#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency Washington, DC 20250

**Notice PL-289** 

For: State and County Offices

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) 75 Percent Farm AGI Certifications

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs

#### 1 Overview

## A Background

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act; Pub. L. 116-136) was signed into law on March 27, 2020, to provide relief for individuals and businesses that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

CFAP is authorized to provide direct support to eligible farmers, ranchers, and dairy operations that have suffered losses because of price and market declines and supply chains impacted by COVID-19.

To be eligible for payment, a person or legal entity (including members, stockholders, or partners of the legal entity) must have an average AGI for program year 2020 that does not exceed the \$900,000 limitation, unless at least 75 percent of the person's or legal entity's average AGI is derived from farming, ranching, or forestry operations.

## **B** Purpose

This notice provides the following:

- definition of average adjusted gross farm income
- sources of income
- formula for computing average adjusted gross farm income
- CCC-942 (05-19-2020) (Exhibit 1)
- example CPA/Attorney Certification Statement (Exhibit 2).

Disposal Date	Distribution
January 1, 2021	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

## 2 Average Adjusted Gross Farm Income

## A Definition of Average Adjusted Gross Farm Income

<u>Average adjusted gross farm income</u> of a person or legal entity means income or benefits derived from the following sources.

Income Related to	
Livestock and Crops	Other Types of Income
Production of livestock, including but <b>not</b>	The sale of land that has been used for
limited to:	agriculture. The sale of easements and development rights to:
• cattle, sheep, goats, swine	farmland, ranchland, or forestry land
elk, reindeer, bison, deer	<ul> <li>water or hunting</li> <li>environmental benefits.</li> </ul>
• horses	
• poultry	
• fish and other aquaculture products	
used for food	
• honeybees.	
The feeding, rearing, or finishing of	The rental or lease of land or equipment
livestock.	used for farming, ranching, or forestry
Products produced by or derived from	operations, including water or hunting
livestock.	rights.
Production of crops, specialty crops, and	Any payment or benefit, including benefits
unfinished raw forestry products.	from risk management practices, crop
	insurance indemnities, and catastrophic risk
	protection plans.
The processing, packing, storing, shedding,	Payments and benefits authorized under any
and transporting of farm, ranch, and	program made applicable to payment
forestry commodities, including renewable	eligibility and payment limitation rules.
energy.	Production of farm-based renewable energy.
Any other activity related to farming, ranching	ng, or forestry as determined by the Deputy
Administrator.	
Any income reported on IRS Schedule F or o	· ·
entity to report income from farming, ranching	
The sale of equipment used to conduct farm,	
provision of production inputs and services t	
operations, if the average adjusted gross farm	n income is at least 66.66 percent of the
average AGI.	

Note: Wages earned through employment by a farming operation are not farm income.

## 2 Average Adjusted Gross Farm Income (Continued)

### **B** Definition of Income From Fishing

<u>Income from fishing</u> means income derived from catching, taking, harvesting, cultivating, or farming aquatic resources, such as fish, shellfish, crustacea, and other aquatic forms of animal or vegetable life according to IRS Publication 595 or other applicable IRS instructions.

#### C Sources of Income Data

Income from farming, ranching, forestry operations, and related activities is:

- recorded on IRS Schedule F, Form 4835, or comparable form
- any other schedule as allowed by applicable IRS tax code to report farming, ranching, forestry operations, and related activity income
- reflected in and attached to IRS-1040 or other appropriate IRS income tax return filed by the person or legal entity with the IRS for tax purposes.

Income from fishing is:

- recorded on IRS Schedule C or Schedule C-EZ, as allowed by applicable IRS tax code
- reflected in and attached to IRS-1040 or other appropriate IRS income tax return filed by the person or legal entity for IRS tax purposes.

## 2 Average Adjusted Gross Farm Income (Continued)

#### D Source of Income

Pass-through income received by a person from an interest held in a legal entity may be considered income from farming, ranching, or forestry if all of the following are met:

- the legal entity is a subchapter-S corporation or similar legal entity in which all the income passes through to the interest holders
- a person who is an interest holder reports income received from the legal entity as income from farming, ranching, or forestry to the IRS
- the legal entity is primarily engaged in farming, ranching, or forestry activities.

