

---

## Indiana FSA Updates

Greetings from Indiana FSA,

September has arrived and many of you are already in the process of getting your combines ready. In just a few more weeks, Indiana's 2021 harvest will be in full swing.

Where has 2021 gone? Do you remember as a child you thought your birthday seemed so far off? If so, you probably also remember your grandparents telling you how time seems to go by faster each year. You were thinking, 'yeah, whatever'! Little did we know that we would soon agree.

Due to the long hours and the stress and strain of harvest, it can be a dangerous time. Please remain vigilant and safe during your 2021 harvest, there are many hazards on the farm.

- Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand — it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.
- The mechanical operation of grain handling equipment presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.
- Pinch points and missing shields are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. Keep children at a safe distance from operating farm equipment.
- Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

National Farm Safety and Health Week is September 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>! This year's theme is 'Farm Safety Yields Real Results'. There National Education Center for Agricultural Safety will be hosting daily webinars. To register, visit their website [National Farm Safety and Health Week » National Education Center for Agricultural Safety \(necasag.org\)](https://necasag.org).

As you reap your rewards this harvest season, we wish you all a happy, healthy, and productive harvest.

*Respectfully,  
Your Indiana FSA Staff*

---

## USDA Service Center Operating Status

*In response to COVID-19, USDA Service Centers in Indiana are limiting in-person office visits to by-appointment-only. FSA staff also continue to work with customers via phone, email and other digital tools.*

*All Service Center customers wishing to conduct business should call for an appointment. For offices open to in-person traffic, visitors will be pre-screened based on health concerns or recent travel. Regardless of vaccination status, visitors will be required to wear a face covering and adhere to social distancing guidelines during their appointment.*

For Service Center contact information visit: [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

---

## **USDA Updates Pandemic Assistance for Livestock, Poultry Contract Producers and Specialty Crop Growers**

### **USDA Sets October 12 Deadline for CFAP 2**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, provides up to \$1 billion for payments to contract producers of eligible livestock and poultry for revenue losses from Jan. 1, 2020, through Dec. 27, 2020. Contract producers of broilers, pullets, layers, chicken eggs, turkeys, hogs and pigs, ducks, geese, pheasants and quail may be eligible for assistance. This update includes eligible breeding stock and eggs of all eligible poultry types produced under contract.

Payments for contract producers were to be based on a comparison of eligible revenue for the periods of Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 27, 2019, and Jan. 1, 2020, through Dec. 27, 2020. Today's changes mean contract producers can now elect to use eligible revenue from the period of Jan. 1, 2018, through Dec. 27, 2018, instead of that date range in 2019 if it is more representative. This change is intended to provide flexibility and make the program more equitable for contract producers who had reduced revenue in 2019 compared to a normal production year. The difference in revenue is then multiplied by 80% to determine a final payment. Payments to contract producers may be factored if total calculated payments exceed the available funding and will be made after the application period closes.

Additional flexibilities have been added to account for increases to operation size in 2020 and situations where a contract producer did not have a full period of revenue from Jan. 1 to Dec. 27 for either 2018 or 2019. Assistance is also available to new contract producers who began their farming operation in 2020.

### **Updates for Sales-Based Commodities**

USDA is amending the CFAP 2 payment calculation for sales-based commodities, which are primarily comprised of by specialty crops, to allow producers to substitute 2018 sales for 2019 sales. Previously, payments for producers of sales-based commodities were based only on 2019 sales, with 2019 used as an approximation of the amount the producer would have expected to market in 2020. Giving producers the option to substitute 2018 sales for this approximation, including 2018 crop insurance indemnities and 2018 crop year Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) payments, provides additional flexibility to producers of sales-based commodities who had reduced sales in 2019.

Grass seed has also been added as an eligible sales commodity for CFAP 2. A complete list of all eligible sales-based commodities can be found at [farmers.gov/cfap2/commodities](https://farmers.gov/cfap2/commodities). Producers of sales-based commodities can modify existing applications.

### **Applying for Assistance**

Newly eligible producers who need to submit a CFAP 2 application or producers who need to modify an existing one can do so by contacting their local FSA office. Producers can find their local FSA office by visiting [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator). Producers can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364. All new and modified CFAP 2 applications are due by the Oct. 12 deadline.

