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Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

News & Updates from the Iowa FSA State Office - March 24, 2026

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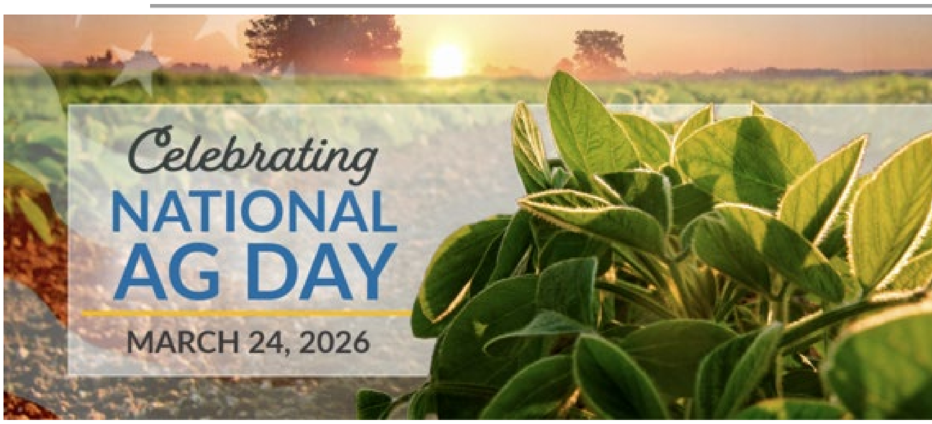
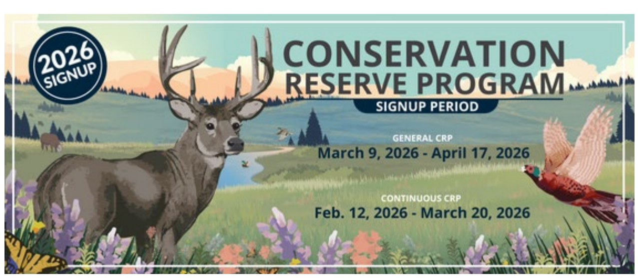


General Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment for 2026 Ends Soon!



USDA reminds producer that the enrollment period to submit offers for General CRP will runs through April 17, 2026.

CRP is USDA's flagship conservation program, providing financial and technical support to agricultural producers and landowners who place unproductive or marginal cropland under contract for 10-15 years and who agree to voluntarily convert the land to beneficial vegetative cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and support wildlife habitat. Learn more.

Leading with Conservation - USDA Spotlights Iowa Producer, Nicole Vernon of Jones County

Meet Nicole Vernon of Jones County, Iowa, where she raises cattle, corn, soybeans, and hay. Nicole started her farm in 2016, purchasing 100 acres just before her senior year at Iowa State University. Nicole moved to the farm soon after purchasing the land, splitting her time between classes and the field. Now, 10 years later, Nicole and her husband, Jon, farm alongside her parents where their cows rotate through pastures, cover crops and feed. Read more...

Free USDA supported Seed and Vendor Finder Tool for CRP participants looking for wholesale Seed/Plant Vendors

USDA worked with the Conservation Biology Institute (CBI) to design and build a free online easy-to-use **Seed and Vendor finder** tool to support the producers enrolling in the CRP program, along with other conservation efforts involving native plantings. CBI also partnered with the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) to address the needs of the Native Seed Network and significantly expanded the native seed customer and vendor base.

