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| |  | | --- | | November 2020 NL Masthead  Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/bulletins/2ac30d2).   * [More than $7 Billion Paid in Second Round of USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program](#link_1) * [New to Farming Because of the Pandemic? USDA Can Help](#link_2) * [USDA Announces Flexibilities for Producers Filing ‘Notice of Loss’ for Failed, Prevented Planted Acres](#link_3) * [USDA Launches New Farmers.gov Features to Help Farmers Hire Workers](#link_4) * [FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans](#link_5) * [Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) Program for Farm Loan Borrowers](#link_6)  Arizona FSA Newsletter | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Arizona Farm Service Agency 230 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 506 Phoenix, Arizona  85003 Phone:  602-285-6300 Fax:  855-220-1760 [www.fsa.usda.gov/az](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/az)  **State Executive Director:** James Mago  **State Committee:** Pamela Griffin Andy Groseta Dave Lamoreaux Stephanie Harvey Chris Dobson  To find contact information for your local office go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/az](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/az) | More than $7 Billion Paid in Second Round of USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program USDA announced that in the first month of the application period, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) approved more than $7 billion in payments to producers in the second round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. CFAP 2 provides agricultural producers with financial assistance to help absorb some of the increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.  Since CFAP 2 enrollment began on September 21, FSA has approved more than 443,000 applications. The top five states for payments are Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois and Kansas. USDA has released a [data dashboard](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap/data?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) on application progress and program payments and will release further updates each Monday at 2:00 p.m. ET. The report can be viewed at [farmers.gov/cfap](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  Through CFAP 2, USDA is making available up to $14 billion for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. CFAP 2 is a separate program from the first iteration of CFAP (CFAP 1). Farmers and ranchers who participated in CFAP 1 will not be automatically enrolled and must complete a new application for CFAP 2. FSA will accept CFAP 2 applications through December 11, 2020.  **Eligible Commodities**  CFAP 2 supports eligible producers of row crops, livestock, specialty crops, dairy, aquaculture, and many other commodities, including many that were ineligible for CFAP 1. FSA’s [CFAP 2 Eligible Commodities Finder](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap/tool?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) makes finding eligible commodities and payment rates simple. Access this tool and other resources at [farmers.gov/cfap](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). New to Farming Because of the Pandemic? USDA Can Help Are you new to farming because of the pandemic? USDA can help you get started – everything from helping you register your farm to getting financial assistance and advice. Our team members, based at USDA Service Centers across the country, are hearing from people who are interested in more space and working the land, and we want to let you know we can help.  **Get Started with USDA**  First, you want to make sure your farm is registered. If you purchased land, it might already be established with USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) with a farm number on file. If not, FSA can help you register your farm.  To obtain a farm number, you’ll bring an official tax ID (Social Security number or an employer ID) and a property deed. If you do not own the land, bring a lease agreement to show you have control of the property to your FSA representative. If your operation is incorporated or an entity, you may also need to provide proof that you have signature authority and the legal ability to enter contracts with USDA.  **Access to Capital**  USDA can provide access to capital through its farm loans, which is a great resource when producers aren’t able to get a loan from a traditional lender. Loans can help with purchasing land or equipment or with operating costs, and FSA even offers microloans, which are especially popular among producers with smaller farms. For more information, [check out our Farm Loan Discovery Tool.](https://www.farmers.gov/fund/farm-loan-discovery-tool?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)  **Conservation Practices**  We can help you make conservation improvements to your farm, which are good for your bottom line and your operation. We’ll help you develop a conservation plan as well as apply for financial assistance that’ll cover the bulk of the costs for implementing. To learn more about some of the conservation practices that we help producers with, [check out our Conservation at Work Video Series.](https://www.farmers.gov/conserve/conservation-at-work?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)  If you purchase land, and you don’t want to farm all of it, you can look at either a conservation easement or managing for native shrubs and grasses through either the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program or Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Easements are long-term, while a CRP contract is 10-15 years. These are good options for lands with land that is not optimal for production or sensitive lands like wetlands and grasslands.  **Additional Resources**  Depending on your farm, you may want to look at crop insurance. The USDA’s Risk Management Agency provides crop insurance to help you manage risks on your farm. There are [many types of insurance products available](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rma.usda.gov%2FTopics%2FBeginning-Farmers%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C5497be15134145842f7d08d8874039bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637408057199847764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=oe1aLwSIPtWBSnxp%2BZqHZaDhced44hRV4GZhoe4Lg%2BE%3D&reserved=0) for a wide variety of production practices, including organic and sustainable agriculture.  Your local communities also have great resources for farmers including conservation districts, Rural Development, cooperative extensions, and different farming groups. To get started with USDA, contact your local USDA service center. | | | USDA Announces Flexibilities for Producers Filing ‘Notice of Loss’ for Failed, Prevented Planted Acres The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing additional flexibilities for producers to file on acres with failed crops or crops that were prevented from planting because of extreme weather events. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) is adding these flexibilities for Notice of Loss on both insured and uninsured crops to enable Service Centers to best assist producers.  **Filing for Prevented Planted Acres**  For insured crops, producers who timely filed a prevented planted claim with the reinsurance company but filed a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) form after the deadline will be considered timely filed for FSA purposes. FSA can use data from the Risk Management Agency (RMA) for accepting the report of prevented planting with FSA. If the information is not available through RMA, the producer may also provide proper evidence to FSA that the prevented planted claim was timely filed with the reinsurance company.  