**Note:** Wages or dividends received from a legal entity are not considered income from farming, ranching, or forestry activities. The disbursements are made by a legal entity to the interest holders regardless of the nature of the legal entity's business activities.

**Exception:** Dividends earned through an IC-DISC may be considered farm income for CFAP purposes. That portion of the dividend that is derived from sources defined in this paragraph to be from farming, ranching, or forestry activities may be considered farm income when calculating if at least 75 percent of the applicant's AGI is derived from farming, ranching, or forestry operations.

#### **3** Computing Average Adjusted Gross Farm Income

#### A Formula for Calculating Average Adjusted Gross Farm Income

Adjusted gross farm income is not the same as the gross farm income reported to IRS. Adjusted gross farm income for FSA purposes is comparable to the net income from farming and related operations. In many cases, this may be the same as the "Net Farm Profit" or "Loss" determined on Schedule F of IRS-1040.

FSA's definition of adjusted gross farm income also includes income from the sale of items, such as agricultural-related land, breeding livestock, and agricultural/conservation easements.

Additionally, it is important to consider if income was received from the sale of farm-related equipment and if income was received from the sale of production inputs and services. Usually, income from these items is not considered farm income. However, if the income from farming is at least 66.66 percent of the total AGI from all sources, both farm income and nonfarm income, a special rule applies and income from these items **must** be included in the adjusted gross farm income.

# **3** Computing Average Adjusted Gross Farm Income (Continued)

# A Formula for Calculating Average Adjusted Gross Farm Income (Continued)

The following worksheet provides the formula for calculating average adjusted gross farm income.

Step		Ac	ction	Result
1		immediately precedir	rm) for the 3 complete taxable years ag complete taxable year of the year for Specify Where Information Was Obtained (i.e. IRS-1040, Line 37	
2	Total the dollar amo			\$
3	Calculate the <b>avera</b> ; step 1.	ge AGI by dividing th	ne result of step 2 by the number of years in	\$
4	Enter AGI for the sa	me 3 years in step 1 tg, and forestry operations.  \$ Amount	that was derived from all activities related ons.  Specify Where Information Was Obtained (i.e. IRS-1040, Line 37	
		——————————————————————————————————————	Obtained (i.e. 1K3-1040, Ellie 37	
5	Total the dollar amo	unts in step 4.		\$
6	Calculate the <b>avera</b> ; by the number of ye		<b>rm income</b> by dividing the result of step 5	\$
7	AGI that is derived:  Note: This percent	from farming, ranchir	ount in step 3 to obtain the percentage of ng, and forestry operations.  ent or more to qualify for benefits from	%
8	If the result of step?	is 66.66 percent or r ces are not already in	nore, and AGI derived from equipment icluded in steps 4, 5, and 6, enter the total put services for the same 3 years in step 1.  Specify Where Information Was Obtained (i.e. IRS-1040, Line 37	
9	Total the dollar amo	ounts in step 8.		\$
10	Calculate the average result of step 8 by the	e AGI from equipme te number of years in		\$
11	services in steps 4 a	nd 5, calculate the <b>av</b>	rived from equipment sales and input erage adjusted gross farm income uces by adding the result of step 10 to step 6.	\$
12	Calculate the percei	ntage of the average	adjusted gross farm income from the p 11 by the result of step 3, and multiply by	%

## 4 Farm AGI Certification Requirements

## A CPA or Attorney Certification Requirements

Persons, legal entities (including members, stockholder, or partners), and members of joint operations seeking to qualify for program benefits subject to a calculation of the 75 percent AGI derived from farming, ranching, and forestry operations must provide a certification from a licensed CPA or attorney affirming the calculation.

Certifications from a licensed CPA or attorney may be provided to FSA by either:

- signing CCC-942
- a written statement affirming the person's or legal entity's percent of AGI from farming, ranching, and forestry operations.

CPA or attorney statements must contain all required elements as outlined in the AGI Enclosure 1 found in 5-PL, subparagraph 294 C.

