|  |
| --- |
| [View as a webpage / Share](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2NvbnRlbnQuZ292ZGVsaXZlcnkuY29tL2FjY291bnRzL1VTREFGQVJNRVJTL2J1bGxldGlucy8zM2Y5YjMyIn0.AxaD6i5zfUPA9VQ5UQkXgW5JVUv-9j4UNvSefOwMHts/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) |
|

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **Louisiana USDA-FSA Updates**-**January 2023** |
|  |
| In This Issue: |
| * [The 2022 Census of Agriculture is Underway in Louisiana](#link_3)
* [USDA Microloans Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property](#link_1)
* [Farmers Can Now Make 2023 Crop Year Elections, Enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs](#link_2)
* [2023 Dairy Margin Coverage Deadline Extended – Jan. 31, 2023, Last Day to Enroll](#link_6)
* [USDA Launches Loan Assistance Tool to Enhance Equity and Customer Service](#link_4)
* [USDA Provides Payments of Nearly $800 Million in Assistance to Help Keep Farmers Farming](#link_5)
* [USDA Reminds Producers of Continuous Certification Option for Perennial Forage](#link_7)
* [Important Dates](#link_9)
* [Current Interest Rates for January](#link_10)

The 2022 Census of Agriculture is Underway in Louisiana Earlier last month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) mailed the 2022 Census of Agriculture paper questionnaires to all known agriculture producers across the nation and Puerto Rico. In [November](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5uYXNzLnVzZGEuZ292L05ld3Nyb29tLzIwMjIvMTEtMjItMjAyMi5waHA_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.Jy0apZUqcXMJdgyfPm5BtBLQAUh7b6A_aCHQ3BqkTE0/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l), producers in all states received their survey codes with an invitation to respond online. Any Louisiana producer who did not respond online still has the option to complete the ag census at [agcounts.usda.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3BvcnRhbC5hZ2NvdW50cy51c2RhLmdvdi9wb3J0YWwvcy8_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.S2iLkaWIh4TLTjK7RGzIPJAF7Oh4j7bWzlttTBD7-wI/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) or by mail. Producers who have already responded to the 2022 Census of Agriculture online do not need to respond again. The deadline for response is Feb. 6, 2023.If a census questionnaire was received, it’s important that everyone respond. Especially respondents that are landlords, CRP-only acres, not farming anymore, or anyone who doesn’t think they need to return the questionnaire. NASS wants to hear back from everyone, so they won't keep trying to contact you as the deadline approaches. Just make a note on the front of the questionnaire or add a comment online that tells us your situation and we’ll take it from thereThe Census of Agriculture remains the nation’s only comprehensive and impartial agriculture data for every state, county, and U.S. territory. Farm operations of all sizes, urban and rural, which produced and sold, or normally would have sold, $1,000 or more of agricultural products in 2022, are included in the ag census. The data inform decisions about policy, programs, rural development, research, and more. The Census of Agriculture is the producer’s voice in the future of American agriculture.Responding to the Census of Agriculture is required by law under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113. The same law requires NASS to keep all information confidential, to use the data only for statistical purposes, and only publish in aggregate form to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation. NASS will release the results of the ag census in 2024.To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit [www.nass.usda.gov/agcensus](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3Lm5hc3MudXNkYS5nb3YvYWdjZW5zdXM_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.cQc2dm0y75mNKrviKXPxYoAcc0vQtFk85fAsbUCYROg/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l).USDA Microloans Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property

|  |
| --- |
| Farm Loan ProgramsFarmers can use USDA farm ownership microloans to buy and improve property. These microloans are especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013.Microloans can also help with farmland and building purchases and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to $50,000 to qualified producers and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).To learn more about the FSA microloan program, contact your local USDA Service Center  or visit [fsa.usda.gov/microloans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZzYS51c2RhLmdvdi9taWNyb2xvYW5zP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.F8Isu7iTybzPBaiODIkgqEq9HJcAIPqj1yss4oD4BAU/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l). |

