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| |  | | --- | | **October 2020**  NL Masthead  Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/bulletins/2a3c78a).   * [New to Farming Because of the Pandemic? USDA Can Help](https://admin.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/bulletins?commit=Search&evo_basubj=&evo_bsender=&evo_bsentdt=525600&evo_mltt=&page=4&selector=&sortdesc=bulletinsort-sent_at&state=sent&utf8=%E2%9C%93#link_1) * [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2](https://admin.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/bulletins?commit=Search&evo_basubj=&evo_bsender=&evo_bsentdt=525600&evo_mltt=&page=4&selector=&sortdesc=bulletinsort-sent_at&state=sent&utf8=%E2%9C%93#link_2) * [Apply for Livestock Forage Losses](https://admin.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/bulletins?commit=Search&evo_basubj=&evo_bsender=&evo_bsentdt=525600&evo_mltt=&page=4&selector=&sortdesc=bulletinsort-sent_at&state=sent&utf8=%E2%9C%93#link_3) * [USDA Offers Wildfire Recovery Assistance](https://admin.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/bulletins?commit=Search&evo_basubj=&evo_bsender=&evo_bsentdt=525600&evo_mltt=&page=4&selector=&sortdesc=bulletinsort-sent_at&state=sent&utf8=%E2%9C%93#link_6) * [Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation](https://admin.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/bulletins?commit=Search&evo_basubj=&evo_bsender=&evo_bsentdt=525600&evo_mltt=&page=4&selector=&sortdesc=bulletinsort-sent_at&state=sent&utf8=%E2%9C%93#link_4) * [USDA Announces Streamlined Guaranteed Loans and Additional Lender Category for Small-Scale Operators](https://admin.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/bulletins?commit=Search&evo_basubj=&evo_bsender=&evo_bsentdt=525600&evo_mltt=&page=4&selector=&sortdesc=bulletinsort-sent_at&state=sent&utf8=%E2%9C%93#link_5)   **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  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 | **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://www.rma.usda.gov/Topics/Beginning-Farmers?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) 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.  **Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2**  Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) began on Sept. 21, 2020 and will continue through Dec. 11, 2020. CFAP 2 provides eligible producers with direct financial assistance due to market disruptions and associated costs because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Check out our [brief video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&v=sSCY-aEgMBY) about the program.  CFAP 2 is a separate program from the first round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, now referred to as CFAP 1. Farmers and ranchers who participated in CFAP 1 will not be automatically enrolled and must complete a new application for CFAP 2. Details on how to apply can be found on [farmers.gov/cfap/apply](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap/apply?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  **CFAP 2 Eligible Commodities Finder**  Many more commodities are eligible for CFAP 2 than CFAP 1. Interested in finding the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 payment rates for the eligible commodities you grow or raise? Our new, easy-to-use [CFAP 2 Eligible Commodities Finder](https://www.farmers.gov/cfap/tool?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) makes finding payment rates specific to your operation simple. From yam to alpaca farmers – and everyone in between – the payment rate information you need is just a few clicks away. Try it today on your desktop, tablet, or mobile device.  **Call Center**  A call center is available for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. The call center can provide service to non-English speaking customers. Customers will select 1 for English and 2 to speak with a Spanish speaking employee. For other languages, customers select 1 and indicate their language to the call center staff. | | | **Apply for Livestock Forage Losses**  Producers in Arizona are eligible to apply for 2020 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits.  LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.  County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire. You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation within calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing loss occurred.  For additional Information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, contact your local County USDA Service Center.  **USDA Offers Wildfire Recovery Assistance**  USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers disaster assistance and low-interest loan programs to assist you in your recovery efforts following wildfires or other qualifying natural disasters.  Available programs and loans include:   * **Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** - provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including excessive wind and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing). * **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** - offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. * **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)** – provides assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers for qualifying tree, shrub and vine losses due to natural disasters including excessive wind and qualifying drought. * **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** - provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs. * **Emergency Loan Program** – available to producers with agriculture operations located in a county under a primary or contiguous Presidential or Secretarial disaster designation. These low interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses. * **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** - provides emergency funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate land severely damaged by natural disasters; includes fence loss.   For more information on these programs, contact your local County USDA Service Center.  **Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation**  Farmers and ranchers can use the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* on farmgers.gov to find information on USDA farm loans that may best fit their operations.  USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a variety of loan options to help farmers finance their operations. From buying land to financing the purchase of equipment, FSA loans can help.  USDA conducted field research in eight states, gathering input from farmers and FSA farm loan staff to better understand their needs and challenges.  **How the Tool Works**  Farmers who are looking for financing options to operate a farm or buy land can answer a few simple questions about what they are looking to fund and how much money they need to borrow. After submitting their answers, farmers will receive information on farm loans that best fit their specific needs. The loan application and additional resources also will be provided.  Farmers can download application quick guides that outline what to expect from preparing an application to receiving a loan decision. There are four guides that cover loans to individuals, entities, and youth, as well as information on microloans. The guides include general eligibility requirements and a list of required forms and documentation for each type of loan. These guides can help farmers prepare before their first USDA service center visit with a loan officer.  Farmers can access the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* by visiting [farmers.gov/fund](https://www.farmers.gov/fund?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) and clicking the “Start” button. Follow the prompts and answer five simple questions to receive loan information that is applicable to your agricultural operation. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.  **About Farmers.gov**  In 2018, USDA unveiled farmers.gov, a dynamic, mobile-friendly public website combined with an authenticated portal where farmers will be able to apply for programs, process transactions, and manage accounts.  The *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* is one of many resources on farmers.gov to help connect farmers to information that can help their operations. Earlier this year, USDA launched the *My Financial Information* feature, which enables farmers to view their loan information, history, payments, and alerts by logging into the website.  USDA is building farmers.gov for farmers, by farmers. In addition to the interactive farm loan features, the site also offers a Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool. Farmers can visit [farmers.gov/recover/disaster-assistance-tool#step-1](https://www.farmers.gov/recover/disaster-assistance-tool?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#step-1) to find disaster assistance programs that can help their operation recover from natural disasters.  **USDA Announces Streamlined Guaranteed Loans and Additional Lender Category for Small-Scale Operators**  *Options Help More Beginning, Small and Urban Producers Gain Access to Credit*  Producers can apply for a streamlined version of USDA guaranteed loans, which are tailored for smaller scale farms and urban producers EZ Guarantee Loans use a simplified application process to help beginning, small, underserved, and family farmers and ranchers apply for loans of up to $100,000 from USDA-approved lenders to purchase farmland or finance agricultural operations.  A new category of lenders will join traditional lenders, such as banks and credit unions, in offering USDA EZ Guarantee Loans. Microlenders, which include Community Development Financial Institutions and Rural Rehabilitation Corporations, will be able to offer their customers up to $50,000 of EZ Guaranteed Loans, helping to reach urban areas and underserved producers. Banks, credit unions and other traditional USDA-approved lenders, can offer customers up to $100,000 to help with agricultural operation costs.  EZ Guarantee Loans offer low interest rates and terms up to seven years for financing operating expenses and 40 years for financing the purchase of farm real estate. USDA-approved lenders can issue these loans with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) guaranteeing the loan up to 95 percent.  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). | |