



Farm Service Agency

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Maryland FSA News - July 17, 2025

In This Issue:

- [Trump Administration Announces Expedited Congressionally Mandated Disaster Assistance for Farmers](#)
- [Nominations Now Open for Farmers and Ranchers to Serve on USDA Farm Service Agency County Committees: Nominations due Aug. 1](#)
- [Prevented Planting Deadline Extended for 2025 Spring Seeded Crops](#)
- [Ask the Expert: A Q&A on Youth Loans with Tina Mellinger](#)
- [Myth Busters: Common Misconceptions about the Conservation Stewardship Program](#)
- [Lending Rates for July](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)

Trump Administration Announces Expedited Congressionally Mandated Disaster Assistance for Farmers

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced today that agricultural producers who suffered eligible crop losses due to natural disasters in 2023 and 2024 can now apply for \$16 billion in assistance through the [Supplemental Disaster Relief Program \(SDRP\)](#).

To expedite the implementation of SDRP, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is delivering assistance in two stages. This first stage is open to producers with eligible crop losses that received assistance under crop insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program during 2023 and 2024. Stage One sign up will start in person at FSA county offices on July 10 and prefilled applications are being mailed to producers today, July 9. SDRP Stage Two signups for eligible shallow or uncovered losses will begin in early fall.

SDRP Stage One

FSA is launching a streamlined, pre-filled application process for eligible crop, tree, and vine losses by leveraging existing Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and

Risk Management Agency (RMA) indemnified loss data. The pre-filled applications will be mailed on July 9, 2025.

Eligibility

Eligible losses must be the result of natural disasters occurring in calendar years 2023 and/or 2024. These disasters include wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought, and related conditions.

To qualify for drought related losses, the loss must have occurred in a county rated by the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) as having a D2 (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks, D3 (extreme drought), or greater intensity level during the applicable calendar year.

Producers in Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, and Massachusetts will not be eligible for SDRP program payments. Instead, these states chose to cover eligible crop, tree, bush, and vine losses through separate block grants. These block grants are funded through the \$220M provided for this purpose to eligible states in the American Relief Act.

How to Apply

To apply for SDRP, producers must submit the FSA-526, *Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) Stage One Application*, in addition to having other forms on file with FSA.

SDRP Stage One Payment Calculation

Stage One payments are based on the SDRP adjusted NAP or Federal crop insurance coverage level the producer purchased for the crop. The net NAP or net federal crop insurance payments (NAP or crop insurance indemnities minus administrative fees and premiums) will be subtracted from the SDRP calculated payment amount.

For Stage One, the total SDRP payment to indemnified producers will not exceed 90% of the loss and an SDRP payment factor of 35% will be applied to all Stage One payments. If additional SDRP funds remain, FSA may issue a second payment.

Future Insurance Coverage Requirements

All producers who receive SDRP payments are required to purchase [federal crop insurance](#) or [NAP coverage](#) for the next two available crop years at the 60% coverage level or higher. Producers who fail to purchase crop insurance for the next two available crop years will be required to refund the SDRP payment, plus interest, to USDA.

SDRP Stage 2

FSA will announce additional SDRP assistance for uncovered losses, including non-indemnified shallow losses and quality losses and how to apply later this fall.

Learn more by visiting fsa.usda.gov/sdrp.

This announcement follows Secretary Rollins' comprehensive [plan](#) to deliver the total amount of Congressionally appropriated \$30 billion in disaster assistance to farmers and

ranchers this year. These programs will complement the forthcoming state block grants that USDA is working with 14 different states to develop.

To date, USDA has issued more than \$7.8 billion in [Emergency Commodity Assistance Program \(ECAP\)](#) payments to eligible producers. Additionally, USDA has provided over \$1 billion in emergency relief through the [Emergency Livestock Relief Program](#) to producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought or wildfires in calendar years 2023 and 2024.

USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), [Loan Assistance Tool](#), and the [FarmRaise](#) online FSA education hub. Payment details will be updated here weekly. For more information, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).



Nominations Now Open for Farmers and Ranchers to Serve on USDA Farm Service Agency County Committees: Nominations due Aug. 1

Nominations are now being accepted for farmers and ranchers to serve on local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees. These committees make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2025.

Elections for committee members will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA). LAAs are elective areas for FSA committees in a single county or multi-county jurisdiction and may include LAAs that are focused on an urban or suburban area.

Producers interested in serving on the FSA county committee can locate their LAA through a geographic information system locator tool available at fsa.usda.gov/elections and determine if their LAA is up for election by contacting their local FSA office.

Agricultural producers may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee if they:

- Participate or cooperate in a USDA program.
- Reside in the LAA that is up for election this year.

A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates. USDA encourages all eligible producers to nominate, vote and hold office.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agriculture community serve on FSA county committees. The committees are made up of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Committee members play a key role in how FSA delivers disaster recovery, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as making decisions on county office employment and other agricultural issues.

Urban and Suburban County Committees

FSA urban county committees work to promote urban, indoor and other emerging agricultural production practices. Urban committee members are nominated and elected to serve by local urban producers in the same jurisdiction. Urban county committee members provide outreach to ensure urban producers understand USDA programs, serve as the voice of other urban producers and assist in program implementation that support the needs of growing urban communities.

