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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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New Mexico FSA Newsletter

New Mexico Farm Service Agency

100 Sun Ave. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Phone: 505-761-4900
Fax: 877-450-0860

www.fsa.usda.gov/nm

State Executive Director:
[Michael S. White](#)

Executive Officer:
[Brenda Archuleta](#)

Farm Loan Chief:
[LeAnn Gibbs](#)

District Directors:
[Andrew Flores](#)
[Oscar Rivera](#)
[Rhonda Mitchell](#)

State Committee:
Chair, Alisa Ogden
Vice Chair, Matthew Lansford
Member, John M. Romero
Member, Dustin K. Johnson
Member, Monte Anderson

To find contact information for your local office go to www.fsa.usda.gov/NM

Message from the State Executive Director

Michael S. White, New Mexico State Executive Director wants to provide information on the following:

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) 2.0

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability Act (CARES Act) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act authorized the funds for the original CFAP. CCC funds will be used for CFAP 2, with the exception of tobacco, which will use remaining CARES Act funds.

FSA is accepting applications for CFAP 2 from **September 21, 2020**, to **December 11, 2020**. Please visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/New-Mexico/index>, www.fsa.usda.gov or www.farmers.gov for more information.

Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)

Application Closing Date deadlines to purchase 2021 crop coverage under the NAP are fast approaching:

Crop	Application Closing Date
Barley, Oats, Rye, Triticale, Wheat, Canola	September 30, 2020
Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Caneberries, Grapes, Nectarines, Pears, Pistachios, Plumes	November 20, 2020
Grass, Honey, Lettuce	December 1, 2020

Also a reminder, if you have 2021 NAP coverage on grass and intend to graze the crop, the last day to report the crop acreage is December 16, 2020. Reporting acreage after this date will assess a late file fee, which includes \$30 base fee, plus \$16 for the hour and \$8 for every 30 minutes after the first hour. Minimum of one (1)

hour. Producers who pay the late fee may be covered under these provisions until the acreage reporting date of the subsequent year.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

All CRP participants with CRP-1 (CRP Contracts) are required to perform at least one management activity before the end of year 6 on a 10 year contract and end of year 13 on a 15 year contract. Please contact your local FSA office to obtain the status of your CRP contract. Click [here](#) to obtain County Office contact information.

New USDA Survey to Measure Areas for Improvement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced a new annual survey of farmers, ranchers and private forestland owners. The survey will help USDA understand what it is doing well and where improvements are needed, specifically at the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

A selection of 28,000 producers will receive the survey over the next few weeks, but all farmers are encouraged to take the survey at farmers.gov/survey.

This survey is part of the President's Management Agenda. It requires High Impact Service Provider agencies across the federal government, including FSA and NRCS, to conduct annual surveys to measure and respond to areas needing improvement.

The survey consists of 20 questions and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Responses are confidential, and individual responses will be aggregated. The survey will be open for at least six weeks and will be closed once USDA receives a 30% response rate.

Learn more and take the survey at www.farmers.gov/survey.

USDA Accepting Applications to Help Cover Costs for Organic Certification

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that organic producers and handlers can apply for federal funds to assist with the cost of receiving and maintaining organic certification through the [Organic Certification Cost Share Program](#) (OCCSP). Applications for eligible certification expenses paid between Oct. 1, 2019, and Sept. 30, 2020, are due Oct. 31, 2020.

OCCSP provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the USDA's National Organic Program. Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent. Eligible expenses for cost-share reimbursement include application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, travel expenses for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

Changes in Reimbursement

Due to expected participation levels for fiscal year 2020, FSA revised the reimbursement amount through fiscal year 2023. Certified producers and handlers are now eligible to receive reimbursement for up to 50 percent of the certified organic operation's eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$500 per scope.

This change is due to the limited amount of funding available and will allow a larger number of certified organic operations to receive assistance. If additional funding is authorized later, FSA may provide additional assistance to certified operations that have applied for OCCSP, not to exceed 75 percent of their eligible costs, up to \$750 per scope.

The changes to the payment calculation and maximum payment amount are applicable to all certified organic operations, regardless of whether they apply through an FSA county office or a participating state agency. State agencies that are interested in overseeing reimbursements to producers and handlers in their states must establish new agreements with FSA for fiscal 2020.

Opportunities for State Agencies

Today's announcement also includes the opportunity for state agencies to apply for grant agreements to administer the OCCSP program in fiscal 2020. State agencies that establish agreements for fiscal 2020 may be able to extend their agreements and receive additional funds to administer the program in future years.