---

## USDA Announces Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing up to \$200 million to provide relief to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that have experienced losses due to COVID-19 as part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Loggers and truckers can apply for assistance through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) July 22 through Oct. 15, 2021. The Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers program (PATHH) is administered by FSA in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, authorized this critical assistance for the timber industry. Timber harvesting and hauling businesses that have experienced a gross revenue loss of at least 10% during the period of Jan. 1 and Dec. 1, 2020, compared to the period of Jan. 1 and Dec. 1, 2019, are encouraged to apply.

### Program Details

To be eligible for payments, individuals or legal entities must be a timber harvesting or timber hauling business where 50% or more of its gross revenue is derived from one or more of the following:

- Cutting timber.
- Transporting timber.
- Processing of wood on-site on the forest land (chipping, grinding, converting to biochar, cutting to smaller lengths, etc.).

Payments will be based on the applicant's gross revenue received from Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 1, 2019, minus gross revenue received from Jan. 1, 2020, through Dec. 1, 2020, multiplied by 80%. FSA will issue an initial payment equal to the lesser of the calculated payment amount or \$2,000 as applications are approved. A second payment will be made after the signup period has ended based upon remaining PATHH funds.

The maximum amount that a person or legal entity may receive directly is \$125,000.

### Applying for Assistance

Loggers and truckers can apply for PATHH beginning on July 22 by completing form FSA-1118, Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers Program application, and certifying to their gross revenue for 2019 and 2020 on the application. Additional documentation may be required. Visit [farmers.gov/pathh](https://farmers.gov/pathh) for more information on how to apply.

Applications can be submitted to the FSA office at any USDA Service Center nationwide by mail, fax, hand delivery, or via electronic means. To find a local FSA office, loggers and truckers can visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator). They can also call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

---

# Linkage Requirements for Payments Received Under WHIP+ and/or QLA

If you received a payment under the Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program+ (WHIP+) or the Quality Loss Adjustment Program (QLA) for crop production and/or quality losses occurring in 2018, 2019, or 2020 crop years, you are required to meet linkage requirements by obtaining federal crop insurance or Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage at the 60/100 level, or higher, for both the 2022 and 2023 crop years.

When applying for WHIP+ or QLA, form FSA-895 (Crop Insurance and/or NAP Coverage Agreement) was submitted acknowledging the requirement to obtain federal crop insurance, if available, or NAP coverage if federal crop insurance is not available. The coverage requirement is applicable to the physical location county of the crop that received WHIP+ and/or QLA benefits.

Producers should not delay contacting their federal crop insurance agent or local county FSA Office to inquire about coverage options, as **failure to obtain the applicable coverage by the sales/application closing date will result in the required refund of WHIP+ benefits received on the applicable crop, plus interest.** You can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by [visiting the RMA website](#).

For more information, contact your local USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

---

## NASS to Send 2021 Hemp Acreage and Production Survey this Fall

This October, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will mail its first **Hemp Acreage and Production**

**Survey.** The survey will collect information on the total planted and harvested area, yield, production, and value of hemp in the United States.

The Domestic Hemp Production Program established in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) allows for the cultivation of hemp under certain conditions. The Hemp Acreage and Production survey will provide needed data about the hemp industry to assist producers, regulatory agencies, state governments, processors, and other key industry entities.

Producers may complete the survey online at [agcounts.usda.gov](https://agcounts.usda.gov) or they may complete and return the survey by mail using the return envelope provided.

Learn more about the survey at [nass.usda.gov/go/hemp](https://nass.usda.gov/go/hemp).

---

## Streamlining How You Find Information on Farmers.gov

If you've been to farmers.gov before, things may look a little different from the last time you were here. We've made some changes, to improve how you find information so that you can find what you need even more easily and efficiently.

The big, green navigation bar near the top of every page – it's different now. It opens up, to show descriptions and subtopics, making it quicker and easier to figure out what's where and reduce guessing. Why? Two reasons: First, farmers.gov has grown a lot over the years and the old navigation wasn't designed for the load. Second, because you asked for it. We analyzed your comments through the "Feedback" button on the site and tested our new designs and information organization with real farmers and ranchers through surveys and live testing sessions.

