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| US Department of Agriculture |
| **Georgia State USDA Newsletter**  -  June 2023 |
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| [**Farm Service Agency**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffsa.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964347592%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HcYO5YHCkMUp57Oa5KJKhG1gTurxmBPaMLfb%2FeIIcjI%3D&reserved=0)**|**[**Natural Resources Conservation Service**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964347592%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=O7um6TGjbRqs6f0BRKaqoqiFeYwSqhRXAHWYV5vS3AM%3D&reserved=0)**|**[**Risk Management Agency**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frma.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964347592%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2Fwj%2FtW8Z%2FX%2Fb1JXVl1SOopB%2FX2yc9Mu20%2F76oqwxypY%3D&reserved=0) |
| In This Issue:* [Farm Service Agency Now Accepting Nominations for Farmers and Ranchers to Serve on Local County Committees](#link_4)
* [USDA Accepts More Than 1 Million Acres in Offers Through Conservation Reserve Program General Signup](#link_1)
* [USDA Announces Corrections to Emergency Relief Program Policy to More Accurately Reflect 2020 and 2021 Natural Disaster Impacts on Crops Intended for On-Farm Use](#link_2)
* [USDA is Providing $130 Million in Assistance to Help Farmers Facing Financial Risk](#link_3)
* [USDA Offers Assistance to Help Organic Dairy Producers Cover Increased Costs](#link_5)
* [Maintaining Good Credit History](#link_6)
* [USDA Reminds Producers to File Crop Acreage Reports](#link_7)
* [USDA Reminds Producers of Spring/Fall Application Deadlines for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)](#link_9)
* [WEBINAR: Research on the Use of Precision Ag Technologies for Cropland Phosphorus Management](#link_8)
* [SAVE THE DATE: RCPP Easement Information Session](#link_10)

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Farm Service Agency Now Accepting Nominations for Farmers and Ranchers to Serve on Local County Committees

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| The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now accepting nominations for county committee members for elections that will occur later this year. Additionally, USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) is unveiling a new GIS tool to make it easier for producers to participate in the nomination and election processes for county committee members, who make important decisions on how federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2023 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2023.   Elections will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for members. LAAs are elective areas for FSA committees in a single county or multi-county jurisdiction and they may include LAAs that are focused on an urban or suburban area.Customers can locate their LAA through a new GIS locator tool available at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Felections%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964347592%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BMS9AxzNodq7%2BMkEUEgCuWKiv8migI2JmA0Swivb%2FpA%3D&reserved=0).Agricultural producers may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee if they:* Participate or cooperate in a USDA program; and
* Reside in the LAA that is up for election this year.

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. Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates. USDA encourages minority producers, women and beginning farmers or ranchers to nominate, vote and hold office.   Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agricultural community serve on FSA county committees. The committees are made up of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Committee members are vital to how FSA carries out disaster programs, as well as conservation, commodity and price support programs, county office employment and other agricultural issues.    **Urban and Suburban County Committees** The 2018 Farm Bill directed USDA to form urban county committees as well as make other advancements related to urban agriculture, including the establishment of the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. FSA established county committees specifically focused on urban agriculture. The urban county committees will work to encourage and promote urban, indoor and other emerging agricultural production practices. Additionally, the new county committees may address areas such as food access, community engagement, support of local activities to promote and encourage community compost and food waste reduction.Urban committee members are nominated and elected to serve by local urban producers in the same jurisdiction. Urban county committee members will provide outreach to ensure urban producers understand USDA programs and serve as the voice of other urban producers and assist in program implementation that support the needs of the growing urban community.    County committees for urban agriculture are located in 17 cities across the U.S. including * Phoenix, Arizona
* Atlanta, Georgia
* New Orleans, Louisiana
* Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota
* Louis, Missouri
* Albuquerque, New Mexico
* Cleveland, Ohio
* Portland, Oregon
* Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
* Dallas, Texas
* Richmond, Virginia
* Chicago, Illinois
* New York, New York
* Detroit, Michigan
* Grand Rapids, Michigan
* Los Angeles, California
* Oakland, California

