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## County Fair and Crop Reporting Season is Upon Us!



What other time of the year can you drink a lemonade shake-up (or two), ride the Ferris wheel, tour barns full of champion livestock, and see the best handmade crafts and home decor? The answer is July in Indiana at the county fair!

Approximately 75% of Indiana's county fairs are held in July and you and countless other farm families have been preparing numerous 4-H exhibits for the last year. It is the time of summer where farm families converge for their 'super bowl' of livestock competition, the best recipes in the

4-H foods' project, or to showcase the photography skills of young people in a community. It is a great time to celebrate the youth of our country who participate in the 4-H organization.

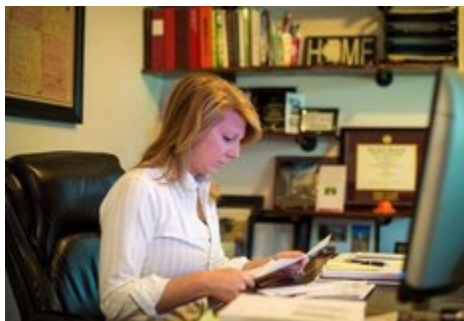
July also is an important month for FSA. This Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, is the deadline for agricultural producers to complete their [crop acreage reports](#). If you have not already visited your county office to report your crop acreage, call them today to make this important appointment. To be eligible for many of FSA's programs, including disaster assistance, producers will need to have filed an accurate and timely acreage report.

So, from the county fair to the county FSA office, July is a busy month for farm families. I wish all Indiana 4-Hers the best of luck at their county fairs this summer, and I wish for gentle and ample rainfall for the crops you are raising for harvest this fall.



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## 2 Free Webinars on Tax Preparation and Resources



Filing taxes for an agricultural operation can be challenging, and many producers may not have the funds to hire accountants or tax professionals to assist.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the National Farm Income Tax Extension Committee are offering two free webinars:

- **Tuesday, July 12, 2 p.m. Eastern: An Introduction to Ag Taxes: What New Farmers Should Know.** Learn more about who is considered a farmer for IRS tax purposes and how to choose a tax professional. Register at:  
[https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_Wo4rgGUxT-6-sUJls8uomw](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_Wo4rgGUxT-6-sUJls8uomw)
- **Monday, August 15, 2 p.m. Eastern: Using the Tax Calculator.** The [Farm Tax Estimator Tool](#) is an interactive spreadsheet that producers can download to estimate tax liability. Register at:  
[https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_hd7BRiO7T-2gm3jIGHzJPQ](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_hd7BRiO7T-2gm3jIGHzJPQ)

Find other resources at [farmers.gov/taxes](https://farmers.gov/taxes).

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## USDA Has Issued More Than \$4 Billion in Emergency Relief Program Payments

***Deadline to Submit Applications is Friday, July 22***

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that agricultural producers have already received more than \$4 billion through the [Emergency Relief Program](#) (ERP), representing approximately 67% of the more than \$6 billion projected to be paid through this first phase of the program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) mailed out pre-filled applications in late May to producers with crop insurance who suffered losses due to natural disasters in 2020 and 2021. Commodity and specialty crop producers have until July 22 to complete applications.

USDA is implementing ERP and ELRP in two phases, with the first phase utilizing existing claim data to provide relief expediently, and the second phase focusing on ensuring producers not covered by other programs receive assistance. For phase one, USDA used crop insurance and [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#) (NAP) claim data.

Both ERP and the previously announced Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) are funded by the *Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act*, which President Biden signed into law in 2021. The law provided \$10 billion to help agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other

eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021, of which \$750 million is committed to livestock producers who experienced losses to drought or wildfire in calendar year 2021. Eligible livestock producers received ELRP payments totaling more than \$590 million since the program was rolled out in late March.

### **Pre-Filled Applications**

Eligible producers with eligible crop insurance claims have received pre-filled applications, which included eligibility requirements and payment calculations. Producers received a separate application form for each program year in which they experienced an eligible loss.

Producers should check with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) at their local [USDA Service Center](#) to confirm eligibility and to ensure that all required farm program participation, adjusted gross income and conservation compliance forms are on file. Producers who have previously participated in FSA programs likely have these required forms already on file.

ERP provisions allow for a higher payment percentage for historically underserved producers, including beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and military veteran producers. To qualify for the higher payment rate, individuals must have a Form CCC-860, *Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification* on file.