The seed and vendor finder can be found here: Seed and Vendor Finder

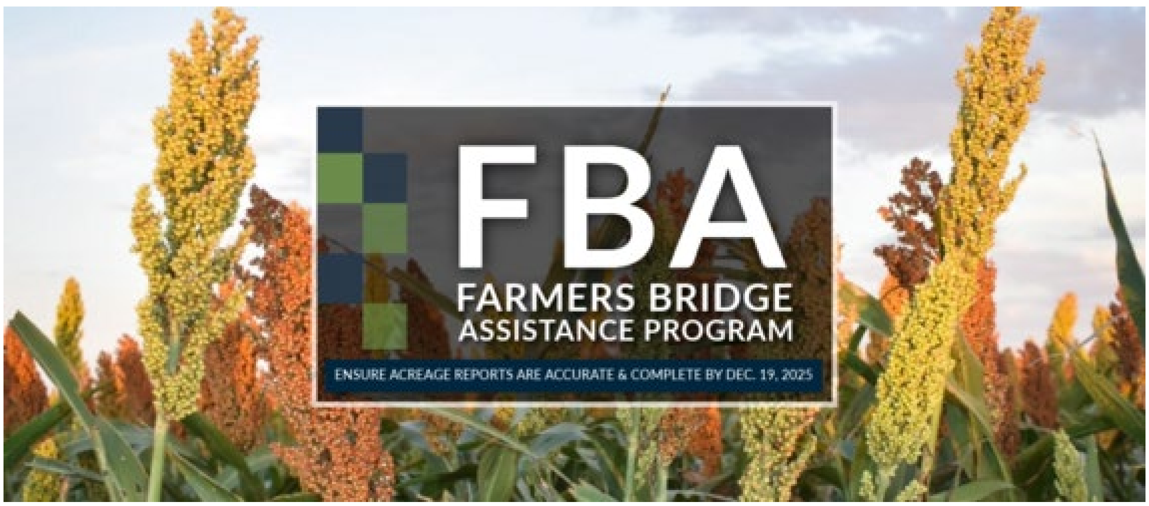
Customers looking for native or introduced species to plant for the conservation projects can easily find vendors across the country that carry that seed or plant using this tool. Currently, CBI has seeded the tool with 600+ wholesale seed and seedling vendors found through an online search from across the country with limited profiles, and 100+ have voluntarily completed full profiles which includes their plant catalogue. The tool is designed for easy uploading of their profile and inventory. It also provides an opportunity for vendors without a website to have an online presence and be found by customers looking for seeds.

Also check out the plant finder tool where you can find suitable plants, including pollinator friendly plants for your area and soil type. The plant finder prototype is only available for 6 states and there is potential to extend it to the entire country.

There were over 10,000 visitors to the site last year, with the current number of unique daily visitors to the tool at over 30 and growing!

All growers/vendors are encouraged to add their business profile and catalog to the tool. They can do this easily by filling out a simple form located here: https://crptool.org/contact/. Once their catalog is online, customers can match their seed/seedlings needs with what they might have available for sale and contact you. This USDA supported tool expands customer outreach to the entire U.S.

Enrollment Period for Farmer Bridge Payments Ends April 17



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds producers that the enrollment period for the Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) program, providing $11 billion in one-time bridge payments to row crop producers in response to temporary trade market disruptions and increased production costs ends April 17, 2026.

These bridge payments are authorized under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act and are administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Bridge payments are intended in part to aid farmers until historic investments from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), including reference prices which are set to increase between 10-21% for major covered commodities and will reach eligible farmers after Oct. 1, 2026.

How to Apply

Pre-filled applications will be available online to producers with a Login.gov account who timely filed their 2025 crop acreage report for eligible commodities. Producers who have a Login.gov account can access and submit their pre-filled application from fsa.usda.gov/fba. Additionally, producers can also request their pre-filled FBA application from their FSA county office.

April 17, 2026, is the deadline to submit completed FBA applications. Producers can complete FBA applications online or submit to their FSA county office.

Login.gov

Login.gov is the public's one account for government. Producers can use one account and password for secure, private access to participating government agencies, including FSA.

To apply for FBA online, producers can start by visiting fsa.usda.gov/fba. to create their Login.gov account. Producers who have an existing Login.gov account, can work with FSA using their existing account.

With a secure Login.gov account, producers can be amongst the first to apply for FBA allowing them to view, certify, and submit their application as well as track their application and payment status.

For assistance creating a Login.gov account, visit https://login.gov/help/.

Eligibility

The following commodities are eligible for FBA: *Barley, Chickpeas, Corn, Cotton, Lentils, Oats, Peanuts, Peas, Rice, Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat, Canola, Crambe, Flax, Mustard, Rapeseed, Safflower, Sesame, and Sunflower.*

All intended uses for FBA eligible commodities are eligible excluding grazing, experimental, green manure, left standing, or cover crops. Initial acres, double crop acres, and subsequently planted acres, are eligible. Prevent plant acres are not eligible.

Crop insurance linkage is not required; however, USDA strongly urges producers to take advantage of the new risk management tools provided for in OBBBA to best protect against future price risk and volatility.