**More Information** Producers should contact their local FSA office today to register and find out how to get involved in their county’s election, including if their LAA is up for election this year. To be considered, a producer must be registered and sign an [FSA-669A](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FNomination-Forms%2Ffsa0669a_230511v01.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964347592%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=loWgKK0lqFiqDzSM9yD5FZUj8O8SQBrZ5u9hBtITykk%3D&reserved=0) nomination form. Urban farmers should use an Nomination forms and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Felections%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964347592%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BMS9AxzNodq7%2BMkEUEgCuWKiv8migI2JmA0Swivb%2FpA%3D&reserved=0).   Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, 2023.  |

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USDA Accepts More Than 1 Million Acres in Offers Through Conservation Reserve Program General Signup

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| Foresters working - NRCS-INAgriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting more than 1 million acres in this year’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General signup. This is one of several signups that USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) is holding for the program, and these results reflect the recognition the agricultural community give to CRP as a resource for climate-smart agriculture that helps promote plant and animal biodiversity as well as healthier soil. The signup’s results include 5,610 acres in Georgia.  While offers for new land in this General CRP signup totaled about 295,000 acres nationwide, producers submitted re-enrollment offers for 891,000 expiring acres, reflecting the successes of participating in CRP longer term. The total number of CRP acres will continue to climb in the coming weeks once FSA accepts acres on the Grassland CRP signup, which closed May 26. Additionally, so far this year, FSA has received 761,000 offered acres for the Continuous CRP signup, for which FSA accepts applications year-round.  The number of accepted acres that are actually enrolled in General CRP will be decided later this year. Participating producers and landowners should also remember that submitting and accepting a CRP offer is the start of the process, and producers still need to develop a conservation plan before enrolling their land. Each year, during the window between offer acceptance and land enrollment, some producers change their mind and ultimately decide not to enroll some accepted acres without penalty.   **General CRP Signup**      The General CRP Signup 60 ran from February 27 through April 7, 2023.       Through CRP, producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve soil health and water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat on agricultural land. In addition to the other well-documented benefits, lands enrolled in CRP are playing a key role in climate change mitigation efforts across the country.       In 2021, FSA introduced improvements to the program, which included a new Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This incentive provides a 3, 5, or 10 percent incentive payment based on the predominant vegetation type for the practices enrolled – from grasses to trees to wetland restoration.     **Other CRP Signups**  [Grassland CRP](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fconservation-programs%2Fcrp-grasslands%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964347592%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9UPGSTtWV9dAsDpez16z8JjFgbUuBKwu20Neyc5fQFg%3D&reserved=0) is a working lands program that helps producers and landowners protect grassland from conversion while enabling haying and grazing activities to continue. Lands enrolled support haying and grazing operations and promotes plant and animal biodiversity. Lands are also protected from being converted to uses other than grassland. This year’s signup for Grassland CRP ran from April 17 through May 26.  Under [Continuous CRP](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2Fcrp-continuous-enrollment-period-factsheet.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964503392%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BIHUI90vxMfQR4UaVtap9JJ1ejNszbu5Ttr2QAjy%2BZw%3D&reserved=0), producers and landowners can enroll throughout the year. Offers are automatically accepted provided the producer and land meet the eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap. Continuous CRP includes the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Initiative, the Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP), and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Also available is the Clean Lakes Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) initiative. CLEAR30, a signup opportunity under that initiative, was originally piloted in twelve states but has since been expanded nationwide, giving producers and landowners across the country the opportunity to enroll in 30-year CRP contracts for water quality practices.   **More Information** To learn more about FSA programs, producers can contact their local [USDA Service Center](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964503392%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=293dLGa2nffQPAuKXcGjVZr%2FNwhHfC6bIpiNHoptrC8%3D&reserved=0). Producers can also prepare maps for acreage reporting as well as manage farm loans and view other farm records data and customer information by [logging into their farmers.gov account](https://www.farmers.gov/account?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). If you don’t have an account, [sign up today](https://www.farmers.gov/account?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).   USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America’s food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgbc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com%2Fwe%2Fwww.usda.gov%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964503392%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2caso0L0EeAF6oLKrXpeAf%2FWbwH9MFT5CuLmJogexAc%3D&reserved=0).  |

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USDA Announces Corrections to Emergency Relief Program Policy to More Accurately Reflect 2020 and 2021 Natural Disaster Impacts on Crops Intended for On-Farm Use

