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| **November 2020**  NL Masthead  **South Dakota FSA Newsletter**   * [Apply Now for USDA’s Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2771599/edit#link_1) * [Enrollment Begins for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs for 2021](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2771599/edit#link_2) * [Dairy Margin Coverage Program Enrollment for 2021 Opens Oct. 13](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2771599/edit#link_3) * [Environmental Review Required Before Project Implementation](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2771599/edit#link_4) * [Obtaining Payments due to Deceased Producers](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2771599/edit#link_5) * [Update Your Records](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2771599/edit#link_6) * [Making Farm Reconstitutions](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2771599/edit#link_7) * [FSA Outlines MAL and LDP Policy](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2771599/edit#link_8) * [FSA is Accepting CRP Continuous Enrollment Offers](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2771599/edit#link_9) * [Disaster Assistance Available for Livestock Losses](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2771599/edit#link_10) * [Disaster Assistance for 2020 Livestock Forage Losses](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2771599/edit#link_11) * [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2771599/edit#link_12) * [Report Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2771599/edit#link_13) * [Reminders for FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security](https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/2771599/edit#link_14) |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **South Dakota Farm Service Agency**  200 4th St SW  Huron, SD 57350  Phone:  605-352-1160 Fax:  855-243-6003  [www.fsa.usda.gov/sd](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/xx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)    **Acting State Executive Director:**  Jamie White  **State Committee:** Mark Gross, Chairman  Tiffani Robertson, Member  Bill Simonson, Member  Gwen Kitzan, Member  Kelsey Ducheneauz, Member    **Program Managers:**  Owen Fagerhaug *Conservation/Safety Net*  Theresa Hoadley *Program Delivery/Price Support*  LaDonna Hupp *Farm Loan Program*    To find contact information for your local office go to www.fsa.usda.gov/sd | **Apply Now for USDA’s Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2**  *Application Deadline is December 11*  U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers and ranchers that the deadline to apply for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) is Dec. 11, 2020. This program provides direct relief to producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19.  CFAP 2 will provide up to $14 billion to eligible producers of certain row crops, livestock, dairy, specialty crops, aquaculture and more. All eligible commodities, payment rates and calculations can be found on [farmers.gov/cfap](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). CFAP 2 is a separate program from the first iteration of the program (CFAP 1) and interested producers must complete a new application to be eligible for payment for CFAP 2.  Customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 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.  **Application Options**  Producers have several options for applying to the CFAP 2 program by the Dec. 11 deadline:   * Using an online portal at [farmers.gov/cfap](https://www.farmers.gov/cfap?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). This 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. * Completing the application form using our CFAP 2 Application Generator and Payment Calculator found at [farmers.gov/cfap](https://www.farmers.gov/cfap?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). 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. * Downloading the AD-3117 application form from [farmers.gov/cfap](https://www.farmers.gov/cfap?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) 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](https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) 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 FSA office when calling to discuss the CFAP 2 application process. You can learn more about these solutions at [farmers.gov/mydocs](https://www.farmers.gov/mydocs?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).Producers of commodities with payments based on acreage will use acreage and yield information provided by FSA through the annual acreage reporting process. Producers have the option to complete their application by working directly with their local FSA office or online through the CFAP 2 Application Portal.   All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from [farmers.gov/cfap/apply](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap/apply?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). For existing FSA customers, including those who participated in CFAP 1, these documents are likely already on file.      Both CFAP 1 and CFAP 2 are self-certification programs, which means the applicant certifies the information submitted is correct. FSA will soon begin an important step in the internal controls portion of CFAP 1 by conducting spot checks. Producers have been randomly selected using a statistically sound methodology. These CFAP 1 applicants will be contacted by FSA staff and asked to provide supporting documentation to verify the information certified by the producer on their CFAP 1 application.  As of Nov. 9, FSA has paid more than $9.5 billion with more than 576,000 applications for CFAP 2. This builds upon more than $10.3 billion paid through CFAP 1.  **More Information**   To find the latest information on CFAP 2, visit [farmers.gov/cfap](https://www.farmers.gov/cfap?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) or call 877-508-8364 | |
