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| June 2021 NL Masthead   * [Producers with Crop Insurance to Receive Premium Benefit for Cover Crops](#link_1) * [USDA Offers Disaster Assistance for Producers Facing Inclement Weather](#link_9) * [USDA Encourages Completion of Cash Rents and Leases Survey](#link_2) * [USDA Service Centers Provide Free, One-on-One Help for Farmers](#link_3) * [USDA Announces Grants for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#link_8) * [In Historic Move, USDA to Begin Loan Payments to Socially Disadvantaged Borrowers under American Rescue Plan Act Section 1005](#link_4) * [USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers](#link_5) * [June 2021 Interest Rates](#link_6)  Pennsylvania State FSA Newsletter |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Pennsylvania  Farm Service Agency 359 East Park Dr., Suite 1 Harrisburg, Pa 17111  Phone:  717-237-2113 Fax:      855-778-8909    **Acting State Executive Director:**  Dan Smeal  **State Committee:**  Bonnie Wenger, Chair  George Greig  Doug Graybill  Barron (Boots) Hetherington  Bill Hoover  **Division Chiefs:**   |  | | --- | | Rebecca Csutoras | | **Farm Programs** | |  | | David Poorbaugh | | **Farm Loan Programs** |     To find contact information for your local office go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/pa](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vZnNhLnVzZGEuZ292L3BhP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.WT7pU0EDrJ6P141zExF3oNlxby1vW4GHvsYzcOBwkO8/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) | Producers with Crop Insurance to Receive Premium Benefit for Cover Crops Agricultural producers who have coverage under most crop insurance policies are eligible for a premium benefit from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) if they planted cover crops during this crop year. The Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP), offered by USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA), helps farmers maintain their cover crop systems, despite the financial challenges posed by the pandemic.  The PCCP is part of USDA's [Pandemic Assistance for Producers](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9wYW5kZW1pYy1hc3Npc3RhbmNlP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.yUeCFn6YoVPPFgCtP0iEMq9yLLAp-wliqtG-m3x0v6g/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) initiative, a bundle of programs to bring financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and producers who felt the impact of COVID-19 market disruptions.  **About the Premium Benefit**  PCCP provides premium support to producers who insured their spring crop with most insurance policies and planted a qualifying cover crop during the 2021 crop year. The premium support is $5 per acre, but no more than the full premium owed.  Illinois, Indiana and Iowa have existing programs for producers to receive a premium benefit for planting cover crops. In these states, participating producers will receive an additional benefit.  All cover crops reportable to FSA are eligible and include cereals and other grasses, legumes, brassicas and other non-legume broadleaves, and mixtures of two or more cover crop species planted at the same time.  To receive the benefit for this program, producers must file a [Report of Acreage form (FSA-578)](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9zaXRlcy9kZWZhdWx0L2ZpbGVzLzIwMjEtMDUvZnNhMDU3OG1hbnVhbC0xOTA4MjJ2MDEtdW5pLnBkZj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.uh7Kx7RAfHLAAnyUxCUfyVMWZ5K-8EFT6ytry7IFHfA/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) for cover crops with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) by June 15, 2021, which is distinct from the normal acreage reporting date. The normal acreage reporting deadline with FSA has not changed, but to receive the premium benefit, producers must file by June 15. The cover crop fields reported on the Report of Acreage form must match what the producer reported to their insurance company for crop insurance policies. To file the form, producers must contact and make an appointment with their local [USDA Service Center](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L3NlcnZpY2UtbG9jYXRvcj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.fcvoGiBkpmOeoxd36ARGQP2S3QFI8AJjVCJKy61y5pQ/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l).  **Program Details**  Certain policies are not eligible because they have underlying coverage, which would already receive the benefit or are not designed to be reported in a manner consistent with the Report of Acreage form (FSA-578). PCCP is not available for Whole-Farm Revenue Protection, Enhanced Coverage Option, Hurricane Insurance Protection – Wind Index, and Supplemental Coverage Option. Stacked Income Protection (STAX) and Margin Protection (MP) policies are only eligible for PCCP when insured as a standalone policy. STAX and MP endorsements to underlying policies are not eligible for PCCP.  PCCP does not change acreage reporting dates, reporting requirements, or any other terms of the crop insurance policy.  **Cover Crop Conservation Practice Standard**  Meanwhile, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has made the determination not to update its conservation practice standard for cover crops. NRCS originally proposed restricting mechanical harvest of cover crops, but after reviewing input from agricultural producers and groups, NRCS recognizes this could present challenges for producers who use this important conservation practice. The latest version of the conservation practice standard can be found in the [Field Office Technical Guide](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2Vmb3RnLnNjLmVnb3YudXNkYS5nb3YvP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSMvZGV0YWlscyJ9.BQVXrJn34jLFVOIUZBIuHbDfTtrQOrGwOOQx1t-Svds/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) under Section IV, Conservation Practices and Supporting Documents, by State.  **More Information**  A [Notice of Funding Availability](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mZWRlcmFscmVnaXN0ZXIuZ292L3B1YmxpYy1pbnNwZWN0aW9uLzIwMjEtMTE2MDMvZnVuZGluZy1hdmFpbGFiaWxpdHktcGFuZGVtaWMtY292ZXItY3JvcC1wcm9ncmFtP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.vyxw0EC6w0L0Y7eztxVxzqp9fc5ZO8A1yFuRjW4sB54/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) was posted on the Federal Register today. Additional information on PCCP, including [frequently asked questions](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9wYW5kZW1pYy1hc3Npc3RhbmNlL2NvdmVyLWNyb3BzL3BjY3AtZmFxP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.P1sdT4xZy5o9Sx11pKWVNIzPWniK-ibigR-Z6N8vVFk/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l), can be found at [farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cover-crops](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9wYW5kZW1pYy1hc3Npc3RhbmNlL2NvdmVyLWNyb3BzP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.J_XK-Rd8yFOnGuyr6_744E7_I9pJohCTHa4E2_Uv9Mc/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l).  RMA is authorizing additional flexibilities due to coronavirus while continuing to support producers, working through AIPs to deliver services, including processing policies, claims and agreements. RMA staff are working with AIPs and other customers by phone, mail and electronically to continue supporting crop insurance coverage for producers. Farmers with crop insurance questions or needs should continue to contact their insurance agents about conducting business remotely (by telephone or email). More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L2Nvcm9uYXZpcnVzP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.Wzd9PKLKqqul-qtdtLM6EXG5RRq88hsJEdzOBeiqIMU/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l). USDA Offers Disaster Assistance for Producers Facing Inclement Weather Severe weather events create significant challenges and often result in catastrophic loss for agricultural producers. Despite every attempt to mitigate risk, your operation may suffer losses. USDA offers several programs to help with recovery.  **Risk Management**  For producers who have risk protection through [Federal Crop Insurance](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ybWEudXNkYS5nb3YvRmVkZXJhbC1Dcm9wLUluc3VyYW5jZS1Db3Jwb3JhdGlvbj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.rHL8ohL3gws9ISb8k0ttS4QSP9S8smrXk8s_yxuRUlM/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l)or the [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2Rpc2FzdGVyLWFzc2lzdGFuY2UtcHJvZ3JhbS9ub25pbnN1cmVkLWNyb3AtZGlzYXN0ZXItYXNzaXN0YW5jZS9pbmRleD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.-JiTBNG3QQjehXabwZ3p2rDr3GzOBf0fKD-JK9BVBNg/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) (NAP), we want to remind you to report crop damage to your crop insurance agent or the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.  If you have crop insurance, contact your agency within 72 hours of discovering damage and be sure to follow up in writing within 15 days. If you have NAP coverage, file a Notice of Loss (also called Form CCC-576) within 15 days of loss becoming apparent, except for hand-harvested crops, which should be reported within 72 hours.  **Disaster Assistance**  USDA also offers disaster assistance programs, which is especially important to livestock, fruit and vegetable, specialty and perennial crop producers who have fewer [risk management options](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ybWEudXNkYS5nb3YvVG9waWNzL1NwZWNpYWx0eS1Dcm9wcz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.-ytKorD7Yk8fz7xp5Gp9k-bpvr_97aubBp7S-bQQZxE/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l).  First, the [Livestock Indemnity Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2Rpc2FzdGVyLWFzc2lzdGFuY2UtcHJvZ3JhbS9saXZlc3RvY2staW5kZW1uaXR5L2luZGV4P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.jKAD6ukTddc4LlFMsBJ6sbr9YObAqr5h1tpG9nQYxSM/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) (LIP) and [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee and Farm-raised Fish Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2Rpc2FzdGVyLWFzc2lzdGFuY2UtcHJvZ3JhbS9lbWVyZ2VuY3ktYXNzaXN0LWZvci1saXZlc3RvY2staG9uZXktYmVlcy1maXNoL2luZGV4P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.O0O1OqZCW3n66L59ogrS24IJovKeyX02ro_vUquW-rw/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) (ELAP) reimburses producers for a portion of the value of livestock, poultry and other animals that died as a result of a qualifying natural disaster event or for loss of grazing acres, feed and forage. And, the [Livestock Forage Disaster Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2Rpc2FzdGVyLWFzc2lzdGFuY2UtcHJvZ3JhbS9saXZlc3RvY2stZm9yYWdlL2luZGV4P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.cSf_gSJnHTGPZrEG_17H1d7iYcs3efcVAtaYe6Rccnw/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) (LFP) provides assistance to producers of grazed forage crop acres that have suffered crop loss due to a qualifying drought.  Livestock producers suffering the impacts of drought can also request [Emergency Haying and Grazing](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2NvbnNlcnZhdGlvbi1wcm9ncmFtcy9jb25zZXJ2YXRpb24tcmVzZXJ2ZS1wcm9ncmFtL2VtZXJnZW5jeS1oYXlpbmctYW5kLWdyYXppbmcvaW5kZXg_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.6fCIYK_ihC3kxYqt1o2AujjBxW47dFghqwniwfbtYiw/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres.  Next, the [Tree Assistance Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2Rpc2FzdGVyLWFzc2lzdGFuY2UtcHJvZ3JhbS90cmVlLWFzc2lzdGE_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.YVJ2wUKlBOzOY3ZZ9a_55Wd3-8LMUY_n-G4bf2DrSvM/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) (TAP) provides cost share assistance to rehabilitate and replant tree, vines or shrubs loss experienced by orchards and nurseries. This complements NAP or crop insurance coverage, which cover the crop but not the plants or trees in all cases.  For LIP and ELAP, you will need to file a Notice of Loss for livestock and grazing or feed losses within 30 days and honeybee losses within 15 days. For TAP, you will need to file a program application within 90 days.  **Documentation**  It’s critical to keep accurate records to document all losses following this devastating cold weather event. Livestock producers are advised to document beginning livestock numbers by taking time and date-stamped video or pictures prior to after the loss.  Other common documentation options include:   * Purchase records * Production records * Vaccination records * Bank or other loan documents * Third-party certification   **Other Programs**  The [Emergency Conservation Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZzYS51c2RhLmdvdi9wcm9ncmFtcy1hbmQtc2VydmljZXMvY29uc2VydmF0aW9uLXByb2dyYW1zL2VtZXJnZW5jeS1jb25zZXJ2YXRpb24vaW5kZXg_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.Bw_S4QXdPoAww5m26FYodIZbWg7lIElxF6vllnjIBeQ/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) and [Emergency Forest Restoration Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2Rpc2FzdGVyLWFzc2lzdGFuY2UtcHJvZ3JhbS9lbWVyZ2VuY3ktZm9yZXN0LXJlc3RvcmF0aW9uL2luZGV4P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.MpxL9j0DZo08jA_31z5RMQb1GAqbniDzkdFcKG_djbc/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) can assist landowners and forest stewards with financial and technical assistance to restore damaged farmland or forests.  Additionally, FSA offers a variety of loans available including emergency loans that are triggered by disaster declarations and operating loans that can assist producers with credit needs.  You can use these loans to replace essential property, purchase inputs like livestock, equipment, feed and seed, or refinance farm-related debts, and other needs.  