**Note:** See Exhibit 2 for an example CPA/Attorney Certification Statement.

## **B** Recording 75 Percent Farm AGI Certifications

Record certifications in Subsidiary according to 3-PL (Rev. 2) only after the producer has completed the applicable form **and** either a CPA's or attorney's signature has been provided on the form or a written certification statement from the CPA or attorney has been received.

#### 5 Action

#### **A State Office Action**

State Offices will:

- immediately notify County Offices of the contents in this notice
- contact Paul Hanson, Program Manager, in the National Office with questions about this notice by either:
  - e-mail to paul.hanson@usda.gov
  - telephone at 202-720-4189.

### **B** County Office Action

County Offices will:

- review the provisions as provided in this notice
- contact their State Office with any question about this notice.

# CCC-942, Certification of Income From Farming, Ranching and Forestry Operations

The following is an example of CCC-942.

CC-942	available electronically. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AG	RICIII TURE	OME 1. PROGRAM YEAR:	Expiration Date: 04/30/20
05-19-20)	Commodity Credit Corp		1. PROGRAM YEAR:	
35-15-20)			Return completed form     of FSA county office or US	Transfer and the second received the second street of the second second
	CERTIFICATION OF INCOME	FROM FARMING	of PSA county office of OS	SDA Service Certier).
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	MARGINITO ARD TOTALOTIC	. Of Erramonto		
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fo cc to	The following statement is trade in accordance with the m is Sec. 5 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Act flected on this form may be disclosed to other Federa the information by statue or regulation and/or as des utomated).	[15 U.S.C. 714 et seq]. The information w I, State, Local government agencies, tribal	vill be used to determine eligibility for prog l agencies, and nongovernment entities th	gram benefits. The information hat have been authorized access
in to	ublic Burden Statement (Paperwork Reduction Ac structions, gathering and maintaining the data needed the collection or FSA may not conduct or sponsor a c DUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.	d, completing (providing the information), a	nd reviewing the collection of information	You are not required to respon
	nd Address of Individual or Legal Entity (i Il partnership or joint venture, complete only fo		<ol> <li>Last (4) Digits - Taxpayer Ide (Social Security Number for Individ Number for Legal Entity</li> </ol>	
	CERTIFICATION OF FARM INCOM			
	luals and Legal Entities exceeding the \$9 n authorizes the individual or legal entity			enefits, when the
im	least 75 percent of the individual's or legal of mediately preceding complete taxable year play, then the 3-year period for the calculation	was derived from farming, ranching	g or forestry operations. For exam	
pe ye	certification from a licensed CPA or an attor ercent of the individual's or legal entity's ave ar was derived from farming, ranching, or fo providing a similar statement that is accept	rage AGI for the 3 taxable years pre- prestry operations. The CPA or Atto	eceding the most immediately pre-	ceding complete taxable
ART B -	CERTIFICATION BY INDIVIDUAL (	OR ENTITY		
v signing	this form:			
- I ac	knowledge the average AGI for the applicate the distribution in the second states that the second se	ble program year exceeds the \$900	9,000 statutory AGI limitation for	the individual or legal
- I ce file	cknowledge that I have read and reviewed or criffy that all information contained in a cer d with the IRS for myself or the legal entity cknowledge that failure to provide the certi,	tification from a CPA or attorney that is seeking to qualify for progr	is true and correct, and is consist am benefits subject to a certificat	tion of farm income;
- Ia	nefit; ertify that I am authorized under applicable			
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## CCC-942, Certification of Income From Farming, Ranching and Forestry Operations (Continued)

**CCC-942** (05-19-20) Page 2 of 2

#### HOW TO DETERMINE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) is the individual's or legal entity's IRS-reported adjusted gross income or equivalent (see below) consisting of both farm and nonfarm income.

Individual – Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1040 filers, specific lines on that form represent the adjusted gross income

Trust or Estate – the adjusted gross income equivalent is the total income and charitable contributions reported to IRS

Corporation – the adjusted gross income equivalent is the total of the final taxable income and any charitable contributions reported to IRS

Limited Partnership (LP), Limited Liability Company (LLC), Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) or Similar Entity – the adjusted gross income is the total income from trade or business activities plus guaranteed payments to the members as reported to the IRS

Tax-exempt Organization – the adjusted gross income is the unrelated business taxable income excluding any income from non-commercial activities as reported to the IRS.

