



For information on programs and federal assistance available to agriculture producers, please see the links below and consult [federal guidelines](#).

Department	Resource	Link
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Primary COVID-19 Background Information	<a href="https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus">https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus</a>
	Service Centers (FSA/RMA)	<a href="https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus">https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus</a>
	Rural Development	<a href="https://rd.usda.gov/coronavirus">https://rd.usda.gov/coronavirus</a>
	H-2A Visas	<a href="https://www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a">https://www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a</a>
	Food and Nutrition Service	<a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19">https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19</a>
Small Business Administration	Primary COVID-19 Background Information	<a href="https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19</a>
	Guidance and Loan Resources	<a href="https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources">https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources</a>
Internal Revenue Service	Primary COVID-19 Background Information	<a href="https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus">https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus</a>
	Economic Impact Payments	<a href="https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know">https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know</a>
Department of Labor	Primary COVID-19 Background Information	<a href="https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus">https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus</a>
	Employee Paid Leave Rights	<a href="https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave">https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave</a>

**For more information and resources, please [visit my COVID-19 resource page](#).**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Are farmers and ranchers eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program 7 A loan administered by the Small Business Administration?**

**YES** – On Friday April 3rd, the Small Business Administration released the Paycheck Protection Program interim final rule, removing industry-specific revenue thresholds. Agriculture businesses that employ 500 or less people whose principal place of residence is in the United States are eligible, regardless of revenue levels. The Paycheck Protection Program helps small businesses (including agriculture) keep their employees paid through this difficult period. For more information on PPP including details on how to apply, [click here](#).

### **With operating and family living expenses, emergency cash needs and cash flow are presenting a challenge for farm families. Is there any flexibility by the Farm Service Agency to access credit and program benefits?**

**YES** – The Farm Service Agency is “relaxing” its loan-making process as the nation copes with travel and interpersonal restrictions brought about by the coronavirus outbreak.

- Deadlines have been extended for submitting deadlines.
- FSA has stated it would:
  - Prepare documents for direct loans even if it cannot complete lien and record searches
  - Close loans if the required lien position on the primary security is perfected, even for loans requiring additional security
  - Consider guaranteed lender requests for temporary payment deferral consideration and temporary forbearance consideration for borrowers on loan liquidation and foreclosure actions

### **Will there be any assistance when agriculture production, processing and market access have been negatively impacted as a result of the COVID-19?**

**YES** – Resources are currently available and under consideration negatively impacted farms during this pandemic.

- The SBA Paycheck Protection Program has clarified that farmers employing 500 or fewer people whose principal place of residence is in the United States are eligible for the loan program, regardless of revenue. For more information, please contact your community bank and local FSA office.
- The CARES Act replenishes \$14 billion in funding for USDA’s CCC Commodity Credit Corporation, as well as an additional \$9.5 billion for Coronavirus response actions with dairy, livestock, and specialty crop producers specifically targeted. It is anticipated the Secretary will soon be providing guidance on how this money will be deployed for the industry.
- Specifically for the dairy industry, Congressman Thompson will be working with colleagues asking the USDA for:
  - A buyout of excess product
  - New direct support for dairy
  - Reopen a new DMC signup period
- For questions and guidance on milk dumping, please check in with your local county conservation district office.

### **Should farmers expect labor disruptions due to the H-2A workforce?**

**NO** – The State Department has been working closely with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Labor, and Department of Homeland Security to limit H-2A disruptions. Specifically, the State Department has taken steps to increase processing of H-2A visa holders through consulates worldwide.

- The State Department has authorized consular officers to expand the categories of H-2 visa applicants whose applications can be adjudicated without an in-person interview. Consular officers can now waive the interview requirement for first-time and returning H-2 applicants who have no potential ineligibility.
- This expansion also increases the period in which returning workers may qualify for an interview waiver. Applicants whose previous visas expired in the last 48 months (increased from 12 months), and who did not require a waiver of ineligibility the last time they applied, do not need to be interviewed in-person if they are applying for the same visa classification as their previous visa.

### **Is there immediate relief farmers and farm families can expect during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis?**

**YES** - Farmers and farm families, like all individuals with a valid Social Security number, will receive direct financial support. Individuals earning up to \$75,000 will receive a rebate through direct deposit of \$1,200. Joint filers earning up to \$150,000 will receive \$2,400. Participating parents will also receive an additional \$500 per child under the bill. Reduced amounts will be sent for those making up to \$99,000 individually and \$198,000 for married filers.

### **Can farm credit institutions be helpful during the COVID-19 crisis?**

**YES** - The CARES Act contains language that will help rural communities, farmers and agribusinesses. These include provisions that allow farmers to work with their farm credit institutions to secure payroll tax loans, one-year deferrals, 100% guarantees, and low rates.

### **What if I have loans through USDA's Rural Development? Can I ask for a deferrals on payments?**

**YES** - Rural Development is granting lenders and temporary exception (up to 180 days) to offer payment deferrals for guaranteed loan programs due to the pandemic.

*For additional frequently asked questions from the USDA, [click here](#).*