| **Enrollment Begins for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs for 2021**  Agricultural producers can now make elections and enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2021 crop year. The signup period opened Tuesday, Oct. 13.  These key U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) safety-net programs help producers weather fluctuations in either revenue or price for certain crops, and more than $5 billion in payments are in the process of going out to producers who signed up for the 2019 crop year.  Enrollment for the 2021 crop year closes March 15, 2021.  ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level. PLC provides income support payments on historical base acres when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its reference price.  Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.  **2021 Elections and Enrollment**  Producers can elect coverage and enroll in crop-by-crop ARC-County or PLC, or ARC-Individual for the entire farm, for the 2021 crop year. Although election changes for 2021 are optional, enrollment (signed contract) is required for each year of the program. If a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2021, it will be necessary to sign a new contract.  If an election is not submitted by the deadline of March 15, 2021, the election defaults to the current election for crops on the farm from the prior crop year.  For crop years 2022 and 2023, producers will have an opportunity to make new elections during those signups. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.  **2019 Crop Year ARC and PLC Payments**  FSA began processing payments last week for 2019 ARC-County (ARC-CO) and PLC on covered commodities that met payment triggers on farms enrolled for the 2019 crop year. In addition to the $5 billion now in process, FSA anticipates it will issue additional payments by the end of November for 2019 commodities covered under ARC-Individual (ARC-IC) and additional commodities that trigger PLC and ARC-CO payments for which rates have not yet been published  Producers who had 2019 covered commodities enrolled in ARC-CO can visit the [ARC and PLC webpage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?data=04%7C01%7C%7C7927dde7a5a140fd9e4108d87c2778f1%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637395856261304709%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&reserved=0&sdata=QzhBRBCy3GGNER6tzczVmr6v1%2FHLD19Ap2g5qUFN1ZY%3D&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Farcplc_program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) for payment rates applicable to their county and each covered commodity. For farms and covered commodities enrolled in 2019 PLC, the following crops met payment triggers: barley, canola, chickpeas (small and large), corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, peanuts, seed cotton and wheat.  Oats and soybeans did not meet 2019 PLC payment triggers.  2019 PLC payment rates for the following covered commodities have not been determined: crambe, flaxseed, long and medium grain rice, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed, sunflower seed and temperate Japonica rice. Payment rates for these commodities will be announced at a later date.  **Web-Based Decision Tools**  In partnership with USDA, the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University offer web-based decision tools to assist producers in making informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. Tools include:   * [Gardner-farmdoc Payment Calculator](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?data=04%7C01%7C%7C7927dde7a5a140fd9e4108d87c2778f1%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637395856261304709%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&reserved=0&sdata=UuxxjcKvMO4DFsGqxOrxogQBPMAdQr7ZGO0NA0eiVa0%3D&url=https%3A%2F%2Ffarmdocdaily.illinois.edu%2F2019%2F08%2Fintroducing-the-gardner-farmdoc-payment-calculator.html%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), the University of Illinois tool that offers farmers the ability to run payment estimate modeling for their farms and counties for ARC-County and PLC. * [ARC and PLC Decision Tool](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?data=04%7C01%7C%7C7927dde7a5a140fd9e4108d87c2778f1%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637395856261314665%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&reserved=0&sdata=OcD62mTpEITzyuI8DfbJvrDmeXWtt%2FYzVp9s5ngIyi0%3D&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.afpc.tamu.edu%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), the Texas A&M tool allows producers to analyze payment yield updates and expected payments for 2021. Producers who have used the tool in the past should see their username and much of their farm data already available in the system.   **More Information**  For more information on ARC and PLC, including two online decision tools that assist producers in making enrollment and election decisions specific to their operations, visit the [ARC and PLC webpage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?data=04%7C01%7C%7C7927dde7a5a140fd9e4108d87c2778f1%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637395856261314665%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&reserved=0&sdata=YXHrSHnQl%2BhEhq%2FzLf6bZeS0ik4gc4k22Knh8GDgbxI%3D&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Farcplc_program%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  For additional questions and assistance, contact your local USDA service center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  **Dairy Margin Coverage Program Enrollment for 2021 Opens Oct. 13**  The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin accepting applications for the [Dairy Margin Coverage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?data=02%7C01%7C%7C678e3f637f0141c56a8a08d86a0b0a6e%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637375942935578910&reserved=0&sdata=iYVWfPM1TSTk3hBxO6FufXbpx1OHXcjKpqewf3t7su4%3D&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-bill%2Ffarm-safety-net%2Fdairy-programs%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) (DMC) program on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 for 2021 enrollment.  Signup runs through Dec. 11, 2020. DMC is a voluntary risk management program that offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. DMC payments triggered for seven months in 2019 and three months so far in 2020. More than 23,000 operations enrolled in DMC in 2019, and more than 13,000 in 2020.  To determine the appropriate level of coverage for a specific dairy operation, producers can utilize the recently updated online dairy decision tool. The [decision tool](https://dairymarkets.org/dmc?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) is designed to assist producers with calculating total premium costs and administrative fees associated with participation in DMC. An [informational video](https://dairymarkets.org/dmc?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) is available, too.  Improvements to the decision tool, made in cooperation with representatives from the University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin, include historical analysis that illustrates what DMC indemnity payments might have been had the program been available over the previous two decades.  The analysis indicates that over the course of time, DMC payments made to producers exceed premiums paid. These decision tool enhancements provide a more comprehensive decision support experience for producers considering DMC.  In addition to DMC, USDA offers a variety of programs that have helped dairy producers, including insurance, disaster assistance, and conservation programs. Most recently, the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 1 provided $1.75 billion in direct relief to dairy producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19 in early 2020. Now, signup is underway for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2, which provides another round of assistance for dairy producers and many other eligible producers.  