CFAP 2 Sign up is Now Open for Additional Enrollment

New Jersey Farm Service Agency

CFAP 2 is now open for additional enrollment. Farmers and ranchers can apply for the second round of payments to offset COVID-related income losses. The deadline for applying is May 31, 2021. A new feature allows farmers to make modifications to their CFAP 2 applications.

Additional CFAP Payments for Beef and Row-Crop Producers

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, authorized an increase in CFAP 1 payment rates for cattle. Producers will receive a CFAP 2 flat-rate payment for crops they planted in 2020. Payment calculations will use a sales-based approach, where producers are paid based on five years of sales. The payment will be based on the producer's 2019 production.

Additional CFAP Actions

FSA has also begun payment processing applications filed as part of the CFAP Assistance for Producers initiative. The initial CFAP 2 signup ended on April 30, 2021. USDA is encouraging producers to complete their crop acreage reports by May 31, 2021.

Additional Enrollment

Producers have multiple options to apply for CFAP 2, including through an online application portal and by working directly with the FSA office. Customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process can call 877-508-6834 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

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America. To learn more, visit Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administrations. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is engaged in a whole-of-government effort to combat governments.

To target the program on climate change mitigation, FSA is introducing a new Climate-Smart Practice Incentive for CRP general and continuous signups that aims to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Climate-Smart CRP practices include establishment of trees and permanent grasses, development of wildlife habitat, and wetland restoration. The Climate-Smart Practice Incentive is annual, and the amount is based on the benefits of each practice type.

To learn more about updates to CRP, download our “What’s New with CRP” fact sheet.

Partnership Programs Contribute to Priorities

In addition to changes to CRP, Secretary Vilsack also announced significant investments for climate-smart policies. First, NRCS is investing $330 million in 85 locally driven, public-private partnerships under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program to address climate change and conservation. NRCS will announce more details on the RCPP project selections on April 26.

In 2021, CRP is capped at 25 million acres, and currently 20.8 million acres are enrolled. In addition to changes to CRP, Secretary Vilsack also announced significant investments for climate-smart solutions to address climate

CRP is a powerful tool when it comes to climate mitigation, and acres currently enrolled in the program mitigate more than 12 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e). If USDA reaches its goal of enrolling an additional 4 million acres into continuous signups, it will mitigate an additional 3 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent and prevent 90 million pounds of nitrogen and 33 million tons of sediment from flowing into our waterways each year.

CRP’s long-term goal is to establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, improve soil health and carbon sequestration, provide and protect wildlife habitat, and build resilient communities.

Higher Rental Rates and New Incentives

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USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in New Jersey is accepting applications through May 7, 2021 for the Conservation Stewardship Program’s (CSP) FY21 funding. The program not only helps producers maintain and improve their existing conservation efforts but assists them in adopting additional conservation activities to strengthen their operations all at the same time. With CSP, the higher the conservation performance – the higher the payment.

“Our farmers and landowners continuously deliver on their promise to practice good conservation throughout the state,” said New Jersey State Conservationist Julie Hawkins. “Through CSP, we get to reward them for that and help them strengthen their operation by building on those efforts. To me, that’s a win-win.”

For producers who are already taking steps to improve the condition of their land, CSP can help them find ways to meet their goals.

CSP is for working lands including cropland, pastureland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of a tribe. Participating farmers will further address priority resource concerns related to soil quality, water quality, air quality, and plant health. On-farm benefits include increased wildlife, improved soil, increased inputs, wildlife population improvements, and better resilience to weather variables.

Through updates to the 2018 Farm Bill, New Jersey farmers will also benefit from:

- Increased payment rates for certain conservation activities, including the adoption of cover crop rotations and resource conserving crop rotations.
- Provided specific financial support for organic and transitioning to organic production activities.
- NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to help agricultural producers address resource concerns through conservation programs authorized by the Farm Bill. NRCS accepts applications for conservation programs year-round and are processed when funding becomes available. Interested producers should contact their local NRCS service center for more information.

Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

The Farm Loan team 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 loans can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well as 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 90-day loan with interest and up to 12 months storage. The loans allow the producer 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 for the loan, including bunker silos, hay storage structures, and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to $500,000 per loan.

Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

USDA Reminds New Jersey Producers to Complete Crop Acreage Reports

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices in New Jersey are currently open to phone and virtual appointments only but can still work with producers on timely filing crop acreage reports. FSA staff can provide assistance over the phone, by email and through virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable in New Jersey:

- May 31 - 2022 Nursery Crops
- July 15 - Corn, Soybeans, Spring Feed Grains, Forage, CRP, Hemp & Most Other Crops
- August 15 - Processingbeans
- September 30 - 2022 Value Loss except for Nursery

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Acreage reporting deadlines for 2021 Nursery, value loss crops, small grains, hay, apples, blueberries, cranberries, peaches, grapes, and strawberries have already passed. Late acreage reports can be filed for up to one year after the prior year’s reporting deadline provided the crop or crop residue is still in the field.

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers must file an accurate crop acreage report by the applicable deadline. FSA staff will provide assistance to producers in completing acreage reports, including providing maps.

FSA county offices in New Jersey will be happy to provide maps to producers through mail, email or local pick-up with instructions for completing the maps. After planting is complete, producers should return completed maps and the acreage reporting sheet as directed by their local office.

After completed maps and all acreage reporting information is received, FSA will make software updates and provide producers the completed Report of Acreage form (FSA-578) to sign. Producers must return the signed form certifying their acreage report to the FSA office by the reporting deadline above.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after the final planting date.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease.
- Appropriate documentation must be provided by the producer.
- Producers should also report crop acreage they intend to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to plant. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA’s Risk Management Agency.

For questions, please contact your local FSA office. To locate your local FSA office visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.