

In This Issue:

- ['Tis the Season to Thank Farmers](#)
- [December 16th Deadline Approaching for Application for Emergency Relief Program Phase One](#)
- [2023 Signup Deadline Extended for Dairy Margin Coverage](#)
- [Applying for NAP Payments](#)
- [Keeping Livestock Inventory Records](#)
- [Another Avian Influenza Case Reported in Indiana - Practice Biosecurity & Report Sick or Dead Birds](#)
- [Utilize the Farm Loan Discovery and Farm Loan Assistance Tools](#)
- [FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans](#)
- [\\$3.1 Billion Investment for Climate-Smart Agriculture and Support for Underserved Farmers](#)
- [The 2022 Census of Agriculture - Your Voice, Your Future, Your Opportunity](#)
- [Check Out the New NRCS Website](#)
- [December 2022 Lending Rates](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)

'Tis the Season to Thank Farmers

When I set out the milk and cookies for Santa and bake the ham and prepare the vegetables for the holiday meal, I certainly will be thinking of and thanking the American farmer for the work they do to bring these products to my table.

The holiday season is a time to join with friends and family to celebrate the previous year. There are happy moments to be grateful for and trying moments to grow and learn from. No matter how or where you gather to close 2022, there will likely be a delicious meal awaiting you. This meal would not be possible without the dedicated men and women in agriculture who work hard every day to ensure fresh, wholesome foods are available. As you say goodbye to this year and welcome 2023, please remember to take a moment and thank an Indiana farmer for providing food for the state and world! Our family's Christmas tree is adorned with farm ornaments, which provide a constant reminder of the passion I have for the greatest industry ever – agriculture!

Indiana FSA county offices look forward to working with you again in the new year, and we stand ready to assist you with the programs offered by our agency. Stop by the office or



give your county office a call to learn more about how FSA services can work for you and your operation.

Cheers to 2023!



State Executive Director

December 16th Deadline Approaching for Application for Emergency Relief Program Phase One

The deadline is nearing for producers to apply for assistance through the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase One. **Producers who are eligible for assistance through ERP Phase One and haven't already applied have until Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, to apply to their local [USDA Service Center](#) to receive benefits through the program.**

ERP is authorized under the *Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act*, which includes \$10 billion in assistance to agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021.

ERP Phase One was [rolled out in May 2022](#) and has since paid more than \$7.1 billion nationally to producers. Under the Phase One program, USDA used existing federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) data as the basis for establishing program benefits.

To learn more about this assistance program and others, visit: [Emergency Relief information page](#).

2023 Signup Deadline Extended for Dairy Margin Coverage



Producers Encouraged to Enroll As Soon As Possible

USDA has extended the deadline for producers to enroll in [Dairy Margin Coverage \(DMC\)](#) and [Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage \(SDMC\)](#) for program year 2023 to January 31, 2023.

DMC is a voluntary risk management program that offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

Early projections indicate DMC payments are likely to trigger for the first eight months in 2023. Markets fluctuate, sometimes at a moment's notice and sometimes with no warning at all, so now's the time to ensure your operation is covered. Please don't let this second chance slide.

Nearly 18,000 operations that enrolled in DMC for 2022 have received margin payments for August and September for a total of \$76.3 million. At \$0.15 per hundredweight for \$9.50 coverage, risk coverage through DMC is a relatively inexpensive investment.

DMC offers different levels of coverage, even an option that is free to producers, aside from a \$100 administrative fee. Limited resource, beginning, socially disadvantaged, and military veteran farmers and ranchers are exempt from paying the administrative fee, if requested. To

determine the appropriate level of DMC coverage for a specific dairy operation, producers can use the online [dairy decision tool](#).

Supplemental DMC

Last year, USDA introduced Supplemental DMC, which provided \$42.8 million in payments to better help small- and mid-sized dairy operations that had increased production over the years but were not able to enroll the additional production. Supplemental DMC is also available for 2023. The enrollment period for 2023 Supplemental DMC is also extended to January 31, 2023.

Supplemental DMC coverage is applicable to calendar years 2021, 2022 and 2023. Eligible dairy operations with less than 5 million pounds of established production history may enroll supplemental pounds.

For producers who enrolled in Supplemental DMC in 2022, the supplemental coverage will automatically be added to the 2023 DMC contract that previously established a supplemental production history.

Producers who did not enroll in Supplemental DMC in 2022 can do so now. Producers should complete their Supplemental DMC enrollment before enrolling in 2023 DMC. To enroll, producers will need to provide their 2019 actual milk marketings, which FSA uses to determine established production history.

