



USDA Resources in Response to COVID-19

Fact Sheet for Organic Farms and Businesses

[COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#)

USDA and its Federal partners have programs that can provide immediate and long-term assistance to rural communities affected by COVID-19. This matrix organizes funding opportunities identified in the CARES Act and other federal resources.

https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_COVID-19_Fed_Rural_Resource_Guide.pdf

[USDA Service Centers](#)

USDA has adjusted loan, insurance, and assistance programs for farmers and ranchers to respond to COVID-19. USDA Service Centers are the primary resource for farmers and ranchers to learn about USDA's response, including changes to electronic communication, deadline extensions, and program waivers. Visit

<https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus>:

- Farm Loans and Commodity Loans
- Crop Insurance
- Conservation
- Disaster Assistance & Safety Net Programs
- Paycheck Protection Program

Service Centers are open for phone appointments. Find Service Center phone numbers at:

<https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator>

[Marketing Assistance Loans](#)

Producers now have more time to repay Farm Service Agency Marketing Assistance Loans. The loans now mature at 12 months rather than 9. This flexibility is available for most commodities.

<https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus>

[Crop Insurance](#)

The Risk Management Agency is working with approved insurance providers to provide additional flexibilities including electronic notifications, production reporting dates, and payment extensions.

<https://www.rma.usda.gov/News-Room/Frequently-Asked-Questions/COVID-19-Response>

[Access to Food](#)

The Food and Nutrition Service has issued several nationwide waivers to support access to child nutrition programs. These programs are primarily administered at the state level. Access FNS response to COVID-19:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic> and <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>

[Food Safety & Grading](#)

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Agricultural Marketing Service and Food Safety Inspection Service are addressing COVID-19 challenges while ensuring the safety and timely delivery of the U.S. food supply. Statement:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/content/statement-industry> and <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/03/17/usda-ensures-food-safety-during-covid-19-outbreak>. Also see USDA's FAQ on Food Safety <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>

[Organic Certification Cost Share](#)

Certified organic operations can receive up to 75% of their certification costs paid during the program year, not to exceed \$750 per certification scope.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occp/index>

[Conservation Assistance](#)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service offers year-round continuous signup for Farm Bill programs. NRCS staff are available to provide one-on-one planning assistance to help producers meet conservation and business goals. NRCS financial assistance programs:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/>

[USDA – Coronavirus Disease FAQs](#)

USDA has a Frequently Asked Questions website organized by topic to help users find answers and resources quickly. Visit:

<https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>