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| ERP BlueberriesThe U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is updating the [Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Femergency-relief%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964503392%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2KSxP2%2FaJEozuBUTAaTYPVVXYhW9aINR5qq7jxe4y9k%3D&reserved=0) to provide a method for valuing losses and accessing program benefits to eligible producers of certain crops, including grapes grown and used by the same producer for wine production or forage that is grown, stored and fed to livestock, that do not generate revenue directly from the sale of the crop. These updates ensure that ERP benefits are more reflective of these producers’ actual crop losses resulting from 2020 and 2021 natural disaster events. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin accepting ERP Phase Two applications from eligible wine grape and forage producers once this technical correction to ERP is published in the Federal Register and becomes effective, which it anticipates will be on Friday, June 16, 2023. The deadline to submit applications for ERP Phase Two is July 14.  **Background**In January 2023, FSA announced ERP Phase Two, designed to wrap-up and fill remaining gaps in previous natural disaster assistance for 2020 and 2021.  To be eligible for ERP Phase Two, producers must have suffered a decrease in allowable gross revenue in 2020 or 2021 due to necessary expenses related to losses of eligible crops from a qualifying natural disaster event. Assistance is primarily for producers of crops that were not covered by Federal Crop Insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program since crops covered by Federal Crop Insurance and NAP were included in the assistance under ERP Phase One administered in 2022.  **Determining Crop Value**Producers of certain crops now have a method for including crop value in their allowable gross revenue for the purpose of determining ERP Phase 2 benefits. The value of the eligible crop intended for on-farm use will be based on the producer’s actual production of the crop and a price for the crop as determined by FSA’s Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs based on the best available data for each crop such as published crop price data or the average price obtained by other producers in the area. Acceptable, published sources including but are not limited to Federal Crop Insurance Corporation established prices, FSA established National Crop Table prices and National Agricultural Statistic Service prices.[Revenue and pricing guidelines](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2Femergency-relief-program%2Fpdfs%2Ferp_phase_two_determining_crop_value.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964503392%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2rrpANOPB2jsKEZbJfZshcG8ooh05Mqp%2F%2BcgwHOhCAA%3D&reserved=0) for expected revenue for wine grapes and on-farm forage is available online for producer reference and convenience when applying for ERP Phase Two.Wine grape and forage producers who have already submitted their ERP Phase Two applications to FSA have the option of revising the application and updating their allowable gross revenue to include crop value if applicable.Producers of crops grown for on-farm use other than wine grapes and forage may request consideration to use a crop’s value in their allowable gross revenue. Submit requests to RA.FSA.DCWA2.ppb@wdc.usda.gov.  FSA’s Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs will review submitted requests.  **Additional Technical Corrections – Conservation Programs**In addition to emergency relief policy updates, FSA has also established policy corrections for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). The policy correction clarifies that federal payments received for the same practice will be considered duplicative assistance for producers who receive ECP and EFRP program payments. The revised program provisions are related to program updates FSA announced in January that give more farmers, ranchers, and tribes the opportunity to apply for and access programs that support recovery following natural disasters (see [January 10, 2023 news release](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fnews-room%2Fnews-releases%2F2023%2Fusda-expands-eligibility-enhances-benefits-for-key-disaster-programs%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964503392%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vbyleyZ3WeMcjyN6uT8yXAfPxhRnLlFKuRI79h%2BYfvM%3D&reserved=0) for more information).ECP and EFRP provide financial and technical assistance to restore conservation practices like fencing, damaged farmland or forests following natural disasters.**More Information** FSA offers an online [ERP tool](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fview.officeapps.live.com%2Fop%2Fview.aspx%3Fsrc%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%252FAssets%252FUSDA-FSA-Public%252Fusdafiles%252Femergency-relief-program%252Fdocs%252Ferp_tool_version_4.xlsm%253Futm_medium%253Demail%2526utm_source%253Dgovdelivery%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery%26wdOrigin%3DBROWSELINK&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964503392%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=R7U%2B5tcTUuFyPMgOg8E8hMsqqduZVEP2c5cfDwfgcXc%3D&reserved=0) to help producers determine what is considered allowable gross revenue..    Producers should contact their local FSA office to make an appointment to apply for ERP Phase Two. Producers should also keep in mind that July 15 is a major deadline to complete acreage reports for most crops. FSA encourages producers to complete the ERP Phase Two application and acreage report during the same office visit.  Applications for the Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program, a revenue-based program for losses resulting from the pandemic, can also be completed.      For more information, view the [ERP Phase Two Fact Sheet](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2Femergency-relief-program%2Fpdfs%2Ffsa_erp_factsheet_23.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964503392%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bQm%2Bvt%2BwKmVmLP%2FMyaSGxzESoW0SqTGPojOUhbie8ck%3D&reserved=0), [PARP Fact Sheet](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/documents/farmersgov-parp-factsheet.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), the [ERP Phase Two-PARP Comparison Fact Sheet](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/documents/farmersgov-parp-comparison-factsheet.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), [ERP Phase Two application video tutorial](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery%26v%3Dv3R5llZzKBY&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964503392%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NiqKAW684E89ANod4%2FyTiAnt%2FuhsVsjBnimzFbx6uEY%3D&reserved=0), [PARP application video tutorial](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery%26v%3DAIYJo7nCwWs&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964503392%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vM4m5py%2Fn7UN12FhojJu4NM4sEZxL7UvYDm5O2eRn0g%3D&reserved=0), [myth-buster blog](https://www.farmers.gov/blog/myth-busting-fsas-new-revenue-based-disaster-and-pandemic-assistance-programs?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  |

