FUNDING OPPORTUNITY’S OBJECTIVE
The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) will provide $16 billion in financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have been affected by price declines and who are experiencing additional marketing costs due to COVID-19. USDA announced that the CFAP application deadline is now extended to September 11, 2020.

AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE
Eligible farmers, producers, and ranchers may receive a CFAP payment, drawn from two possible funding sources:

- **CARES Act** – $9.5 billion in appropriated funding, compensates farmers for losses due to price declines that occurred between mid-January 2020 and mid-April 2020 and for specialty crops products that were shipped and spoiled or unpaid.

- **Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act** – $6.5 billion designated to compensate producers for losses due to on-going market disruptions.

PAYMENTS
There is a payment limitation of $250,000 per person or legal entity.

Applicants who are corporations, limited liability companies (LLC), or limited partnerships (LP) where members provide personal labor or personal management for the farming operation may qualify for additional payment limits.

Payment Structure – Beginning the week of August 17, FSA will automatically issue the remaining 20 percent of the calculated payment to eligible producers. Going forward, producers who apply for CFAP will receive 100 percent of their total payment, not to exceed the payment limit, when their applications are approved.

ELIGIBILITY
Farmers, producers, and ranchers of specified agricultural commodities who (1) have experienced a five-percent-or-greater price decline OR (2) had losses due to market supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs. Eligible commodities include:

- Non-specialty crops
- Wool
- Livestock
- Dairy
- Specialty Crops
- Nursery Crops and Cut Flowers
- Aquaculture
- Eggs

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Nearly 60 additional commodities were announced on August 11, including additions to specialty crops and livestock along with the inclusion of nursery crops and cut flowers, aquaculture, and certain types of eggs. In addition to the newly eligible commodities, USDA expanded funding categories for several additional commodities and adjusted payment rates for others.

Applications for commodities announced on August 11 will be accepted beginning the week of August 17. If a producer submitted a CFAP application for a previously ineligible commodity, and the application was disapproved, the producer must submit a new CFAP application. If the producer submitted an application and was paid for CFAP but also has crops that are now considered eligible or are now eligible for CARES Act funding for sales losses, the producer should NOT submit a new application, but rather, contact the local FSA office to amend the application.

A full detailed list of eligible commodities and their associated payment rates can be found at https://www.farmers.gov/cfap

An applicant (person or legal entity) will qualify for payments if:

- They have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) of less than $900,000 for tax years 2016, 2017, and 2018.
- However, if 75% of their adjusted gross income comes from farming, ranching, or forestry, the AGI limit of $900,000 does not apply.
- They comply with the provisions of the “Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation” regulations, often called the conservation compliance provisions.
- A foreign person provides land, capital, and/or a substantial amount of active personal labor to the farming operation.
- They do not have a controlled substance violation.

**REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY**

Eligible producers should apply through their local FSA county office. USDA began accepting applications for CFAP on May 26, 2020. All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. FSA will be working with agricultural producers by phone, email, and online tools to process applications. If a producer believes that they qualify for CFAP, it is encouraged that they set up an appointment with their local FSA county office as soon as possible. FSA encourages contacting a local office before sending applications electronically.

USDA has several options for producers to complete and submit their CFAP applications:

- Manually complete the application form and submit it to your local USDA Service Center. Producers who are interested with this option may download the application form, AD-3114, complete and submit to their local USDA Service Center by mail, electronically, or by hand-delivery to an office drop box. Instructions on how to complete the application form are available here.
- Complete the application form using the CFAP Application Generator and Payment Calculator available at https://www.farmers.gov/cfap. This Excel workbook allows producers to input information specific to their operation to determine estimated payments and populate the application.
form. Producers can then print, sign, and submit the form to their local USDA Service Center. An informative video of how the payment calculator works is available here.

- Complete the CFAP application digitally using the new online tools. Producers with an eAuthentication account can now apply for CFAP via the CFAP Application Portal. Applications are completed, electronically signed, and submitted directly to the producer's local USDA Service Center through the online system. Step-by-step instructions for the CFAP application portal are available here. Producers interested in creating an eAuthentication account should visit farmers.gov/sign-in to learn more. Producers without an eAuthentication account also have the option of signing and sharing their CFAP applications online using the new document signature solutions initiated by USDA Service Center staff.

Producers self-certify when they apply for CFAP, so it is recommended that producers retain all the documentation used to complete the CFAP application.

The following forms need to be completed for CFAP:
- **AD-3114** – Application Form
- Complete portions of the CCC-902 – Farm Operating Plan (if necessary, FSA staff will assist)
- **CCC-901** – Identifies members of a farm or ranch that is a legal entity
- **CCC-941** – Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification
- **AD-1026** – Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification
- **AD-2047** – Provides basic customer contact information
- **SF-3881** – ACH Vendor/Miscellaneous Payment Enrollment Form
- **CCC-942** – Certification of Income from Farming, Ranching, and Forestry Operations (if applicable)
- Most forms can be found in Spanish here

**CONSIDERATIONS**
- CFAP applications will be accepted May 26, 2020, through, September 11, 2020.
- No fee to apply.
- Payments to producers are not loans and do not have to be repaid (unless there is error or fraud). Payments are processed and paid immediately after an application is approved.
- To prepare for the application process, individuals can start gathering and understanding your farm's recent sales and inventory.
- Your local FSA staff will work with you to apply for the program. To prepare in advance, please have the following information readily available:
  - Name and address
  - Personal information, including your Tax Identification Number
  - Farm operating structure
  - Adjusted Gross Income compliance certification to ensure eligibility
  - Direct deposit information to enable payment process.
• As directed by USDA: Please do not send any personal information to USDA without first initiating contact through a phone call. USDA takes your privacy and security of your information very seriously.
• Ineligible commodities are those that did not suffer a five percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19 between the specified time frames, or commodities for which there was not enough data to substantiate a claim, are not eligible for CFAP.
  - Specifically, this includes, goats, bison, buffalo, beefalo, turkeys, mink, mohair, shell eggs, dried eggs, layers, soft red winter wheat, hard red winter wheat, white wheat, rice, flax, rye, green peanuts, feed barley, extra long staple (ELS) cotton, alfalfa, hemp, and tobacco.

WHO CAN BE CONTACTED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT?
Call your FSA county office to make an appointment. You can find your local Service Center at the bottom of the page of https://www.farmers.gov/cfap
• FSA will work with individuals via phone, email, fax, mail, or online tools to assist those in completing their application.
• A CFAP Call Center is available for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP application process. Please call 1-877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:
• For free legal services and support on Farmer’s Local Action Group (FLAG) call the national toll-free hotline at 1-877-860-4349 or visit https://bit.ly/2M5lusF

Sources: farmers.gov, fsa.usda.gov and flaginc.org