DMC Payments

FSA will continue to calculate DMC payments using updated feed and premium hay costs, making the program more reflective of actual dairy producer expenses. These updated feed calculations use 100% premium alfalfa hay rather than 50%.

For more information on DMC, visit the [DMC webpage](#) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

Applying for NAP Payments

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to you for crops that aren't eligible for crop insurance to protect against lower yields or crops unable to be planted due to natural disasters including freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes, flood, excessive heat and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing), among others.

In order to participate, you must obtain NAP coverage for the crop year by the applicable deadline using form CCC-471 "Application for Coverage" and pay the service fee. Application closing dates vary by crop. Producers are also required to submit an acceptable crop acreage report. Additionally, NAP participants must provide:

- The quantity of all harvested production of the crop in which the producer held an interest during the crop year
- The disposition of the harvested crop, such as whether it is marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended
- Acceptable crop production records (when requested by FSA)

Producers who fail to report acreage and production information for NAP-covered crops could see reduced or zero NAP assistance. These reports are used to calculate the approved yield.

If your NAP-covered crops are affected by a natural disaster, notify your FSA office by completing Part B of form CCC-576 "Notice of Loss and Application for Payment." This must be completed within 15 calendar days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest date. For hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops, you must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent.

To receive benefits, you must also complete Parts D, E, F and G of the CCC-576 "Notice of Loss and Application for Payment" within 60 days of the last day of coverage for the crop year for any NAP covered crops. The CCC-576 requires acceptable appraisal information. Producers must provide evidence of production and note whether the crop was marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended.

Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

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

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.



Another Avian Influenza Case Reported in Indiana - Practice Biosecurity & Report Sick or Dead Birds



***Commercial producers and backyard enthusiasts
are asked to practice good biosecurity
and report sick or dead birds.***

To date, USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories has confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in commercial and backyard flocks in several states including **Indiana**. Avian influenza viruses are classified as either "low pathogenic (LPAI)" or "highly pathogenic (HPAI)" based on their genetic features and the severity of the disease they cause in poultry. Caused by an influenza type A virus, HPAI can infect poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl) and wild birds (especially waterfowl).

The clinical signs of birds affected with all forms of Avian Influenza may show one or more of the following:

- Sudden death without clinical signs
- Decreased water consumption up to 72 hours before other clinical signs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production
- Soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and hocks
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs
- Nasal discharge
- Coughing, sneezing
- Lack of coordination
- Diarrhea

In addition to the disease infecting domestic birds, it is important to know that wild birds can also be infected and show no signs of illness. They can carry the disease to new areas when migrating, potentially exposing domestic poultry to the virus. The [APHIS' wild bird surveillance program](#) provides an early warning system for the introduction and distribution of avian influenza viruses of concern in the United States, allowing APHIS and the poultry industry to take timely and rapid action.

With the recent detections of avian influenza in wild birds and domestic poultry in the United States, bird owners should review their biosecurity practices and stay vigilant to protect poultry and pet birds from transmission of this disease. The following bio-safety guidelines are effective methods for safeguarding commercial operations and smaller flocks:

- Backyard flock owners should practice strict biosecurity, including preventing birds from exposure and/or co-mingling with wild birds and other types of poultry.
- Shower, change clothes, and clean and disinfect footwear before entering your poultry housing areas.
- Respiratory protection such as a medical facemask would also be important and remember to always wear clean clothes when encountering healthy domestic birds.
- Carefully follow safe entry and exit procedures into your flock's clean area.
- Reduce the attractiveness for wild birds to stop at your place by cleaning up litter and spilled feed around poultry housing areas.

- If you have free range guinea fowl and waterfowl, consider bringing them into coops or flight pens under nets to prevent interaction of domesticated poultry with wild birds and their droppings.
- It is best to restrict visitors from interacting with your birds currently.
- Do not touch sick or dead wildlife and keep them away from domestic poultry.
- Try not to handle sick or deceased domestic birds (if you must, use proper personal protective equipment to minimize direct contact and cautiously disinfect anything that comes into contact with the deceased and or sick bird).

As part of the existing USDA Avian Influenza response plans, Federal and State partners as well as industry are responding quickly and decisively to these outbreaks by following these five basic steps:

- **Quarantine** – restricting movement of poultry and poultry-moving equipment into and out of the control area;
- **Eradicate** – depopulate the affected flock(s);
- **Monitor region** – testing wild and domestic birds in a broad area around the quarantine area;
- **Disinfect** – kills the virus in the affected flock locations; and
- **Test** – confirming that the poultry farm is AI virus-free.

