



Farm Service Agency

Market Facilitation Program

FACT SHEET
September 2019

Overview

The Market Facilitation Program (MFP) provides direct payments to help producers who have been directly impacted by illegal retaliatory tariffs, resulting in the loss of traditional exports. The MFP is established under the statutory authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act and is under the administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA). The Charter Act authorizes CCC to assist in the expansion of domestic markets or development of new and additional markets and uses.

Producers may apply for MFP **through Dec. 6, 2019**.

Payments

MFP payments are available to eligible producers of specified commodities for 2019 that include certain non-specialty crops, specialty crops, dairy, and livestock.

MFP payments will be made in up to three tranches (or portions), with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. If conditions warrant, the second tranche will be made in November, and the third in January.

The first payment will be comprised of the higher of either 50 percent of a producer's calculated payment or \$15 per acre. The first payments were issued starting in late August.

Producers requesting an MFP payment must have a crop acreage report on file with FSA for MFP crop commodities.

Non-Specialty Crops

Non-specialty crop payments are based on a single county payment rate multiplied by a farm's total plantings of MFP-eligible crops in aggregate in 2019.

A producer's total payment-eligible plantings are based on the lesser of total 2019 plantings or 2018 plantings and prevented plantings. County payment rates range from \$15 to \$150 per acre, depending on the impact of unjustified trade retaliation in that county. Visit farmers.gov/MFP for a list of payment rates by county.

The following non-specialty crops are eligible for MFP assistance: alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dried beans, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, millet, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, rye, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, triticale, upland cotton, and wheat. Acreage of non-specialty crops and cover crops must have been planted by Aug. 1, 2019, to be considered eligible for MFP payments.

Specialty Crops

MFP payments will also be made to producers of almonds, cranberries, cultivated ginseng, fresh grapes, fresh sweet cherries, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pistachios, and walnuts. Each specialty crop will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of fruit or nut bearing plants, or in the case of ginseng, based on reported acres in 2019.





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The initial MFP rates for specialty crops are as follows:

- Nuts \$146 per acre
- Cranberries \$0.03 per pound at 21,371 pounds per acre
- Ginseng \$2.85 per pound at 2,000 pounds per acre
- Sweet cherries (fresh) \$0.17 per pound at 9,148 pounds per acre
- Table grapes \$0.03 per pound at 20,820 pounds per acre

Dairy and Hog Production

Dairy producers who were in business as of June 1, 2019, will receive a per hundredweight payment on production history, and hog producers will receive a payment based on the number of live hogs owned on a day selected by the producer between April 1 and May 15, 2019.

The initial MFP rates for dairy and hogs are as follows:

- Dairy (milk) \$0.20 per hundredweight
- Hogs \$11 per head

Cover Crops

Producers affected by natural disasters who filed prevented planting claims then planted an MFP-eligible cover crop, with the potential to be harvested or for subsequent use as forage, may qualify for a \$15 per acre payment. Acreage of cover crops must have been planted by Aug. 1, 2019, to be considered eligible for MFP payments.

Payment Limitations

MFP payments are capped per person or legal entity as follows:

- A combined \$250,000 for non-specialty crops
- A combined \$250,000 for dairy production and hogs
- A combined \$250,00 for specialty crop producers

No person or legal entity can receive more than \$500,000 overall in any combination of MFP payments made for any and all of the above categories.

MFP payments do not count against other program payment limitations.

Eligibility

To be eligible for payments, a person or legal entity must either:

- have an average adjusted gross income for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 of less than \$900,000; or
- derive at least 75 percent of their adjusted gross income from farming or ranching.

Persons and legal entities also must:

- comply with the provisions of the “Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation” regulations, often called the conservation compliance provisions
- be actively engaged in farming for non-specialty crop commodities, except for alfalfa hay, triticale, special crop commodities, and livestock commodities
- not have a controlled substance violation

Where to File the Application

MFP applications are available online at farmers.gov/MFP. Applications can be completed at a local FSA office or submitted electronically either by scanning, emailing, or faxing.

More Information

For more information about the MFP program, visit farmers.gov/MFP or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.