

April 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Wisconsin FSA Newsletter

Wisconsin Farm Service Agency **A Message from the SED**

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State Executive Director:
Sandy Chalmers

Farm Loan Chief:
Tom Brandt

Farm Program Chiefs:
Greg Biba
John Palmer

We know farmers are resilient and the Farm Service Agency in Wisconsin will continue to deliver the disaster assistance, safety net, farm loan and conservation programs that keep American agriculture in business today and long into the future.

On April 17, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). This \$19 billion immediate relief program will provide critical support to farmers and ranchers and maintain the integrity of our food supply chain, and ensure every American continues to receive and have access to the food they need. CFAP will use the funding and authorities provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), and other USDA existing authorities. The program includes two major elements to achieve these goals, including direct support to farmers and ranchers and USDA purchase and distribution. [Learn more.](#)

Further details regarding eligibility, rates, and other implementation will be released at a later date.

For the latest updates on the CFAP, and other Frequently Asked Questions, visit usda.gov/coronavirus.

State Committee:

Lisa Condon, Chair
Thomas Gillis
David Heideman
Tom McClellan

www.fsa.usda.gov/wi

Our USDA Service Centers in Wisconsin will continue to be open for business by phone appointment only and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While our program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with our producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the Farm Service Agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment.

I also encourage you to visit farmers.gov/coronavirus to keep up-to-date on temporary program flexibilities available as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With much appreciation for the job you do,

Sandy Chalmers

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Dates to Remember

May 1, 2020: [NAP Application](#) deadline to purchase loss coverage for 2021 Nursery Crops

May 15, 2020: Deadline to submit offer under [Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\) Grasslands](#)

May 31, 2020: Last day to obtain a [Marketing Assistance Loan](#) on 2019 coarse grain crops

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Join USDA in Following the #Plant2020 Progress

Spring planting is underway in Wisconsin and we're following the progress as farmers complete field prep and plant their spring crops. We invite you to follow along or get involved by sharing your **#Plant2020** photos and videos. To view the **#Plant2020** progress, visit <https://arcg.is/1SmeuK>.

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USDA Offers Individuals Options to Complete Business Online

Farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers have online options to access U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs, including Farm Service Agency's Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC), Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs), producer farm data, such as Common Land Unit data through [FSAfarm+](#), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service's [Conservation Client Gateway](#) .

Producers doing business as an individual with these agencies first need to sign up for the Level 2 eAuthentication access. Currently USDA eAuthentication does not have the mechanism to issue accounts to businesses, corporations, other entities or for anyone acting on behalf of another individual or entity.

Users with a secure Level 2 eAuthentication ID linked to their USDA customer record can apply for select USDA programs, view and print farm maps and farm records data. Enrolling is easy!

1. Contact your local service center to confirm you have a USDA customer record with a primary email address. Use our [Service Center Locator](#) to find your local office.
2. Navigate to the [eAuth Account Registration page](#).
3. Select "Customer" on the registration page.
4. Enter your primary email address, which should match what USDA has on your customer record. You will receive an email from eAuth asking you to confirm your email address. Click the "Continue Registration" link in this email to continue the registration process.
Note: When you log in, your User ID will be your email address.
5. Next, enter your name and set a password.
6. Finally, you will need to verify your identity. You will be taken to a page where you will need to provide information such as your date of birth and residential address, and then can verify your identity online. If you are unable to verify your identity online, [contact your local USDA Service Center](#).

Visit farmers.gov/sign-in to learn more. To locate a Service Center near you or use online services not requiring eAuthentication access, visit farmers.gov. For technical assistance, call the eAuthentication help desk at 1-800-457-3642.

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FSA Adds Farm Loan Flexibilities

Farm loans are critical for annual operating and family living expenses, emergency needs and cash flow, especially in tough times. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is providing additional flexibilities to provide producers with credit options. We encourage direct loan applicants and borrowers to contact their county office to discuss these programs and any current, and future, temporary changes to farm loan deadlines and the loan servicing options available. Customers participating in FSA's guaranteed loan programs are encouraged to contact their lender. For a full list of flexibilities, visit farmers.gov/coronavirus.

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Farmers.gov Feature Enables USDA Customers to Manage Farm Loans Online

Do you have loans through USDA? If so, you can login to view loan information, history and payments through farmers.gov, USDA's self-service website available to agricultural producers.