Sick or deceased domestic birds should be reported to your local veterinarian. Positive domestic cases are handled by APHIS and its partners. Disposal methods will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis depending on a variety of factors, including the size of the flock, space requirements, associated costs, local conditions, and applicable laws/regulations.

The United States has the strongest Avian Influenza surveillance program in the world, where we actively look for the disease and provide fair market value compensation to affected producers to encourage reporting.

If you do not raise domestic birds or have a poultry operation but you encounter sick or dead wild birds, please use bio-safety measures, and report your findings through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, this strain of Avian Influenza is a low risk to the public. While the transmission rate from animals to humans is low, it is a zoonotic disease, meaning it can be shared between species. To learn more about Avian Influenza and to remain up to date on the latest related news and information, you can visit the USDA [APHIS webpage](#).

The [Indiana State Board of Animal Health's Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza webpage](#) contains state specific information, resources and situation updates. The Indiana Department of Animal Health can be reached at 877-747-3038 or via email to animalhealth@boah.in.gov.

Utilize the Farm Loan Discovery and Farm Loan Assistance Tools

FSA offers loans to help farmers get the financing they need to start, expand or maintain a family farm. Learn about your eligibility and find application guides to help you prepare for your visit with the [Indiana Regional Farm Loan Team](#).

[The Farm Loan Assistance Tool](#) - Check your eligibility for FSA loans, discover the various FSA loan products, learn about documentation requirements, and follow easy-to-understand instructions when completing the loan application forms.

[The Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#) – Answer a few short questions to learn about USDA farm loans that might be right.

Explore the [Farmers.gov Loans page](#) to learn more about these programs.

FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](#) can help farmers 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](#) option for smaller financial needs up to \$50,000.

Joint financing allows FSA to provide more farmers 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 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 was not solely as a laborer.

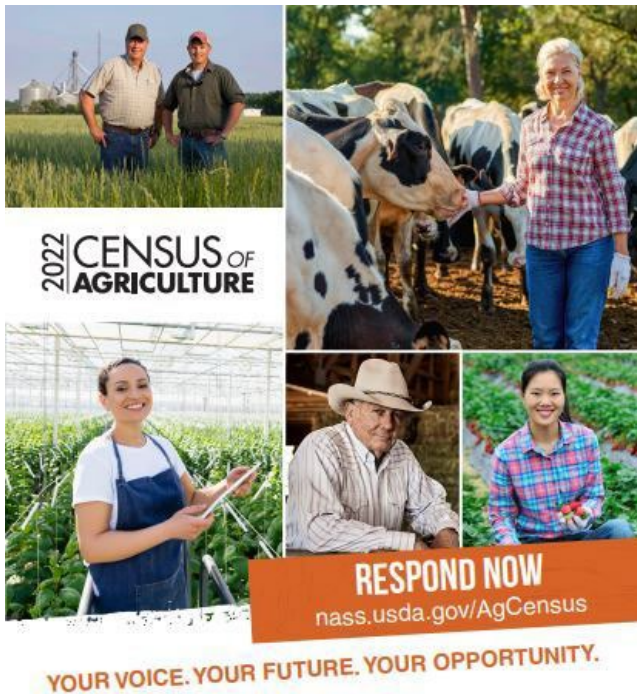
For more information about farm loans, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#), the [Indiana Regional Farm Loan Team](#) or visit [fsa.usda.gov](#).

\$3.1 Billion Investment for Climate-Smart Agriculture and Support for Underserved Farmers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing an additional \$325 million for 71 projects under the second funding pool of the [Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities](#) effort, bringing the total investment from both funding pools to over \$3.1 billion for 141 tentatively selected projects.

Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities is working to expand markets for American producers, especially small and underserved producers, who have the most to gain from growing market demand for climate-smart commodities. Learn More: [Biden-Harris Administration Announces an Additional \\$325 Million in Pilot Projects through Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, for Total Investment of \\$3.1 Billion | USDA](#)

The 2022 Census of Agriculture - Your Voice, Your Future, Your Opportunity



The [Census of Agriculture](#) is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land - whether rural or urban - growing fruit, vegetables, or some food animals count if \$1000 or more of such productions were raised and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year.

The Census of Agriculture, taken only once every five years, looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures. For American farmers, the Census of Ag is their voice, their future and their opportunity.