Along with the new website navigation, we restructured how our pages and topics are grouped and organized to help you easily access the information you need. We also relabeled some of our existing pages using more direct language. This means that pages or information you've used before may have different labels or be in new places.

### **Important changes:**

- The old Fund page is now called Loans. The Loans page has information and resources about USDA loans, including the Farm Loan Programs.
- The Recover page is now Protection and Recovery. This page has information to help you prepare and recover from natural disasters, and to mitigate risk for your operation.
- The Conserve page is now Conservation. This page hasn't changed much and still has information on how to implement conservation practices, improve and preserve natural resources, and address conservation concerns.
- The Manage page is now Working With Us. This page connects you with resources that tell you how USDA can help you start, expand, enhance, or improve your agricultural operation.
- The Connect page has been replaced with Your Business, a guide to USDA resources that cater to your specific operation. Information that was on the Connect page has been moved to the Contact Us page and the Get Involved page.

We are always updating farmers.gov based on your feedback and to stay up-to-date with important USDA announcements. We've recently created some new webpages, and updated some existing ones, to better equip you with the vital information you need. There are even more new pages coming soon, so stay tuned!

For farmers.gov, we don't guess what farmers and ranchers want from a website. We start by asking, then test our designs with volunteers who are also farmers and ranchers.

There's a feedback button on every page of farmers.gov. Based on your feedback, we looked for ways to make our site easier to use and to build the information that you're looking for. Live user testing sessions provide data, such as this heatmap, showing where testers tended to click during an exercise.

You helped us create the new navigation design, the new information organization, and told us how to speak using your words, and not legalese. Check out [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov) today!

---

## **Obtaining Payments due to Deceased Producers**

In order to claim a Farm Service Agency (FSA) payment on behalf of a deceased producer, all program conditions for the payment must have been met before the applicable producer's date of death.

If a producer earned a FSA payment prior to his or her death, the following is the order of precedence for the representatives of the producer:

- administrator or executor of the estate
- the surviving spouse
- surviving sons and daughters, including adopted children
- surviving father and mother
- surviving brothers and sisters
- heirs of the deceased person who would be entitled to payment according to the State law

For FSA to release the payment, the legal representative of the deceased producer must file a form FSA-325 to claim the payment for themselves or an estate. The county office will verify that the application, contract, loan agreement, or other similar form requesting payment issuance, was signed by the applicable deadline by the deceased or a person legally authorized to act on their behalf at that time of application.

If the application, contract or loan agreement form was signed by someone other than the deceased participant, FSA will determine whether the person submitting the form has the legal authority to submit the form.

Payments will be issued to the respective representative's name using the deceased program participant's tax identification number. Payments made to representatives are subject to offset regulations for debts owed by the deceased.

FSA is not responsible for advising persons in obtaining legal advice on how to obtain program benefits that may be due to a participant who has died, disappeared or who has been declared incompetent.

---

## Progression Lending from FSA

Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm loans are considered progression lending. Unlike loans from a commercial lender, FSA loans are intended to be temporary in nature. Our goal is to help you graduate to commercial credit, and our farm loan staff is available to help borrowers through training and credit counseling.

The FSA team will help borrowers identify their goals to ensure financial success. FSA staff will advise borrowers on developing strategies and a plan to meet your goals and graduate to commercial credit. FSA borrowers are responsible for the success of their farming operation, but FSA staff will help in an advisory role, providing the tools necessary to help you achieve your operational goals and manage your finances.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, contact your local USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

---

## FSA Implements Set-Aside Loan Provision for Customers Impacted by COVID-19

### *Set-Aside Delays Loan Payments for Borrowers*

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will broaden the use of the Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) loan provision, normally used in the wake of natural disasters, to allow farmers with USDA farm loans who are affected by COVID-19, and are determined eligible, to have their next

payment set aside. In some cases, FSA may also set aside a second payment for farmers who have already had one payment set aside because of a prior designated disaster.

FSA direct loan borrowers will receive a letter with the details of the expanded Disaster Set-Aside authorities, which includes the possible set-aside of annual operating loans, as well as explanations of the additional loan servicing options that are available. To discuss or request a loan payment Set-Aside, borrowers should call or email the farm loan staff at their local FSA county office.

The set-aside payment's due date is moved to the final maturity date of the loan or extended up to twelve months in the case of an annual operating loan. Any principal set-aside will continue to accrue interest until it is repaid. This aims to improve the borrower's cashflow in the current production cycle.

