

Seed and Vendor Finder Tool - March 13, 2025

Seed and Vendor Finder Tool for Conservation Reserve Program Participants and Native Seed Vendors



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has worked with the <u>Conservation</u> <u>Biology Institute</u> (CBI) to design and build a free online easy-to-use <u>Seed and</u> <u>Vendor finder</u> tool to support producers enrolling in the <u>Conservation Reserve</u> <u>Program</u> (CRP), along with other conservation efforts involving native plantings. CBI also partnered with the <u>Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE)</u> to address the needs of the <u>Native Seed Network</u> and significantly expanded the native seed customer and vendor base.

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

Currently, CBI has seeded the tool with 214 vendors found through an online search from across the country with limited profiles, and 42 have voluntarily completed full profiles which includes their plant inventory. 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. Additionally, check out the plant finder tool where you can find suitable plants, including pollinator friendly plants for your area and soil type.

All vendors are encouraged to add their profile and inventory to the tool. You

can do this easily by filling out this simple form located here: <u>https://crptool.org/contact/</u>. A member of the CBI team will send you an invite within 24 hours to create your full profile.

For more information on CRP, contact your local USDA Service Center.

USDA Farm Service Agency in Georgia

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Emergency Commodity Assistance Program - March 21, 2025

USDA Expediting \$10 Billion in Direct Economic Assistance to Agricultural Producers



Program payments to offset increased input costs, market decline

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, on National Agriculture Day, announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is issuing up to \$10 billion directly to agricultural producers through the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) for the 2024 crop year. Administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), ECAP will help agricultural producers mitigate the impacts of increased input costs and falling commodity prices.

Authorized by the American Relief Act, 2025, these economic relief payments are based on planted and prevented planted crop acres for eligible commodities for the 2024 crop year. To streamline and simplify the delivery of ECAP, FSA will begin sending pre-filled applications to producers who submitted acreage reports to FSA for 2024 eligible ECAP commodities soon after the signup period opens on March 19, 2025. Producers do not have to wait for their pre-filled ECAP application to apply. They can visit <u>fsa.usda.gov/ecap</u> to apply using a login.gov account or contact their local FSA office to request an application once the signup period opens.

Eligible Commodities and Payment Rates

Wheat - \$30.69 Eligible oilseeds: Corn - \$42.91 Canola – \$31.83 Sorghum - \$42.52 Crambe – \$19.08 Flax - \$20.97 Barley - \$21.67 Oats - \$77.66 Mustard - \$11.36 Upland cotton & Extra-long staple cotton - \$84.74 Rapeseed -\$23.63 Long & medium grain rice - \$76.94 Safflower - \$26.32 Peanuts - \$75.51 Sesame - \$16.83 Soybeans - \$29.76 Sunflower – \$27.23 Dry peas - \$16.02 Lentils - \$19.30 Small Chickpeas - \$31.45 Large Chickpeas - \$24.02

The commodities below are eligible for these per-acre payment rates:

Producer Eligibility

Eligible producers must report 2024 crop year planted and prevented planted acres to FSA on an FSA-578, *Report of Acreage* form. Producers who have not previously reported 2024 crop year acreage or filed a notice of loss for prevented planted crops must submit an acreage report by the **Aug. 15, 2025**, deadline. Eligible producers can visit <u>fsa.usda.gov/ecap</u> for eligibility and payment details.

Applying for ECAP

Producers must submit ECAP applications to their local FSA county office by **Aug. 15**, **2025**. Only one application is required for all ECAP eligible commodities nationwide. ECAP applications can be submitted to FSA in-person, electronically using <u>Box and</u> <u>One-Span</u>, by fax or by applying online at <u>fsa.usda.gov/ecap</u> utilizing a secure login.gov account.

If not already on file for the 2024 crop year, producers must have the following forms on file with FSA:

- Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet.
- Form CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities (if applicable).
- Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity.
- Form CCC 943, 75 percent of Average Gross Income from Farming, Ranching, or Forestry Certification (if applicable).
- <u>AD-1026</u>, *Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification*.
- <u>SF-3881</u>, Direct Deposit.

Except for the new CCC-943, most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, likely have these forms on file. However, those who are uncertain and want to confirm the status of their forms or need to submit the new Form-943, can contact their <u>local FSA county office</u>.

If a producer does not receive a pre-filled ECAP application, and they planted or were prevented from planting ECAP eligible commodities in 2024, they should contact their <u>local FSA office</u>.

ECAP Payments and Calculator

ECAP payments will be issued as applications are approved. Initial ECAP payments will be factored by 85% to ensure that total program payments do not exceed available funding. If additional funds remain, FSA may issue a second payment.

ECAP assistance will be calculated using a flat payment rate for the eligible commodity multiplied by the eligible reported acres. Payments are based on acreage and not production. For acres reported as prevented plant, ECAP assistance will be calculated at 50%.

For ECAP payment estimates, producers are encouraged to visit <u>fsa.usda.gov/ecap</u> to use the ECAP online calculator.

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