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FSA October Payments

CRP/CREP Annual Rental Payments and 2022 ARCPLC, if triggered by revenue/price loss, will be released by mid-October. Once funding is released, by statute, FSA has 30 calendar days to transmit payments.

Do we have your current banking information? If not, please complete and return this [form](#) to your local county office along with a voided check from your bank account as soon as possible.

Once payments are transmitted, please allow three business days for banks to credit your account. (Note - all contract and eligibility requirements must have been met before payment can be transmitted.)



USDA Makes More Grants Available for Meat and Poultry Processors

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Acting Under Secretary Roger Glendenning announced that USDA is making more funding available for meat and

poultry processors to expand operations, transform the food supply chain and create new and better markets for producers.

This funding advances President Biden's commitment to grow the economy from the bottom up and middle out by creating good-paying jobs and opportunities in every community.

"The Biden-Harris Administration and USDA are committed to transforming our food system to one that creates new markets for our small and mid-sized farming and ranching operations while protecting opportunity in our rural communities for generations to come," Glendenning said. "The funding we're making available today to meat and poultry processors will not only give producers more options, but also create good paying jobs and build greater resilience in our overall food system."

USDA is partnering with the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund to make available \$123 million in grants through the [Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program](#). The program is part of a series of actions the Biden-Harris Administration has taken to promote a fairer, more competitive and more resilient meat and poultry supply chain.

The grants will help independent businesses build and modernize processing facilities and equipment, adopt new technologies and train workers, among other activities.

Eligible projects may receive grants from \$250,000 up to \$10 million. Successful applicants must be able to cover 70% of their total project cost.

Applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET on Nov. 22, 2023. Details on eligibility and requirements are available on [Grants.gov](#).

Background: Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program

The [Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program](#) provides grants to help eligible independent processors to expand their capacity. USDA Rural Development designed the program to encourage competition and sustainable growth in the U.S. meat processing sector and to help improve supply chain resiliency.

USDA already has awarded more than \$200 million to independent businesses under the program. These projects have created thousands of jobs across the country. Learn more about USDA's investments to strengthen the meat and poultry supply chain at [usda.gov/meat](#).

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA Rural Development provides loans, loan guarantees and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit [www.rd.usda.gov](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate-smart food and forestry practices,

making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

To subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit the [GovDelivery subscriber page](#).

Avoid Scams Related to USDA Financial Assistance for Farmers Facing Discrimination

The Inflation Reduction Act provides \$2.2 billion in financial assistance for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA's farm lending programs prior to January 1, 2021.

USDA has become aware of some lawyers and groups spreading misleading information about this process, pressuring people to sign retainer agreements, and asking people to fill out forms with private and sensitive information.

Application forms for this program **are not yet available** and the **application filing period has not started**. Before the application process opens, USDA will publish a list of trusted community organizations located across the country that will provide **FREE** help completing applications.

Please beware of organizations seeking to file your application for a fee. Filing an application for the program will be **FREE**. You **will not** need a lawyer to file an application for this program. If you feel the need for legal advice, seek the assistance of a trusted, licensed attorney.

Beware of solicitations by mail, email, or phone calls from individuals claiming to be connected to USDA. **USDA will not solicit you for information.**

The most up-to-date information on this program will be posted at www.farmers.gov/22007, a USDA website. Please check there for any concerns or reach out to your local FSA office. To find your local office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

If you believe there is an organization conducting a scam related to this process, please contact the USDA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) or any other appropriate authorities. The USDA OIG hotline can be accessed online at <https://usdaoig.oversight.gov/hotline> and by phone at (800) 424-9121.

September Interest Rates

[Click here for September 2023 Lending Rates for Agricultural Producers.](#)

Dates to Remember

- **September 30, 2023** - Deadline to sign 2023 ARCPLC contracts
- **September 30, 2023** - NAP coverage application closing date – biennial and perennial forage crops, alfalfa, grass forages, mixed forages and other forages
- **September 30, 2023** - Acreage reporting deadline - value-loss (ie -oysters) and controlled environment crops (except nursery)
- **October 31, 2023** - Application deadline for [Organic Certification Cost-Share Program](#)
- **October 31, 2023** - Discrimination Financial Assistance Application deadline
- **November 6, 2023** - County Committee election ballots mailed for areas with elections.
- **November 20, 2023** - NAP closing date for perennial crops (other than those intended for forage), peaches, apples, cherries, grapes and berries.
- **December 1, 2023** - NAP closing date for honey
- **December 4, 2023** - Deadline to postmark COC ballots or return them to county office.
- **December 15, 2023** - Fall-seeded small grains included barley, wheat, rye, triticale, etc. for harvest, fall planted fruits and vegetables and cover crop can also be reported.
- **December 31, 2023** - NAP closing date for potatoes



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