

# **Direct Pandemic Assistance Continues for Producers Through Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)**

On March 24, 2021 USDA announced updates to the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) for producers of agricultural commodities marketed in 2020 who faced market disruptions due to COVID-19. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) re-opened signup for CFAP 2 beginning on April 5, 2021. CFAP was also updated to include an increase in CFAP 1 payment rates for cattle, additional CFAP 2 assistance for eligible row-crop producers, and processing of eligible payments for CFAP Additional Assistance.

USDA announced additional CFAP 2 updates on August 24, 2021, including payments for eligible livestock and poultry contract producers and a flexibility to payment calculations for sales-based commodities. **A signup deadline of October 12, 2021 was also announced.**

Visit [farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cfap](https://farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cfap) for more information on the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, including eligible commodities, producer eligibility, payment limitations and structure, and options to apply for CFAP 2.

## **Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program**

On July 13, 2021 USDA announced the Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program (PLIP). PLIP provides financial assistance to support producers of eligible swine, chickens, and turkeys depopulated from March 1, 2020, through December 26, 2020. To be eligible, depopulation of poultry or livestock must have been due to insufficient processing access resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Livestock and poultry also must have been physically located in the United States or a territory of the United States at the time of depopulation.

USDA's Farm Service Agency will accept applications July 20 through September 17, 2021. Visit [farmers.gov/plip](https://farmers.gov/plip) to learn more about additional eligibility requirements and how to apply.

## **Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers Program**

On July 20, 2021 USDA announced the Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers program (PATHH). PATHH provides up to \$200 million to support timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that experienced a loss of at least 10 percent gross revenue from January 1 through December 1, 2020, compared to the same period in 2019. Individual loggers or truckers, or legal entities, may be eligible for up to \$125,000 in financial assistance through this program.

USDA's Farm Service Agency will accept applications July 22 through October 15, 2021. Visit [farmers.gov/pathh](https://farmers.gov/pathh) to learn more about additional eligibility requirements and how to apply through your local USDA Service Center.

## **Additional Pandemic Assistance for Producers**

In March, USDA announced the Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative to support a number of new programs or to modify existing efforts, many of which will be implemented in June and July of 2021. These efforts will continue to focus on filling gaps in previous rounds of assistance and helping beginning, socially disadvantaged, and small and medium sized producers that need support most. USDA will provide support for:

**Dairy farmers and processors.** USDA will allocate approximately \$580 million through Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage for small and medium farms.

**Organic producers.** USDA will allocate up to \$20 million in additional organic cost share assistance. These funds will be available to organic producers and producers who are transitioning to organic.

Specialty crop growers, meat packers and processors, seafood industry workers, and others. USDA will allocate \$700 million through Pandemic Response and Safety Grants for PPE and other protective measures.

**Since USDA rolled out the Pandemic Assistance initiative in March, the Department has announced assistance to producers and agriculture entities through the following programs:**

**The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)** supports America's farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers whose operations were impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The signup period for CFAP is open through October 12, 2021. Additional information is available at [farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cfap](https://farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cfap).

**The Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers program (PATHH)** provides financial relief to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that experienced losses in 2020 due to COVID-19. USDA's Farm Service Agency will accept applications July 22 through October 15, 2021. Additional information is available at [farmers.gov/pathh](https://farmers.gov/pathh).

**The Dairy Donation Program (DDP)** allocates \$400 million to facilitate dairy product donations and reduce food waste. Under this new program, eligible dairy organizations partner with non-profit feeding organizations that distribute food to individuals and families. Those partnerships may apply for and receive reimbursements to cover some expenses related to eligible dairy product donations. Visit [ams.usda.gov/services/ddp](https://ams.usda.gov/services/ddp) for additional information, including how to apply through USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

**Through the Pandemic Market Volatility Assistance Program (PMVAP),** USDA will provide more than \$350 million in pandemic assistance payments to dairy farmers who received a lower value due to market abnormalities caused by the pandemic and ensuing Federal policies. Payments will reimburse qualified dairy farmers for 80% of the revenue difference per month based on an annual production of up to 5 million pounds of milk marketed and on fluid milk sales from July through December 2020. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service will contact eligible handlers and cooperatives to notify them of the opportunity to participate in the program. Visit [ams.usda.gov/services/pandemic-market-volatility-assistance-program](https://ams.usda.gov/services/pandemic-market-volatility-assistance-program) to learn more.

**The Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP)** provided premium support to producers who insured their spring crop with most insurance policies and planted a qualifying cover crop during the 2021 crop year. USDA allocated approximately \$20 million to support this program.

**The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) Program** helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of new products. USDA made an additional \$35 million available through the program this year to support agricultural producers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

**The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)** funds innovative projects designed to support the expanding specialty crop food sector and explore new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products. USDA announced \$169.9 million total for the program, with funding awarded as part of

pandemic assistance supporting organizations to assist farmworkers with PPE and vaccination costs, projects to fund farmers, food businesses, and other relevant entities to respond to risks and supply chain disruption.

**The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)** increases the purchase of fruits and vegetables by low-income consumers. USDA announced \$75 million to address critical food and nutrition security needs of low-income communities, enhance the resilience of food and healthcare systems impacted by the pandemic, and maximize funds reaching participants in communities in need.

**The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)** offers education, training, outreach and mentoring programs to enhance the sustainability of the next generation of farmers. USDA announced \$37.5 million to support this program.

**The Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP)** helps maximize opportunities for economic growth and ingenuity in local and regional food systems, generate new income sources for small, beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers, and create new market opportunities for value-added and niche products. USDA announced \$92.2 million in competitive grant funding through this program.