



Enrollment Period Begins for USDA's Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program

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Program Helps Offset Transporting Costs for Farmers and Ranchers Outside the Contiguous U.S.

ST CROIX, USVI, July 13, 2020 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) in the US Virgin Islands today announced that the enrollment period for the [Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program \(RTCP\)](#) for fiscal year 2020 begins July 13 and will run through Sept. 4.

"RTCP will help eligible farmers and ranchers offset a portion of the cost of transporting agricultural products over long distances," said Sherry McCorkle, State Executive Director. "This program helps U.S. farmers and ranchers outside the 48 contiguous states who are at a competitive disadvantage when transporting agriculture products to market."

The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act 2020, reauthorized RTCP and allows farmers and ranchers in Alaska, Hawaii and insular areas including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Virgin Islands of the United States, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Republic of Palau, to recover any costs to transport agricultural commodities or inputs used to produce an agricultural commodity.

RTCP payments are calculated based on the costs incurred for transportation of the agricultural commodity or inputs during a 12-month period, subject to an \$8,000 per producer cap per fiscal year. If claims for payments exceed the funds available from the program for a fiscal year, payments will be reduced on a pro-rata basis.

Farmers and ranchers interested in participating in RTCP can obtain applications and other documents by calling toll-free 1-866-794-1079.

To find your local FSA county office, visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

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