To receive a payment, producers must complete and submit their forms by the July 22 deadline. Once the completed ERP application for payment is submitted to and signed by the FSA, producers enrolled in direct deposit should look for their payment within three business days.

### **Additional Assistance through Phase One**

FSA will be sending pre-filled applications for about 9,000 eligible producers with NAP coverage in mid-July.

The Federal crop insurance data used to populate ERP phase one pre-filled applications included claim data on file with USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) as of May 2, 2022. At that time, claim data for the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO), Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO), Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX), Margin Protection Plan (MP) or Area Risk Protection Insurance (ARPI) were not complete, so crop/units including these coverage options were not included in the pre-filled ERP application form. In late summer 2022, updated claim information will be used to generate a second pre-filled application for those crop/units with eligible losses on file with RMA not included in the first mailing.

### **More Information**

ERP covers losses to crops, trees, bushes and vines due to a qualifying natural disaster event in calendar years 2020 and 2021. Eligible crops include all crops for which crop insurance or NAP coverage was available, except for crops intended for grazing. Qualifying natural disaster events include wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought and related conditions.

All producers who receive ERP phase one payments are statutorily required to purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage where crop insurance is not available for the next two available crop years.

Producers should contact their local [Service Center](#) if they have questions. Additionally, other resources include:

- [ERP fact sheet](#)

- [ERP Webpage](#)
- [“Top 6 Emergency Relief Program Checklist” blog on farmers.gov](#)
- [May 16, 2022, news release](#)

The second phase of both ERP and ELRP will be aimed at filling gaps and providing assistance to producers who did not participate in or receive payments through the existing programs that are being leveraged for phase one implementation. Through proactive communication and outreach, USDA will keep producers and stakeholders informed as program details are made available.

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## Reporting Organic Crops

If you want to use the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) organic price and you select the "organic" option on your NAP application, you must report your crops as organic.

When certifying organic acres, the buffer zone acreage must be included in the organic acreage.

You must also provide a current organic plan, organic certificate or documentation from a certifying agent indicating an organic plan is in effect.



Documentation must include:

- name of certified individuals
- address
- telephone number
- effective date of certification
- certificate number
- list of commodities certified
- name and address of certifying agent
- a map showing the specific location of each field of certified organic, including the buffer zone acreage

Certification exemptions are available for producers whose annual gross agricultural income from organic sales totals \$5,000 or less. Although exempt growers are not required to provide a written certificate, they are still required to provide a map showing the specific location of each field of certified organic, transitional and buffer zone acreage.

For questions about reporting organic crops, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

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## Disaster Assistance Available for Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to you for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2022 livestock losses, you must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent. You then must provide the following supporting documentation to your local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of grower's contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 250 pounds) = 5%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions.

In addition to filing a notice of loss, you must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2023.

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

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## Keeping Livestock Inventory Records



Livestock inventory records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster, so remember to keep them updated.

When disasters strike, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) can help you if you've suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.

To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, you'll be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. For grazing or feed losses, you must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts.

You should record all pertinent information regarding livestock inventory records including:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts.

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

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## USDA Provides Local Support for Beginning Farmers

The first 10 years of a farming operation are tough. USDA recognizes you need dedicated support to help make sense of all the information coming your way. Now each state has a Beginning Farmer team headed up by a state coordinator. The coordinator helps producers who have operated a farm for less than 10 years navigate USDA and partner resources.

To find your Indiana coordinator, visit [farmers.gov/newfarmers/coordinators/](https://farmers.gov/newfarmers/coordinators/). For more beginning farmer information, visit [farmers.gov/newfarmers](https://farmers.gov/newfarmers).



William Fett is the Indiana Beginning Farmer Coordinator. He is the Outreach Coordinator with [Natural Resource Conservation Service](#). Will is the team lead and will answer questions from farmers. He can be reached at [william.fett@usda.gov](mailto:william.fett@usda.gov) or 317-295-5833.

The other members of the team are Champions. They help Will respond to questions, provide support to county offices and plan outreach events specifically for beginning farmers. Your Indiana Champions are:

- Bridgette Wanhainen a Farm Loan Office Trainee with the [Farm Service Agency](#).
- Mark Zukunft, Direct Single-Family Housing Programs Specialist with [Rural Development](#).
- Jessica Heyen, Risk Management Specialist with the [Risk Management Agency](#).