Payment Calculation

In December, USDA released the payment rates by commodity. FBA payment rates are based on 2025 planted acres, Economic Research Service cost of production, and the World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimate Report.

More information on FBA is available online at fsa.usda.gov/fba. Producers can also contact their local FSA county office

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IOWA AGRICULTURE
TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE
A Youth-Focused Effort Celebrating Agriculture, Conservation & Service

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig, in collaboration with Iowa 4-H and Iowa FFA Association, announced a statewide tree planting initiative in honor of America's 250th birthday. The youth-driven initiative aims to plant 250 trees across Iowa in 2026, connecting students with the state's agricultural heritage and a commitment to stewardship and service. Learn more...

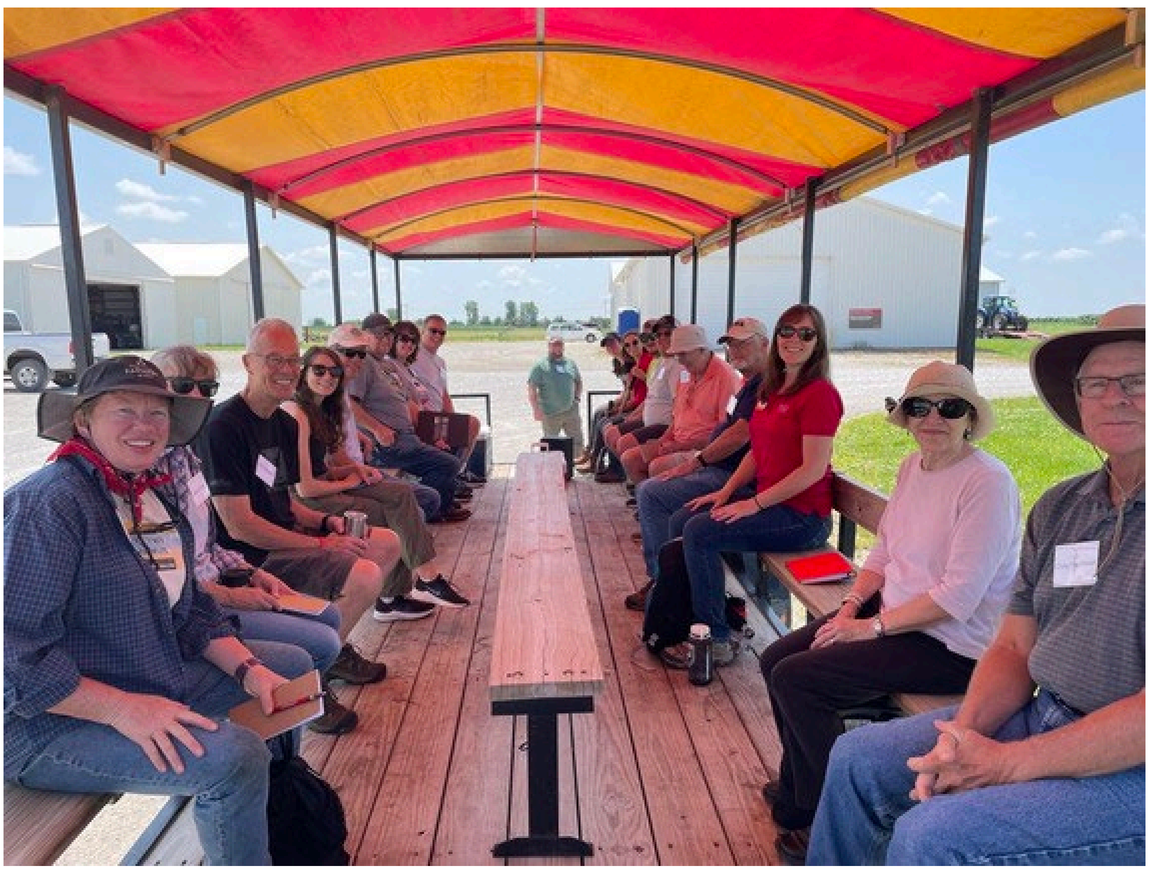
USDA Microloans Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property

Farmers can use USDA farm ownership microloans to buy and improve property. These microloans are especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013.

Microloans can also help with farmland and building purchases and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to $50,000 to qualified producers and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

To learn more about the FSA microloan program, contact your local USDA Service Center or visit fsa.usda.gov/microloans.

