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| |  | | --- | | October 2020 NL Masthead  Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/bulletins/2ebfc9e).   * [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2](#link_2) * [USDA Offers Drought Impacted Maine Farmers and Ranchers Immediate Disaster Assistance](#link_4) * [Enrollment Begins for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs for 2021](#link_1) * [Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) Program for Farm Loan Borrowers](#link_5) * [Applying for Beginning Farmer Loans](#link_7) * [FSA Offers Loan Servicing Options](#link_3) * [ELAP Covers Losses from Additional Cost of Transporting Water to Livestock](#link_6)  Maine FSA Newsletter October 2020 | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 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%7Cb5fe8d1416d1405bf7bc08d95b628dda%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641301114841569%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=cKrV2WOqkLxik%2F1KYZQ78aYMB%2BiEo%2BiaKfn90Bu2InQ%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%7Cb5fe8d1416d1405bf7bc08d95b628dda%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641301114841569%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=cKrV2WOqkLxik%2F1KYZQ78aYMB%2BiEo%2BiaKfn90Bu2InQ%3D&reserved=0) | Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) began on Sept. 21, 2020 and will continue through Dec. 11, 2020. CFAP 2 provides eligible producers with direct financial assistance due to market disruptions and associated costs because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Check out our [brief video](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery%26v%3DsSCY-aEgMBY&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cb5fe8d1416d1405bf7bc08d95b628dda%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641301114851529%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=xceZWOTI2D2Zj%2FkJjAFTHGmDL5M24iLAJzKqyBXpSfM%3D&reserved=0) about the program.  CFAP 2 is a separate program from the first round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, now referred to as CFAP 1. Farmers and ranchers who participated in CFAP 1 will not be automatically enrolled and must complete a new application for CFAP 2. Details on how to apply can be found on [farmers.gov/cfap/apply](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap/apply?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  **CFAP 2 Eligible Commodities Finder**  Many more commodities are eligible for CFAP 2 than CFAP 1. Interested in finding the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 payment rates for the eligible commodities you grow or raise? Our new, easy-to-use [CFAP 2 Eligible Commodities Finder](https://www.farmers.gov/cfap/tool?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) makes finding payment rates specific to your operation simple. From yam to alpaca farmers – and everyone in between – the payment rate information you need is just a few clicks away. Try it today on your desktop, tablet, or mobile device.  **Call Center**  A call center is available for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. The call center can provide service to non-English speaking customers. Customers will select 1 for English and 2 to speak with a Spanish speaking employee. For other languages, customers select 1 and indicate their language to the call center staff.   USDA Offers Drought Impacted Maine Farmers and Ranchers Immediate Disaster Assistance USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers disaster assistance and low-interest loan programs to assist you in your recovery efforts following drought. Available programs and loans include:   * **Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** - provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing). * **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** – provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land * **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** - offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Drought is not an eligible adverse weather event, except when associated with anthrax, a condition that occurs because of drought and directly results in the death of eligible livestock. * **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)** – provides assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers for qualifying tree, shrub and vine losses due to natural disasters including excessive wind and qualifying drought. * **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** - provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs. * **Emergency Loan Program** – available to producers with agriculture operations located in a county under a primary or contiguous Secretarial Disaster designation. These low interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses. * **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** - provides emergency funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate land severely damaged by natural disasters and to implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.   To establish or retain FSA program eligibility, you must report prevented planting and failed acres (crops and grasses). Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form FSA-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).  For more information on these programs, contact your local county USDA Service Center, visit [fsa.usda.gov/disaster](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fdisaster%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cb5fe8d1416d1405bf7bc08d95b628dda%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641301114851529%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=L%2BKE2GrYRvmJlh0A5uLbKop5cBU5Vui12U60EEGGeUg%3D&reserved=0).   Enrollment Begins for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs for 2021 More than $5 Billion in Payments Now Issuing to Producers Enrolled for 2019  Agricultural producers can now make elections and enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2021 crop year. The signup period opened Tuesday, Oct. 13. These key U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) safety-net programs help producers weather fluctuations in either revenue or price for certain crops, and more than $5 billion in payments are in the process of going out to producers who signed up for the 2019 crop year.  Enrollment for the 2021 crop year closes March 15, 2021.  ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level. PLC provides income support payments on historical base acres when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its reference price.  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.  **2021 Elections and Enrollment**  Producers can elect coverage and enroll in crop-by-crop ARC-County or PLC, or ARC-Individual for the entire farm, for the 2021 crop year. Although election changes for 2021 are optional, enrollment (signed contract) is required for each year of the program. If a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2021, it will be necessary to sign a new contract.  If an election is not submitted by the deadline of March 15, 2021, the election defaults to the current election for crops on the farm from the prior crop year.  For crop years 2022 and 2023, producers will have an opportunity to make new elections during those signups. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.  **2019 Crop Year ARC and PLC Payments**  FSA began processing payments last week for 2019 ARC-County (ARC-CO) and PLC on covered commodities that met payment triggers on farms enrolled for the 2019 crop year. In addition to the $5 billion now in process, FSA anticipates it will issue additional payments by the end of November for 2019 commodities covered under ARC-Individual (ARC-IC) and additional commodities that trigger PLC and ARC-CO payments for which rates have not yet been published  Producers who had 2019 covered commodities enrolled in ARC-CO can visit the [ARC and PLC webpage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Farcplc_program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cb5fe8d1416d1405bf7bc08d95b628dda%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641301114851529%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=omPJhqEFI1ua%2B4ZqtFb3979ltsNzLeK0eX3TUu%2BQfNM%3D&reserved=0) for payment rates applicable to their county and each covered commodity. For farms and covered commodities enrolled in 2019 PLC, the following crops met payment triggers: barley, canola, chickpeas (small and large), corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, peanuts, seed cotton and wheat.  Oats and soybeans did not meet 2019 PLC payment triggers.  2019 PLC payment rates for the following covered commodities have not been determined: crambe, flaxseed, long and medium grain rice, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed, sunflower seed and temperate Japonica rice. Payment rates for these commodities will be announced at a later date.  **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:   * [Gardner-farmdoc Payment Calculator](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffarmdocdaily.illinois.edu%2F2019%2F08%2Fintroducing-the-gardner-farmdoc-payment-calculator.html%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cb5fe8d1416d1405bf7bc08d95b628dda%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641301114861486%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=EYF2%2FSuhogoeiJxvz6l4CmGEw1PXtbd41PTO6DjB5zs%3D&reserved=0), the University of Illinois tool that offers farmers the ability to run payment estimate modeling for their farms and counties for ARC-County and PLC. * [ARC and PLC Decision Tool](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.afpc.tamu.edu%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cb5fe8d1416d1405bf7bc08d95b628dda%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641301114871446%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=wUVjNemjCcbxPSwr%2B2PjwO1szMlEI4wquaWgnA%2FO8Hc%3D&reserved=0), the Texas A&M tool allows producers to analyze payment yield updates and expected payments for 2021. Producers who have used the tool in the past should see their username and much of their farm data already available in the system. For more information on ARC and PLC, including two online decision tools that assist producers in making enrollment and election decisions specific to their operations, visit the [ARC and PLC webpage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Farcplc_program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cb5fe8d1416d1405bf7bc08d95b628dda%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641301114871446%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2F%2FWByfzlqe%2BmGKuG3WnOXb4gZJV50ZYCyQiRcEf4eDo%3D&reserved=0). * For additional questions and assistance, contact your local USDA service center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). | | | Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) Program for Farm Loan Borrowers Farm Service Agency (FSA) borrowers with farms located in designated primary or contiguous disaster areas who are unable to make their scheduled FSA loan payments should consider the Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) program.  DSA is available to producers who suffered losses as a result of a natural disaster and relieves immediate and temporary financial stress. FSA is authorized to consider setting aside the portion of a payment/s needed for the operation to continue on a viable scale.  Borrowers must have at least two years left on the term of their loan in order to qualify.  Borrowers have eight months from the date of the disaster designation to submit a complete application. The application must include a written request for DSA signed by all parties liable for the debt along with production records and financial history for the operating year in which the disaster occurred. FSA may request additional information from the borrower in order to determine eligibility.  All farm loans must be current or less than 90 days past due at the time the DSA application is complete. Borrowers may not set aside more than one installment on each loan.  The amount set-aside, including interest accrued on the principal portion of the set-aside, is due on or before the final due date of the loan.  For more information, contact your local 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%7Cb5fe8d1416d1405bf7bc08d95b628dda%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641301114881402%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=8%2BeZOHCLdD9AAwUCEJbQQYTtfBl9%2B5hH6yHaswI8tcA%3D&reserved=0). Applying for Beginning Farmer Loans The Farm Service Agency (FSA) assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:   * Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years * Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm * Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA * Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county’s average size farm. * For more information contact, contact your local 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%7Cb5fe8d1416d1405bf7bc08d95b628dda%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641301114881402%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=8%2BeZOHCLdD9AAwUCEJbQQYTtfBl9%2B5hH6yHaswI8tcA%3D&reserved=0).  FSA Offers Loan Servicing Options There are options for Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan customers during financial stress. If you are a borrower who is unable to make payments on a loan, contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager to learn about your options. ELAP Covers Losses from Additional Cost of Transporting Water to Livestock If you’ve incurred additional operating costs for transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought, assistance may be available to you through the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).  An eligible drought means that part or all of your county is designated D3 (extreme drought) or higher as indicated by the [U.S. Drought Monitor](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.droughtmonitor.unl.edu%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cb5fe8d1416d1405bf7bc08d95b628dda%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637641301114891355%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Qz%2BFhADWveFWu3RkbkjFcYMX70ukN8JVfyNFmTIMgBM%3D&reserved=0).  Eligible livestock must be adult or non-adult dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo and beefalo, as well as alpacas, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, reindeer, or sheep. Additionally, the livestock must have been owned 60 calendar days prior to the beginning of the drought and be physically located in the county designated as a disaster area due to drought. Adequate livestock watering systems or facilities must have existed before the drought occurred and producers are only eligible if they do not normally transport water to the livestock.  Livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot are not eligible for transporting water. ELAP covers the additional cost of transporting water and does not cover the cost of the water itself.  You must file a notice of loss on form CCC-851 the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to you or by Jan. 30, 2020.  Additionally, the deadline to submit an application for payment for 2020 ELAP assistance is Jan. 30, 2021.  You’ll have to provide documentation to FSA that shows the method used to transport the water, the number of gallons of water transported and the number of eligible livestock to which water was transported.  To make an appointment to sign up for ELAP and to learn more about eligibility, application and documentation requirements, contact your local USDA service center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator.](https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)  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). | |