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USDA is Providing $130 Million in Assistance to Help Farmers Facing Financial Risk

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| Farm Loan Programs**USDA announced** that nearly $130 million in additional, automatic financial assistance has been obligated for qualifying farm loan program borrowers who are facing financial risk. The announcement is part of the $3.1 billion to help distressed farm loan borrowers that was provided through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).Since the IRA was signed by President Biden in August 2022, including the payments announced today, USDA is providing approximately $1.1 billion in immediate assistance to more than 20,000 distressed borrowers.Borrowers who received these automatic payments include Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct loan borrowers whose interest exceeded principle owed on outstanding debts; borrowers who had a balance up to 60 days past due as of Sept. 30, 2022 and remained delinquent; and borrowers with a recent restructure between Feb. 28, 2020, through March 27, 2023, or who had accepted an offer to restructure on or before March 27, 2023, but had not yet closed that restructure.**Individual Applications for Farmers Seeking Assistance**In May, FSA will begin accepting and reviewing individual distressed borrower assistance requests from direct loan borrowers who missed a recent installment or are unable to make their next scheduled installment. All FSA borrowers should have received a [letter](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/documents/farmersgov-letter-to-financially-distressed-borrowers.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) detailing the process for seeking this type of assistance even before they become delinquent. As the letter details, borrowers who are within two months of their next installment may seek a cashflow analysis from FSA using a recent balance sheet and operating plan to determine their eligibility.  Also in May, FSA borrowers will receive a letter detailing a new opportunity to receive assistance if they took certain extraordinary measures to avoid delinquency on their loans, such as taking on or refinancing more debt, selling property, or cashing out retirement or college savings accounts. FSA also plans to begin working through these types of cases in May.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 eligibility criteria. USDA will also provide regular updates about its progress in deploying this funding to farmers who need it. |

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USDA Offers Assistance to Help Organic Dairy Producers Cover Increased CostsUSDA announced assistance for dairy producers with the new Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program (ODMAP). ODMAP is established to help mitigate market volatility, higher input and transportation costs, and unstable feed supply and prices that have created unique hardships in the organic dairy industry. Specifically, under the ODMAP, USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) is making $104 million available to organic dairy operations to assist with projected marketing costs in 2023, calculated using their marketing costs in 2022. FSA began accepting applications for ODMAP on May 24, 2023. Eligible producers include certified organic dairy operations that produce milk from cows, goats and sheep.**How ODMAP Works**FSA is providing financial assistance for a producer’s projected marketing costs in 2023 based on their 2022 costs. ODMAP provides a one-time cost-share payment based on marketing costs on pounds of organic milk marketed in the 2022 calendar year. ODMAP provides financial assistance that will immediately support certified organic dairy operations during 2023 keeping organic dairy operations sustainable until markets return to more normal conditions. **How to Apply**FSA is accepting applications from May 24 to July 26, 2023. To apply, producers should contact FSA at their local [USDA Service Center](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). To complete the ODMAP application, producers must certify to pounds of 2022 milk production, show documentation of their organic certification, and submit a completed application form.Organic dairy operations are required to provide their USDA certification of organic status confirming operation as an organic dairy in 2023 and 2022 along with the certification of 2022 milk production in hundredweight.ODMAP complements other assistance available to dairy producers, including Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) and Supplemental DMC, with more than $300 million in benefits paid for the 2023 program year to date. Learn more on the [FSA Dairy Programs webpage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-bill%2Ffarm-safety-net%2Fdairy-programs%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964503392%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hu%2B6jZ2j11B6PJH7HV0ugPlWSeAF%2BTtyzKte%2FvnG%2Fzc%3D&reserved=0).

