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| |  | | --- | | January 2021 NL Masthead  Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/bulletins/2ebfcbb).   * [Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early](#link_1) * [Quality Loss Assistance Now Available for Eligible Producers Affected by 2018, 2019 Natural Disasters](#link_6) * [Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation](#link_2) * [Is the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program Right for You?](#link_4) * [USDA Announces CRP General Signup Ends February 12](#link_5) * [Maintaining Good Credit History](#link_3)  Maine FSA Newsletter | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Maine Farm Service Agency 967 Illinois Ave, Suite 2  Bangor, ME  04401  207-990-9140  [www.fsa.usda.gov/me](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fme%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C199cb58664554c81d02008d95b631b95%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641303680754404%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=vA%2BoNrQmjGAuRe4RIlKtsIRi8xxaC60pLke2Jd70tb4%3D&reserved=0)  **State Executive Director:**  David R. Lavway, SED  **State Committee:**  Sue McCrum  Heath Miller  Nancy Ricker  Dave Tuttle  Fred Flewelling  To find contact information for your local office go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/me](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fme%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C199cb58664554c81d02008d95b631b95%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641303680764372%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=HamfBUsbZPG7ulqtgS8r4xIoskmZTlPRK0mX8cUOCiM%3D&reserved=0) | Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early The Farm Loan team in Maine is already working on operating loans for spring 2021 and asks potential borrowers to submit their requests early so they can be timely processed. The farm loan team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants.  FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional **farm operating** **and farm ownership loans** can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.  **Microloans** are a simplified loan program that will provide up to $50,000 for both Farm Ownership and Operating Microloans to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new operation, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation.  Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.  Other types of loans available include:  **Marketing Assistance Loans** allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.  **Farm Storage Facility Loans** can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures, and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to $500,000 per loan**.** Quality Loss Assistance Now Available for Eligible Producers Affected by 2018, 2019 Natural Disasters The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that signup for the Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) Program will begin Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021. Funded by the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020, this new program provides assistance to producers who suffered eligible crop quality losses due to natural disasters occurring in 2018 and 2019. The deadline to apply for QLA is Friday, March 5, 2021.  **Eligible Crops**  Eligible crops include those for which [federal crop insurance](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.rma.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C199cb58664554c81d02008d95b631b95%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641303680764372%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6D9yV6C5ktfUps6WFfKIi6Ow6k%2FQrPDlDJYD5DWf5DM%3D&reserved=0) or [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fdisaster-assistance-program%2Fnoninsured-crop-disaster-assistance%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C199cb58664554c81d02008d95b631b95%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641303680764372%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=tJqUghjEaEOtmzRw%2FgI3xuSBwPMjU%2Fh%2FkkfgjV7LSwA%3D&reserved=0) (NAP) coverage is available, except for grazed crops and value loss crops, such as honey, maple sap, aquaculture, floriculture, mushrooms, ginseng root, ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, and turfgrass sod.  Additionally, crops that were sold or fed to livestock or that are in storage may be eligible; however, crops that were destroyed before harvest are not eligible. Crop quality losses occurring after harvest, due to deterioration in storage, or that could have been mitigated, are also not eligible.  Assistance is based on a producer’s harvested affected production of an eligible crop, which must have had at least a 5% quality loss reflected through a quality discount; or for forage crops, a nutrient loss, such as total digestible nutrients.  **Qualifying Disaster Events**  Losses must have been a result of a qualifying disaster event (hurricane, excessive moisture, flood, qualifying drought, tornado, typhoon, volcanic activity, snowstorm, or wildfire) or related condition that occurred in calendar years 2018 and/or 2019.  Assistance is available for eligible producers in counties that received a qualifying Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or Secretarial Disaster Designation because of one or more of the qualifying disaster events or related conditions.  Lists of counties with Presidential Emergency Disaster Declarations and Secretarial Disaster Designations for all qualifying disaster events for 2018 and 2019 are available [here](https://www.farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus/eligible-counties?