For more beginning farmer resources, visit the website at [www.farmers.gov/newfarmers](http://www.farmers.gov/newfarmers).

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## Eligibility for Nominations for the 2022 County Committee Elections



The banner features the USDA Farm Service Agency logo at the top left, followed by the text "Farm Service Agency" and "US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE". Below this is a dark blue bar with the text "County Committees" in white. Underneath the bar is a row of six photographs of diverse individuals, including a man in a baseball cap, a man with a child, a man in a blue shirt, a woman with a headwrap, a woman with a chicken, and a man in a blue shirt. Below the photos is a green bar with the text "The direct link between agriculture communities across the country and USDA." and "NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED NOW THROUGH AUGUST 1" in yellow. At the bottom of the green bar is the text "USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. To be eligible for nomination and hold office as a committee member or alternate, a person must fulfill each of the following requirements: (1) be a producer with an interest in farming operations, (2) participate or cooperate in any FSA program provided for by law, (3) be a U.S. citizen, (4) be of legal voting age, (5) meet the basic eligibility requirements, and (6) reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction in which they will be serving. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming operation but may not have applied or received FSA program benefits.

All nomination forms for the 2022 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by August 1, 2022. For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: [Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member](#) available online at: [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections).

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## USDA Accepts More than 3.1 Million Acres in Grassland CRP Signup

*Indiana adds more than 200 accepted acres to the Grassland CRP Signup total*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting offers for more than 3.1 million acres from agricultural producers and private landowners through this year's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grassland Signup, the highest in history. **The signup's results include more than 200 acres in Indiana.** This program allows producers and landowners to continue grazing and haying practices while protecting grasslands and promoting plant and animal biodiversity and conservation, and it's part of the broader effort to address climate change and to conserve natural resources.

Nationwide, this year's Grassland CRP signup surpassed last year's 2.5 million acres by 22%. So far this year, producers have enrolled 2 million acres through the General Signup and more than 464,000 acres have been submitted through the Continuous CRP Signup. This means about 5.6 million acres are entering CRP in 2023, surpassing the 3.9 million acres expiring this year.

Because Grassland CRP supports not only grazing operations but also biodiversity and conserving environmentally sensitive land such as that prone to wind erosion, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) created two [National Priority Zones](#) in 2021: the Greater Yellowstone Migration Corridor and Dust Bowl Zone. For this year's signup, FSA expanded the Greater Yellowstone Wildlife Migration Corridor Priority Zone to include seven additional counties across Montana, Wyoming, and Utah, to help protect the big-game animal migration corridor associated with Wyoming elk, mule deer and antelope. FSA accepted offers on more than 1.4 million acres in these two zones.

Grasslands enrolled in CRP help sequester carbon in vegetation and soil, while enhancing resilience to drought and wildfire. Meanwhile, producers can still conduct common grazing practices, such as haying, mowing, or harvesting seed from the enrolled land, which supports ag production.

### Broadening Reach of Program

As part of the Agency's Justice40 efforts, producers and landowners who are historically underserved, including beginning farmers and military veterans, will receive 10 additional ranking points to enhance their offers. From more than 5,000 underserved producers, USDA accepted offers of more than 1.9 million acres, about 87% of those who submitted applications.

Additionally, USDA is working to broaden the scope and reach of Grassland CRP by leveraging the [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#) (CREP) to engage historically underserved communities. CREP is a partnership program that enables states, Tribal governments, and non-profit entities to partner with FSA to implement CRP practices and address high priority conservation and environmental objectives. Interested entities are encouraged to contact FSA.

Producers can still make an offer to participate in CRP through the [Continuous CRP Signup](#), which is ongoing, by contacting the FSA at their local [USDA Service Center](#).

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# Deadline Approaching for Water Quality-Focused Program that Builds on CRP Contracts

The signup period for Clean Lakes, Estuaries, And Rivers initiative (CLEAR30) — is an opportunity for certain landowners and agricultural producers currently implementing water quality practices through the [Conservation Reserve Program](#) (CRP) to enroll in 30-year contracts, extending the lifespan and strengthening the benefits of important water quality practices on their land.

Producers may apply for CLEAR30, a voluntary, incentive-based conservation program, through Aug. 5, 2022.