Farmers Can Now Make 2023 Crop Year Elections, Enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage ProgramsAgricultural producers can now change election and enroll in the [Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2FyY3BsY19wcm9ncmFtL2luZGV4P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.3li-814AJykMQqlwkxEGFo5av00wbpfKHcYzfsofkmE/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) programs for the 2023 crop year, two key safety net programs offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Signup began Monday, and producers have until March 15, 2023, to enroll in these two programs. Additionally, USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) has started issuing payments totaling more than $255 million to producers with 2021 crops that have triggered payments through ARC or PLC.  **2023 Elections and Enrollment**   Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County (ARC-CO) or PLC, which provide crop-by-crop protection, or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC), which protects the entire farm. Although election changes for 2023 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2023, they must sign a new contract.    If producers do not submit their election by the March 15, 2023 deadline, their election remains the same as their 2022 election for crops on the farm.  Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.     Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.    **Web-Based Decision Tools**   In partnership with USDA, the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University offer web-based decision tools to assist producers in making informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. Tools include:   * [ardner-farmdoc Payment Calculator,](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2Zhcm1kb2NkYWlseS5pbGxpbm9pcy5lZHUvMjAxOS8wOC9pbnRyb2R1Y2luZy10aGUtZ2FyZG5lci1mYXJtZG9jLXBheW1lbnQtY2FsY3VsYXRvci5odG1sP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.wMEJLVTpdbpb_w1lHUICksKIdh-Q8VEk-9ZaU0bfwjA/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) a tool available through the University of Illinois allows producers to estimate payments for farms and counties for ARC-CO and PLC.
* [ARC and PLC Decision Tool,](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5hZnBjLnRhbXUuZWR1Lz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.XsiGEsaLvcTt6yebS6y6saphW-JJgMO583IpefoZcaU/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) a tool available through Texas A&M that allows producers to obtain basic information regarding the decision and factors that should be taken into consideration such as future commodity prices and historic yields to estimate payments for 2022.

**2021 Payments and Contracts**  ARC and PLC payments for a given crop year are paid out the following fall to allow actual county yields and the Market Year Average prices to be finalized. This month, FSA processed payments to producers enrolled in 2021 ARC-CO, ARC-IC and PLC for covered commodities that triggered for the crop year.   For ARC-CO, producers can view the [2021](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3ZpZXcub2ZmaWNlYXBwcy5saXZlLmNvbS9vcC92aWV3LmFzcHg_c3JjPWh0dHBzJTNBJTJGJTJGd3d3LmZzYS51c2RhLmdvdiUyRkFzc2V0cyUyRlVTREEtRlNBLVB1YmxpYyUyRnVzZGFmaWxlcyUyRmFyYy1wbGMlMkYyMDIxJTJGZXhjZWwlMkZhcmNjb18yMDIxX2RhdGEueGxzeCUzRnV0bV9tZWRpdW0lM0RlbWFpbCUyNnV0bV9zb3VyY2UlM0Rnb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSZ1dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkmd2RPcmlnaW49QlJPV1NFTElOSyJ9.-6xsYLdopfoyB9zo9qdU67w4KXMSODDchSTDBF7cilE/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) ARC-CO Benchmark Yields and Revenues online database, for payment rates applicable to their county and each covered commodity. For PLC, payments have triggered for rapeseed and peanuts. For ARC-IC, producers should contact their local FSA office for additional information pertaining to 2021 payment information, which relies on producer-specific yields for the crop and farm to determine benchmark yields and actual year yields when calculating revenues.  **By the Numbers**  In 2021, producers signed nearly 1.8 million ARC or PLC contracts, and 251 million out of 273 million base acres were enrolled in the programs.  For the 2022 crop year signed contracts surpassed 1.8 million, to be paid in the fall of 2023, if a payment triggers. Since ARC and PLC were first authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and reauthorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, these safety-net programs have paid out more than $34.9 billion to producers of covered commodities.  **Crop Insurance Considerations**   ARC and PLC are part of a broader safety net provided by USDA, which also includes crop insurance and marketing assistance loans.   Producers are reminded that ARC and PLC elections and enrollments can impact eligibility for some crop insurance products.   Producers on farms with a PLC election have the option of purchasing Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through their Approved Insurance Provider; however, producers on farms where ARC is the election are ineligible for SCO on their planted acres for that crop on that farm.   Unlike SCO, the Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) is unaffected by an ARC election.  Producers may add ECO regardless of the farm program election.  Upland cotton farmers who choose to enroll seed cotton base acres in ARC or PLC are ineligible for the stacked income protection plan (STAX) on their planted cotton acres for that farm.    **More Information**    For more information on ARC and PLC, visit the [ARC and PLC webpage](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2FyY3BsY19wcm9ncmFtL2luZGV4P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.Q9fs8BC8cqHDHSEGkcFpbyFb07AWGVubFSDDsqUCQ0A/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L3NlcnZpY2UtY2VudGVyLWxvY2F0b3I_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.rJXyP3O06Jhgi7pnNH1gttKqfeOVpXC65o8msgPgP8Y/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l).2023 Dairy Margin Coverage Deadline Extended – Jan. 31, 2023, Last Day to Enroll

