

CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM for Specialty Crops

USDA is providing critical support to our nation’s farmers and ranchers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). CFAP provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities with financial assistance that gives them the ability to absorb sales declines and increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overview

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability Act (CARES Act) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act authorized the funds for the CFAP.

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administer the program.

FSA is accepting applications for CFAP from **May 26, 2020, to August 28, 2020.**

Who is Eligible?

Producers of specialty crops are eligible for CFAP payments for losses for the following three categories:

1. Had crops that suffered a five percent-or-greater reduction in sales price between mid-January and mid-April as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,
2. Had produce shipped but subsequently spoiled due to loss of marketing channel, and
3. Had shipments that did not leave the farm or mature crops that remained unharvested.

The table to the right lists the specialty crops eligible for payment in each category.

Payments

Payments will be available for eligible specialty crops for which a producer has production not subject to an agreed-upon price through a forward contract, agreement, or similar binding document.

1. Payments for crops that had a five percent-or-greater reduction in sales price between January 15, 2020, and April 15, 2020.
 - Producers must maintain records, such as a bill of sale, documenting the price received for the crop.
2. Payments for crop shipments that left the farm by April 15, 2020, and spoiled due to no market.
 - Producers must obtain documentation such as a letter from the buyer explaining non-payment or other record validating non-payment. This applies to producers who have met contractual obligations in delivering the crop to the buyer, but have not been paid.

3. Payments for crop shipments that did not leave the farm by April 15, 2020, (for example, were harvested but sitting in crates on the farm), or mature crops that were unharvested by that date (for example, were plowed under) due to lack of buyers, and which have not been and will not be sold.
 - When requested, producers must provide supporting documentation, which AMS will use to substantiate claims on a case-by-case basis.

CROP	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
Almonds	✓	✓	✓
Apples		✓	✓
Artichokes	✓	✓	✓
Asparagus		✓	✓
Avocados		✓	✓
Beans	✓	✓	✓
Blueberries		✓	✓
Broccoli	✓	✓	✓
Cabbage	✓	✓	✓
Cantaloupe		✓	✓
Carrots	✓	✓	✓
Cauliflower	✓	✓	✓
Celery		✓	✓
Corn, sweet	✓	✓	✓
Cucumbers	✓	✓	✓
Eggplant	✓	✓	✓
Garlic		✓	✓
Grapefruit		✓	✓
Kiwifruit		✓	✓
Lemons	✓	✓	✓
Lettuce, iceberg	✓	✓	✓
Lettuce, romaine	✓	✓	✓
Mushrooms		✓	✓
Onions, dry	✓	✓	✓
Onions, green		✓	✓
Oranges		✓	✓
Papaya		✓	✓
Peaches	✓	✓	✓
Pears	✓	✓	✓
Pecans	✓	✓	✓
Peppers, bell type	✓	✓	✓
Peppers, other	✓	✓	✓
Potatoes		✓	✓
Raspberries		✓	✓
Rhubarb	✓	✓	✓
Spinach	✓	✓	✓
Squash	✓	✓	✓
Strawberries	✓	✓	✓
Sweet potatoes		✓	✓
Tangerines		✓	✓
Taro		✓	✓
Tomatoes	✓	✓	✓
Walnuts		✓	✓
Watermelons		✓	✓

The following table lists specialty crop payment rates for CFAP.

COMMODITY	CARES ACT PAYMENT RATE FOR SALES LOSSES (\$/LB)	CARES ACT PAYMENT RATE FOR PRODUCT THAT LEFT THE FARM BUT SPOILED DUE TO LOSS OF MARKETING CHANNEL (\$/LB)	CCC PAYMENT RATE (\$/LB)
Almonds	\$0.26	\$0.57	\$0.11
Apples	--	\$0.18	\$0.03
Artichokes	\$0.66	\$0.49	\$0.10
Asparagus	--	\$0.38	\$0.07
Avocados	--	\$0.14	\$0.03
Beans	\$0.17	\$0.16	\$0.03
Blueberries	--	\$0.62	\$0.12
Broccoli	\$0.62	\$0.49	\$0.10
Cabbage	\$0.04	\$0.07	\$0.01
Cantaloupe	--	\$0.10	\$0.02
Carrots	\$0.02	\$0.11	\$0.02
Cauliflower	\$0.11	\$0.31	\$0.06
Celery	--	\$0.07	\$0.01
Corn, sweet	\$0.09	\$0.13	\$0.03
Cucumbers	\$0.13	\$0.15	\$0.03
Eggplant	\$0.07	\$0.15	\$0.03
Garlic	--	\$0.85	\$0.17
Grapefruit	--	\$0.11	\$0.02
Kiwifruit	--	\$0.32	\$0.06
Lemons	\$0.08	\$0.21	\$0.04
Lettuce, iceberg	\$0.20	\$0.15	\$0.03
Lettuce, romaine	\$0.07	\$0.12	\$0.02
Mushrooms	--	\$0.59	\$0.11
Onions, dry	\$0.01	\$0.05	\$0.01
Onions green	--	\$0.30	\$0.06
Oranges	--	\$0.14	\$0.03
Papaya	--	\$0.32	\$0.06
Peaches	\$0.08	\$0.32	\$0.06
Pears	\$0.08	\$0.18	\$0.03
Pecans	\$0.28	\$0.93	\$0.18
Peppers, bell type	\$0.14	\$0.22	\$0.04
Peppers, other	\$0.15	\$0.22	\$0.04
Potatoes	--	\$0.04	\$0.01
Raspberries	--	\$1.45	\$0.28
Rhubarb	\$0.15	\$1.03	\$0.20
Spinach	\$0.37	\$0.37	\$0.07
Squash	\$0.72	\$0.39	\$0.08
Strawberries	\$0.84	\$0.72	\$0.14
Sweet potatoes	--	\$0.18	\$0.04
Tangerines	--	\$0.22	\$0.04
Taro	--	\$0.23	\$0.05
Tomatoes	\$0.64	\$0.38	\$0.07
Walnuts	--	\$0.45	\$0.09
Watermelons	--	\$0.02	--

Payment Limitations

CFAP payments are subject to a per person and legal entity payment limitation of \$250,000. This limitation applies to the total amount of CFAP payments made with respect to all eligible commodities.

Unlike other FSA programs, special payment limitation rules are applied to participants that are corporations, limited liability companies, and limited partnerships (corporate entities). These corporate entities may receive up to \$750,000 based upon the number of shareholders (not to exceed three shareholders) who are contributing at least 400 hours of active person management or personal active labor.

For a corporate entity:

- With one such shareholder, the payment limit for the entity is \$250,000;
- With two such shareholders, the payment limit for the entity is \$500,000 if at least two members contribute at least 400 hours of active personal labor or active personal management, or combination thereof, with respect to the operation of the corporate entity; and
- With three such shareholders, the limit is \$750,000 if at least three members contribute at least 400 hours of active personal labor or active personal management, or combination thereof, with respect to the operation of the corporate entity.

Payment Structure

To ensure the availability of funding throughout the application period, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment, up to the payment limit, upon approval of the application. The remaining portion will be paid at a later date as funds remain available.



How to Apply

FSA staff at your local USDA Service Center will work with producers to file applications. Applications may be submitted via mail, fax, hand delivery, or via electronic means. Please call your office prior to sending applications electronically.

The CFAP application and associated forms are available online at farmers.gov/cfap.

More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information about the CFAP program, visit farmers.gov/cfap or contact your local FSA office. Additionally, producers in search of one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/cfap.