

# CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM for Aquaculture Producers

USDA is providing critical support to our nation's farmers and ranchers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). CFAP provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities with financial assistance that gives them the ability to absorb sales declines and increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Overview

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability Act (CARES Act) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act authorized the funds for the CFAP.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administer the program.

FSA is accepting applications for CFAP from **May 26, 2020, to September 11, 2020.**

## Who is Eligible?

CFAP assistance is available to eligible aquaculture producers who have an ownership interest in aquaculture commodities that have suffered a 5-percent-or-greater price loss or experienced an abrupt drop in sales as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and face additional significant costs in caring for their inventories due to unexpected surplus.

USDA announced on August 11 that certain aquaculture commodities grown and harvested from controlled environments, including raceways, ponds, tanks, and recirculating systems, are eligible for CFAP.

Eligible commodities include:

- Crayfish
- Catfish
- Largemouth Bass, sold live as foodfish
- Carp, sold live as foodfish
- Hybrid Striped Bass
- Red Drum
- Salmon



- Sturgeon
- Tilapia
- Trout
- Ornamentals/Tropicals
- Recreational Sportfish

## Payments

Aquaculture payments differ for eligible fish and crustaceans. CFAP payments will be calculated as outlined below.

### Eligible Fish

CFAP payments for eligible aquaculture species, excluding crawfish, are the sum of:

1. the aquaculture species sold from January 15, 2020, through April 15, 2020, multiplied by the CARES Act payment rate; and
2. inventory of the aquaculture species that was not sold but was market size and available to be marketed between January 15, 2020, and April 15, 2020, multiplied by the CCC payment rate.

## Crawfish

CFAP payments for crawfish are the sum of:

1. crayfish sold from January 15, 2020, through April 15, 2020, multiplied by the CARES Act payment rate; and
  2. crawfish inventory that was not sold as of April 15, 2020, due to lack of market and will not be sold in calendar year 2020, multiplied by the CCC payment rate.
- The following table lists eligible aquaculture commodities and payment rates for CFAP.

COMMODITY	UNIT OF MEASURE	CARES ACT PART 1 PAYMENT RATE*	CCC PART 2 PAYMENT RATE*
Crawfish	Pound	\$0.65	\$0.05
Catfish	Pound	–	\$0.07
Largemouth Bass and Carp Sold as Foodfish	Pound	\$0.51	\$0.39
Hybrid Striped Bass	Pound	–	\$0.25
Red Drum	Pound	–	\$0.24
Salmon	Pound	\$1.14	\$0.31
Sturgeon	Pound	–	\$0.29
Tilapia	Pound	–	\$0.16
Trout	Pound	–	\$0.11
Ornamental/ Tropical Fish	Piece	–	\$0.03
Recreational Sportfish	Pound	–	\$0.27
Frozen Eggs	Pound	\$0.06	\$0.02

## Payment Limitations

CFAP payments are subject to a per person and legal entity payment limitation of \$250,000. This limitation applies to the total amount of CFAP payments made with respect to all eligible commodities.

Unlike other FSA programs, special payment limitation rules are applied to participants that are corporations, limited liability companies, and limited partnerships (corporate entities). These corporate entities may receive up to \$750,000 based upon the number of shareholders (not to exceed three shareholders) who are contributing at least 400 hours of active person management or personal active labor.

## For a corporate entity:

- With one such shareholder, the payment limit for the entity is \$250,000;
- With two such shareholders, the payment limit for the entity is \$500,000 if at least two members contribute at least 400 hours of active personal labor or active personal management, or combination thereof, with respect to the operation of the corporate entity; and
- With three such shareholders, the limit is \$750,000 if at least three members contribute at least 400 hours of active personal labor or active personal management, or combination thereof, with respect to the operation of the corporate entity.

## How to Apply

FSA staff at your local USDA Service Center will work with producers to file applications. Applications may be submitted via mail, fax, hand delivery, or via electronic means. Please call your office prior to sending applications electronically.

The CFAP application and associated forms are available online at [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap).

## More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information about the CFAP program, visit [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap) or contact your local FSA office. Additionally, producers in search of one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

To find your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap).