

September 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# NEWSLETTER

**GovDelivery**

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [Alaska FSA State Directors News](#)
- [USDA Reminds Farmers and Ranchers of Sept. 4 Program Deadline to Offset Transportation Costs in Alaska](#)
- [USDA Reminds Farmers and Ranchers of Nov. 1 Deadline to Submit Your RTCP Receipts](#)
- [One-Time PLC Yield Updates – Deadline September 30](#)
- [FSA Implements Set-Aside Loan Provision for Customers Impacted by COVID-19](#)
- [Applying for Youth Loans](#)
- [USDA Service Centers Resuming Office Visits in Some Locations While Taking Precautionary Measures to Help Prevent the Spread of Coronavirus](#)

---

## Alaska State FSA Newsletter

---

### Alaska State Farm Service Agency

800 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy.  
Ste 216  
Palmer, AK 99645  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/ak](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ak)

#### State Executive

**Director** Bryan J. Scoresby  
907-761-7750  
Cell: 907-707-4819  
Email:  
[bryan.scoresby@usda.gov](mailto:bryan.scoresby@usda.gov)

### Alaska FSA State Directors News

Harvest is here and a time to work without interruption. I love the harvest season and all the work that goes into it. Being prepared for harvest makes this farm activity more satisfying. It is exciting to see the results of your summers work. My wife's family raise barley in eastern Idaho. Their social media posts show drone footage of combines working in the field. It is an impressive sight. My one row potato digger is much more impressive than a shovel.

Here in this northern climate, bottled fruit is a luxury that few get to participate in. My raspberries have been especially productive, and we have now bottled some raspberries for enjoyment this coming winter. We were able to get some apples from a neighbor's trees to make apple sauce. Every time we open a jar, I will have some fleeting memory of my mother, for her dedication to gardening and preserving all the food she did. Her example instilled in me that love

**Northern County Office**  
PO Box 585  
Delta Junction, AK 99737

**County Executive  
Director/Farm Loan  
Manager**

Lloyd Wilhelm  
907-895-4242 ext 150  
Fax: 855-711-9095  
Email:  
[lloyd.wilhelm@usda.gov](mailto:lloyd.wilhelm@usda.gov)

**Southern County Office**  
800 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy.  
Palmer, AK 99645

**County Executive  
Director/Farm Loan  
Manager**

Erin Sturdivant  
907-761-7754  
Fax: 907-761-7789  
Email:  
[erin.sturdivant@usda.gov](mailto:erin.sturdivant@usda.gov)

Hours Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Committee Meetings:**  
Northern Co TBA  
Southern Co Oct. 13, 10 a.m.

Please contact your local FSA  
Office for questions specific to  
your operation or county.

for gardening and growing food. I am hopeful my grown kids and grandkids keep this vision for many years to come.

Harvest in my garden at home is ongoing and my grandkids have been selling produce on the corner. I am reminded of how blessed our life is. Close friends and neighbors share in those blessings. Enjoying a family meal that is not only Alaska Grown, but also Scoresby grown brings great contentment to our family and our lives. The bounty this Alaska land has available to those who work at it is impressive and breathtaking.

With the unrest in many parts of the country and supply lines interrupted it is comforting to have pantry shelves and freezers filled at home. On the farm, there is great relief of having hay and straw stacked high, grain bins full, calves growing bigger in the corral and cold storage barns cleaned and ready for the root and vegetable crops yet to be harvested. Here in Alaska we live in a blessed land. Working in Agriculture makes living here even more gratifying.

## **USDA Reminds Farmers and Ranchers of Sept. 4 Program Deadline to Offset Transportation Costs in Alaska**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that the enrollment period for the [Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program \(RTCP\)](#) for fiscal year 2020 began July 13 and will run through Sept. 4, 2020.

The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act 2020, reauthorized RTCP and allows farmers and ranchers in Alaska, Hawaii and insular areas including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Virgin Islands of the United States, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Republic of Palau, to recover any costs to transport agricultural commodities or inputs used to produce an agricultural commodity.

RTCP payments are calculated based on the costs incurred for transportation of the agricultural commodity or inputs during a 12-month period, subject to an \$8,000 per producer cap per fiscal year. If claims for payments exceed the funds available from the program for a fiscal year, payments will be reduced on a pro-rata basis.