Using a desktop, tablet, or phone, the "My Financial Information" feature enables you to view:

- loan information;
- interest payments for the current calendar year (including year-to-date interest paid for the past five years);
- loan advance and payment history;
- paid-in-full and restructured loans; and
- account alerts giving borrowers important notifications regarding their loans.

Currently, access is only available for customers doing business as individuals. Entities, such as an LLC or Trust, can't access the portal at this time, but access is being planned.

Users are recommended to use Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and Microsoft Edge.

USDA Continues Conservation Planning and Programs for America's Farmers and Ranchers- NRCS Services Available by Phone Appointment Only

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field offices are open by phone appointment only until further notice, and NRCS staff are available to continue to provide one-on-one, customer-specific advice to producers to help them meet their unique conservation and business goals.

All USDA Service Centers, including those NRCS field offices, are not currently accessible to customers in person.

NRCS staff are working with customers through phone, mail and online communications, and field work continues with appropriate social distancing to help producers with conservation planning and financial assistance through Farm Bill programs.

NRCS offers year-round continuous signup for its Farm Bill programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. Call respective NRCS field offices about sign up and application submission options.

Additionally, NRCS continues projects with partners, including universities, local and state governments, tribes, nonprofits, and others. NRCS will continue to award projects and to call for proposals for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Conservation Innovation Grants and the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program.

Online services are available to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the farmers.gov portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and payments and view and track certain USDA program applications and payments. Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at farmers.gov/sign-in. Online NRCS services are available to customers through the [Conservation Client Gateway link](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov) which can be found at www.nrcs.usda.gov. Customers can track payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance and electronically sign documents.

For the most current updates on available services and Service Center contact information, visit farmers.gov/coronavirus.

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USDA Adds Flexibilities for Crop Insurance to Support America's Farmers and Ranchers

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is authorizing additional flexibilities due to coronavirus while continuing to support producers, working through Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) to deliver services, including processing policies, claims and agreements. These flexibilities include: enabling producers to send notifications and reports electronically, extending the date for production reports and providing additional time and deferring interest on premium and other payments.

Electronic Notifications Allowed for Required Reports

Producers may send notifications and reports electronically for written agreement issues, acreage and production reporting and upcoming sales closing dates (deadlines to buy crop insurance). Notice of the policyholder's election may be provided over the phone with appropriate documentation of the call or using electronic methods followed by their confirmation of such election in writing (a signed, or e-signed, form) no later than July 15, 2020.

Production Reporting Date Extended

For the 2020 crop year, AIPs may accept production reports through the earlier of the acreage reporting date (ARD) or 30 days after the production reporting date (PRD) for crops insured under the Common Crop Insurance Policy Basic Provisions with a PRD of March 15, 2020, or later. Generally, the PRD for crops insured under the Common Crop Insurance Policy Basic Provisions is the earlier of the ARD or 45 days after the cancellation date.

Additional Time Given and Interest Deferred on Premium Payments, Written Payment Agreements

AIPs are authorized to provide additional time for policyholders to make payment of premium and administrative fees. Interest accrual on premium payments and administrative fees will be waived to the earliest of an additional 60 days from the scheduled payment due date or the termination date on policies with premium billing dates between March 1, 2020, and April 30, 2020. AIPs are also authorized to provide additional time for policyholders to make payment for Written Payment Agreements due between March 1, 2020, and April 30, 2020. Payments may be extended up to 60 days from the scheduled payment due date and considered a timely payment.

RMA staff are working with AIPs and other customers by phone, mail and electronically to continue supporting crop insurance coverage for producers. Farmers with crop insurance questions or needs should continue to contact their insurance agents about conducting business remotely (by telephone or email).

For the most current updates on available services, visit farmers.gov/coronavirus.

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April Interest Rates

*Interest rates are announced at the beginning of each month.

[Click here to find notification of current FSFL and commodity loan interest rates](#)

[Click here to view current Farm Loan interest rates](#)

Farm Loan Interest Rates	April 2020
Farm Operating- Direct	2.375%
Farm Operating- Microloan	2.375%
Farm Ownership- Direct	3.000%
Farm Ownership- Microloan	3.000%
Farm Ownership- Direct, Joint Financing	2.500%
Farm Ownership- Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loan- Amount of Actual Loss	3.375%

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)	April 2020
3-year FSFL	0.750%
5-year FSFL	0.750%
7-year FSFL	1.000%
10-year FSFL	1.000%
12-year FSFL	1.125%

9-Month Commodity Loans	April 2020
Marketing Assistance Loan	1.625%

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).