#### HOW TO DETERMINE INCOME FROM FARMING, RANCHING, AND FORESTRY OPERATIONS

Income received or	obtained from	the following sources:
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Production of crops, specialty crops, and raw forestry products.	Feeding, rearing, or finishing of livestock.
Production of livestock, aquaculture products used for food; honeybees; and products produced by or derived from livestock.	Payments of benefits, including benefits from risk management practices, crop insurance indemnities, and catastrophic risk protection plans.
Production of farm-based renewable energy.	Sale of land that has been used for agricultural purposes.
Sale, including easements and development rights, of farm, ranch, and forestry land, water or hunting rights, or environmental benefits.	Payments and benefits authorized under any program made available and applicable to payment eligibility and payment limitation rules.
Rental or lease of land or equipment used for farming, ranching, or forestry operations, including water or hunting rights.	Any other activity related to farming, ranching, and forestry, as determined by the Deputy Administrator of FSA.
Processing, packing, storing, and transportation of farm, ranch, forestry commodities including renewable energy.	Any income reported on Schedule F or other schedule used by the person or legal entity to report income from such operations to the IRS.

Note: Income from wages or dividends (except IC-DISC dividends derived from farm, ranch or forestry activities) earned through a farming operation is NOT farm income.

#### HOW TO DETERMINE PERCENTAGE OF AVERAGE AGI FROM FARMING, RANCHING, AND FORESTRY OPERATIONS

- 1) Determine the total AGI and the total income from farming, ranching, and forestry for each of the 3 taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete taxable year for which benefits are requested.
- 2) Total the AGI (both farm and nonfarm income) from all 3 years.
- 3) Total the income from farming, ranching and forestry from all 3 years.
- 4) Calculate the percentage of average adjusted gross farm income by dividing the result of step 3 by the result of Step 2. The percentage calculated must be equal to; or greater than 75 percent to qualify for program benefits.

This form can only be signed by the individual authorized under state law to sign as a representative of the legal entity identified in Item 3.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF CCC-942

Item No./Field name	Instruction(s)
1. Program Year	Enter the year for which program benefits are being requested. The program year entered determines the 3-year period used for the calculation of the average adjusted gross income (AGI) for payment eligibility.
Return Completed     Form To	Enter the name and address of the FSA county office or USDA service center where the completed CCC- 942 will be submitted.
Individual or Legal     Entity's Name and     Address	Enter the individual's or legal entity's name and address.
Taxpayer Identification     Number	Enter the <u>Last 4 Digits of the</u> taxpayer identification number for the individual or legal entity identified in Item 3.
5. Signature	Read the acknowledgments, responsibilities and authorizations, before signing. (INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY)
6. Title/Relationship	Enter title or relationship to the legal entity identified in Item3.
7. Date	Enter the signature date in month, day and year.
8. Signature	Read the acknowledgments, responsibilities and authorizations, before signing. (CPA or Attorney Only).
9. Title	Identify Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Attorney as applicable.
10. State/License Number	Enter applicable State the CPA or attorney is licensed to practice in, followed by the associated individual license number.
11. Date	Enter the signature date in month, day and year.

# CCC-942, Certification of Income From Farming, Ranching and Forestry Operations (Continued)

The following are instructions for completing CCC-942.

Item No./Field Name	Instructions
1. Program Year	Enter the year for which program benefits are being requested. The program year entered determines the 3-year period used for the calculation of the average adjusted gross income (AGI) for payment eligibility.
2. Return Completed Form To	Enter the name and address of the FSA County Office or USDA Service Center where the completed CCC-942 will be submitted.
3. Individual or Legal Entity's Name and Address	Enter the individual's or legal entity's name and address.
4. Taxpayer Identification Number	Enter the <b>last 4 digits</b> of the taxpayer identification number for the individual or legal entity identified in item 3.
5. Signature	Read the acknowledgments, responsibilities, and authorizations <b>before</b> signing. <i>(INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY)</i>
6. Title/Relationship	Enter title or relationship to the legal entity identified in item 3.
7. Date	Enter the signature date in month, day, and year.
8. Signature	Read the acknowledgments, responsibilities, and authorizations before signing. ( <i>CPA or Attorney Only</i> ).
9. Title	Identify Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or attorney as applicable.
10. State/License Number	Enter the applicable State in which the CPA or attorney is licensed to practice, followed by the associated individual's license number.
11. Date	Enter the signature date in month, day, and year.