Farmers and ranchers interested in participating in RTCP can obtain applications and other documents by calling toll-free 1-866-794-1079.

For questions, please contact your local FSA office. To locate your local FSA office visit [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-center-locator).

---

## USDA Reminds Farmers and Ranchers of Nov. 1 Deadline to Submit Your RTCP Receipts

The Reimbursement Transportation Cost Program (RTCP) signup ends on September 4, 2020. This program covered transportation expenses incurred from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. If you applied for the RTCP program, and have not turned all your receipts in to the FSA office, now is the time to do so. Applicants will have until COB on Nov. 2, 2020, to provide supporting documentation. If you have any questions, contact your local FSA office.

For more information on RTCP, farmers and ranchers in the eligible areas can visit their FSA county office or the FSA website at [fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport](https://fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport). To locate your local FSA office visit [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-center-locator).

---

## One-Time PLC Yield Updates – Deadline September 30

Farm owners have a one-time opportunity to update PLC yields of covered commodities on the farm, regardless of Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program election. The deadline to request a PLC yield update is September 30, 2020.

The updated yield will be equal to 90 percent of the average yield per planted acre in crop years 2013-2017 (excluding any year where the applicable covered commodity was not planted), subject to the ratio obtained by dividing the 2008-2012 average national yield by the 2013-2017 average national yield for the covered commodity. If the reported yield in any year is less than 75 percent of the 2013-2017 average county yield, then the yield will be substituted with 75 percent of the county average yield.

The chart below provides the ratio obtained by dividing the 2008-2012 average national yield by the 2013-2017 average national yield for each covered commodity.

Covered Commodity	National Yield Factor
Barley	0.9437
Canola	0.9643
Chickpeas, Large	1.0000
Chickpeas, Small	0.9760
Corn	0.9000
Crambe	1.0000
Flaxseed	1.0000
Flaxseed	1.0000
Grain Sorghum	0.9077
Lentils	1.0000
Mustard Seed	0.9460
Oats	0.9524
Peanuts	0.9273
Peas, Dry	0.9988
Rapeseed	1.0000

Rice, Long	0.9330
Rice, Medium	0.9887
Rice, Temp Japonica	0.9591
Safflower	1.0000
Seed Cotton	0.9000
Sesame Seed	0.9673
Soybeans	0.9000
Sunflower Seed	0.9396
Wheat	0.9545

It is the owner's choice whether to update or keep existing PLC yields. If a yield update is not made, then no action is required to maintain the existing PLC yield. An existing or updated PLC yield will be maintained and effective for crop years 2020 through 2023 (life of the 2018 Farm Bill).

PLC yields may be updated on a covered commodity-by-covered commodity basis using FSA form CCC-867.

For more information, reference resources and decision tools, visit [farmers.gov/arc-plc](https://farmers.gov/arc-plc). Contact your local Farm Service Agency Office for assistance – [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-center-locator).

---

## FSA Implements Set-Aside Loan Provision for Customers Impacted by COVID-19

### *Set-Aside Delays Loan Payments for Borrowers*

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will broaden the use of the Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) loan provision, normally used in the wake of natural disasters, to allow farmers with USDA farm loans who are affected by COVID-19, and are determined eligible, to have their next payment set aside. In some cases, FSA may also set aside a second payment for farmers who have already had one payment set aside because of a prior designated disaster.

FSA direct loan borrowers will receive a letter with the details of the expanded Disaster Set-Aside authorities, which includes the possible set-aside of annual operating loans, as well as explanations of the additional loan servicing options that are available. To discuss or request a loan payment Set-Aside, borrowers should call or email the farm loan staff at their local FSA county office.

The set-aside payment's due date is moved to the final maturity date of the loan or extended up to twelve months in the case of an annual operating loan. Any principal set-aside will continue to accrue interest until it is repaid. This aims to improve the borrower's cashflow in the current production cycle.

