

August 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

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Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [A Message from the SED](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)
- [USDA Announces Flexibilities for Producers Filing 'Notice of Loss' for Failed, Prevented Planted Acres in the 2020 Crop Year](#)
- [Additional Commodities Eligible for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program](#)
- [FSA Reminds Producers of Ongoing Disaster Assistance Program Signup](#)
- [FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans](#)
- [One-Time PLC Yield Updates – Deadline September 30](#)
- [More than 1.2 million acres accepted for Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands](#)
- [August Interest Rates](#)

Wisconsin FSA Newsletter

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

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Sandy Chalmers

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First off, I want to send a huge thank you to our Wisconsin FSA customers. This has been a stressful and challenging time for American agriculture, and FSA has been tasked with providing assistance and flexibility to help soften the impacts of COVID. We appreciate the patience and willingness of our producers to move to new ways of interacting with FSA employees, while the usual face-to-face appointments are not possible. We are getting especially positive feedback from producers on the use of electronic signatures, which saves a trip to the office and shortens turnaround times.

If you have not yet signed up for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), remember that the deadline is rapidly approaching. Wisconsin continues to rank fourth in the nation in CFAP payments, with \$389.3 million in this critical assistance paid on 15,360 applications. CFAP is not a grant or loan program – it

John Palmer

State Committee:

Lisa Condon, Chair
Thomas Gillis
David Heideman
Tom McClellan

www.fsa.usda.gov/wi

provides direct cash payments to producers impacted by COVID and market impacts. There is no minimum income requirement to participate in FSA programs.

If you know a beef, hog, or specialty crop producer who may not have regular interaction with FSA, please let them know about CFAP. I also encourage every dairy operation to sign up – about 70 percent of the CFAP payments in Wisconsin are on milk production. More information can be found at farmers.gov/cfap.

Because of the pandemic, producers have until August 14 to file their acreage reports without paying late fees. If you receive an envelope or voice message from your FSA office, please respond right away – we are reminding you that acreage reports must be signed and returned to FSA to be complete.

Producers must file a timely acreage report to be eligible for FSA programs, and late fees can quickly add up to several thousand dollars. Please take care of this right away – it will save you money and keep you eligible for FSA programs.

Have a great August, and we hope to see you again soon.

Sandy Chalmers

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Dates to Remember

August 14, 2020: Final date to file an acreage report (FSA-578) and/or Notice of Loss (CCC-576) for 2020 crops that initially had an acreage reporting deadline of July 15, 2020 (Late-filing provisions have been waived 30 for days).

August 15, 2020: Deadline to complete [acreage report](#) for all processing snap beans and cabbage (Acreage reports for these crops will be considered timely filed with the late-file fee waived if filed before September 14, 2020.)

August 28, 2020: Deadline to submit application for [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program](#) (CFAP)

[BACK TO TOP](#)

USDA Announces Flexibilities for Producers Filing ‘Notice of Loss’ for Failed, Prevented Planted Acres in the 2020 Crop Year

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing additional flexibilities for producers to file on acres with failed crops or crops that were prevented from planting because of extreme weather events for the 2020 crop year. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) is adding these flexibilities for

Notice of Loss on both insured and uninsured crops to enable Service Centers to best assist producers. All Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) participating crops must adhere to the original deadlines.

Filing for Prevented Planted Acres

For insured crops, producers who timely filed a prevented planted claim with their insurance company but filed a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) form after the deadline will be considered timely filed for FSA purposes. FSA can use data from the Risk Management Agency (RMA) for accepting the report of prevented planting with FSA. If the information is not available through RMA, the producer may also provide proper evidence to FSA that the prevented planted claim was timely filed with their insurance company.

For uninsured crops, producers may start a Notice of Loss ([CCC-576](#)) by calling their FSA county office, or they may print and complete the Notice of Loss (CCC 576) form from home and send to their county office. For prevented planted acreage, Notice of Loss forms mailed to the FSA office must be postmarked by August 14, 2020 to be considered timely filed. For all prevented planted cases, the Report of Acreage (FSA-578) form and the completed and signed Notice of Loss (CCC-576) must be filed by August 14, 2020.

Filing for Failed Acres

For failed acreage of uninsured crops, the Notice of Loss (CCC-576) must be completed, signed and verified by the later of the disposition of the crop or by August 14, 2020.

When to File a 'Notice of Loss'

A Notice of Loss cannot be filed for a crop before the final planting date, but it can be filed before completing the crop acreage report.

More Information

Producers who miss FSA's [July 15 acreage reporting deadline](#) will not face a late filing fee if filed within 30 days of the deadline.