For more information, visit [farmers.gov DMC webpage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?data=02%7C01%7C%7C678e3f637f0141c56a8a08d86a0b0a6e%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637375942935588865&reserved=0&sdata=XnnTjNqiFIXt9cME0xLtiZhqW4KKL6M07Gb%2BoGKDzXY%3D&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-bill%2Ffarm-safety-net%2Fdairy-programs%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), or contact your local USDA Service Center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. Our program delivery staff will be in the office, and they will be working with our producers in office, by phone, and using online tools. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?data=02%7C01%7C%7C678e3f637f0141c56a8a08d86a0b0a6e%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637375942935598819&reserved=0&sdata=vhnWb5I7oGyEMJDch%2FpMe0OMOkpyvlpJKKnSmUkHg2M%3D&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.farmers.govcoronavirus%2F&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  **Environmental Review Required Before Project Implementation**  The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to consider all potential environmental impacts for federally-funded projects before the project is approved.  For all Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs, an environmental review must be completed before actions are approved, such as site preparation or ground disturbance. These programs include, **but are not limited to**, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program and farm loans. If project implementation begins before FSA has completed an environmental review, the request will be denied. Although there are exceptions regarding the Stafford Act and emergencies, it’s important to wait until you receive written approval of your project proposal before starting any actions.  Applications cannot be approved until FSA has copies of all permits and plans. Contact your local FSA office early in your planning process to determine what level of environmental review is required for your program application so that it can be completed timely.  **Obtaining Payments due to Deceased Producers**  In order to claim a Farm Service Agency (FSA) payment on behalf of a deceased producer, all program conditions for the payment must have been met before the applicable producer’s date of death.  If a producer earned a FSA payment prior to his or her death, the following is the order of precedence for the representatives of the producer:   * administrator or executor of the estate * the surviving spouse * surviving sons and daughters, including adopted children * surviving father and mother * surviving brothers and sisters * heirs of the deceased person who would be entitled to payment according to the State law   For FSA to release the payment, the legal representative of the deceased producer must file a form FSA-325 to claim the payment for themselves or an estate. The county office will verify that the application, contract, loan agreement, or other similar form requesting payment issuance, was signed by the applicable deadline by the deceased or a person legally authorized to act on their behalf at that time of application.  If the application, contract or loan agreement form was signed by someone other than the deceased participant, FSA will determine whether the person submitting the form has the legal authority to submit the form.  Payments will be issued to the respective representative’s name using the deceased program participant’s tax identification number. Payments made to representatives are subject to offset regulations for debts owed by the deceased.  FSA is not responsible for advising persons in obtaining legal advice on how to obtain program benefits that may be due to a participant who has died, disappeared or who has been declared incompetent.  **Update Your Records**  FSA is cleaning up our producer record database and needs your help. Please report any changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address or an incorrect name or business name on file to our office. You should also report changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase. You should also report any changes to your operation in which you reorganize to form a Trust, LLC or other legal entity.  FSA and NRCS program participants are required to promptly report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and to update their *Farm Operating Plan* on form CCC-902*.*  To update your records, contact your Local County USDA Service Center.  **Making Farm Reconstitutions**  When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.  To be effective for the current Fiscal Year (FY), farm combinations and farm divisions must be requested by **August 1 of the FY** for farms subject to the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. A reconstitution is considered to be requested when all of the required signatures are on FSA-155 and all other applicable documentation, such as proof of ownership, is submitted.  Total Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and non-ARC/PLC farms may be reconstituted at any time.  The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:   * **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate * **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method, the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding * **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract * **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.    For questions on your farm reconstitution, contact your Local County USDA Service Center.  **FSA Outlines MAL and LDP Policy**  The 2018 Farm Bill extends loan authority through 2023 for Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs).  MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey. MALs provide you with interim financing after harvest to help you meet cash flow needs without having to sell your commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available. Marketing loan provisions and LDPs are not available for sugar and extra-long staple cotton.  FSA is now accepting requests for 2020 MALs and LDPs for all eligible commodities after harvest. Requests for loans and LDPs shall be made on or before the final availability date for the respective commodities.  Commodity certificates are available to loan holders who have outstanding nonrecourse loans for wheat, upland cotton, rice, feed grains, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, large and small chickpeas), peanuts, wool, soybeans and designated minor oilseeds. These certificates can be purchased at the posted county price (or adjusted world price or national posted price) for the quantity of commodity under loan, and must be immediately exchanged for the collateral, satisfying the loan. MALs redeemed with commodity certificates are not subject to Adjusted Gross Income provisions.  