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). For drought, producers are eligible for QLA if the loss occurred in an area within a county rated by the [U.S. Drought Monitor](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdroughtmonitor.unl.edu%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C199cb58664554c81d02008d95b631b95%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641303680774324%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6slleLRt5SdekKnZobXuS1coVSG71UJn3Cp1ApGdN90%3D&reserved=0) as having a D3 (extreme drought) or higher intensity level during 2018 or 2019.  Producers in counties that did not receive a qualifying declaration or designation may still apply but must also provide supporting documentation to establish that the crop was directly affected by a qualifying disaster event.  To determine QLA eligibility and payments, FSA considers the total quality loss caused by all qualifying natural disasters in cases where a crop was impacted by multiple events.  **Applying for QLA**  When applying, producers are asked to provide verifiable documentation to support claims of quality loss or nutrient loss in the case of forage crops. For crops that have been sold, grading must have been completed within 30 days of harvest, and for forage crops, a laboratory analysis must have been completed within 30 days of harvest.  Some acceptable forms of documentation include sales receipts from buyers, settlement sheets, truck or warehouse scale tickets, written sales contracts, similar records that represent actual and specific quality loss information, and forage tests for nutritional values.  **Payments Calculations and Limitations**  QLA payments are based on formulas for the type of crop (forage or non-forage) and loss documentation submitted. Based on this documentation FSA is calculating payments based on the producer’s own individual loss or based on the county average loss. More information on payments can be found on [farmers.gov/quality-loss](http://www.farmers.gov/quality-loss?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  FSA will issue payments once the application period ends. If the total amount of calculated QLA payments exceeds available program funding, payments will be prorated.  For each crop year, 2018, 2019 and 2020, the maximum amount that a person or legal entity may receive, directly or indirectly, is $125,000. Payments made to a joint operation (including a general partnership or joint venture) will not exceed $125,000, multiplied by the number of persons and legal entities that comprise the ownership of the joint operation. A person or legal entity is ineligible for QLA payment if the person’s or legal entity’s average Adjusted Gross Income exceeds $900,000, unless at least 75% is derived from farming, ranching or forestry-related activities.  **Future Insurance Coverage Requirements**  All producers receiving QLA Program payments are required to purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage for the next two available crop years at the 60% coverage level or higher. Wildlife and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) participants who already met the WHIP+ requirement to purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage are considered to have thereby met the requirement to purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage for QLA. If eligible, QLA participants may meet the insurance purchase requirement by purchasing [Whole-Farm Revenue Protection](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rma.usda.gov%2Fen%2FPolicy-and-Procedure%2FInsurance-Plans%2FWhole-Farm-Revenue-Protection%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C199cb58664554c81d02008d95b631b95%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641303680774324%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=NCDvpTRJxVzJU%2FyKZKyd1gdxf2c5OIZNQ%2B29YQo%2Fhbg%3D&reserved=0) coverage offered through USDA’s Risk Management Agency.  **More Information** For more information, visit [farmers.gov/quality-loss](http://www.farmers.gov/quality-loss?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), or contact your local [USDA Service Center](https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). Producers can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364.   Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation Farmers and ranchers can use the Farm Loan Discovery Tool on farmgers.gov to find information on USDA farm loans that may best fit their operations.  USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a variety of loan options to help farmers finance their operations. From buying land to financing the purchase of equipment, FSA loans can help.  USDA conducted field research in eight states, gathering input from farmers and FSA farm loan staff to better understand their needs and challenges.  **How the Tool Works**  Farmers who are looking for financing options to operate a farm or buy land can answer a few simple questions about what they are looking to fund and how much money they need to borrow. After submitting their answers, farmers will receive information on farm loans that best fit their specific needs. The loan application and additional resources also will be provided.  Farmers can download application quick guides that outline what to expect from preparing an application to receiving a loan decision. There are four guides that cover loans to individuals, entities, and youth, as well as information on microloans. The guides include general eligibility requirements and a list of required forms and documentation for each type of loan. These guides can help farmers prepare before their first USDA service center visit with a loan officer.  