For questions, please contact your FSA county office. To locate your FSA county office at your Service Center, visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Additional Commodities Eligible for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced an initial list of additional commodities that have been added to the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), and that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) made other adjustments to the program based on comments received from agricultural producers and organizations and review of market data. Producers were able to submit applications that include these commodities starting Monday, July 13, 2020. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting through Aug. 28, 2020, applications for CFAP, which helps offset price declines and additional marketing costs because of the coronavirus pandemic. USDA expects additional eligible commodities to be announced in the coming weeks.

USDA collected comments and supporting data for consideration of additional commodities through June 22, 2020.

Changes to CFAP include:

- Adding the following commodities: alfalfa sprouts, anise, arugula, basil, bean sprouts, beets, blackberries, Brussels sprouts, celeriac (celery root), chives, cilantro, coconuts, collard greens, dandelion greens, greens (others not listed separately), guava, kale greens, lettuce – including Boston, green leaf, Lolla Rossa, oak leaf green, oak leaf red and red leaf – marjoram, mint, mustard, okra, oregano, parsnips, passion fruit, peas (green), pineapple, pistachios, radicchio, rosemary, sage, savory, sorrel, fresh sugarcane, Swiss chard, thyme and turnip top greens.
- Expanding for seven currently eligible commodities – apples, blueberries, garlic, potatoes, raspberries, tangerines and taro – CARES Act funding for sales losses because USDA found these commodities had a 5 percent or greater price decline between mid-January and mid-April as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Originally, these commodities were only eligible for marketing adjustments.
- Determining that peaches and rhubarb no longer qualify for payment under the CARES Act sales loss category.
- Correcting payment rates for apples, artichokes, asparagus, blueberries, cantaloupes, cucumbers, garlic, kiwifruit, mushrooms, papaya, peaches, potatoes, raspberries, rhubarb, tangerines and taro.

Additional details can be found in the Federal Register in the [Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#) and [Final Rule Correction](#) and at www.farmers.gov/cfap.

Producers have several options for applying to the CFAP program:

- Using an online portal, accessible at farmers.gov/cfap, allows producers with secure USDA login credentials—known as eAuthentication—to certify eligible commodities online, digitally sign applications and submit directly to the local USDA Service Center. New commodities will be available in the system on July 13, 2020.
- Completing the application form using our CFAP Application Generator and Payment Calculator found at farmers.gov/cfap. This Excel workbook allows customers to input information specific to their operation to determine estimated payments and populate the application form, which can be printed, then signed and submitted to their local USDA Service Center. An updated version with the new commodities will be available on the website on July 13, 2020.
- Downloading the AD-3114 application form from farmers.gov/cfap and manually completing the form to submit to the local USDA Service Center by mail, electronically or by hand delivery to an office drop box. In some limited cases, the office may be open for in-person business by appointment. Visit farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status to check the status of your local office.

USDA Service Centers can also work with producers to complete and securely transmit digitally signed applications through two commercially available tools: Box and OneSpan. Producers who are interested in digitally signing their applications should notify their local service centers when calling to discuss the CFAP application process. You can learn more about these solutions at farmers.gov/mydocs.

Getting Help from FSA

New customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer general assistance. This is a

recommended first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office at their local USDA Service Center.

All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from farmers.gov/cfap. For existing FSA customers, these documents are likely already on file.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

FSA Reminds Producers of Ongoing Disaster Assistance Program Signup

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has started making payments through the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program – Plus (WHIP+) to agricultural producers who suffered eligible losses because of drought or excess moisture in 2018 and 2019. Signup for these causes of loss opened March 23, and producers who suffered losses from drought (in counties designated D3 or above), excess moisture, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, snowstorms or wildfires can still apply for assistance through WHIP+.

To be eligible for WHIP+, producers must have suffered losses of certain crops, trees, bushes or vines in counties with a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or a Secretarial Disaster Designation (primary counties only) for qualifying natural disaster events that occurred in calendar years 2018 or 2019. Also, losses located in a county not designated by the Secretary as a primary county may be eligible if a producer provides documentation showing that the loss was due to a qualifying natural disaster event.

For losses due to drought, a producer is eligible if any area of the county in which the loss occurred was rated D3, or extreme drought, or higher on the U.S. Drought Monitor during calendar years 2018 or 2019. Producers who suffered losses should contact their FSA county office.

In addition to the recently added eligible losses of drought and excess moisture, FSA will implement a WHIP+ provision for crop quality loss that resulted in price deductions or penalties when marketing crops damaged by eligible disaster events. To ensure an effective program for all impacted farmers, the Agency is currently gathering information on the extent of quality loss from producers and stakeholder organizations.