|  |
| --- |
| Dairy CowsUSDA extended the deadline for producers to enroll in [Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC)](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2RhaXJ5LW1hcmdpbi1jb3ZlcmFnZS1wcm9ncmFtL2luZGV4P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.QuyVCZL0S_MVNT1CMzYx3D8ie_dy_JsbJ1sXWn4fa10/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) and [Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage (SDMC)](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvQXNzZXRzL1VTREEtRlNBLVB1YmxpYy91c2RhZmlsZXMvRmFjdFNoZWV0cy8yMDIyLzIwMjIwMl9mc2FfZGFpcnlfbWFyZ2luX2NvdmVyYWdlX3NkbWNfZmFjdF9zaGVldF92NS5wZGY_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.JHECcA3R5uVFtyGZpcDoju_U6GN07fajm9k0u-UyFgg/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) for program year 2023 to Jan. 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.   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](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2RtYy5kYWlyeW1hcmtldHMub3JnLz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkjLyJ9.qXA9cGS_KZ6BfP_hbEVpjVNzWcbd5NaM105MwzFnT94/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l).   **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 Jan. 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 marketing, 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](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2RhaXJ5LW1hcmdpbi1jb3ZlcmFnZS1wcm9ncmFtL2luZGV4P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.1HYcppfhyiamX3zkWLBmCc9yhcJK4Vt6vwr3_0EcF0E/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l)or contact your local [USDA Service Center](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi93b3JraW5nLXdpdGgtdXMvc2VydmljZS1jZW50ZXItbG9jYXRvcj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.ugE2RzoMEVZrCiogt_QggngkBhCi5j4hbwE1-TchN68/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l).  |

USDA Launches Loan Assistance Tool to Enhance Equity and Customer ServiceThe U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched a new online tool to help farmers and ranchers better navigate the farm loan application process. This uniform application process will help to ensure all farm loan applicants receive equal support and have a consistent customer experience with USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) regardless of their individual circumstances.  USDA experiences a high rate of incomplete or withdrawn applications, particularly among underserved customers, due in part to a challenging and lengthy paper-based application process. The Loan Assistance Tool is available 24/7 and gives customers an online step-by-step guide that supplements the support they receive when working in person with a USDA employee, providing materials that may help an applicant prepare their loan application in one tool. Farmers can access the Loan Assistance Tool by visiting [farmers.gov/farm-loan-assistance-tool](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1hc3Npc3RhbmNlLXRvb2w_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.SKCL5aCQg4sy_rd_GjRTHHfmG4ip0RwmGIE-yjXg7ds/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l)  and clicking the ‘Get Started’ button. From here they can follow the prompts to complete the Eligibility Self-Assessment and start the farm loan journey. 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.  The Loan Assistance Tool is the first of multiple farm loan process improvements that will be available to USDA customers on farmers.gov in the future. Other improvements and tools that are anticipated to launch in 2023 include: * A streamlined and simplified direct loan application, reduced from 29 pages to 13 pages.
* An interactive online direct loan application that gives customers a paperless and electronic signature option, along with the ability to attach supporting documents such as tax returns.
* An online direct loan repayment feature that relieves borrowers from the necessity of calling, mailing, or visiting a local Service Center to pay a loan installment.

**Background** USDA provides access to credit to approximately 115,000 producers who cannot obtain sufficient commercial credit through direct and guaranteed farm loans. With the funds and direction Congress provided in Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act, USDA is taking action to immediately [provide relief to qualifying distressed borrowers](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy51c2RhLmdvdi9tZWRpYS9wcmVzcy1yZWxlYXNlcy8yMDIyLzEwLzE4L3VzZGEtcHJvdmlkZXMtcGF5bWVudHMtbmVhcmx5LTgwMC1taWxsaW9uLWFzc2lzdGFuY2UtaGVscC1rZWVwP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.sLcZK45A9Xe7o3ZZcQlSRo38OeHxND67zrbDaMxo9oQ/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) whose operations are at financial risk while working on making transformational changes to loan servicing so that borrowers are provided the flexibility and opportunities needed to address the inherent risks and unpredictability associated with agricultural operations. USDA Provides Payments of Nearly $800 Million in Assistance to Help Keep Farmers Farming

|  |
| --- |
| beginning farmers women in high tunnelUSDA announced that distressed borrowers with qualifying USDA farm loans have already received nearly $800 million in assistance, as part of the $3.1 billion in assistance for distressed farm loan borrowers provided through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The IRA directed USDA to expedite assistance to distressed borrowers of direct or guaranteed loans administered by USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) whose operations face financial risk.This recent announcement in October 2022 kicks off a process to provide assistance to distressed farm loan borrowers using several complementary approaches, with the goal of keeping them farming, removing obstacles that currently prevent many of these borrowers from returning to farming, and improving the way that USDA approaches borrowing and servicing. Through this assistance, USDA is focused on generating long-term stability and success for distressed borrowers.Work has already started to bring some relief to distressed farmers. As of Oct. 2022, over 13,000 borrowers have already benefited from the resources provided under the Inflation Reduction Act as follows:* Approximately 11,000 delinquent direct and guaranteed borrowers had their accounts brought current. USDA also paid the next scheduled annual installment for these direct loan borrowers giving them peace of mind in the near term.
* Approximately 2,100 borrowers who had their farms foreclosed on and still had remaining debt have had this debt resolved in order to cease debt collections and garnishment relieving that burden that has made getting a fresh start more difficult.

In addition to the automatic assistance already provided, USDA has also outlined steps to administer up to an additional $500 million in payments to benefit the following distressed borrowers:* USDA will administer $66 million in separate automatic payments, using COVID-19 pandemic relief funds, to support up to 7,000 direct loan borrowers who used FSA’s disaster-set-aside option during the pandemic to move their scheduled payments to the end of their loans.
* USDA is also initiating two case-by-case processes to provide additional assistance to farm loan borrowers. Under the first new process, FSA will review and assist with delinquencies from 1,600 complex cases, including cases in which borrowers are facing bankruptcy or foreclosure. The second new process will add a new option using existing direct loan servicing criteria to intervene more quickly and help an estimated 14,000 financially distressed borrowers who request assistance to avoid even becoming delinquent.