Farmers can access the Farm Loan Discovery Tool by visiting [farmers.gov/fund](https://www.farmers.gov/fund?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) and clicking the “Start” button. Follow the prompts and answer five simple questions to receive loan information that is applicable to your agricultural operation. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.  **About Farmers.gov**  In 2018, USDA unveiled farmers.gov, a dynamic, mobile-friendly public website combined with an authenticated portal where farmers will be able to apply for programs, process transactions, and manage accounts.  The Farm Loan Discovery Tool is one of many resources on farmers.gov to help connect farmers to information that can help their operations. Earlier this year, USDA launched the My Financial Information feature, which enables farmers to view their loan information, history, payments, and alerts by logging into the website.  USDA is building farmers.gov for farmers, by farmers. In addition to the interactive farm loan features, the site also offers a Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool. Farmers can visit [farmers.gov/recover/disaster-assistance-tool#step-1](https://www.farmers.gov/recover/disaster-assistance-tool?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#step-1) to find disaster assistance programs that can help their operation recover from natural disaster.  For more information, contact your local USDA Service Center  or visit [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). | | | Is the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program Right for You? Farmers and ranchers rely on crop insurance to protect themselves from disasters and unforeseen events, but not all crops are insurable through the USDA’s Risk Management Agency. The Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides producers another option to obtain coverage against disaster for these crops. NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insured crops impacted by natural disasters that result in lower yields, crop losses, or prevents crop planting.  Commercially produced crops and agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available are generally eligible for NAP. Eligible crops include those grown specifically for food, fiber, livestock consumption, biofuel or biobased products, or be commodities such as value loss crops like Christmas trees and ornamental nursery, honey, maple sap, and many others. Contact your FSA office to see which crops are eligible in your state and county.  Eligible causes of loss include drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes, earthquake, flood. These events must occur during the NAP policy coverage period, before or during harvest, and the disaster must directly affect the eligible crop. For guidance on causes of loss not listed, contact your local FSA county office.  Interested producers must apply for coverage using FSA form [CCC-471](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fintranet.fsa.usda.gov%2Fdam%2Fffasforms%2Fcurrentforms.asp%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C199cb58664554c81d02008d95b631b95%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641303680784279%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=auobPZoTV02%2F%2F2u3O3bz7QHdBHH58IVga9Tf0rXgg40%3D&reserved=0), “Application for Coverage,” and pay the applicable service fee at the FSA office where their farm records are maintained. These must be filed by the application closing date. Closing dates vary by crop, so it is important to contact your local FSA office as soon as possible to ensure you don’t miss an application closing date.  At the time of application, each producer will be provided a copy of the [NAP Basic Provisions](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fintranet.fsa.usda.gov%2Fdam%2Fffasforms%2Fcurrentforms.asp%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C199cb58664554c81d02008d95b631b95%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641303680784279%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=auobPZoTV02%2F%2F2u3O3bz7QHdBHH58IVga9Tf0rXgg40%3D&reserved=0), which describes how NAP works and all the requirements you must follow to maintain NAP coverage. NAP participants must provide accurate annual reports of their production in non-loss years to ensure their NAP coverage is beneficial to their individual operation.  Producers are required to pay service fees which vary depending on the number of crops and number of counties your operation is located in. The NAP service fee is the lesser of $325 per crop or $825 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of $1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Premiums also apply when producers elect higher levels of coverage with a maximum premium of $15,750 per person or legal entity depending on the maximum payment limitation that may apply to the NAP covered producer. The service fee can be waived for beginning, qualifying veteran, and limited resource farmers and rancher., These farmers and ranchers can also receive a 50 percent reduction in the premium.  For more detailed information on NAP, download the [NAP Fact Sheet](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2Fnoninsured_crop_disaster_assistance_program-nap-fact_sheet.