To be considered eligible for an LDP, you must have form [CCC-633EZ](http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eFormsAdmin/CCC0633EZ_140328V03.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), Page 1 on file at your local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested.  Marketing loan gains (MLGs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) are no longer subject to payment limitations, actively engaged in farming and cash-rent tenant rules.  Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions state that if your total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds $900,000, then you’re not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP. You must have a valid CCC-941 on file to earn a market gain of LDP. The AGI does not apply to MALs redeemed with commodity certificate exchange.  For more information and additional eligibility requirements, contact your Local County USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  **FSA is Accepting CRP Continuous Enrollment Offers**  The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for specific conservation practices under the [Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous Signup](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2019/crp_continuous_enrollment_period-fact_sheet.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and to plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. The program’s long-term goal is to re-establish valuable land cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length.  Under continuous CRP signup, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods. Instead they are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.  For more information, including a list of acceptable practices, contact your Local County USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov/crp](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  **Disaster Assistance Available for Livestock Losses**  The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to you for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.  For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.  For 2020 livestock losses, you must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent. You then must provide the following supporting documentation to your local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.   * Proof of death documentation * Copy of grower’s contracts * Proof of normal mortality documentation   USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 250 pounds) = 3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under “normal” conditions.  In addition to filing a notice of loss, you must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2021.  For more information, contact the Local County USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  **Disaster Assistance for 2020 Livestock Forage Losses**  Producers in Clay, Fall River, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Oglala Lakota, Turner and Union Counties are eligible to apply for 2020 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on small grain, native pasture, improved pasture, annual ryegrass, forage sorghum.  LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.  County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire. You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 1st, 2021, for 2020 losses.  For additional information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, contact the Above County USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)**  ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs.  Eligible losses include:   * **Livestock -** grazing losses not covered under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought and additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever. * **Honeybee -** loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including CCD, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather. * **Farm-Raised Fish -** death losses in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.   If you’ve suffered eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses during calendar year 2020, you must file:   * A notice of loss within 30 calendar days after the loss is apparent (15 days for honeybee losses) * An application for payment by Jan. 30, 2021   The following ELAP Fact Sheets (by topic) are available online:   * [ELAP for Farm-Raised Fish Fact Sheet](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2019/elap_farm-raised_fish_fact_sheet.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) * [ELAP for Livestock Fact Sheet](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2019/elap_livestock_fact_sheet.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) * [ELAP for Honeybees Fact Sheet](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/elap_honeybee_factsheet.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)   **Report Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses**  NAP provides financial assistance to you for crops that aren’t eligible for crop insurance to protect against lower yields or crops unable to be planted due to natural disasters including freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes, flood, excessive heat and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing), among others.  To receive payment, you had to purchase NAP coverage for 2020 crops and file a notice of loss the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest  For hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops, you must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent.  Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.  For more information on NAP, contact your Local County USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov/nap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nap?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  **Reminders for FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security**  Farm loan borrowers who have pledged real estate as security for their Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct or guaranteed loans are responsible for maintaining loan collateral. Borrowers must obtain prior consent or approval from FSA or the guaranteed lender for any transaction that affects real estate security. These transactions include, but are not limited to:   * Leases of any kind * Easements of any kind * Subordinations * Partial releases * Sales   Failure to meet or follow the requirements in the loan agreement, promissory note, and other security instruments could lead to nonmonetary default which could jeopardize your current and future loans.  It is critical that borrowers keep an open line of communication with their FSA loan staff or guaranteed lender when it comes to changes in their operation. For more information on borrower responsibilities, read [Your FSA Farm Loan Compass](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/Farm-Loan-Programs/pdfs/loan-servicing/farm_loan_compass_9-22-17.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  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). |