For uninsured crops, producers may start a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) by calling their FSA county office, or they may print and complete the Notice of Loss ([CCC‑576](https://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eForms/welcomeAction.do?Home=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)) form from home and send to their county office. For prevented planted acreage, Notice of Loss forms mailed to the FSA office must be postmarked by the final acreage reporting date in the county to be considered timely filed. For all prevented planted cases, the Report of Acreage (FSA-578) form and the completed and signed Notice of Loss (CCC-576) **must** be filed by the applicable acreage reporting date.  **Filing for Failed Acres**  For failed acreage of uninsured crops, the Notice of Loss (CCC-576) must be completed, signed and verified before the disposition of the crop.  **When to File a ‘Notice of Loss’**  A Notice of Loss cannot be filed for a crop before the final planting date, but it can be filed before completing the crop acreage report.  **More Information**  Producers who miss FSA’s [July 15 acreage reporting deadline](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fnews-room%2Fnews-releases%2F2020%2Fusda-reminds-producers-to-complete-crop-acreage-reports%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C5497be15134145842f7d08d8874039bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637408057199857715%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=CHgQSLAkSCklcQ5SwqSlCAvh4NHFuLN2v1bLBJAvutg%3D&reserved=0) will not face a late filing fee if filed within a month of the deadline.  For questions, please contact your FSA county office. To locate your FSA county office at your Service Center, visit [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). USDA Launches New Farmers.gov Features to Help Farmers Hire Workers U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced new features on the [farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) website designed to help facilitate the employment of H-2A workers.  USDA’s goal is to help farmers navigate the complex H-2A program that is administered by Department of Labor, Department of Homeland Security, and the State Department so hiring a farm worker is an easier process.  The primary new H-2A features on Farmers.gov include:   * A real-time dashboard that enables farmers to track the status of their eligible employer application and visa applications for temporary nonimmigrant workers; * Streamlining the login information so if a farmer has an existing login.gov account they can save multiple applications tracking numbers for quick look-up at any time; * Enables easy access to the Department of Labor’s (DOL) Foreign Labor Application Gateway (FLAG); * Allows farmers to track time-sensitive actions taken in the course of Office of Foreign Labor Certification’s (OFLC) adjudication of temporary labor certification applications; * Allowing for farmers to access all application forms on-line.   All information can be found at [www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a](http://www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  In 2018, [Secretary Perdue unveiled farmers.gov](https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/02/01/perdue-unveils-farmersgov-interactive-website-agricultural?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), a dynamic, mobile-friendly public website combined with an authenticated portal where customers can apply for programs, process transactions and manage accounts. With feedback from customers and field employees who serve those customers, [farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) delivers farmer-focused features through an agile, iterative process to deliver the greatest immediate value to America’s agricultural producers – helping farmers and ranchers do right, and feed everyone. FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans The USDA Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-loan-programs%2Ffarm-ownership-loans%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C5497be15134145842f7d08d8874039bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637408057199857715%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=8r0ylPOC%2FFV%2FuQUGu1qsRemk3BOUhZ%2F2En2qCJC0T98%3D&reserved=0) can help farmers and ranchers become owner-operators of family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.  There are three types of Direct Farm Ownership Loans: regular, down payment and joint financing. FSA also offers a [Direct Farm Ownership Microloan](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-loan-programs%2Fmicroloans%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C5497be15134145842f7d08d8874039bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637408057199867668%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=O3EtyvqPCpWzxZ7Eq5n2cCp%2F4H6cQ3Y7uR23YPmqkCY%3D&reserved=0) option for smaller financial needs up to $50,000.  Joint financing allows FSA to provide more farmers and ranchers with access to capital. FSA lends up to 50 percent of the total amount financed. A commercial lender, a State program or the seller of the property being purchased, provides the balance of loan funds, with or without an FSA guarantee. The maximum loan amount for a joint financing loan is $600,000, and the repayment period for the loan is up to 40 years.  The operation must be an eligible farm enterprise. Farm Ownership loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises and all applicants must be able to meet general eligibility requirements. Loan applicants are also required to have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least three years out of the 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted. The applicant must show documentation that their participation in the business operation of the farm or ranch was not solely as a laborer.  For more information about farm loans, contact your local USDA Service Center or 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=04%7C01%7C%7C5497be15134145842f7d08d8874039bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637408057199867668%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=rqxyBu75Bnu0ozB675kYA10U89MqSC%2FOrP%2BBQpUoV38%3D&reserved=0). Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) Program for Farm Loan Borrowers Farm Service Agency (FSA) borrowers with farms located in designated primary or contiguous disaster areas who are unable to make their scheduled FSA loan payments should consider the Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) program.  DSA is available to producers who suffered losses as a result of a natural disaster and relieves immediate and temporary financial stress. FSA is authorized to consider setting aside the portion of a payment/s needed for the operation to continue on a viable scale.  Borrowers must have at least two years left on the term of their loan in order to qualify.  Borrowers have eight months from the date of the disaster designation to submit a complete application. The application must include a written request for DSA signed by all parties liable for the debt along with production records and financial history for the operating year in which the disaster occurred. FSA may request additional information from the borrower in order to determine eligibility.  All farm loans must be current or less than 90 days past due at the time the DSA application is complete. Borrowers may not set aside more than one installment on each loan.  The amount set-aside, including interest accrued on the principal portion of the set-aside, is due on or before the final due date of the loan.  For more information, contact your local USDA Service Center or 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=04%7C01%7C%7C5497be15134145842f7d08d8874039bb%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637408057199867668%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=rqxyBu75Bnu0ozB675kYA10U89MqSC%2FOrP%2BBQpUoV38%3D&reserved=0).  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). | |