USDA mailed survey codes to all known agriculture producers with an invitation to respond online to the 2022 Census of Agriculture

at agcounts.usda.gov. If you missed it or prefer paper, the paper questionnaires will follow in December.

For the latest news and updates about the Census of Agriculture, visit nass.usda.gov/AgCensus.

Check Out the New NRCS Website

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is excited to unveil their new website, which was designed for you, whether you're a farmer or forest landowner who uses NRCS conservation programs or one of our partners who helps NRCS deliver on the conservation mission.

The new [NRCS site](#) has been designed to support and enhance the NRCS mission by delivering relevant, timely, customer-focused information in an easy-to-navigate platform.

Key features include:

- It's been designed using the U.S. Web Design System, so you'll see a certain "family resemblance" among USDA and other federal websites, including farmers.gov.
- It's accessible (or 508 conformant), meaning the site is designed for use by people with disabilities.
- It's mobile responsive, meaning that it should work on a phone or tablet at easily as on a desktop computer.

Be sure to check out the:

- [Guides and Instructions](#)- Search by resource type, NRCS program, natural resource concern, and state.
- [Getting Assistance](#)- Learn more about available technical and financial assistance and how you can get support online as well as with the NRCS at your local Service Center.
- [Conservation by State](#)- Find information on NRCS programs, services and other information in your state.

If you can't find something that you used to find on our website, please [contact us](#) and we can help.

December 2022 Lending Rates

USDA announced loan interest rates for December 2022, which are effective December 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): 5.125%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) (Direct): 5.000%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) (Direct, Joint Financing): 3.000%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#) (Down Payment): 1.500%
- [Emergency Loan](#) (Amount of Actual Loss): 3.750%

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

Check your eligibility for FSA loans by utilizing the [Farm Loan Assistance Tool](#). Find out which of these loans may be right for you by using our [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#).

Commodity and Farm Storage Facility Loans

- [Commodity Loans](#) (less than one year disbursed): 5.625%
- [Farm Storage Facility Loans](#)
 - 3-year loan: 4.375%
 - 5-year, 7-year and 12-year loans: 4.125%
 - 10-year loan: 4.000%

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

Dates to Remember

[2022 Indiana FSA Important Deadline Dates](#)

December 15 - Final Reporting Date for Fall Mint and Fall-Seeded Small Grains

December 16 - Final Date to Apply for Emergency Relief Program Phase One Payments

December 26 - Offices Closed in Observance of Christmas Day

January 2 – Offices Closed in Observance of New Year's Day

January 3 – Final Hive Reporting Date for Honey

January 3 - Final Maple Tap Reporting Date for Maple Sap

January 16 – Offices Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday

January 17 – Final Acreage Reporting Date for Apples

January 30 – Final Date to Submit Application for Payment for 2022 Losses under Emergency assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

January 30 – Final Date to Submit Application for Payment for 2022 Losses under Livestock Forage Program (LFP)

January 31 – Deadline to Apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for Unshorn Pelts Produced During the 2022 Crop Year

January 31 - Signup Deadline for 2023 Dairy Margin Coverage and Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage

January 31 - Deadline to Submit an Application for the [Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops \(FSCSC\)](#) Program for 2022
Ongoing - Signup for [Continuous CRP](#)
Ongoing – Submit an Application for a [Farm Storage Facility Loan](#)
Continuous - Submit an Application for [FSA Farm Loans](#)
Continuous - Signup for Local County Office FSA Text Alerts - Text Your [Service Center Keyword](#) to FSANOW (372-669)
Continuous – Sign up for GovDelivery Newsletters, Bulletins and Indiana Press Releases ([Subscribe to USDA Emails for Farmers](#) | [Farmers.gov](#))

Indiana Farm Service Agency

5981 Lakeside Blvd
Indianapolis IN 46278

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

USDA Service Center Locator

Julia A Wickard
State Executive Director
julia.wickard@usda.gov

Joshua Oren
Administrative Officer
joshua.oren@usda.gov

Kala Nicholson-Cline
Farm Loan
Program Chief
kala.nicholson-cline@usda.gov

Susan Houston
Price Support/Disaster
Program Chief
susan.houston@usda.gov

Jared Thomas
Conservation/Compliance
Program Chief
jared.thomas@usda.gov

Kaitlin Myers
Production Adjustment
Program Chief
kaitlin.myers@usda.gov

Indiana FSA State Committee

Travis Nolcox, Gibson County - Chairman
Amanda Berenda, Newton County
Emily Wilson, Decatur County
Joe Pearson, Grant County
Beth Tharp, Putnam County

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).