Meanwhile, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial resources through its [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ucmNzLnVzZGEuZ292L3dwcy9wb3J0YWwvbnJjcy9tYWluL25hdGlvbmFsL3Byb2dyYW1zL2ZpbmFuY2lhbC9lcWlwLz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.TAcWqe2nM4X8irCcNUNrjbd3nMxP5XAGq09h3QjKdrU/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) to help with immediate needs and long-term support to help recover from natural disasters and conserve water resources. Assistance may also be available for emergency animal mortality disposal from natural disasters and other causes.  **Additional Resources**  Additional details – including payment calculations – can be found on our [NAP](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvQXNzZXRzL1VTREEtRlNBLVB1YmxpYy91c2RhZmlsZXMvRmFjdFNoZWV0cy9ub25pbnN1cmVkX2Nyb3BfZGlzYXN0ZXJfYXNzaXN0YW5jZV9wcm9ncmFtLW5hcC1mYWN0X3NoZWV0LnBkZj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.IY9p_3OpPW2CZMiINJReWAAmKPtYpKqECjPgxV29q8o/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l), [ELAP](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvQXNzZXRzL1VTREEtRlNBLVB1YmxpYy91c2RhZmlsZXMvRmFjdFNoZWV0cy9lbGFwLWdlbmVyYWwtMjAyMC1mYWN0LXNoZWV0LTEucGRmP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.rOV0QDE9oLMZUZx2HH_xMeWuOL9C0gr3KEzXX1w8GI0/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l), [LIP](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvQXNzZXRzL1VTREEtRlNBLVB1YmxpYy91c2RhZmlsZXMvRmFjdFNoZWV0cy9saXZlc3RvY2tfaW5kZW1uaXR5X3Byb2dyYW1fbGlwLWZhY3Rfc2hlZXQucGRmP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.r9F3v1d0kpZaNNtw5S_n8EwD5LpL1MLo_3_ewe6wFU4/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l), and [TAP](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvQXNzZXRzL1VTREEtRlNBLVB1YmxpYy91c2RhZmlsZXMvRmFjdFNoZWV0cy90cmVlX2Fzc2lzdGFuY2VfcHJvZ3JhbS10YXAtZmFjdF9zaGVldC5wZGY_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.hc-02Z4pY2CSDsczEpjTc4M_51fun-ab8RSD3nRwpzQ/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) fact sheets. On farmers.gov, the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9ub2RlLzI4OTg5P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.oU81KHNBLYfMlZ9Y7bGtoDzHgiyfOxD9DfDT3YawQ0Q/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l), [Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9zaXRlcy9kZWZhdWx0L2ZpbGVzLzIwMjAtMDQvRlNBX0Rpc2FzdGVyQXNzaXN0YW5jZV9hdF9hX2dsYW5jZV9icm9jaHVyZV8ucGRmP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.N9-oU1gitx1hdyD_9zUivH81eQJbmG4iSsaIDWNkZ2Y/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l), and [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9mdW5kL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1kaXNjb3ZlcnktdG9vbD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.HYYI9acMs69F6ZRpspG4MU_Zivkl74DOg18PS_Yp2hk/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) can help you determine program or loan options.    While we never want to have to implement disaster programs, we are here to help. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local USDA Service Center. All[USDA Service Centers](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9zZXJ2aWNlLWNlbnRlci1sb2NhdG9yP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.q9SUQotmuIKzS9rr5EK4zTHQdV6ojpUgRf-I9ndv7o0/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) are open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments because of the pandemic | |
| USDA Encourages Completion of Cash Rents and Leases Survey You may have received a Cash Rents and Leases survey from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This survey provides the basis for estimates of the current year’s cash rents paid for irrigated cropland, non-irrigated cropland, and permanent pasture. Please complete your Cash Rents and Leases survey by June 21. This survey can be completed and returned by mail, over the phone, or at [agcounts.usda.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2FnY291bnRzLnVzZGEuZ292L3N0YXRpYy9jYXdpL2xheW91dHMvY2F3aS9icmVlemUvaW5kZXguaHRtbD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.OUFSsYIx6IWS7ZI2maIVLx7wh6r4nFHJ0-kqMr8C0Pc/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l).  Information from this survey is used in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as an alternative soil rental rate prior to finalizing new rates each year. Survey responses from as many localities as possible help calculate more accurate rental rates. Completion of the survey ensures cash rental rates accurately represent your locality. Survey results will also give you a useful tool in negotiating your rental agreements, and financial planning for your agricultural operation.  