## **Example of CPA/Attorney Certification Statement**

The following is an example of a CPA/Attorney Certification Statement.

[Insert Name]
[Insert street and/or mailing address]
[Insert city, State ZIP Code]

[insert date]

[insert State Office name] [insert street and/or mailing address] [insert city, State ZIP Code]

I, [insert name], am [insert "a certified public accountant (CPA)" or "an attorney" as appropriate] practicing in [insert city, State]. My license identification number is [insert license number] in [State].

I have been asked by [insert name of producer] to certify that [insert name of producer]'s average AGI from farming, ranching, and forestry operations is 75 percent or more of the total AGI as reported to IRS.

For purposes of this letter and my representations below, my "certification" is limited only to my knowledge of [insert name of producer]'s federal income tax returns based upon either my preparation of such returns or my readings of those returns that I did not prepare. The preparation or review of these returns was based upon the information provided by [insert name of producer]. [insert name of producer] has represented to me that the information supplied to me is, to the best of [his/her/its] knowledge, true, correct, and complete. In accordance with Treasury Department Circular No. 230, section 10.34 (d), I relied in good faith without verification upon the information provided by [insert name of producer]; however, I did not ignore the implications of information furnished to, or actually known by me, and I made reasonable inquiries if the information as furnished appeared to be incorrect, inconsistent with an important fact or another factual assumption, or was incomplete. This "certification" does not include any representations or assurances as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in [insert name of producer]'s federal income tax returns or imply that I have performed procedures beyond those required under Circular No. 230. In addition, this "certification" does not include any representations or assurances as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in [insert name of producer]'s federal income tax returns that I did not prepare.

I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions of the AGI Enclosure 1 with the following conditions:

- I am relying on the information made known to me as noted above. I take no responsibility for information outside of the tax return preparation process, unless I relied upon outside information as noted in the end of this prepared statement or attachment.
- I have not been engaged to continually monitor the tax law for this client or to continually monitor factors related to the client's AGI or other tax calculations for the relevant years. Therefore, I am not in a position to notify the Government of changes to facts or circumstances (whether or not material) that would make this certification no longer accurate.
- Under Internal Revenue Code Section 7216 and other confidentiality standards, I may only provide client information upon specific written authorization from the client to release such information, including tax return information, to a third party.

Continued.

## **Example of CPA/Attorney Certification Statement (Continued)**

The following are correct statements:

- Based on a representation provided by [insert name of producer], or the confirmations of [his/her/its] e-filed federal income tax returns [insert the applicable tax return form number], the [enter the applicable 3-year period i.e. 2015, 2016, and 2017 (for 2019)] federal income tax returns were timely filed.
- I am not aware of subsequently filed federal income tax returns, whether superseding or amended, other than those identified above related to the tax years identified above.
- I am not aware of any adjustments made by the Internal Revenue Service or any state taxing authority to the federal income tax returns identified above.
- I understand that the average adjusted gross income means the adjusted gross income as defined under 26 U.S.C. 62, or comparable measure, of the person or legal entity over the 2013, 2014, and 2015 tax years.
- According to the most recent returns filed for the years identified above, [insert name of producer]'s:

	eported average AGI was at least 75 percent derived from farming, ranching, or forestry based on the tax eturns for the 3 applicable tax years.
_	yes no
I declare th	nat the statements made herein, to the best of my knowledge and belief, are true, correct, and complete.
Signed	
[insert nan	ne of CPA or attorney, as applicable], [insert title, "CPA" or "Attorney", as applicable]
Dated: [ins	sert date]