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Maintaining Good Credit HistoryFarm Service Agency (FSA) loans require applicants to have a satisfactory credit history. A credit report is requested for all FSA direct farm loan applicants. These reports are reviewed to verify outstanding debts, see if bills are paid timely and to determine the impact on cash flow.Information on your credit report is strictly confidential and is used only as an aid in conducting FSA business.Our farm loan staff will discuss options with you if you have an unfavorable credit report and will provide a copy of your report. If you dispute the accuracy of the information on the credit report, it is up to you to contact the issuing credit report company to resolve any errors or inaccuracies.There are multiple ways to remedy an unfavorable credit score:* Make sure to pay bills on time
	+ Setting up automatic payments or automated reminders can be an effective way to remember payment due dates.
* Pay down existing debt
* Keep your credit card balances low
* Avoid suddenly opening or closing existing credit accounts

FSA’s farm loan staff will guide you through the process, which may require you to reapply for a loan after improving or correcting your credit report.For more information on FSA farm loan programs visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964503392%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VvIZansff4LJF0klsi%2FssnphVHIV%2FEkqnBpa7H9lcIw%3D&reserved=0).

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USDA Reminds Producers to File Crop Acreage ReportsAgricultural producers who have not yet completed their [crop acreage reports](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L2Nyb3AtYWNyZWFnZS1yZXBvcnRzP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzA0MjEuNzU1NjI5OTEifQ.m762RHHU8FOQjktZk-oNTNC_L-r8ylD5UZqS-aYomsc/s/1911530333/br/161170551733-l?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) after spring planting should make an appointment with their local County Farm Service Agency (FSA) before the applicable deadline.An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits.**How to File a Report**The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Georgia counties:July 15, 2023                                  All other crops, Perennial Forage  July 31, 2023                                  Hemp                  August 15, 2023                             Tomatoes (planted 7/1-8/15),                     September 15, 2023                       Sweet Corn (planted 7/15-8/25)October 15, 2023                            Cabbage (planted 7/16-9/30)November 15, 2023                        Onions (planted 9/20-10/20)              Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Because of the pandemic, some [USDA Service Centers](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHA6Ly93d3cuZmFybWVycy5nb3Yvc2VydmljZS1sb2NhdG9yP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzA0MjEuNzU1NjI5OTEifQ.zJENSYE3OAUALzzTc8VMcP2AL3zYOfskO0mWeIZdakg/s/1911530333/br/161170551733-l?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) are open to limited visitors. Contact your local county FSA office to set up an in-person or phone appointment.To file a crop acreage report, you will need to provide:* Crop and crop type or variety.
* Intended use of the crop.
* Number of acres of the crop.
* Map with approximate boundaries for the crop.
* Planting date(s).
* Planting pattern, when applicable.
* Producer shares.
* Irrigation practice(s).
* Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable.
* Other information as required.

**Acreage Reporting Details**The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:* If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
* If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.   Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed in Exhibit 3 (Zone Map) and Exhibit 4 (NAP Dates) in handbook 1-NAP (Rev. 2) or 15 calendar days before the onset of grazing or harvesting of the crop. Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to plant. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA’s Risk Management Agency.

