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## **News and Information from UT-TSU Extension Wilson County**

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### **Important - Farmers to Receive Direct Support for Losses Related to COVID-19**

“America’s farming community is facing an unprecedented situation as our nation tackles the coronavirus. President Trump has authorized USDA to ensure farmers, ranchers, and producers are supported and we are moving quickly to open applications to get payments out the door and into the pockets of farmers,” said US Secretary Sonny Perdue. “These payments will help keep farmers afloat while market demand returns as our nation reopens and recovers. America’s farmers are resilient and will get through this challenge just like they always do with faith, hard work, and determination.”

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which will provide up to \$16 billion in direct payments to deliver relief to America’s farmers and ranchers. **Beginning May 26**, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the **Farm Service Agency (FSA)**, will be accepting applications from agricultural producers who have suffered losses.

CFAP provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

Farmers and ranchers will receive direct support, drawn from two possible funding sources. The first source of funding is \$9.5 billion in appropriated funding provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act to compensate farmers for losses due to price declines that occurred between mid-January 2020, and mid-April 2020 and provides support for specialty crops for product that had been shipped from the farm between the same time period but subsequently spoiled due to loss of marketing channels. The second funding source uses the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act to compensate producers for \$6.5 billion in losses due to on-going market disruptions.

**Non-Specialty Crops and Wool** - Non-specialty crops eligible for CFAP payments include malting barley, canola, corn, upland cotton, millet, oats, soybeans, sorghum, sunflowers, durum wheat, and hard red spring wheat. Wool is also eligible.

**Livestock** - Livestock eligible for CFAP include cattle, lambs, yearlings and hogs. The total payment will be calculated using the sum of the producer’s number of livestock sold between January 15 and April 15, 2020, multiplied by the payment rates per head, and the highest inventory number of livestock between April 16 and May 14, 2020, multiplied by the payment rate per head.

**Dairy** - For dairy, the total payment will be calculated based on a producer’s certification of milk production for the first quarter of calendar year 2020 multiplied by a national price decline during the same quarter. The second part of the payment is based a national adjustment to each producer’s production in the first quarter.

**Specialty Crops** - For eligible specialty crops, the total payment will be based on the volume of production sold between January 15 and April 15, 2020; Specialty crops include, but are not limit to beans, broccoli, sweet corn lettuce, spinach, squash, strawberries and tomatoes.

Applying for Assistance -Producers can apply for assistance beginning on May 26, 2020. Additional information and application forms can be found at [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap). Producers of all eligible commodities will apply through their local FSA office. **USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only**. 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. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](http://farmers.gov/coronavirus). **FSA in Wilson County – Call 615-444-9584 to make and appointment.**

For information on Extension programs, contact the UT-TSU Extension Office in Wilson County at 615-444-9584. You can also find us on Facebook or visit our website: [extension.tennessee.edu/wilson](http://extension.tennessee.edu/wilson)

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