Calling Iowa Landowners! ISU Extension & Outreach Offering Program on Balancing Profitability, Stewardship and Legacy



Iowa State University Extension and Outreach launched a new program in June 2024 to help Iowa landowners incorporate soil health principles into their farmland. This unique learning experience brings together experts on conservation, agronomy, financial and legal topics. Landowners have the opportunity to learn from ISU experts and from each other as part of a small learning group. The first and second cohorts took place in summer 2024 and 2025.

The application deadline is April 10, 2026. Learn more...

Creating a Farmers.gov Account Makes Receiving USDA Assistance Easy, Efficient

Are you interested in working with USDA to start or grow your farm, ranch, or private forest operation, but don't know where to start?

Whether you're looking to access capital or disaster assistance through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) or address natural resource concerns on your land with assistance from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a great place to start is farmers.gov.

Farmers.gov is a one-stop shop for information about the assistance available from FSA and NRCS. The site also offers many easy-to-use tools for farmers, ranchers, and private forestland owners, whether you are reaching out for the first time or are a long-term customer with a years-long relationship with USDA.

With a farmers.gov account you can:

- Complete an AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet, prior to your first meeting with FSA and NRCS.
- View farm loan payments history from FSA.
- View cost share assistance received and anticipated from NRCS conservation programs.
- Request conservation assistance from NRCS as well as view and track your conservation plans, practices, and contracts.
- View, print, and export detailed farm records and farm/tract maps for the current year, which are particularly useful when fulfilling acreage reporting requirements.
- Print FSA-156 EZ, Abbreviated Farm Record and your Producer Farm Data Report for the current year.
- Pay FSA debt using the "Make an FSA Payment" feature
- Apply for a farm loan online, view information on your existing loans, and make USDA direct farm loan payments using the Pay My Loan feature.

Learn how to create a farmers.gov account today!

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Applying for Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to help you build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, controlled atmosphere storage, floriculture, hops, malted small grains, maple sap, maple syrup, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to $50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement, loans between $50,000 and $100,000 may require additional security, and loans exceeding $100,000 require additional security.

You do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

For more information, visit fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.

USDA Farm Service Agency Now Accepting Applications for Second Stage of Crop Disaster Assistance

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is delivering more than $16 billion in total Congressionally approved disaster relief. FSA is accepting applications for assistance through the second stage of the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) from agricultural producers who suffered eligible non-indemnified, uncovered or quality crop losses due to qualifying natural disasters in 2023 and 2024.

Stage Two covers eligible crop, tree, bush and vine losses that were not covered under Stage One program provisions, including non-indemnified (shallow loss), uncovered and quality losses. Although the majority of payments from the first stage are already in the hands of producers helping them prepare for and invest in the next crop year, Stage One assistance, announced in July, remains available to producers who received an indemnity under crop insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for eligible crop losses due to qualifying 2023 and 2024 natural disaster events.

The deadline to apply for both Stage One and Stage Two assistance is April 30, 2026.

SDRP Stage Two Program Details

SDRP Stage Two provides assistance for eligible crop, tree, bush and vine losses not covered under Stage One, including:

- **Non-Indemnified Losses (Including Shallow Losses)**
  - Insured losses through federal crop insurance that did not trigger a crop insurance indemnity.
  - Losses with NAP coverage that did not trigger a NAP payment.
- **Uncovered Losses (Uninsured Losses)**
  - Includes losses that were not insured through federal crop insurance or NAP.
- **Quality Losses**
  - Includes quality losses to commodities indicated by:
    - A decrease in value based on discounts due to the physical condition of the crop supported by applicable grading factors
    - A decline in the nutritional value of forage crops supported by documented forage tests.
  - Producers will certify to an SDRP quality loss percentage.

FSA is establishing block grants with Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, and Massachusetts that cover crop losses; therefore, producers with losses on land physically located in these states are not eligible for SDRP program payments.

For information on program eligibility and to download an application checklist, visit fsa.usda.gov/sdrp.

To make an appointment to apply, contact your local service center.

Iowa FSA State Office

10500 Buena Vista Court

Des Moines, IA 50322

Phone: 515-254-1540

Service Center Locator

Farm Service Agency

State Executive Director - Starlyn Perdue

Deputy State Executive Director - Karen Rawson