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C199cb58664554c81d02008d95b631b95%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641303680794224%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=H383pAIFvQJTDvtNOeQ%2FBcBtPuTR2gRpaZPkAx9EeD8%3D&reserved=0). To get started with NAP, we recommend you contact your [local USDA service center](https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).   USDA Announces CRP General Signup Ends February 12 Agricultural producers and private landowners interested in the [Conservation Reserve Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fconservation-programs%2Fconservation-reserve-program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C199cb58664554c81d02008d95b631b95%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641303680794224%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=scZo6SjomYI%2BuCEH6tAS8AMZAyQW8Au7AszT5%2BZDKHs%3D&reserved=0) (CRP) can sign up for the popular program beginning Jan. 4, 2021, until Feb. 12, 2021. The competitive program, administered by USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides annual rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes.  Through CRP, farmers and ranchers establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Farmers and ranchers who participate in CRP help provide numerous benefits to their local region and the nation’s environment and economy. CRP general signup is held annually and is competitive; general signup includes increased opportunities for wildlife habitat enrollment through the [State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2FAssets%2FUSDA-FSA-Public%2Fusdafiles%2FFactSheets%2F2019%2Fcrp_safe_initiative-fact_sheet.pdf%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C199cb58664554c81d02008d95b631b95%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641303680804181%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=v53kJbccrsUDWdCxmUxP3aFnUI8cFbPbt1hJKyLJZqo%3D&reserved=0) (SAFE) initiative.  New cropland offered in the program must have been planted for four out of six crop years from 2012 to 2017. Additionally, producers with land already enrolled but expiring on Sept. 30, 2021, can re-enroll this year. The acreage offered by producers and landowners is evaluated competitively; accepted offers will begin Oct. 1, 2021.  Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the United States. The program marked its [35-year anniversary](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fconservation-programs%2Fconservation-reserve-program%2Fcrp-2020%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C199cb58664554c81d02008d95b631b95%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641303680804181%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6aeJuaozeloCg45o%2FXNrHsc4c3g0r5Zx%2BR3qK1vZv9s%3D&reserved=0) in December 2020. Program successes include:   * Preventing more than 9 billion tons of soil from eroding, which is enough soil to fill 600 million dump trucks. * Reducing nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to annually tilled cropland by 95% and 85%, respectively. * Sequestering an annual average of 49 million tons of greenhouse gases, equal to taking 9 million cars off the road. * Creating more than 3 million acres of restored wetlands while protecting more than 175,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers, which is enough to go around the world seven times. * Benefiting bees and other pollinators and increasing populations of ducks, pheasants, turkey, bobwhite quail, prairie chickens, grasshopper sparrows, and many other birds.  Maintaining Good Credit History Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans require applicants to have a satisfactory credit history. A credit report is requested for all FSA direct farm loan applicants. These reports are reviewed to verify outstanding debts, see if bills are paid timely and to determine the impact on cash flow.  Information on your credit report is strictly confidential and is used only as an aid in conducting FSA business.  Our farm loan staff will discuss options with you if you have an unfavorable credit report and will provide a copy of your report. If you dispute the accuracy of the information on the credit report, it is up to you to contact the issuing credit report company to resolve any errors or inaccuracies.  There are multiple ways to remedy an unfavorable credit score:   * Make sure to pay bills on time   + Setting up automatic payments or automated reminders can be an effective way to remember payment due dates. * Pay down existing debt * Keep your credit card balances low * Avoid suddenly opening or closing existing credit accountsFSA’s farm loan staff will guide you through the process, which may require you to reapply for a loan after improving or correcting your credit report..  For more information on FSA farm loan programs, contact your County USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7C199cb58664554c81d02008d95b631b95%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641303680814146%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=18eTWzELew9UVisGYlGVuQy%2BtLz23XP4FeMuybNEeuA%3D&reserved=0).   Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any meeting/event/function should contact Mary Anne Coffin at 207-990-9140 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.  All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. Our program delivery staff will be in the office, and they will be working with our producers in office, by phone, and using online tools. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](http://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  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). | |