In accordance with federal law, survey responses are kept confidential. Survey results will be available in aggregate form only to ensure that no individual producer or operation can be identified. NASS will publish the survey results on August 27 at [quickstats.nass.usda.gov/.](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3F1aWNrc3RhdHMubmFzcy51c2RhLmdvdi8_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.y4QSISXQW9QjK-vURcbcqkp958mfcrP_LFRsuPle1Qc/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l)  If you have any questions about this survey, please call 888-424-7828, or visit: [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide\_to\_NASS\_Surveys/Cash\_Rents\_by\_County/index.php.](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5uYXNzLnVzZGEuZ292L1N1cnZleXMvR3VpZGVfdG9fTkFTU19TdXJ2ZXlzL0Nhc2hfUmVudHNfYnlfQ291bnR5L2luZGV4LnBocD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.NK8lIQYJrCjintUquPJr-OEdcE5W1d-6ecOa8jJtrv8/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) USDA Service Centers Provide Free, One-on-One Help for Farmers At USDA, we are committed to helping farmers complete loan applications, environmental reviews, and other paperwork free of charge. One-on-one support is available at more than 2,300 USDA Service Centers nationwide. USDA’s Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff are usually co-located at these Service Centers and can help guide farmers to the best USDA assistance based on their unique goals, whether it is loans, conservation programs, or insurance.  Service Center staff can guide farmers through the process of preparing and submitting required paperwork on their own, with no need to hire a paid preparer. Language translation service is available in all USDA Service Centers, so one-on-one assistance with a Service Center employee can be translated in real time for farmers requiring it. And while some program and loan applications do have an administrative fee for filing, there is never a charge for preparation services provided by USDA staff.  Farmers who work with the USDA Service Center can:   * Establish their farm by registering for a farm number, which is required for USDA programs and assistance. * Learn how to meet conservation compliance provisions. * Verify eligibility for USDA programs. * Discuss their business and conservation goals. * Create a conservation plan. * Fill out and file loan and program applications.   We are committed to delivering USDA programs and services to America’s farmers and ranchers while taking safety measures in response to COVID-19. We encourage you to [check the status of your local USDA Service Center](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9jb3JvbmF2aXJ1cy9zZXJ2aWNlLWNlbnRlci1zdGF0dXM_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.LEJMv4AqYrykSK5AqERAHY9TER_70Ww3sEzJbjY1zD0/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) and make an appointment to discuss your business needs.   USDA Announces Grants for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production 4 million dollars in competitive grants is available to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects. USDA will accept applications on Grants.gov for planning and implementation projects until midnight July 30, 2021.  **Planning Projects** Planning projects initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access, education, business and start-up costs for new farmers, urban agroforestry or food forests, and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production.  **Implementation Projects** Implementation projects that accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor and other agricultural practices that serve multiple farmers. Projects will improve local food access and collaborate with partner organizations and may support infrastructure needs, emerging technologies, educational endeavors and urban farming policy implementation. In Historic Move, USDA to Begin Loan Payments to Socially Disadvantaged Borrowers under American Rescue Plan Act Section 1005 The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) [published the first notice of funding availability (NOFA)](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3B1YmxpYy1pbnNwZWN0aW9uLmZlZGVyYWxyZWdpc3Rlci5nb3YvMjAyMS0xMTE1NS5wZGY_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.5mym7z2Hd0EM9RZElFplhL8t2vV7k3dUDMMEnYTQ0Q0/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l) (PDF, 242 KB) announcing loan payments for eligible borrowers with qualifying direct farm loans under the American Rescue Plan Act Section 1005. The official NOFA will be published in the Federal Register early this week and USDA expects payments to begin in early June and continue on a rolling basis. A subsequent notice addressing guaranteed loan balances and direct loans that no longer have collateral and have been previously referred to the Department of Treasury for debt collection for offset, will be published within 120 days.  