FSA has not yet determined whether an additional application period will be announced for later years for state agencies that choose not to participate in fiscal 2020. States that would like to administer OCCSP for future years are encouraged to establish an agreement for 2020 to ensure that they will be able to continue to participate.

FSA will accept applications from state agencies for fiscal year 2020 funding for cost-share assistance from Aug. 10, 2020 through Sept. 9, 2020.

State Agencies must submit the Application for Federal Assistance (Standard Form 424 and 424B) electronically via Grants.gov, the Federal grants website, at <http://www.grants.gov>.

More Information

To learn more about organic certification cost share, please visit the [OCCSP webpage](#), view the [notice of funds availability on the Federal Register](#), or contact the [FSA county office](#) at your local USDA Service Center.

To learn more about USDA support for organic agriculture, visit usda.gov/organic.

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](#).

USDA Provides Resources, Hosts Webinar on Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2

CFAP 2 Eligible Commodities Finder

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](#) 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. Visit farmers.gov/cfap and try it today on your desktop, tablet, or mobile device.

Sept. 24 Webinar

Join USDA as we introduce Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 via a webinar on **Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 3 p.m. EDT**. Learn about expanded eligibility for certain commodities, new payment categories including a sales-based approach to specialty crops and other specific commodities, and information on how to apply.

[Register for the Webinar.](#)

Apply for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2

USDA's Farm Service Agency offers multiple options for producers to apply for CFAP 2, including:

- A **manual AD-3117 application form** to fill out and return to your local USDA Service Center.
- A **CFAP 2 Application Generator and Payment Calculator** Excel workbook that allows you to input information specific to your operation to determine estimated payments and populate the application form.
- A **CFAP 2 Application Portal** for producers with eAuthentication accounts to apply online.
- FSA will accept applications through Dec. 11, 2020. [Get started with your CFAP 2 application today.](#)

Join USDA in Following the #Harvest2020 Progress

Harvest is underway in New Mexico and we hope this year brings favorable harvest conditions and high yields.

Farmers, we invite you to share your harvest progress by sending an email to sharingoursuccesses@usda.gov with landscape-orientation photos or videos under 10 seconds, a short description of your photo or video, your city and state, and your Twitter handle (if you have one).

In addition to harvest photos, you can send photos and videos of preparing for harvest as well as those that show any challenges along the way. This will be a way for you to show other farmers as well as Americans in general all of the hard work that goes into harvest on your farm.

You can follow along by checking back in periodically to see new harvest photos and videos. To view the #Harvest2020 progress, visit <https://arcg.is/1j9fqb0>.

USDA Packages Disaster Protection with Loans to Benefit Specialty Crop and Diversified Producers

Free basic coverage available for new and underserved loan applicants

Producers who apply for Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm loans will be offered the opportunity to enroll in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). NAP is available to producers who grow noninsurable crops and is especially important to fruit, vegetable, and other specialty crop growers.

New, underserved and limited income specialty growers who apply for farm loans could qualify for basic loss coverage at no cost.

The basic disaster coverage protects at 55 percent of the market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of production. Covered “specialty” crops include: vegetables, fruits, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, hay, forage, grazing and energy crops. FSA allows beginning, underserved or limited income producers to obtain NAP coverage up to 90 days after the normal application closing date when they also apply for FSA credit.

Producers can also protect value-added production, such as organic or direct market crops, at their fair market value in those markets. Targeted underserved groups eligible for free or discounted coverage include American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and women.

FSA offers a variety of loan products, including farm ownership loans, operating loans and microloans that have a streamlined application process.

Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certifications

If you have experienced delays in receiving Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Market Gains on Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs), it may be because you have not filed form CCC-941, *Adjusted Gross Income Certification*.

If you don't have a valid CCC-941 on file for the applicable crop year you will not receive payments. All farm operator/tenants/owners who have not filed a CCC-941 and have pending payments should IMMEDIATELY file the form with their recording county FSA office. Farm operators and tenants are encouraged to ensure that their landowners have filed the form.

FSA can accept the CCC-941 for 2017, 2018, and 2019. Unlike the past, you must have the CCC-941 certifying your AGI compliance before any payments can be issued.

Update Your Records

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database and needs your help. Please report any changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address or an incorrect name or business name on file to our office. You should also report changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase.

FSA and NRCS program participants are required to promptly report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and to update their *Farm Operating Plan* on form CCC-902.

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).
