

August 2020



Farm Service Agency Electronic News Service

NEWSLETTER

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- [USDA Announces More Eligible Commodities for CFAP](#)
- [USDA Launches New Farmers.gov Features to Help Farmers Hire Workers](#)
- [Producers Urged to Consider NAP or Crop Insurance for Crops before September 1 Deadline](#)
- [Virtual Listening Session - Feasibility of Insuring Local Food Production](#)
- [Reminders for FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security](#)
- [Tree Assistance Program \(TAP\) Offers Assistance Due to Weather, Pest, and Disease Damage](#)

New Jersey State FSA Newsletter

New Jersey Farm Service Agency

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Visit our website at

www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

Deadlines Visit our state website and click on [Program Deadlines](#) or download the latest version of our program calendar [here](#).

CFAP Background:

USDA collected comments and supporting data for consideration of additional commodities through June 22, 2020. The following additional commodities are now eligible for CFAP:

- **Specialty Crops** -aloe leaves, bananas, batatas, bok choy, carambola (star fruit), cherimoya, chervil (french parsley), citron, curry leaves, daikon, dates, dill, donqua (winter melon), dragon fruit (red pitaya), endive, escarole, filberts, frisee, horseradish, kohlrabi, kumquats, leeks, mamey sapote, maple sap (for maple syrup), mesculin mix, microgreens, nectarines, parsley, persimmons, plantains, pomegranates, pummelos, pumpkins, rutabagas, shallots, tangelos, turnips/celeriac, turmeric, upland/winter cress, water cress, yautia/malanga, and yuca/cassava.
- **Non-Specialty Crops and Livestock** -liquid eggs, frozen eggs and all sheep. Only lambs and yearlings (sheep less than two years old) were previously eligible.
- **Aquaculture** -catfish, crawfish, largemouth bass and carp sold live as foodfish, hybrid striped bass, red drum, salmon, sturgeon, tilapia, trout, ornamental/tropical fish, and recreational sportfish.
- **Nursery Crops and Flowers** -nursery crops and cut flowers.

Other changes to CFAP include:

- Seven commodities – onions (green), pistachios, peppermint, spearmint, walnuts and watermelons – are now eligible for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act funding for sales losses. Originally, these commodities were only eligible for payments on marketing adjustments.
- Correcting payment rates for onions (green), pistachios, peppermint, spearmint, walnuts, and watermelons.

Additional details can be found in the Federal Register in the [Notice of Funding Availability](#) and [Final Rule Correction](#) and at www.farmers.gov/cfap.

Producers Who Have Applied:

To ensure availability of funding, producers with approved applications initially received 80 percent of their payments. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will automatically issue the remaining 20 percent of the calculated payment to eligible producers. Going forward, producers who apply for CFAP will receive 100 percent of their total payment, not to exceed the payment limit, when their applications are approved.

Applying for CFAP:

Producers, especially those who have not worked with FSA previously, are recommended to call 877-508-8364 to begin the application process. An FSA staff member can help producers start their application during the phone call.

On farmers.gov/cfap, producers can:

- Download the AD-3114 application form and manually complete the form to submit to their local USDA Service Center by mail, electronically or by hand delivery to their local office or office drop box.
- Complete the application form using the CFAP Application Generator and Payment Calculator. This Excel workbook allows customers to input information specific to their operation to determine estimated payments and populate the application form, which can be printed, then signed and submitted to their local USDA Service Center.

- If producers have login credentials known as eAuthentication, they can use the online CFAP Application Portal to certify eligible commodities online, digitally sign applications and submit directly to the local USDA Service Center.

All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from farmers.gov/cfap. For existing FSA customers, these documents are likely already on file.

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 FSA, 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. Our program delivery staff will be in the office, and they will be working with our producers in the office, by phone and using online tools. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

USDA Launches New Farmers.gov Features to Help Farmers Hire Workers

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced new features on the farmers.gov website designed to help facilitate the employment of H-2A workers.

USDA's goal is to help farmers navigate the complex H-2A program that is administered by Department of Labor, Department of Homeland Security, and the State Department so hiring a farm worker is an easier process.

The primary new H-2A features on Farmers.gov include:

- A real-time dashboard that enables farmers to track the status of their eligible employer application and visa applications for temporary nonimmigrant workers;
- Streamlining the login information so if a farmer has an existing login.gov account they can save multiple applications tracking numbers for quick look-up at any time;
- Enables easy access to the Department of Labor's (DOL) Foreign Labor Application Gateway (FLAG);
- Allows farmers to track time-sensitive actions taken in the course of Office of Foreign Labor Certification's (OFLC) adjudication of temporary labor certification applications;
- Allowing for farmers to access all application forms on-line.

All information can be found at www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a.

In 2018, [Secretary Perdue unveiled farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov), a dynamic, mobile-friendly public website combined with an authenticated portal where customers can apply for programs, process transactions and manage accounts. With feedback from customers and field employees who serve those customers, farmers.gov delivers farmer-focused features through an agile, iterative process to deliver the greatest immediate value to America's agricultural producers – helping farmers and ranchers do right, and feed everyone.

Producers Urged to Consider NAP or Crop Insurance for Crops before September 1 Deadline

Basic NAP coverage is free and buy-up coverage is 50% off for beginning, limited resource, minority and women farmers. This includes entities whose membership is at least 50% beginning, limited resource, minority and women farmers.

The Farm Service Agency encourages producers to examine available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the applicable crop sales deadline.