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USDA Reminds Producers of Spring/Fall Application Deadlines for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) USDA Georgia Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers of approaching application deadlines for purchasing risk coverage for some crops through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops impacted by natural disasters that result in lower yields, crop losses, or prevented crop planting.NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass and more.Upcoming application deadlines for NAP coverage in Georgia for the 2024 production season include:**July:**By 07/01 forCabbage (Zone 3 only)By 07/31 forSweet Com, per FCIC**August:**By 08/15 forAll Value Loss CropsAll crops without a final planting date            such as Figs and CaneberriesCarrotsStrawberriesPerennial PeanutsBy 08/31 forOnions, Per FCICNAP basic coverage is available at 55% of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50% of expected production. Buy-up coverage is available in some cases. NAP offers higher levels of coverage, ranging from 50% to 65% of expected production in 5% increments, at 100% of the average market price. Producers of organic crops and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the “buy-up” option to obtain NAP coverage of 100% of the average market price at coverage levels ranging between 50% and 65% of expected production. Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of $325 per crop or $825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of $1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Premiums apply for buy-up coverage.If a producer has a Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification (form CCC-860) on file with FSA, it may serve as an application for basic coverage for all eligible crops beginning with crop year 2022. These producers will have all NAP-related service fees for basic coverage waived.  These producers may also receive a 50% premium reduction if higher levels of coverage are elected on form CCC-471, prior to the application closing date for each crop.To learn more about NAP visit [fsa.usda.gov/nap](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fnap%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964503392%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0zWAmdhaw4flPwQRjVU2mA1lsBsosY0It3WlJRHyzjE%3D&reserved=0) or contact your local USDA Service Center at 706-546-2266.

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WEBINAR: Research on the Use of Precision Ag Technologies for Cropland Phosphorus ManagementOn July 20 at 1:00 p.m. eastern, Dr. Douglas R. Smith from the USDA Agricultural Research Service’s Grassland Soil and Water Research Laboratory will present research on the use of precision ag technologies to improve cropland phosphorus management. Dr. Smith will share findings from collaborations with the USDA Conservation Effects Assessment Project, including field studies focused on reducing fertilizer runoff and increasing profitability by prioritizing high-yield areas for crop production. Registration is not required. Visit the [Conservation Outcomes Webinar Series webpage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fconservation-outcomes-webinar%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfdaab325cfdf4a55498908db78c62810%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638236564964503392%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ezANPIZLLaqwDEBPyu6HE2l6WBSFoQYErx9rcnaVBu0%3D&reserved=0) for additional information, including a link to access the live event.

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SAVE THE DATE: RCPP Easement Information Session The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) invites potential partners to join an information session to hear about Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) easements. The session will focus on easement-related aspects of RCPP project proposal development, project planning and implementation.Wednesday, July 12, 20232:00 pm ET[Join Meeting (Zoom)](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lnpvb21nb3YuY29tL2ovMTYwOTQwMTM3OD9wd2Q9YXpsTlVXWlRhelJHZHpWQlVIVjJSekpKVVhCSmR6MDkmdXRtX2NhbStwYWlnbj0wNjI3cmNwcCZ1dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMwNjI3Ljc4ODU3MjAxIn0.KIDvHK2l2sjp9Hs4QhdlO2XsFrAnmgbHVlVcP_c6WQs/s/1511941940/br/209220577242-l?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)Meeting ID: 160 940 1378 Passcode: 803806Organizations, institutions, conservation districts, States, Indian Tribes, and other groups are invited to partner with us through RCPP. For more information about RCPP and how to apply, [visit our website](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lm5yY3MudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtaW5pdGlhdGl2ZXMvcmNwcC1yZWdpb25hbC1jb25zZXJ2YXRpb24tcGFydG5lcnNoaXAtcHJvZ3JhbS9yY3BwLWluLWFjdGlvbj91dG1fY2FtK3BhaWduPTA2MjdyY3BwJnV0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzA2MjcuNzg4NTcyMDEifQ.wv3jw1JimOoHPpoytaJ-SLFSRhFbrNa5JJAr6weos64/s/1511941940/br/209220577242-l?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). |
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Georgia State USDA Office355 Hancock AvenueAthens, GA 30601Phone: 706-546-2266Fax: 855-409-5735

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| **State Executive DirectorFarm Service Agency**Arthur L. Tripp, Jr.: 706-546-2266arthur.tripp@usda.gov | **State ConservationistNatural Resources Conservation Service**Terrance O. Rudolph: 706-546-2272terrance.rudolph@usda.gov |
| **Regional Office DirectorRisk Management Agency**Davina Lee: 229-242-7235davina.lee@usda.gov |   |
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