Cropland and certain pastureland currently enrolled in Continuous CRP or the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and dedicated to an eligible water quality practice such as riparian buffers, contour strips, grass waterways or wetland restoration may be eligible if their contracts are expiring by September 30, 2022.

CLEAR30 contracts will be effective beginning Oct. 1, 2022. These long-term contracts ensure that conservation practices remain in place for 30 years, which improves water quality through reducing sediment and nutrient runoff and helping prevent algal blooms. Conservation in riparian areas also provides important carbon sequestration benefits. Traditional CRP contracts run from 10 to 15 years.

## About CLEAR30

CLEAR30 was established in the 2018 Farm Bill to better address water quality concerns. Originally, CLEAR30 was only available in the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay watersheds; in 2021, FSA made CLEAR30 available to agricultural producers and landowners nationwide, and participation grew nearly seven-fold from 2020 to 2021.

Annual rental payments for landowners who enroll in CLEAR30 will be equal to the current Continuous CRP annual payment rate plus a **20** percent water quality incentive payment and an annual rental rate adjustment of **27.5** percent.

## How to Sign Up

To sign up for CLEAR30, landowners and producers should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#) by **August 5, 2022**. Contact information can be found at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator). Additionally, fact sheets and other resources are available at [fsa.usda.gov/crp](https://fsa.usda.gov/crp).

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## USDA Reminds Historically Underserved Producers of Advance Payment Option

If you're a historically underserved producer and participating in the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), you can receive an advance conservation practice payment before you implement a practice.

A [historically underserved producer](#) is described as one of the below:

- **Beginning Farmer or Rancher** – is new to farming or ranching or has operated a farm or ranch for less than 10-consecutive years.
- **Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher** – is a member of a group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of that group without regard to their individual qualities.



- **Veteran Farmer or Rancher** – has served in the armed forces and has not operated a farm or ranch, has operated a farm or ranch for less than 10-consecutive years, or first obtained veteran status during the last 10 years.
- **Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher** – has a household income at or below the national poverty level. Eligibility can be determined by using [this online tool](#).

Under the advance payment option, such producers may request payments when they have final designs and job sheets and are ready to begin their EQIP practices. Advance payments provide at least 50 percent of the payment rate for each practice. The funds must be spent within 90 days of receipt and practices must be completed as agreed to in an EQIP plan of operations. Producers also may opt to have NRCS pay the contractors or vendors directly.

For more information, visit the [advance payments](#) webpage where you can download the [EQIP Advance Payment Fact Sheet](#).

## July 2022 Lending Rates

USDA announced loan interest rates for July 2022, which are effective July 1, 2022. 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.

### Operating and Ownership Loans

- [Farm Operating Loans](#) (Direct): 3.875%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) (Direct): 4.125%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) (Direct, Joint Financing): 2.500%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) (Down Payment): 1.500%
- [Emergency Loans](#) (Amount of Actual Loss): 3.750%

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

- [Commodity Loans](#) (less than one year disbursed): 3.375%
- [Farm Storage Facility Loans](#)
  - 3, 5, or 10 year loans: 3.000%
  - 7 & 12 year loans: 3.125%

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

## Dates to Remember

**July 15** –Final Acreage Reporting Date for All Other Crops (Including Cucumbers Planted 5/10-6/15) in All Other Indiana Counties

**July 15** –Final Date to Report Production for the Preceding Crop Year for Farms Enrolled in ARC-IC

**July 22** - Final Date to Submit Phase 1 Emergency Relief Program Application

**August 1** -County Committee Nomination Deadline (Form FSA-669A)

**August 1** – Final Day to Request a 2022 Farm Reconstitution

**August 5** – Final Day to Submit an Offer for CLEAR30 CRP

**August 15** –Final Acreage Reporting Date for Cucumbers (Planted 6/16-8/5) Fulton, LaPorte, Porter and St. Joseph Counties

**September 1** – NAP Sales Closing Date for Value Loss Crops for the Following Year (Flowers for Fresh Cut, Onion Sets, Turfgrass Sod, Christmas Trees, Aquaculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Etc.)

**September 5** – Offices Closed in Observance of Labor Day

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

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

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

**Continuous** - Submit an Application for a [FSA Farm Loan](#)

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

**Continuous** – Sign up for GovDelivery Newsletters, Bulletins and Indiana Press Releases ([Subscribe to USDA Emails for Farmers](#) | [Farmers.gov](#))

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