FSA previously announced it was relaxing the loan-making process and adding flexibilities for servicing direct and guaranteed loans to provide credit to producers in need. Direct loan applicants and borrowers are encouraged to contact their local FSA county office to discuss loan making and servicing flexibilities and other needs or concerns. Customers participating in FSA's guaranteed loan programs are encouraged to contact their lender. Information on these flexibilities, and office contact information, can be found on [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

FSA will be accepting most forms and applications by facsimile or electronic signature. Some services are also available online to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov) portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and certain program applications and payments. Customers can track payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance and electronically sign documents. Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at [farmers.gov/sign-in](https://farmers.gov/sign-in).

---

## USDA to Invest \$50 Million in New Cooperative Agreements for Racial Justice and Equity

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is investing up to \$50 million nationally in cooperative agreements to support historically underserved farmers with climate-smart agriculture and forestry. The Racial Justice and Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements are available to entities and individuals for two-year projects that expand the delivery of conservation assistance to farmers who are beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers.

The projects should help historically underserved farmers in implementing natural resources conservation practices that:

- Improve soil health.
- Improve water quality.
- Provide habitat for local wildlife species of concern.
- Improve the environmental and economic performance of working agricultural lands.
- Build and strengthen local food projects that provide healthy food and economic opportunities.

Projects should remove barriers to access and reach historically underserved groups through a combination of program outreach and technical assistance in managing natural resources that address one or more of the following: local natural resource issues;

climate-smart agriculture practices and principles; existing and new partnerships; and/or state and community-led conservation leadership for historically underserved agricultural producers.

Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on October 25, 2021. See the [grants.gov announcement](#) for details and application instructions.

---

## USDA to Provide Relief to Small Producers, Processors, Distributors, Farmers Markets Impacted by COVID-19

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's [Agricultural Marketing Service](#) (AMS) announced it will soon publish Requests for Applications (RFAs) for the Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grants program to support agricultural stakeholders who haven't yet received substantial federal financial assistance in responding to the COVID-19 crisis. This grant program will provide assistance to small businesses in certain commodity areas, including small scale specialty crop producers, food processors, manufacturers, distributors and farmers markets.

A [grant forecast](#) is now available to help potential applicants determine their eligibility and to prepare to apply for funding. Eligible entities should visit the PRS grant portal at [usda-prs.grantsolutions.gov](#) for complete information on the program, including how to obtain a free of charge DUNS Number from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) **BEFORE** applying for this program. On September 23, USDA will issue another announcement indicating that entities may submit their applications through the grant portal; entities will need their DUNS number to submit an application.

Visit [usda-prs.grantsolutions.gov](#) or the [AMS website](#) to learn more.

---

## Important Dates to Remember

**September 15** – Final Acreage Reporting Date for Cucumbers (Planted 6/1-8/15 in Knox County)

**September 17** – Deadline to Apply for [Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program \(PLIP\)](#)

**September 30** – Final Acreage Reporting Date for Value Loss & Controlled Environment Crop (for coming program year)

**September 30** – [NAP](#) Sales Closing Date for Garlic, Wheat, Barley, Rye and Mint for the following Year's Crop

**October 11** – Office Closed in Observance of Columbus Day

**October 12** – Final Date to Submit an Application for [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program \(CFAP 2\)](#)

**October 15** – Final Date to Submit an Application for [Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers \(PATHH\)](#)

**November 1** – Final Date to Submit Application for [Organic Certification Cost Share Program \(OCCSP\)](#)

**November 1** – Final Date to Submit a Prevented Planting Claim for Fall Wheat with 10/20 Final Plant Date

**November 3** – COC Election Ballots Mailed to Eligible Voters

**November 11** – Offices Closed in Observance of Veteran's Day

**Ongoing** - Signup for [Continuous CRP](#)

**Ongoing** – Submit an Application for a [Farm Storage Facility Loan](#)

**Continuous** - Signup for Local County Office FSA Text Alerts

**Continuous** – Sign up for GovDelivery Newsletters, Bulletins and Indiana Press Releases(<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/subscriber/new/>)