Section 1005 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) provides funding and authorization for USDA FSA to pay up to 120 percent of direct and guaranteed loan outstanding balances as of January 1, 2021, for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers as defined in Section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)). Section 2501(a) defines a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher as a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group, which is further defined as a group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Qualifying loans as part of today’s announcement are certain direct loans under the Farm Loan Programs (FLP) and Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL).  For much of the history of the USDA, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers have faced discrimination—sometimes overt and sometimes through deeply embedded rules and policies—that have prevented them from achieving as much as their counterparts who do not face these documented acts of discrimination. Over the past 30 years, several major civil rights lawsuits have compensated farmers for specific acts of discrimination—including Pigford I and Pigford II, Keepseagle, and the Garcia cases. However, those settlements and other related actions did not address the systemic and cumulative impacts of discrimination over a number of decades that the American Rescue Plan now begins to address.  Sections 1005 and 1006 of ARPA provide USDA with new tools to address longstanding inequities for socially disadvantaged borrowers. Section 1006 of ARPA provides additional funding to begin long-term racial equity work within USDA, including to address heirs property claims and to stand up an Equity Commission to identify barriers to access USDA programming.  To learn more about the loan payments to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, visit [www.farmers.gov/americanrescueplan](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9hbWVyaWNhbnJlc2N1ZXBsYW4_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.xUE44HXVJ0QSpgc93a2Op0j6WcdxZzk6i-ZiYBpSSX8/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l). USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants and beginning farmers and ranchers.  USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.  Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.  The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans:  farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA offers Microloans through the direct loan program. Microloans focus on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche, and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit [fsa.usda.gov/microloans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZzYS51c2RhLmdvdi9taWNyb2xvYW5zP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.euu96AXrK1_lvsUbWNQ5SFiDnF7l5JqYIoQvstiIC6w/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l).  To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.  For more information on FSA’s farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, contact your [NAME] County USDA Service Center at [XXX-XXX-XXXX] or visit [fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA2MDguNDE2MTk5OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZzYS51c2RhLmdvdi9mYXJtbG9hbnM_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.Z1dWUU8UhxrhwDga4FQHNMCUHXiwseeCqw5pcl2T2z4/s/6546062/br/107575974074-l). June 2021 Interest Rates  |  |  | | --- | --- | | Farm Operating Loans |  | | Farm Operating Loans - Direct | 1.875 % | | Farm Operating Loans - Microloan | 1.875 % | |  |  | | **Farm Ownership Loans** |  | | Direct | 3.250 % | | Microloan | 3.250 % | | Joint Financing | 2.500 % | | Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 1.500 % | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | Emergency Loans | 2.875 % | |  |  | | Farm Storage Facility Loans |  | | Farm Storage Facility Loans (3 Year Term) | 0.375 % | | Farm Storage Facility Loans (5 Year Term) | 0.875 % | | Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 Year Term) | 1.250 % | | Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 Year Term) | 1.625 % | | Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 Year Term) | 1.750 % | |  |  | | Commodity Loans | 1.125 % |     USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users). |