The 27 cities with urban county committees are listed at fsa.usda.gov/elections and farmers.gov/urban.

More Information

Producers should contact their local FSA office today to register and find out how to get involved in their county's election, including if their LAA is up for election this year. To be considered, a producer must be registered and sign an FSA-669A nomination form. This form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

All nomination forms for the 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by the Aug. 1, 2025, deadline. Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in November 2025.

Prevented Planting Deadline Extended for 2025 Spring Seeded Crops

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is extending the prevented planting crop reporting deadline for producers affected by spring flooding, excessive moisture, or qualifying drought.

Producers who intended to plant this spring, but were unable due to weather conditions, now have until the acreage reporting deadline for the applicable crop being claimed as prevented planting. July 15 is a major deadline for most crops, but acreage reporting deadlines vary by county and by crop.

Producers need to report prevented planting acres to retain eligibility for FSA program benefits. Normally, the prevented planting reporting deadline is 15 calendar days after the final planting date for a crop as established by FSA and the Risk Management Agency (RMA). The prevented planting reporting deadline extension only applies to FSA and does not change any RMA crop insurance reporting deadline requirements.

The extension does not apply to crops covered by FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Producers should check with their local FSA office regarding prevented planting provisions for NAP-covered crops.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office as soon as possible to make an appointment to report prevented planting acres and submit their spring crop acreage report. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

Ask the Expert: A Q&A on Youth Loans with Tina Mellinger

In this *Ask the Expert*, Tina Mellinger answers questions about Farm Service Agency (FSA) Youth Loans. Tina is a Farm Loan Manager in Ohio and has worked for FSA for 37 years. Her FSA farm loan team makes an average of around 50 loans each year, with around five of those being Youth Loans. Her entire career has been centered around loan-making. At the beginning of her career, she worked for Rural Development making home loans.

Tina grew up on a 50-cow dairy farm in southeastern Ohio. She earned an animal science and ag education degree from the Ohio State University.

To read the full blog, visit farmers.gov/blog/ask-expert-qa-on-youth-loans-with-tina-mellinger.

Myth Busters: Common Misconceptions about the Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is sometimes misunderstood. It is perceived by some as complicated or not for small operations, and neither of those perceptions is true. CSP is designed to help you take your existing conservation efforts on your operation to the next higher level while maintaining your current ones. It's supposed to help you add to what you're already doing, either by enhancing your current practices or adding new ones.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works one-on-one with you to develop a conservation plan under CSP to implement these additions or enhancements and help strengthen your operation.

Under CSP, you receive annual payments to help you maintain your existing conservation efforts and enhance them using new conservation practices or activities. CSP contracts last five years, with the opportunity to compete for a contract renewal if you successfully fulfill the initial contract and agree to achieve additional conservation objectives.

CSP is often misunderstood, so here are a few “myths” about the program that we want to dispel.

Myth #1: The deadline to apply for CSP in my state has already passed, so I don't need to think about applying until next year.

Don't wait to apply! We accept applications year-round, but funding decisions are made locally at specific times and that “ranking date” may be coming up soon in your area. If we already have your application, it will be considered at the next ranking date. Plus, if you start planning now, you will be ready for application ranking dates as they approach. See program application ranking dates for all states at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/ranking-dates>.

Myth #2: Enrolling land in CSP is complicated and time-consuming.

If you have a farm and tract number (available from USDA's Farm Service Agency) and have kept good farm records, you're already well on your way. You just need to complete a three-page **NRCS-CPA-1200** form, see [Applications and Forms](#). You can even complete this form online if you create a [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov/account) account at <https://www.farmers.gov/account>.

[Read more myths.](#)

Lending Rates for July

Click [here](#) for July's lending rates for agriculture producers.

Dates to Remember

April 15th - August 15th: Primary Nesting Season for CRP. To stay in compliance with your CRP contract, if you need to spot mow or spot spray invasive or noxious weeds in CRP cover, please contact your local FSA Office to make a request prior to the action.

July 31, 2025: Acreage reporting deadline for Hemp

August 8, 2025: Final day to submit offers for Grasslands CRP Signup 207

August 15, 2025: Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) deadline

August 15, 2025: Acreage reporting deadline for beans (all types except limas), cucumbers (planted 6/26-8/10 in Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, and Talbot Counties).

September 30, 2025: [NAP](#) coverage application closing date for value-loss crops or controlled environment crops, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng, floriculture, mushrooms, and turf grass sod.

September 30, 2025: [NAP](#) coverage application closing date for biennial and perennial forage crops, alfalfa, grass forages, mixed forages and other forages.

September 30, 2025: Acreage reporting deadline- value-loss (i.e. oysters) and controlled environment crops (except nursery).

Maryland FSA

339 Busch's Frontage Rd.
Suite 104
Annapolis, MD 21409-5561

Phone: (443)-482-2760
Fax: (855)-401-6638

FSA State Executive Director, Acting

Russ Clanton

Russ.Clanton@usda.gov

Farm Programs Chief

Robert Wevodau

robert.wevodau@usda.gov

NRCS State Conservationist

Suzy Daubert

suzy.daubert@usda.gov

Farm Loan Chief

Joseph Scott

joseph.scott@usda.gov