FSA previously announced it was relaxing the loan-making process and adding flexibilities for servicing direct and guaranteed loans to provide credit to producers in need. Direct loan applicants and borrowers are encouraged to contact their local FSA county office to discuss loan making and servicing flexibilities and other needs or concerns. Customers participating in FSA's guaranteed loan programs are encouraged to contact their lender. Information on these flexibilities, and office contact information, can be found on [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

FSA will be accepting most forms and applications by facsimile or electronic signature. Some services are also available online to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov) portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and certain program applications and payments. Customers can track payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance and electronically sign documents. Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at [farmers.gov/sign-in](https://farmers.gov/sign-in).

USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

---

## Applying for Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

### Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

1. Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
2. Be 10 years to 20 years of age
3. Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
4. Be unable to get a loan from other sources
5. Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
6. Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

For help preparing the application forms, contact your USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

---

## Deadline Approaching for USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

### ***CFAP Application Deadline is Sept. 11***

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers and ranchers that the deadline to apply for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) is Sept. 11, 2020. This program provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19.

Over 160 commodities are eligible for CFAP, including certain non-specialty crops, livestock, dairy, wool, specialty crops, eggs, aquaculture, and nursery crops and cut flowers. All eligible commodities, payment rates, and calculations can be found on [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap).

FSA offers several options for farmers and ranchers to apply for CFAP, including a call center where employees can answer your questions and help you get started on your application. Customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer general assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office at their local USDA Service Center.

With only two weeks before the deadline, now is the time to check out the resources on [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap) and contact the call center or your local office for your last-minute questions.

Producers have several options for applying to the CFAP program by the Sept. 11 deadline:

- Using an online portal, accessible at [gov/cfap](https://gov/cfap). This allows producers with secure USDA login credentials, known as eAuthentication, to certify eligible commodities online, digitally sign applications, and submit directly to the local USDA Service Center.
- Completing the application form using our CFAP Application Generator and Payment Calculator found at [gov/cfap](https://gov/cfap). This Excel workbook allows customers to input information specific to their operation to determine estimated payments and populate the application form, which can be printed, then signed, and submitted to their local USDA Service Center.
- Downloading the AD-3114 application form from [gov/cfap](https://gov/cfap) and manually completing the form to submit to the local USDA Service Center by mail, electronically, or by hand delivery to an office drop box. In some limited cases, the office may be open for in-person business by appointment. Visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status) to check the status of your local office.

USDA Service Centers can also work with producers to complete and securely transmit digitally signed applications through two commercially available tools: Box and OneSpan. Producers who are interested in digitally signing their applications should notify their local service centers when calling to discuss the CFAP application process. You can learn more about these solutions at [farmers.gov/mydocs](https://farmers.gov/mydocs).

All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from [farmers.gov/cfap/apply](https://farmers.gov/cfap/apply). For existing FSA customers, these documents are likely already on file.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Our program delivery staff will be in the office, and they will be working with our producers in the office, by phone and using online tools. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

## USDA Service Centers Resuming Office Visits in Some Locations While Taking Precautionary Measures to Help Prevent the Spread of Coronavirus

Some USDA Service Centers in Alaska will begin allowing in-person office visits by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business should call ahead to confirm the office's status and make an appointment before visiting. Visitors will be pre-screened based on health concerns or recent travel and must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors will be required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. Our program delivery staff will be in the office and work with our producers in person, by phone, by email, or by using other online tools.

Online services are still available to customers, including our [new Box and OneSpan functionality](#) that enable customers to sign and share FSA and NRCS documents with USDA Service Center staff in just a few clicks. Producers can get started with a simple username and password for Box or, for OneSpan, a quick identity verification. Additional services are available to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the [farmers.gov](#) portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and payments and view and track certain USDA program applications and payments. Through the [FSA website](#), customers can access certain FSA programs and view FSA data, including maps, on [FSAfarm+](#). Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at [farmers.gov/sign-in](#).

For the most current updates on available services and flexibilities due to COVID-19, or to find contact information for your local Service Center [farmers.gov/coronavirus](#).

---

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in these meetings and/or events should contact Lloyd Wilhelm, Northern CED, at (907) 895-4242, Erin Sturdivant, Southern CED, at (907) 761-7754 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

---

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

 SHARE



Questions?  
[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Preferences](#) | [Delete Profile](#) | [Help](#)