and links to the forms Bill discussed earlier in the presentation. At the bottom of the page is the Service Center locator where you can find contact information for your local FSA office.

Currently, USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment at this time.

In closing, I'd like to thank both Bill and Sonia for their time, but more importantly, we'd like to thank all of you for joining us today. Again, as we conclude the presentation,

remember a recording of the webinar, along with answers to the questions we received will be posted on [farmers.gov/CFAP](https://farmers.gov/CFAP). Again, thank you for your attention today.