More details on each of the categories of assistance, including a downloadable fact sheet, are available on the [Inflation Reduction Act webpage on farmers.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9pbmZsYXRpb24tcmVkdWN0aW9uLWludmVzdG1lbnRzP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.hOcmwA4kTyClhdhtGZlLsA7jeq0OA5Zr9_te2c4o-4I/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l).Similar to other USDA assistance, all of these payments will be reported as income and borrowers are encouraged to consult their tax advisors. USDA also has resources and partnerships with cooperators who can provide additional assistance and help borrowers navigate the process.The announcement today is only the first step in USDA’s efforts to provide assistance to distressed farm loan borrowers and respond to farmers and to improve the loan servicing efforts at USDA by adding more tools and relaxing unnecessary restrictions. Additional announcements and investments in assistance will be made as USDA institutes these additional changes and improvements.This effort will ultimately also include adding more tools and relaxing unnecessary restrictions through assistance made possible by Congress through the IRA. Further assistance and changes to the approach will be made in subsequent phases.**Background**USDA provides access to credit to approximately 115,000 producers who cannot obtain sufficient commercial credit through direct and guaranteed farm loans, which do not include farm storage facility loans or marketing assistance loans.  With the funds and direction Congress provided in Section 22006 of IRA, USDA is taking action to immediately provide relief to qualifying distressed borrowers whose operations are at financial risk while working on making transformational changes to how USDA goes about loan servicing in the long run so that borrowers are provided the flexibility and opportunities needed to address the inherent risks and unpredictability associated with agricultural operations and remain in good financial standing.In January 2021, [USDA suspended foreclosures](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvbmV3cy1yb29tL25ld3MtcmVsZWFzZXMvMjAyMS91c2RhLXRlbXBvcmFyaWx5LXN1c3BlbmRzLWRlYnQtY29sbGVjdGlvbnMtZm9yZWNsb3N1cmVzLWFuZC1vdGhlci1hY3Rpdml0aWVzLW9uLWZhcm0tbG9hbnMtZm9yLXNldmVyYWwtdGhvdXNhbmQtZGlzdHJlc3NlZC1ib3Jyb3dlcnMtZHVlLXRvLWNvcm9uYXZpcnVzP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.G_WLpharhZYZqYZAYNJamUFqoBsDwPBx0RS8i_pgELo/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) and other adverse actions on direct farm loans due to the pandemic and encouraged guaranteed lenders to follow suit. Last week, USDA reiterated this request to guaranteed lenders to provide time for the full set of IRA distressed borrower assistance to be made available before lenders take irreparable actions.Producers can explore available loan options using the [Farm Loan Discovery Tool on farmers.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9sb2Fucz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkjZmllbGQtMjM0In0.39cpPCLYAmX4pSK7EZxS9h-Eh1i03F1oYgsayOKgpKs/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) ([also available in Spanish](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9zcGFuaXNoL2xvYW5zL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1kaXNjb3ZlcnktdG9vbD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.tBI9WeFxUkvQB--52H6ifaw6s02xiTW0rJM36IcQqPE/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l)) or by contacting their [local USDA Service Center](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L3NlcnZpY2UtbG9jYXRvcj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.zGCODpO2MZemTGC6H92vqV_F9TsGEgEPDmEJCL6mDY4/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l). Producers can also call the FSA call center at 877-508-8364 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Eastern. USDA has tax-related resources available at [farmers.gov/taxes](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L3RheGVzP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.8b3n_isLLvktmcr70b0g5nh0nrwY0SiFPE5pqtjl7TM/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l). |

USDA Reminds Producers of Continuous Certification Option for Perennial Forage

|  |
| --- |
| ryeThe U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds agricultural producers with perennial forage crops of an option to report their acreage once, without having to report that acreage in subsequent years, as long as there are no applicable changes on the farm. Interested producers can select the continuous certification option after USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) certifies their acreage report.  An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses, including perennial crops like mixed forage, birdsfoot trefoil, chicory/radicchio, kochia (prostrata), lespedeza, perennial peanuts and perennial grass varieties. To access many USDA programs, producers must file an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage.  The perennial crop continuous certification process requires a producer to initially complete an acreage report certifying the perennial crop acreage. The producer may select the continuous certification option any time after the crop is certified.  Once the continuous certification option is selected, the certified acreage will roll forward annually and does not require additional action on the producer’s part in subsequent years unless the acreage report changes.  Once an producer selects continuous certification, then continuous certification is appliable to all fields on the farm for the specific crop, crop type and intended use. If continuous certification is selected by any producers sharing in the crop, then the continuous certification is appliable to fields in which the producer has a share for the specific crop, crop type and intended use.   Producers can opt out of continuous certification at any time. The continuous certification will terminate automatically if a change in the farming operation occurs.  **How to File a Report**   To file a crop acreage report, producers need to provide:   * Crop and crop type or variety.
* Intended use of the crop.
* Number of acres of the crop.
* Map with approximate boundaries for the crop.
* Planting date(s).
* Planting pattern, when applicable.
* Producer shares.
* Irrigation practice(s).
* Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable.
* Other information as required.

**More Information**  Producers can contact their local FSA office to see if their crops are eligible for continuous certification or to make an appointment. Producers can make an appointment to report acres by contacting their local [USDA Service Center](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi93b3JraW5nLXdpdGgtdXMvc2VydmljZS1jZW50ZXItbG9jYXRvcj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.qnslnPU_FiFAO4dj57hqZU5dYwkNjDpBeHWRauLVpKM/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l).     |