USDA Service Centers, including FSA county offices, are open for business by phone only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information on Service Centers can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus, and more information on WHIP+ can be found at farmers.gov/whip-plus.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](#) are a resource to help farmers and ranchers become owner-operators of family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.

Depending on the applicant's needs, there are three types of Direct Farm Ownership Loans: regular, down payment and joint financing. FSA also offers a [Direct Farm Ownership Microloan](#) option for smaller financial needs up to \$50,000.

Joint financing allows FSA to provide more farmers and ranchers with access to capital. FSA lends up to 50 percent of the total amount financed. A commercial lender, a State program or the seller of the property being purchased, provides the balance of loan funds, with or without an FSA guarantee. The maximum loan amount for a Joint Financing loan is \$600,000 and the repayment period for the loan is up to 40 years.

To be eligible, the operation must be an eligible farm enterprise. Farm Ownership loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises and all applicants must be able to meet general eligibility requirements. Loan applicants are also required to have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least three years out of the 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted. The applicant must show documentation that their participation in the business operation of the farm or ranch was not solely as a laborer.

For more information about FSA Loan programs, contact your local FSA office or visit fsa.usda.gov. To find your local FSA office, visit offices.usda.gov.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

One-Time PLC Yield Updates – Deadline September 30

Farm owners have a one-time opportunity to update PLC yields of covered commodities on the farm, regardless of Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program election. The deadline to request a PLC yield update is September 30, 2020.

The updated yield will be equal to 90 percent of the average yield per planted acre in crop years 2013-2017 (excluding any year where the applicable covered commodity was not planted), subject to the ratio obtained by dividing the 2008-2012 average national yield by the 2013-2017 average national yield for the covered commodity. If the reported yield in any year is less than 75 percent of the 2013-2017 average county yield, then the yield will be substituted with 75 percent of the county average yield.

The chart below provides the ratio obtained by dividing the 2008-2012 average national yield by the 2013-2017 average national yield for each covered commodity.

Covered Commodity	National Yield Factor
Barley	0.9437
Canola	0.9643
Chickpeas, Large	1.0000
Chickpeas, Small	0.9760
Corn	0.9000

Crambe	1.0000
Flaxseed	1.0000
Grain Sorghum	0.9077
Lentils	1.0000
Mustard Seed	0.9460
Oats	0.9524
Peanuts	0.9273
Peas, Dry	0.9988
Rapeseed	1.0000
Rice, Long	0.9330
Rice, Medium	0.9887
Rice, Temp Japonica	0.9591
Safflower	1.0000
Seed Cotton	0.9000
Sesame Seed	0.9673
Soybeans	0.9000
Sunflower Seed	0.9396
Wheat	0.9545

It is the owner's choice whether to update or keep existing PLC yields. If a yield update is not made, then no action is required to maintain the existing PLC yield. An existing or updated PLC yield will be maintained and effective for crop years 2020 through 2023 (life of the 2018 Farm Bill).

PLC yields may be updated on a covered commodity-by-covered commodity basis using FSA form [CCC-867](#).

For more information, reference resources and decision tools, visit farmers.gov/arc-plc. Contact your local Farm Service Agency Office for assistance – farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

More than 1.2 million acres accepted for Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands

More than 1.2 million acres were accepted in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands during the recent signup period that began March 16 and ended May 15.

Through CRP Grasslands, participants retain the right to conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow or harvest seed from the enrolled land. Timing of some activities may be restricted by the primary nesting season of birds.

Participants will receive an annual rental payment and may receive up to 50 percent cost-share for establishing approved conservation practices. The duration of the CRP contract is 10 or 15 years. FSA ranked offers using a number of factors, including existence of expiring CRP land, threat of conversion or development, existing grassland and predominance of native species cover and cost.

The 2018 Farm Bill set aside 2 million acres for CRP Grassland enrollment. CRP is one of the largest conservation programs at USDA. CRP marks its 35-year anniversary in 2020 with 22 million acres currently enrolled.

For more information or to enroll in CRP Grasslands, contact your local FSA county office or visit fsa.usda.gov/crp. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

August 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 August 2020

Farm Operating- Direct	1.375%
Farm Operating- Microloan	1.375%
Farm Ownership- Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership- Microloan	2.375%
Farm Ownership- Direct, Joint Financing	2.500%
Farm Ownership- Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loan- Amount of Actual Loss	2.375%

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) August 2020

3-year FSFL	0.250%
5-year FSFL	0.250%
7-year FSFL	0.500%
10-year FSFL	0.625%
12-year FSFL	0.750%

9-Month Commodity Loans August 2020

Marketing Assistance Loan	1.125%
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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).