The following crops in New Jersey have NAP application deadlines approaching:

September 1, 2020 - Flowers, Grass-Sod. **September 30, 2020**- Clover, Grass hay, Mixed forages and Rye. **November 20, 2020** - Apricots, Caneberries, Cherries, Honey, Onions, Pears, Plums, Scallions and Shallots.

Producers are reminded that crops not covered by insurance may be eligible for NAP.

The 2018 Farm Bill reinstated higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the "buy-up" option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

To learn more about NAP visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local USDA Service Center. To find your local USDA Service Centers go to [http://offices.usda.gov](https://offices.usda.gov)

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator: [http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#](https://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#).

Virtual Listening Session - Feasibility of Insuring Local Food Production

Risk Management Agency Schedules Virtual Listening Sessions Aimed at Direct Market Farms

You are invited to participate in a Virtual Listening Session with Agralytica, which is working under contract for USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA).

Why? As part of the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress required RMA to solicit feedback about improved crop insurance coverage options for farmers and ranchers selling to local food markets (including but not limited to farmers markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs), road-side stands, restaurants, retailers, schools, and institutions). This includes discussing how existing crop insurance programs can be improved, as well as exploring the possibility of a new crop insurance program.

The feedback received will help RMA identify potential changes and/or additions to insurance options for producers supplying local markets.

Who? The sessions are primarily for farmers and ranchers who sell to local food markets and their representatives in the federal crop insurance industry.

When? There are several sessions, which will be held from mid-August through early September. The complete list is available below. The sessions for farmers and ranchers will be divided by region, commodity, and market channel. Additionally, there will be sessions specifically for approved insurance providers (AIPs).

We request that you attend the session for your appropriate group; however, if that does not work for your schedule, please feel free to join us whenever it is convenient. Our contact information is

also provided at the end of this announcement in case you are unable to make the scheduled sessions but still want to provide feedback.

What is a virtual listening session? It is a method to connect and talk with you via phone and/or an internet connection. You can participate in one of two ways:

- By calling into the number provided to listen or speak, OR
- You may call in and participate online through video conference (using Zoom), which allows you to view the host and some of the participants, as well as any visual material shared

Any information/feedback provided will be made anonymous prior to inclusion in any report.

The sessions will be held according to the following schedule:

Region/Commodity	Group	Date	Time
Livestock	Producers / agents / others	Aug 27	1 pm
Urban farms	Producers /agents others	Aug 28	1 pm
EAST COAST and OTHERS			
Region 2: CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT	Producers	Sep 1	12 pm
East Coast - Insurance	AIPs / Adjusters / Agents	Sep 2	12 pm
Floriculture	Producers / agents / others	Sep 3	12 pm

Instructions to Participate in the Listening Session

How? You can participate via videoconference using Zoom on a computer or smartphone app, or by simply dialing from a telephone.

For those participating via Zoom, you will be given the option of using your computer (or phone app) for audio, or dialing in.

Participants will be muted by default upon entry.

Computer/app participants: Click on the link below and, if prompted, enter the

passcode "local".

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87372872344?pwd=ZEZza2RBS3M0Zm9VeloxSXZXUHczdz09>

Passcode: local

Meeting ID: 873 7287 2344

Note: Before joining a Zoom meeting on a computer or mobile device, you can download the Zoom app from the [Zoom Download Center](#). Otherwise, you will be prompted to download and install Zoom when you click the join link. You can also [join a test meeting](#) to familiarize yourself with Zoom.

Telephone participants: You can mute and unmute yourself by typing "*6" (star, followed by the number 6).

One tap mobile

- +16465588656,,87372872344#,,,,,0#,,746512# US (New York)
- +13017158592,,87372872344#,,,,,0#,,746512# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location (if you have free long distance, any of these should work)

- **+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)**
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 873 7287 2344

Passcode: 746512

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kclzmxreEX>

Virtual Listening Sessions – Feasibility of Insuring Local Food Production 4

Contact information

Please contact Andre Williamson, President of Agralytica, with any questions regarding the content of this invitation or to provide additional feedback regarding the feasibility of insurance coverage for local food producers. Mobile Number: 240-432-0308 OR email: awilliamson@agralytica.com. If you email, please include "Local foods insurance" as your subject line.

We will accept comments by phone or email until September 10. RMA will use the information collected by Agralytica to help determine ways to better insure growers supplying local markets. Please join one of these sessions so that your feedback can be heard.

Reminders for FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security

Farm loan borrowers who have pledged real estate as security for their Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct or guaranteed loans are responsible for maintaining loan collateral. Borrowers must obtain prior consent or approval from FSA or the guaranteed lender for any transaction that affects real estate security. These transactions include, but are not limited to:

- Leases of any kind
- Easements of any kind
- Subordinations
- Partial releases
- Sales

Failure to meet or follow the requirements in the loan agreement, promissory note, and other security instruments could lead to nonmonetary default which could jeopardize your current and future loans.

It is critical that borrowers keep an open line of communication with their FSA loan staff or guaranteed lender when it comes to changes in their operation. For more information on borrower responsibilities, read [Your FSA Farm Loan Compass](#).

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) Offers Assistance Due to Weather, Pest, and Disease Damage

Orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from natural disasters during calendar year 2020 must submit a TAP application either 90 calendar days after the disaster event or the date when the loss is apparent.

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster, plus an adjustment for normal mortality. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 1,000 acres annually.

Click here to read the [TAP Fact Sheet](#)

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).