Important DatesJan. 30:   Last day to apply for 2022 Livestock Forage Losses (LFP)Jan. 31:   2023 DMC Registration and Coverage Election deadline for dairy operationsFeb. 10:   Deadline to submit form CCC-860 Feb. 28:  Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program(NAP) Sales Closing Date-               Spring Seeded Crops, HempMar. 1:    Deadline to turn in all eligibility documents for 2019, 2020 and 2021 Agricultural               Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) program.Mar. 15:  Last day to change election and enroll for Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss               Coverage (ARC/PLC) for 2023 May 31 - Deadline to apply for 2022 Marketing               Assistance Loans (MAL)May 31:   Deadline to apply for 2022 Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)June 1:    Status Date for determination of Minor Child and Change in Farming OperationJul. 17:    Acreage reporting deadline for most spring seeded cropsAug. 1:    Last day to request a Farm ReconstitutionFSA now offers SMS texting; receive text message alerts on your cell phone regarding important deadlines, reporting requirements and updates. Call your local Service Center to schedule an appointment. You can find contact information at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi93b3JraW5nLXdpdGgtdXMvc2VydmljZS1jZW50ZXItbG9jYXRvcj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.dAbSqL2xQ7XY3pM9fjw9zgQhrvRzGXGqW8K6yFrshiw/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l).Current Interest Rates for January* [Commodity Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL3ByaWNlLXN1cHBvcnQvY29tbW9kaXR5LWxvYW5zL2luZGV4P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.PLCDyVrwlw9VCJS0xgAJPw7CoLCJsrxClQxC5bSiyyw/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) (less than one year disbursed): 5.750%
* [Farm Storage Facility Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL3ByaWNlLXN1cHBvcnQvZmFjaWxpdHktbG9hbnMvZmFybS1zdG9yYWdlL2luZGV4P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.0vL6FFT0DUPwDglHqkKfu5gza3G9vB3jQxcAfYXjGYY/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l):
	+ o Three-year loan terms: 4.125%
	+ o Five-year loan terms: 3.750%
	+ o Seven-year loan terms: 3.750%
	+ o Ten-year loan terms: 3.625%
	+ o Twelve-year loan terms: 3.625%
* [Sugar Storage Facility Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL3ByaWNlLXN1cHBvcnQvZmFjaWxpdHktbG9hbnMvc3VnYXItc3RvcmFnZS9pbmRleD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.7ANk-zgNXy2l5dlaX1cXWdHiV3OWYAGul-lqEqFZbvw/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) (15 years): 3.750%
* [Farm Operating Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1wcm9ncmFtcy9mYXJtLW9wZXJhdGluZy1sb2Fucy9pbmRleD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.7dhWizUV-JFtgDinRg_KWTa4aCx32SUar2Rpg2ygvdk/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) (Direct): 5.125%
* [Farm Ownership Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1wcm9ncmFtcy9mYXJtLW93bmVyc2hpcC1sb2Fucy9pbmRleD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.Tmw832g1c48ilDFfpB3vVoubyK6lp143mDpn9ltJnyw/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) (Direct): 5.250%
* [Farm Ownership Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1wcm9ncmFtcy9mYXJtLW93bmVyc2hpcC1sb2Fucy9pbmRleD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.Jz4pTh2l5JBb3KpbAUVM_6LQjUqByz3m-pfaj31bdyQ/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) (Direct, Joint Financing): 3.250%
* [Farm Ownership Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1wcm9ncmFtcy9mYXJtLW93bmVyc2hpcC1sb2Fucy9pbmRleD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.I9nb4vy_p3Jd_0UqEoSdnsdcMhFiIxuxj2k2qJRB6jk/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) (Down Payment): 1.500%
* [Emergency Loan](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMTcuNjk5Mzc4MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1wcm9ncmFtcy9lbWVyZ2VuY3ktZmFybS1sb2Fucy9pbmRleD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.NVlI2fLHtusIufnEEQElHsXSUFV8XZw5NB-mUON4Csw/s/1837074945/br/152942059675-l) (Amount of Actual Loss): 3.750 %
 |
|  |
| Louisiana FSA State Office3737 Government StreetAlexandria, LA 70508Phone: 318-473-7721Fax: 1-844-325-6942

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ronald C. Guidry, Jr.**State Executive DirectorRonald.Guidry@usda.gov | **Christine Normand**Administrative Officerchristine.normand@usda.gov |
| **Terrick Boley**Farm Loan Program Chiefterrick.boley@usda.gov | **DeWanna Pitman**Farm Program Chiefdewanna.pitman@usda.gov |
| **USDA-FSA State Committee**Dr. Julie Baker Richard - Kaplan-Committee ChairWillis Nelson – Sondheimer-MemberAnna Timmerman - New Orleans-Member  |   |
|   |   |

  |

 |