## Disaster Program Notice of Loss Filing Requirements

- File [Emergency Livestock Assistance Program \(ELAP\)](#) Notice of Loss (NOL) ([Honeybee](#) NOL Must be Filed within 15 Days of When the Loss is First Apparent; Other ELAP covered Livestock Losses - [Livestock Feed, Grazing & Farm-Raised Fish](#) NOL Must be Filed within 30 Days of When the Loss is First Apparent)
- File [Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](#) Notice of Loss within 30 Calendar Days of When the Livestock Loss is First Apparent.
- File [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#) NOL Within 15 Calendar Days of the Earlier of a Natural Disaster Occurrence, the Final Planting Date if Planting is Prevented by a Natural Disaster, the Date the Damage to the Crop or Loss of Production Becomes Apparent; or the Normal Harvest Date. *Note:* A producer's signature is required on form CCC-576 when a Notice of Loss is submitted.
- Submit Application for the [Tree Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#) along with Supporting Documentation within 90 Calendar Days of the Disaster Event or the Date when the Loss is Apparent to the Producer.

---

## Interest Rates

USDA announced loan interest rates for September 2021, which are effective September 1. USDA's FSA loans provide important access to capital to help agricultural producers start or expand their farming operation, purchase equipment and storage structures, or meet cash flow needs.

FSA offers farm ownership and operating loans with favorable interest rates and terms to help eligible agricultural producers, whether multi-generational, long-time or new to the industry, obtain financing needed to start, expand or maintain a family agricultural operation. For many loan options, FSA sets aside funding for historically disadvantaged producers, including beginning, women, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Hispanic farmers and ranchers.

Interest rates for Operating and Ownership loans for September 2021 are as follows:

- [Farm Operating Loans](#) (Direct): 1.875%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) (Direct): 3.000%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) (Direct, Joint Financing): 2.500%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) (Down Payment): 1.500%
- [Emergency Loan](#) (Amount of Actual Loss): 2.875%

FSA also offers guaranteed loans through commercial lenders at rates set by those lenders.

You can find out which of these loans may be right for you by using our [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#).

## Commodity and Storage Facility Loans

Additionally, FSA provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade on-farm storage facilities and purchase handling equipment and loans that provide interim financing to help producers meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities

when market prices are low. Funds for these loans are provided through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and are administered by FSA.

- [Commodity Loans](#) (less than one year disbursed): 1.125%
- [Farm Storage Facility Loans](#):
- Three-year loan terms: 0.375%
- Five-year loan terms: 0.750%
- Seven-year loan terms: 1.000%
- Ten-year loan terms: 1.250%
- Twelve-year loan terms: 1.375%

### **Disaster Support**

FSA also reminds rural communities, farmers and ranchers, families and small businesses affected by the year's winter storms, drought, and other natural disasters that USDA has programs that provide assistance. USDA staff in the regional, state and county offices are prepared with a variety of program flexibilities and other assistance to residents, agricultural producers and impacted communities. Many programs are available without an official disaster designation, including several risk management and disaster assistance options.

Producers can explore available options on all FSA loan options at [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov) or by contacting your [local USDA Service Center](#).

## **Indiana Farm Service Agency State Office**

5981 Lakeside Blvd  
Indianapolis IN 46278

Phone: 317-290-3315  
Fax: 855-374-4066

**Susan Houston**  
Acting State Executive Director  
[susan.houston@usda.gov](mailto:susan.houston@usda.gov)

**Mike Priest**  
Farm Loan Programs Chief  
[mike.priest@usda.gov](mailto:mike.priest@usda.gov)

**Joshua Oren**  
Administrative Officer  
[joshua.oren@usda.gov](mailto:joshua.oren@usda.gov)

**Susan Houston**  
Price Support/Disaster Program Chief  
[susan.houston@usda.gov](mailto:susan.houston@usda.gov)

**Stephanie Alexander**  
Conservation/Compliance Program Chief  
[stephanie.alexander@usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.alexander@usda.gov)

**Tracey Clifford**  
Production Adjustment Program Chief  
[tracey.clifford@usda.gov](mailto:tracey.clifford@usda.gov)

**Susan Houston**  
Acting State Committee  
[susan.houston@usda.gov](mailto:susan.houston@usda.gov)

[Indiana Farm Service Agency](#)  
[Service Center Locator](#)